

**Regular Meeting of the Board
Minutes**

Thursday, April 8, 2021
Craig M. Stahlke Board Room
Administration Office
181 Henlow Bay, Winnipeg, MB R3Y 1M7

1. ATTENDANCE

Trustees:

K. McMillan, S. Billingham, J. Fisher, J. Glenat, G. Melnyk, C. Nachtigall, D. Zuk

Administration:

T. Fransen, Superintendent

L. Boles, Assistant Superintendent - Divisional Support Services

E. Egan, Assistant Superintendent - Human Resources

J. Tomy, Assistant Superintendent - Curriculum and Learning Services

N. Wood, Secretary-Treasurer

Regrets: D. Johnson, T. Johnson

2. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 8:11 p.m.

3. AGENDA APPROVAL

K. McMillan advised that item 8.1 Ecole South Pointe Catchment was pulled from this evening's board agenda.

She stated that after receiving an extensive presentation from the delegation the board will require additional time in order to formulate a comprehensive response.

Resolution # BD20210408.1001

Moved By G. Melnyk

Seconded By C. Nachtigall

THAT the agenda be approved as amended.

Carried

4. BOARD MINUTES APPROVAL

Resolution # BD20210408.1002

Moved By S. Billingham

Seconded By J. Glenat

THAT the minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Board held on March 25, 2021, be approved as circulated.

Carried

5. STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS, SPECIAL COMMITTEE REPORTS AND OTHER REPORTS

Resolution # BD20210408.1003

Moved By D. Zuk

Seconded By C. Nachtigall

THAT the Standing Committee Reports, Special Committee Report and Other Reports be received as information and,

THAT the Teacher Contracts (Permanent and Term) as listed in the Teacher Contracts Report dated April 8, 2021, be ratified and,

THAT the Teacher Contract Alterations as listed in the Contract Alterations Report dated April 8, 2021, be approved and,

THAT the Substitute Teacher Contracts as listed in the 2020-21 Substitute Teacher Contracts Report dated April 8, 2021, be ratified and,

THAT the Board accept, with regret, the Resignations as listed in the Resignations Report dated April 8, 2021.

Carried

6. DELEGATIONS

6.1 H. Hizon

H. Hizon, M. Dado, D. Funks, M. Warkentin, A. Velasco, C. Makee made a presentation to the Board.

H. Hizon began his presentation thanking the board and senior administration for the opportunity to present. He also extended his gratitude to the teachers and school leaders for an outstanding job during this time of uncertainty due to COVID-19.

The delegation shared their concerns with the teaching of Health Curriculum on Sexuality, particularly on Gender Identity which they believe promotes subjective Gender Choice for Grade school students.

They believe this teaching is inappropriate and shared complaints that had risen from confused students and parents.

The delegation asked the board the following questions that they would like addressed:

1. Why is it important for you to teach Grade school students about Gender Identity in Health Sexuality Curriculum? Do you assume that children don't know their gender? Do you think parents don't know the gender of their children? What is your basis?
2. Why do you think children suffer from Gender Dysphoria?
3. Is Gender Dysphoria being nurtured in school, influenced by the media and political agenda?
4. With all honesty, are you really concerned with our children's identity? Why?
5. Do you think if children would transition to a different gender, they would be free from Dysphoria or will their agony get worse? Or is it better to teach them at their early age that they need to accept and love themselves?
6. Are you really concerned with the well-being of our children's life and their future? Or you just don't care about the suppression of the true gender of every child, for it leads to an early destructive corruption of their mind?

K. McMillan thanked the delegation for their presentation and advised that the board would deliberate and provide a response.

8. BUSINESS FROM PREVIOUS BOARD MEETINGS

8.1 Charleswood Alternating Schedule

The Superintendent spoke to this item and shared that the board and senior administration support bringing all students back into the classroom in a safe and healthy way, as soon as possible. He further stated that unfortunately at this point in time, due to public health space and staffing requirements we are unable to facilitate this request while keeping our students and staff safe.

The Superintendent spoke to the article written in the Winnipeg Free Press and shared that following that article, École Charleswood School administration received a number of responses from the parent community saying they were in fact pleased with their child's blended learning at CH.

The Superintendent stated that the presentation given by the delegation was a very compelling one. He spoke to the claim within the presentation that our Grade 7 & 8 Charleswood students are not receiving adequate education remotely and that Pembina Trails takes that claim very seriously. In response to this, the Superintendent enlisted the assistance of our Continuous Improvement Research Officer to do an analysis of the provincial report card data. The Superintendent was pleased to report that our students in Grade 7 and 8 are doing well and in some cases, overall school results have improved since March 2020

The Superintendent relayed his appreciation to the teaching staff at Ecole Charleswood School, and across the Division.

