

MINUTES OF THE **REGULAR MEETING** OF THE MEDICINE HAT PUBLIC BOARD OF TRUSTEES HELD IN THE **BOARD ROOM** IN THE **SCHOOL DIVISION ADMINISTRATION OFFICE** ON **TUESDAY, APRIL 28, 2026** AT 4:00 p.m.

TRUSTEES PRESENT: Catherine Wilson, Pat Grisonich, Gwendoline Dirk, Megan Hilgendorf, Quinn Skelton

OFFICIALS PRESENT: Cody Edwards, Acting Superintendent of Schools
Leanne Dulle, Secretary Treasurer
Carla Carrier, Acting Associate Superintendent: Learning and Student Supports
Jason Peters, Associate Superintendent: Human Resources

OTHERS PRESENT: Lee Krasilowez, Communications Manager
Warren Buckler, Principal of Alexandra Middle School
Jennifer Davies, Crescent Heights High School Teacher
Elly Newton, Medicine Hat High School Student Delegate
Anthony Eva, HUB Virtual School Student Delegate
Jordyn Nikiel, Crescent Heights High School Student Delegate

CHAIR: Catherine Wilson

RECORDING SECRETARY: Kassidy Koch

I. CALL MEETING TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 2:11 p.m.

II. MOVE TO IN-CAMERA

It is recommended that the Board move to the Committee of the Whole to discuss certain confidential matters.

64. P. Grisonich

CARRIED

The Board moved to the Committee of the Whole at 2:11 p.m.

III. RECONVENE TO OPEN BOARD MEETING

The Board reconvened to the open board meeting at 4:03 p.m.

IV. TREATY 7 LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

We acknowledge that we are on the traditional territory of the Blackfoot Confederacy and the people of Treaty 7 Region in Southern Alberta. We honour and acknowledge the homeland of the Métis people. We are grateful for the traditional Knowledge Keepers and Elders who are still with us today and those who have gone before us.

A Land Acknowledgement video from Medicine Hat High School was shared.

V. INTRODUCTION OF STUDENT DELEGATES

The Board of Trustees welcomed student delegate Elly Newton (MHHS), Anthony Eva (HUB), Jordyn Nikiel (CHHS).

VI. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

THAT the agenda be approved as presented.

65. M. Hilgendorf

CARRIED

VII. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

Presentation and adoption of the Minutes of the Regular and the Committee of the Whole meetings held on **Tuesday, March 24, 2026**, and **Tuesday, April 14, 2026** and the Special Meeting held on **Friday, April 3, 2026**.

THAT the minutes from **Tuesday, March 24, 2026, Friday, April 3, 2026** and **Tuesday, April 14, 2026** be approved.

66. G. Dirk

CARRIED

VIII. PRESENTATIONS

1. International Off-Site Activity: London

Ms. Jennifer Davies, Teacher from Crescent Heights High School travelled with her students in the Theatre Arts Program to London, UK for the period Tuesday, April 7, 2026, to Tuesday, April 14, 2026. Ms. Davies, and her students Hana Fenwick, Jonathan Welsh, Abigail Welsh and parent volunteer Shannon Welsh presented a video to share their experiences and educational highlights of performing arts, history, and culture.

Students attended multiple workshops with industry professionals, museums, a walking tour of London landmarks, Warner Bro's Harry Potter Studios, and multiple

award-winning shows including Hades Town, Hamilton, Phantom of the Opera, and more.

Throughout this school year the Theatre Arts Program worked very hard and were able to fundraise a significant portion of their trip through their productions of Beetlejuice Junior and All Shook Up.

Overall, the trip enriched classroom learning, built student confidence, and fostered a deeper appreciation for the performing arts and global learning experiences.

The board thanked Ms. Davies for her on-going commitment to taking her students on international trips and the incredible impact she has had on her students in and out of the classroom.

J. Davies left the meeting at 4:22

IX. CORRESPONDENCE

1. Thank You Message

Student Tavia Hannay sent correspondence expressing appreciation for being awarded the Thelma Berkeley Robinson Scholarship.

X. ITEMS FOR ACTION

1. Alexandra Middle School: Junior Football Team Name

The Principal of Alexandra Middle School (AMS), Mr. Warren Buckler, presented a proposal to change their football team name and colours from the Junior Hawks to the Jayhawks.

