

RECORD 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 11, 2025, AT 3:15 PM.

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

OFFICIALS PRESENT: Tracy Hensel, Superintendent of Schools
Leanne Dulle, Secretary Treasurer
Corey Sadlemyer, Associate Superintendent: Learning
Cody Edwards, Associate Superintendent: Student Services
Jason Peters, Associate Superintendent: Human Resources
Carla Carrier, Director of Learning & Partnerships

OTHERS PRESENT: Lee Krasilowez, Communications Manager
Claire Petersen, Director of Psychology Services
Candace Rapuano, Family School Liaison Worker
Nick Paquin, Family School Liaison Worker
Alysia Pidlisny, Family School Liaison Worker
Ken Dzikowski, 76 Academy Coordinator

CHAIR: Catherine Wilson

RECORDING SECRETARY: Hope Schick

I. CALL MEETING TO ORDER

Meeting was called to order at 3:20 PM.

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 video from Dr. Roy Wilson Learning Centre was presented

III. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

THAT the amended agenda [added item V (2)] be approved as presented.

IV. PRESENTATIONS

1. Family School liaison Workers & Academy Support

The Family School Liaison Workers (FSLWs) at MHPSD have been collaborating with academy teachers to offer mental health and mindset training. Their primary goal is to foster resilience, boost confidence, and enhance mental health and overall well-being. The FSLWs shared their experiences supporting the academy during its inaugural year and how they are incorporating their passion for sport and fitness into their roles.

Each FSLW delivers a unique presentation to the students in the hockey/ringette academy, covering topics such as anxiety, the 5 Factors of Health (eat, sleep, move, think, connect), and communication and teamwork. Students will participate in one of these presentations each month.

Board members have provided very positive feedback regarding the support being offered in our academies.

C. Petersen, C. Rapuano, N. Paquin, A
Pidlisny left meeting at 3:50 PM

2. Academies Update

76 Hockey | Ringette Academy is an exceptional program that combines on-ice instruction with classroom learning, covering game tactics, leadership, and character development. The academy fosters skill development and student engagement both on and off the ice, leading to significant player growth and increased confidence. This update highlighted the program's impact, key achievements, and future plans.

This year École Connaught, Crescent Heights High School, Medicine Hat Christian School, River Heights, Ross Glen, Vincent Massey, and Dr. Roy Wilson Learning Centre participated in the 76 Hockey | Ringette Academy. Both students and parents have provided excellent feedback about the academy, emphasizing their positive experiences.

The program started out strong with 150 participants in the 2024-2025 school year, and we expect to see growth in 2025-2026.

While the academy benefits those enrolled, we also recognize the importance of considering the needs of students who are not participating. There are many other opportunities available within these seven schools.

The academy environment itself is positive, with sessions lasting two hours and accommodating around 30 students, all of whom expressed satisfaction with the program. The board's efforts to make the academy affordable for families have been well-received, and the program continues to be a great success overall.

Ken Dzikowski left meeting at
4:21 PM

V. ITEMS FOR ACTION

1. 2025-2026 Division Calendar

Mr. Peters provided an update on feedback and changes to the drafted 2025-2026 Division Calendars.

We received 324 school staff responses and 78 school council responses regarding the draft calendar.

Staff liked the idea of a November break, although a significant portion of staff still preferred Calendar B which did not include an additional day off in November. Many expressed a concern about the 5-day PD start proposed in Calendar B. A suggestion provided by a number of schools was to move a PD to September to support adjustments or planning at the beginning of the year, rather than placing it in months with fewer instructional days, such as December and April.

At least half of the School councils indicated they would defer to teachers' preferences. They appreciated starting the school year after Labour Day but raised concerns about needing to find additional childcare if we had an extra day in November without school.

After reviewing the feedback, it is recommended that an adjusted calendar be approved with the following changes:

- the PD Day in December be moved to September as suggested by staff. This would provide 91 instructional days in each semester
- The last day of school for teachers be June 26th. This is because the last diploma exam is Tuesday, June 23 and there was concern shared for the impact on high schools if they had an entire week without students if the calendar went until June 30th.
- Reduce the overall operational days from 197 to 196 to address concerns of an entire week of PD to start the year. This will also match the number of operational days in our current school year and of the calendars of our other local divisions. Note: 197 operational days has been our most frequent number of days in the last 10 years of calendars.

THAT the 2025-2026 division calendar be approved as presented.

2. **2025 ASCA Conference Fees**

It is recommended that our Board members host this online session on Saturday, April 26, 2025, and extend the invitation to School Council members. Additionally, Board members will cover the registration fee for each school. Board members and school council members would participate in the virtual PD sessions together.

P. Grisonich made a MOTION to host the conference on Saturday, April 26, 2025 and cover the registration fees, contingent upon the number of participants.

It was recommended that Trustees discuss this opportunity at their school council meetings, share the information with principals, and ensure that IT support is available for the session on Saturday, April 26, 2025.

THAT the Trustees host the conference on Saturday, April 26, 2025 and cover the registration fees, contingent upon the number of participants.

52. R. Massini

CARRIED

VI. REPORT OF COMMITTEES

1. **Public-School Board Council Meeting Update**

The Public-School Board Council Meeting took place from February 6 to 7, 2025.

Mr. Grisonich presented the 2024 Annual Report to the Trustees. The sessions during the meeting were highly informative. David George, a consultant, delivered a presentation on "7 Leadership Lessons" for the trustees and recommended that the entire team participate in one of his session.

The PSBC Council is considering hosting a reception for MLAs at the April meeting.

The council is focusing on adopting a more positive approach to promoting public education.

VII. ITEMS FOR INFORMATION

1. **Alberta School Council Association (ASCA) 2025 Spring Symposium**

Registration is open for the ASCA 2025 Spring Symposium on Saturday, April 26, 2025. The event will be held online from 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

Please let Joni know if you plan to attend.

2. **First Team Meeting**

The meeting for the First Team was cancelled.

VIII. MOVE TO COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

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

52. Y. Sissons

CARRIED

IX. RECONVENE TO OPEN BOARD MEETING

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

No action items from the Committee of the Whole meeting.

XI. ADJOURNMENT

THAT the meeting be adjourned.

54. Y. Sissons

CARRIED

The meeting was adjourned at 5:24 PM.

CHAIR

SECRETARY TREASURER