

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, MAY 23, 2023** AT 3:15 P.M.

TRUSTEES PRESENT: Catherine Wilson, Pat Grisonich, Deborah Forbes, Yvonne Sissons

TRUSTEES ABSENT: Rick Massini

OFFICIALS PRESENT: Mark Davidson, Superintendent of Schools
Lyle Cunningham, Deputy Superintendent
Tracy Hensel, Associate Superintendent
Jerry Labossiere, Secretary Treasurer
Jason Peters, Assistant Superintendent
Corey Sadlemyer, Assistant Superintendent
Cody Edwards, Director of Student Programming
Carla Carrier, Director of Learning and Partnerships

OTHERS PRESENT: Lee Krasilowez, Communications Coordinator
Aryanna Rowinski, Medicine Hat High School Student
Tyson Van Ham, Medicine Hat High School Student
Jennifer Davies, Teacher, CHHS
Amanda McGarry – Vice Principal, WLC
Jerri-Lynne Worth – Kindergarten & Numeracy Intervention Teacher
Tammy Bochee – Kindergarten Teacher
Ashley Paquin – ELP and Literacy Intervention Teacher
Lisa Warken – Educational Assistant
Christie Heatherington – Play on Words SLP
Ruth Isaac – Advance OT
Robin Seitz – LEAP PT
Leanne Dulle, Director of Finance

CHAIR: Catherine Wilson

RECORDING SECRETARY: Marley Steinwandt

I. CALL MEETING TO ORDER

Meeting was called to order at 3:15 p.m.

II. MOVE TO COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

76. P. Grisonich

THAT the Board move to Committee of the Whole to discuss certain confidential matters.

CARRIED

The Board moved to Committee of the Whole at 3:15 p.m.

DRAFT

III. RECONVENE TO OPEN BOARD MEETING

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

V. INTRODUCTION OF STUDENT DELEGATES

The Board of Trustees welcomes Medicine Hat High School student delegates: Aryanna Rowinski and Tyson Van Ham.

VI. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

77. D. Forbes

THAT the agenda be approved as presented.

CARRIED

VII. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

Presentation and adoption of the Minutes of the Regular Board meetings held on **Tuesday, April 25, 2023**, and **Tuesday, May 9, 2023**, and the Committee of the Whole meetings held on **Tuesday, April 25, 2023**, and **Tuesday, May 9, 2023**.

78. Y. Sissons

THAT the Minutes of the Regular Board meetings held on Tuesday, April 25, 2023, and Tuesday, May 9, 2023, the Committee of the Whole meetings held on Tuesday, April 25, 2023, and Tuesday, May 9, 2023, be adopted as presented.

CARRIED

VIII. PRESENTATION

1. International Trip – New York City, New York

Crescent Heights High School Theatre Arts Program Students travelled to New York from April 11 to April

18, 2023. Teacher and trip organizer Jennifer Davies presented to the Board on their experiences and educational highlights.

Ms. Davies shared that students on the trip attend professional workshops through the Broadway Student Summit and four live theatre productions. During their free time they visited many significant landmarks, toured different neighborhoods and enjoyed a variety of foods. Jennifer shared that the whole trip was fundraised by students and families.

The board praised Jennifer and her students for their passion and enthusiasm in addition to all the work put into these trips.

2. Early Childhood Services / MHPSD Service Delivery

Medicine Hat Public School Division offers a robust early learning program in our schools and in our community. We heard from the team about what early intervention looks like in action.

The program focuses on developing speech, language, social skills, communication, gross and fine motor control as well as helping children regulate emotions, problem solve, navigate transitions/routines and build physical literacy. This is achieved through play, building, pretending, getting messy, moving and exploring. Team members shared stories and videos around the growth in students engaged in the program.

6:26 pm Jennifer Davies and the Early Childhood Development team left the meeting.