D. Zuk advised that a response letter from the chair addressing the delegation's concerns and providing rationale will be forthcoming.

D. Zuk shared that the Board had agreed that the details of the letter will also be shared with the wider Charleswood community in order to provide an opportunity to view the rationale behind the decision.

Resolution # BD20210408.1004

Moved By J. Fisher

Seconded By C. Nachtigall

That the request brought forward by the Ecole Charleswood parent delegation heard at the March 25 regular board meeting be denied.

Carried

11. BY-LAWS AND/OR POLICIES

11.1 By-Law No. 146 (Borrowing By-Law)

Resolution # BD20210408.1005

Moved By J. Fisher

Seconded By G. Melnyk

THAT By-Law No. 146, being a by-law of the Trustees of the Pembina Trails School Division in Manitoba, providing for the borrowing of moneys upon the credit of the said School Division to meet current expenses for the Fiscal Year 2021-22, be given second and third reading and passed.

Carried

14. ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

14.1 Update on Capital Projects

The Assistant Superintendent, Divisional Support Services, provided an update on capital projects in the Division as listed below and responded to questions from Trustees.

- The Ecole Bonnycastle School Crawlspace Remediation Project is substantially completed Parkwest Projects is no longer on site. Work remains to restore the grass. This will be completed shortly. Fencing remains in place until then.
- The new lift in the Learning Commons at Institut Collégial Vincent Massey Collegiate (ICVMC) has been awarded to Tractus projects for \$266,000. The

permit has been issued and construction has begun. The anticipated duration is approximately (4) months with substantial completion late July.

- Waverley West K-8 (Prairie Architects) & Waverley West High School (LM Architecture) – Class A documents are under review. Final coordination is being completed on construction documents. Tendering the project will commence once Pembina Trails, Qualico, the City of Winnipeg & the Province finalize plans regarding the land, and infrastructure.
- The Hot Water Boiler Replacement Project at Ecole Charleswood has closed and has been awarded Loewen Mechanical. The project consultant is Epp Sieppman Engineering. This \$1.1M project has begun with substantial completion expected at the end of August 2021.
- The Hot Water Boiler Replacement Project at Beaverlodge School has closed and has been awarded to Loewen Mechanical. The project consultant is Epp Sieppman Engineering. This \$490,000 project has begun with substantial completion expected by end of August 2021.
- The Roof/Structural project at Ecole Charleswood has been awarded to Norwin Roofing. The work encompasses (3) sections of roof to be replaced at the north end of the school, beginning at the main entrance and proceeding east down the hallway (east) which covers the library, foods lab, shops & art. Consultant on this project is Agassiz Roofing. This \$555,000 project will commence shortly. Project is expected be completed by the end of June 2021.
- Phase Two will involve the structural pile reinforcement under the main entrance and work to expand crawlspace access down the south main entrance hallway (bythe main office). The consultant for this project being Kowalchuk Consulting Engineers. This phase is expected to begin work in the Spring/Summer of 2022.
- Phase 2 of the Heating Replacement Project at Ralph Maybank has been awarded to Shorty's Plumbing & Heating. This phase involves replacement of the gas furnaces in the south wing with fan coils to provide heat, cooling and improve efficiency to the school. This \$1.6M project will has begun and substantial completion is expected September 2021.
- The tender for the two un-linked modular classroom units to be used at École South Pointe School has closed. The conditional use posting signs have been removed and the application will now be sent to the City of Winnipeg Assiniboia Community Committee meeting for plan approval.

In response to a question from J. Fisher, the Assistant Superintendent, Divisional Support Services, said that she will be able to provide an update with regard to the building of the new Waverley West schools after Wednesday next week. She

shared that she is expecting tenders to go out by the end of April which usually takes about a month and is anticipating construction to start in June 2021.

D. Zuk asked for clarification regarding the letter from the province stating that effective April 6, 2021 they would be assuming construction while the division will continue with the operational responsibilities.

The Superintendent reported that this letter was formalizing what we had assumed would be the case since the two schools were originally awarded.

Resolution # BD20210408.1006

Moved By D. Zuk

Seconded By S. Billinghamurst

THAT the report on Capital Projects be received as information.

Carried

14.2 COVID-19 Update

J. Fisher asked if we have received a response from the Province regarding the division's request in getting our school staff on the vaccination list.

The Superintendent advised we have not received a response from the province to our letter at this point.