The junior football program accommodates over 40 students throughout the Division, providing them with opportunities for skill development, teamwork, and increased student engagement within the school community. Currently, AMS school colours are blue and gold, and all other athletic teams use the Jayhawk mascot.

The proposed change would align the football team with the school's existing identity, fostering a stronger sense of unity, pride, and belonging among students. Mr. Buckler noted that this alignment supports broader school goals of

enhancing student recruitment, retention, and connection through extracurricular activities. The proposal also reflects an effort to create a more cohesive and recognizable athletic program that supports school spirit and community representation.

Trustees expressed strong support for the proposal, noting the link between extracurricular participation and student success, pride, and engagement.

It is recommended that the Board approve Alexandra Middle School’s Team name as Jayhawks.

THAT the Board approve the Alexandra Middle School Junior Football Team Name to **Jayhawks**.

67. P. Grisonich

CARRIED

W. Buckler left the meeting at 4:37 p.m.

XI. REPORT OF COMMITTEES

1. Division Council of School Councils

The Division Council of School Councils held their meeting on Thursday, March 12, 2026.

2. Professional Learning and Public-School Board Council Meeting

Trustee Gwendoline Dirk attended the Public-School Board Council Meeting held on April 9 to 10, 2026

3. Alberta School Council Association 2026 Symposium

Trustees attended the ASCA 2026 Symposium held on Saturday, April 25, 2026.

XII. ITEMS FOR INFORMATION

1. Draft Division Calendar 2027-2028

Mr. Jason Peters shared the draft division calendar for the 2027–2028 school year, noting the positive feedback received from staff and parents regarding the 2026–2027 calendar, which informed the development of the new draft.

The Board engaged in discussion regarding the structure of Professional Development days in December. Administration will review and bring it back to the board for future approval.

2. School and Community Relations

This administrative procedure and exhibit were created to provide a clear process for requests to conduct research within our division.

904 AP 003 – Conducting Research Studies Within MHPSD (New)

904 E 003 – Research Application and Approval Form (New).

3. 2026 Graduation

Crescent Heights High School Graduation Ceremonies:
Thursday, June 4, 2026, 6:00 p.m. at the Cypress Centre.

Medicine Hat High School Graduation Ceremonies:
Wednesday, June 24, 2026, 7:00 p.m. at Co-op Place.

4. Superintendent Report

Acting Superintendent Dr. Cody Edwards provided the Board with an update on events and activities from the past month.

The Student Services Department held the first complexity teams meeting on March 30. Director of Psychological Services, Claire Petersen and Vice Principal of Herald School, Chelsea Hallick provided professional development training on 'Inside the Learning Brain'. On April 16 our Division welcomed back Dr. MacCormack who presented on “systems mode” classrooms, executive functioning, and how interdisciplinary teams of teachers and educational assistants can work together to support diverse learners more effectively.

The Learning Department received approval for field testing within the middle school curriculums in areas of practice such as social studies, career education, financial literacy, and physical education and wellness.

Human Resources Department visited staff at Southview and Webster Niblock to gain staff perspective and feedback on the transition to a new school for the upcoming school year, ensuring staff voice is considered in the amalgamation planning process.

5. Trustee School Visits

Trustees reported on their engagement with school council and other school activities since the previous meeting.

Trustees attended School Councils at Ross Glen School, École Connaught School, River Heights School, Crescent Heights High School, Dr. Ken Sauer School, Alexandra Middle School, Medicine Hat Christian School, and Medicine Hat High School.

6. Appreciation Dinner: Save the Date

The annual staff Appreciation Dinner will be held on Thursday, June 11, 2026, at Medicine Hat High School at 6:30 p.m.

XIII. RECONVENE TO COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

THAT the Board reconvened to Committee of the Whole to resume discussion regarding confidential matters at 5:17 p.m.

68. G. Dirk

CARRIED

XIV. RECONVENE TO OPEN BOARD MEETING

THAT The Board reconvened to the open board meeting at 5:30 p.m.

XV. ACTION ARISING OUT OF THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING

THAT the Board approves the 4 nominees as recipients for The Friends of Education award.

69. Q. Skelton

CARRIED

XVI. ADJOURNMENT

THAT the meeting be adjourned.

70. P. Grisonich

CARRIED

The meeting was adjourned at 5:32 p.m.

CHAIR

SECRETARY TREASURER

DRAFT