

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, February 24, 2026** AT 4:00 p.m.

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

TRUSTEES ABSENT: Megan Hilgendorf

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

OTHERS PRESENT: Lee Krasilowez, Communications Manager
Darrell Willier, First Nations, Metis & Inuit Coordinator
Shirley Boomer, First Nations, Metis & Inuit Support Worker
Courtney Lagasse, First Nations, Metis & Inuit Support Worker
Anthony Eva, HUB Virtual School Student Delegate

CHAIR: Catherine Wilson

RECORDING SECRETARY: Kassidy Koch

I. CALL MEETING TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 4:01 p.m.

II. 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 Crestwood School was shared.

III. INTRODUCTION OF STUDENT DELEGATES

The Board of Trustees welcomed student delegate Anthony Eva (HUB).

IV. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

THAT the agenda be approved as presented.

45. Q. Skelton

CARRIED**V. ADOPTION OF MINUTES**

Presentation and adoption of the Minutes of the Regular meeting held on **Tuesday, January 13, 2026** and the Minutes for the Regular and Committee of the Whole meetings held on **Tuesday, February 10, 2026**.

THAT the minutes from **Tuesday, January 13, 2026** and **Tuesday, February 10, 2026** be approved.

46. G. Dirk

CARRIED**VI. PRESENTATIONS****1. First Nation Métis and Inuit Team:**

Carla Carrier, Executive Director of Learning, introduced the First Nations, Métis, and Inuit (FNMI) Team: Darrel Willier, Shirley Boomer, and Courtney Lagasse. The team provided an overview of their division-wide programs, services, and recent accomplishments.

The FNMI Team supports all schools by delivering curriculum-based presentations, cultural teachings, guest speaker series, traditional games, and supports for students who self-identify as First Nations, Métis, or Inuit. They offer more than 40 age-appropriate presentations for students from elementary through high school, including topics such as Smudging, Medicine Wheel Teachings, a Creative Connection to Math and Beading, and the Seven Sacred Teachings. The team also supports truth and reconciliation learning activities across the Division for Orange Shirt Day.

In partnership with Medicine Hat College and the Miywasin Centre, the team hosts Kiskihkeyimowin (“sharing good teachings”), a week-long cultural experience for Grade 4 and Grade 10 students, taking place May 4–9.

Since 2018, the number of students self-identifying as FNMI has increased from 318 to 650. The Division’s FNMI graduation rate is 89%, compared to the provincial rate of 43%. FNMI graduates are recognized with handcrafted beaded tassels or cords created with love by local Elders.

The Board expressed appreciation for the meaningful and impactful work of the FNMI Team in supporting students and families.

D. Willier, S.Boomer, & C. Lagasse left the meeting at 4:43

VII. CORRESPONDENCE

1. Thank You Messages from Division Students

The following students have sent thank you messages expressing appreciation for being awarded scholarships.

Thelma Berkeley Robinson Scholarship recipients:
Abigail Begin, Allyson Bonneville, Tia Comstock, Cooper Buckler, Makena Duncan, Oliver Edey, Ether Harrison, Nik Harrison, Hailey Irwin, Tatum Liboiron, Michael MacIntosh, Jazmin Malmgren, Skyler Nortcliffe, Noah Sorokin, Bola Suberu, and Jesse Wright.

Gerald Grant Scholarship recipients: Robert Davies, Annelie Nelson, and Ricky Riendeau.

VIII. RECOGNITION/ACCOMPLISHMENTS

1. Letter of Recognition

The Fifth Avenue Memorial United Church has written a letter of recognition commending the Medicine Hat High School Earth Club, Foods Class and teacher, Jennifer Matt, for playing a vital role in making their Turkey Dinner a huge success for the past eight years!

IX. ITEMS FOR INFORMATION

1. 2026-2027 Division Calendar

Mr. Jason Peters shared the proposed Division Calendar for 2026-2027 school year. A survey was sent to staff and parents for feedback in January. There were 352 staff, and 946 parent responses received.

THAT the Board approve the enclosed calendar for the 2026-2027 school year.

47. P.Grisonich

CARRIED

2. Authorization of Locally Developed Course – High School

Request to authorize the following locally developed high school course: Astronomy 15

Course Name	Version	Course Code	First Approved Year	Proposed Start Date

Astronomy 15	3 Credits (2022-2026)	LDC1947	2025-2026	29-01-2026
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It is recommended that the Board of Trustees approve the authorization of this high school course.

THAT the Board approve Locally Developed Course:
Astronomy 15

48. G.Dirk

CARRIED

J.Peters left the meeting at 5:05

3. International Trip Approval CHHS: Request for Final Approval

At the May 27, 2025, Regular Board Meeting of the Board of Trustees a request was presented on behalf of Crescent Heights High School Students and Lead Teacher, Robert Konczak, for an out-of-country trip. The trip was approved, in principle, subject to various conditions. All conditions set out by the Board have now been met.

It is recommended that the Board of Trustees give final approval for these students to travel to France and Italy for the period Friday, April 3, 2026, to Sunday, April 12, 2026.

THAT the Board approve the CHHS International Trip.

49. Q. Skelton

CARRIED

X. REPORT OF COMMITTEES

1. Public-School Board Council (PSBC) Meeting Update

Mrs. Gwendoline Dirk shared her experience from attending The Public-School Board Council Meeting held on February 5 to 6, 2026. Presentations highlighted innovative and effective governance practices in public education with resources to reduce barriers and improve engagement for diverse families.

XI. ITEMS FOR INFORMATION

1. Alberta School Council Association 2026 Symposium
ASCA 2026 Symposium will be a hybrid event on Saturday, April 25, 2026.

2. Superintendent Report

Superintendent Hensel updated the Board on key activities from the past month. The executive team met with representatives from Alberta Education to review the AERR, and the first Teachers' Voice session was held on February 12 following a postponement. The Division also hosted the annual Southeastern VTRA protocol meeting, bringing together schools and community partners including police, child and family services, health agencies, and community organizations to support a coordinated, multidisciplinary response team.

On February 12th, the Government of Alberta approved eight K–6 complexity teams for the Division, each consisting of one teacher and two educational assistants for a 14-month term. The executive team will meet with recipient schools to plan implementation through the remainder of this school year and into 2026–2027.

Central office departments have completed initial budget meetings and are aligning priorities pending the provincial budget announcement.

Improving student achievement in numeracy remains a priority, with middle school data reviews underway and targeted professional learning scheduled for March and April to support curriculum implementation, instructional strategies, and interventions for struggling students.

3. School Council Reports

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

Suspended: 5:48

Resumed: 5:57

XII. MOVE TO IN-CAMERA

THAT the Board moves in-camera to discuss certain confidential matters, if required

46. G. Dirk

CARRIED

XIII. RECONVENE TO OPEN BOARD MEETING

The Board reconvened to the open board meeting at 6:23 PM

XIV. ACTION ARISING OUT OF IN-CAMERA MEETING

No action items from the Committee of the Whole meeting.

XV. ADJOURNMENT

THAT the meeting be adjourned.

47. G. Dirk

CARRIED

The meeting was adjourned at 6:24 p.m.

CHAIR

SECRETARY TREASURER

DRAFT