14.3 School Admin Selection Committees

Resolution # BD20210408.1007

Moved By D. Zuk

Seconded By J. Glenat

THAT with respect to School Administration positions requiring appointment effective with the 2021/22 school year:

Two Ward 1 Trustees with the third Trustee as an alternate serve on the Selection Committee for the School Administration Appointments for schools in Ward 1; and

Two Ward 2 Trustees with the third Trustee as an alternate serve on the Selection Committee for the School Administration Appointments for schools in Ward 2; and

Two Ward 3 Trustees with the third Trustee as an alternate serve on the Selection Committee for the School Administration Appointments for schools in Ward 3.

Carried

16. CORRESPONDENCE FOR INFORMATION DISTRIBUTION LIST

Resolution # BD20210408.1008

Moved By C. Nachtigall

Seconded By S. Billinghamurst

THAT the Correspondence for Information Distribution List dated April 8, 2021, be received as information.

Carried

17. QUESTIONS FROM TRUSTEES

J. Fisher asked for more information on the South Pointe delegation and the timeline as to when the board will be responding to their presentation.

K. McMillan advised that once a decision is rendered, rationale will be provided. She is anticipating that a motion be made at the May 13, 2021 board meeting.

18. QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC IN ATTENDANCE

In response to a member of the public, K. McMillan advised that the board cannot commit to another public consultation with respect to South Pointe School at this time. She said that the Board has engaged the South Pointe community on three separate public occasions in addition to the ThoughtExchange survey.

J. Knaggs, a member of the South Pointe community who appeared before the Board as a delegation on March 25, 2021, updated the board with information that the school administration denied the delegation and the South Pointe Parent Advisory Council the opportunity to communicate on their behalf with the entire school community with regard to the South Pointe catchment. She shared her frustration on the miscommunication she believes senior administration put forward with regard to the city of Winnipeg's decision to re-zone the land across from Ecole South Pointe School from commercial to multi-family living which then contributed to the over-crowding at South Pointe.

J. Knaggs advised she spoke with the city and that the information received from senior administration was inaccurate and the land across the street was not re-zoned from commercial to multi-family. She asked that this inaccurate communication be removed from our divisional website.

The Superintendent shared some rationale on behalf of senior administration and stated that when Pembina Trails initially entered into land negotiations, they were advised by the developer that the land across from the school was zoned as commercial land and that it was their intention to use it that way. He said that the Division has also apologized to the City Councillor for this error. He advised that this miscommunication has been rectified on our website.

J. Knaggs shared that she would like to see this miscommunication corrected in the public domain, in addition to the website.

Members of the public agreed with J. Knaggs and asked the board and senior administration to update the facts and re-inform parents that one of the facts presented was incorrect.

The delegation who appeared before the Board on March 25, 2021, with respect to Ecole Charleswood School questioned the Superintendent's report on the Continuous Improvement Officer's data analysis, suggesting that teachers were inflating student learning outcomes.

The Superintendent advised the data came from teacher's observation and report cards. He paid tribute to our teachers who have remained professional in their teaching and assessment of student work. He acknowledged that there will be differences of opinions on assessment. The Superintendent stated that we have the same confidence in our teachers' professional judgement as we have of the assessment and judgement of our personal physicians' judgement.

The Charleswood delegation shared their concern that she believes that the report cards were optimistically written and asked if any data was derived from parental remote learning feedback. If no, then the delegation suggested that a survey be circulated to parents in order to gain parental insight.

The Superintendent concurred that a parent has an important role in their child's education, especially during blended learning. Parental feedback to teachers is valued. It is the teacher's professional judgement of student learning and achievement that gets entered onto the provincial report card.

The Charleswood delegation asked that the board consider further engagement with the school community and reconsider the denial of their request.

K. McMillan agreed to reconsider their request and deliberate further with the board, and that outcome of the reconsideration would be conveyed to the delegation in the the letter of response.

The Charleswood delegation asked that some of the recommendations to alternate learning be considered.

The Superintendent stated that trustees have an important role in governance. They do not, however, weigh in on teaching strategies. That responsibility falls under the role of the teacher and school administration. The suggestions made by parents with respect to teaching strategies have been shared with the school. They will be given fair consideration at that level. The Superintendent reiterated that there is high value placed on parental involvement in education and that the best place for those conversations to occur is with the classroom teacher, principal, and if required the senior administration liaison for the school in question.

D. Zuk advised that the board will be responding to the Charleswood delegation's recommendations as written out in the letter and will respond directly to the delegation as well as the community.

19. REQUIREMENT FOR A COMMITTEE MEETING OF THE WHOLE

Resolution # BD20210408.1009

Moved By S. Billinghamurst

Seconded By C. Nachtigall

THAT the Board move into Committee of the Whole.

Carried

20. ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned at 9:22 p.m.

Chair of the Board

Secretary-Treasurer