IX. RECOGNITION/ACCOMPLISHMENTS

1. KisKihkeyimowin

MHPSD hosted KisKihkeyimowin, pronounced (geese - kih - kay - mo - in) which is a Plains Cree word meaning "sharing good teachings". Grade 4 and 10 students from MHPSD learned about Blackfoot, Cree and Métis cultures and teachings in traditional Tipis. The event was held in partnership with the Medicine Hat College and the Miyasin Friendship Centre.

KisKihkeyimowin created an opportunity for students to connect with Blackfoot, Cree and Métis cultures and gain a deeper understanding and respect through age-appropriate stories and rich hands-on teachings. Students participated in the circle of courage, medicine wheel, hide story, beading, drumming, wood flute, finger weaving, making dream catchers, learning traditional dances & games, Tipi raising, talking circle, smudging, and listening to traditional story telling. Presenters include Indigenous leaders, Elders, knowledge keepers and other valued members of the Indigenous community. The event aimed to promote better understanding and appreciation of Indigenous culture within our community as we actively take steps toward Truth and Reconciliation.

The event was several years in the making with initial planning being put on hold due to COVID. The work done by Corey Sadlemyer, Cody Edwards, Lee Krasilowez as well as our FNMI team and community partners made this event a great success.

X. ITEMS FOR ACTION

1. Budget 2023-24 Spring Release

As per the Education Act the Board is presented in May with a budget proposal for the upcoming school year. The Spring Release is built on best estimates available at the time. An update will be provided in the fall on actual student numbers.

It should be noted that the budget is in a deficit position for 2023-24 fiscal year. This budget is presented to the Board for consideration and approval.

An ongoing downward trend in enrollment in combination with the loss of hold harmless and transition funding has resulted in a reduction of teaching staff. Despite the loss of 22 teaching positions (through completion of temporary contracts, retirements and resignations), the division will be maintaining current classroom ratios. The deficit of 2.29 million will be addressed through a reduction to Capital Reserves (1.2M) and use of

Operating Reserves (savings from 2022-23 - 1.08M) with ministerial approval.

79. D. Forbes

THAT the Board approve the Budget 2023-2024 Spring Release as presented.

CARRIED

7:27 p.m. L. Dulle left the meeting.
Suspend: 7:27 p.m.

Resume: 7:38 p.m.

2. Education Plan

The 2022-2026 Education Plan (EP) year 2 update was shared for review. This is our school division's update to the 4 Year Education Plan adopted in 2021-22. Development process of the plan and how it fits into the overall assurance process was shared. Highlights of the plan were provided as well.

Mr. Edwards reviewed the process of collecting feedback, monitoring integration and adjusting strategies.

The Board asked student delegates if they engaged in the feedback process, which they did during class. They also pursued a discussion around what Optimal Learning means to them.

80. Y. Sissons

THAT the Board approve the Year 2 update of 2022-2026 Education Plan as presented.

CARRIED

3. Policy 532 – Healthy Interactions

This policy has been revised. It is recommended that the Board approve the updates to this policy as presented.

81. P. Grisonich

THAT the Board approve the updates to Policy 532 – Healthy Interactions as presented.

CARRIED

4. Reauthorization of Locally Developed Courses – Junior High / Middle School

Request to reauthorize the following locally developed junior high/middle school courses:

Course Name	Start Date	End Date
Film Studies 7-9	9/1/2023	8/31/2027
Leading from the Middle 7-8	9/1/2023	8/31/2027
Leadership 9	9/1/2023	8/31/2027
Recreation Education 7-9	9/1/2023	8/31/2027
Sports Prep 9	9/1/2023	8/31/2027
Learning Strategies 7-9	9/1/2023	8/31/2027
Sports Performance 7-9	9/1/2023	8/31/2027
Fitness Pursuits 9	9/1/2023	8/31/2027
Athletics Institute 7-9	9/1/2023	8/31/2027
Discovery Design Challenge	9/1/2023	8/31/2027
ESL Beginner English Language Development	9/1/2023	8/31/2027
ESL Introduction to Mathematics	9/1/2023	8/31/2027
ESL Introduction to Science	9/1/2023	8/31/2027
ESL Introduction to Social Studies	9/1/2023	8/31/2027

The last four ESL courses listed were acquired from Calgary Board of Education. The division is working on securing permission to use these courses.

It is recommended that the Board of Trustees approve the reauthorization of these junior high/middle school courses.

82. Y. Sissons

THAT the Board approve the reauthorization of these locally developed junior high/middle school courses, as presented.

CARRIED

5. Reauthorization of Locally Developed Courses – High School

Request to reauthorize the following locally developed high school courses:

Course Name	Start Date	End Date
Audio 15	9/1/2023	8/31/2027
Audio 15	9/1/2023	8/31/2027
Audio 25	9/1/2023	8/31/2027

Audio 25	9/1/2023	8/31/2027
Audio 35	9/1/2023	8/31/2027
Audio 35	9/1/2023	8/31/2027
Dance 15	9/1/2023	8/31/2027
Dance 15	9/1/2023	8/31/2027
Dance 25	9/1/2023	8/31/2027
Dance 25	9/1/2023	8/31/2027
Dance 35	9/1/2023	8/31/2027
Dance 35	9/1/2023	8/31/2027
Performing Arts 15	9/1/2023	8/31/2027
Performing Arts 15	9/1/2023	8/31/2027
Creative Writing and Publishing 15	9/1/2023	8/31/2027
Creative Writing and Publishing 15	9/1/2023	8/31/2027
Creative Writing and Publishing 25	9/1/2023	8/31/2027
Creative Writing and Publishing 25	9/1/2023	8/31/2027
Creative Writing and Publishing 35	9/1/2023	8/31/2027
Creative Writing and Publishing 35	9/1/2023	8/31/2027
ESL Introduction to Science 15	9/1/2023	8/31/2027
ESL Introduction to Science 25	9/1/2023	8/31/2027
ESL Introduction to Canadian Studies 15	9/1/2023	8/31/2027
ESL Introduction to Canadian Studies 25	9/1/2023	8/31/2027

It is recommended that the Board of Trustees approve the reauthorization of these high school courses.

All courses have been previously offered in our division. In a survey of schools, it was noted that schools don't intend to implement all available courses next year, but they may use them in near future.

Performing Arts 15 has two courses listed, one is three credits and one is five. It is owned by Grande Yellowhead Public School Division and has not been renewed. It is recommended that the Board of Trustees approve the reauthorization of these high school courses with Performing Arts 15 pending local division approval.

83. P. Grisonich

THAT the Board approve the reauthorization of these locally developed high school courses, as

presented with Performing Arts 15 pending Grande Yellowhead Public School Division approval.

CARRIED

XI. REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

1. Division Council of School Councils

The DCSC held their meeting on Thursday, May 11, 2023. The meeting minutes were enclosed for information.

XII. ITEMS FOR INFORMATION

1. Edwin Parr Banquet

The Board attended the Edwin Parr Banquet on Wednesday, May 17, 2023, in support of our exceptional first year teachers nominated for this award!

Katie Albers is the Edwin Parr winner for our zone. She will be at the Fall ASBA GM to accept an award.

2. Healthy Interactions

The Administrative Procedure and the exhibit for the Healthy Interactions Policy have both been updated.

- 532 AP 001 Healthy Interactions
- 532 E 001 Mediation Process for Resolution Form

XIII. RETURN TO COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

84. D. Forbes

THAT the Board return to Committee of the Whole to discuss certain confidential matters.

CARRIED

The Board returned to Committee of the Whole at 7:49 p.m.

XIV. RECONVENE TO OPEN BOARD MEETING

The Board reconvened to the open board meeting at 8:07 p.m.

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

No action arising.

XVI. ADJOURNMENT

85. P. Grisonich

THAT the meeting be adjourned.

CARRIED

The meeting was adjourned at 8:07 p.m.

CHAIR

SECRETARY TREASURER