

Regular Meeting of the Board

Minutes

Thursday, February 25, 2021

Start Time:

Craig M. Stahlke Board Room

Administration Office

181 Henlow Bay, Winnipeg, MB R3Y 1M7

1. ATTENDANCE

Trustees:

K. McMillan, S. Billinghamurst, J. Fisher, J. Glenat, D. Johnson, T. Johnson, 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

2. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 8:05 p.m.

3. AGENDA APPROVAL

Resolution # BD20210225.1001

Moved By G. Melnyk

Seconded By C. Nachtigall

THAT the agenda be approved as amended.

Carried

4. BOARD MINUTES APPROVAL

Resolution # BD20210225.1002

Moved By J. Glenat

Seconded By S. Billinghamurst

THAT the minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Board held on February 11, 2021, be approved as circulated.

Carried

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

Resolution # BD20210225.1003

Moved By D. Zuk

Seconded By D. Johnson

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 February 25, 2021, be ratified and,

THAT the Teacher Contract Alterations as listed in the Contract Alterations Report dated February 25, 2021, be approved and,

THAT the Substitute Teacher Contracts as listed in the 2020-21 Substitute Teacher Contracts Report dated February 25, 2021, be ratified and,

THAT the Board accept, with regret, the Resignations as listed in the Resignations Report dated February 25, 2021, and,

THAT the Disbursements List for the period December 2020 through February 2021, in the amount of \$9,497,787.27 be approved.

Carried

12. CORRESPONDENCE FOR DISCUSSION

12.1 MSBA 2021 Convention - Digital Voting Ballots

Resolution #

Moved By J. Glenat

Seconded By D. Johnson

WHEREAS, the Manitoba School Boards Association is being held virtually in 2021, and requires a Trustee designate and backup to communicate the votes during the convention,

BE IT RESOLVED THAT Trustee J. Fisher be designated to communicate the Pembina Trails votes to the Manitoba School Boards Association and Trustee C. Nachtigall serve as backup.

Carried

13. STANDING AND SPECIAL/ADVISORY COMMITTEE REPORTS

13.4 Finance and Planning Committee

13.4.1 Draft 2021-22 Budget

The Chair of the Finance and Planning Committee, J. Fisher, shared the details of the draft budget media release.

At a glance

- * Draft budget combined operating and capital expenditures \$183,156,077
- * Increase in combined operating and capital expenditures \$2.5 million or 1.4 per cent
- * Percentage reduction in school taxes on the average homeowner 2.6 per cent or \$4.92 a month.

As directed by the province, the property tax levy for home and business owners will be frozen at 2020 levels. The typical homeowner with a house valued at \$438,700 would see a decrease of \$59 a year or \$4.92 a month in 2021 school taxes.

A look at some of the proposed operation and administrative reductions

- Increasing high school class sizes
- Eliminating high school teacher-librarians and reducing the number in middle years
- Reducing English Additional Language specialists in K-8
- Reducing divisional-based allocation for educational assistant staff
- Reducing school instructional budgets
- Deferring the Kindergarten Here We Come program during the 2021-22 school year
- Placing a number of building maintenance and ongoing improvement projects on hold.

J. Fisher advised that the full draft budget media release will be found on our website, as of Friday morning.

D. Zuk shared that it has been a very difficult budget and emphasized that it is a draft budget and we welcome feedback from our community.

She shared that our Pembina Trails community is invited to email or appear as a delegation, virtually, at our special public board meeting on Thursday, March 4, 2021 at 6:00 p.m.

Resolution #

Moved By J. Fisher

Seconded By G. Melnyk

THAT the Draft 2021-22 Budget be approved for public disclosure.

Carried

13.6 Negotiations Committee

13.6.1 PTTA Negotiations Committee

The Secretary-Treasurer shared a brief summary of the Pembina Trails Arbitration Award.

T. Johnson advised that the award is published and can be found on the MSBA website.

T. Johnson shared that this arbitration was an opportune time stated there was a lot of good and wholesome conversation shared with PTTA, MSBA, and Pembina Trails.

K. McMillan thanked the committee for all their hard work on this.

Resolution #

Moved By T. Johnson

Seconded By G. Melnyk

THAT the report with respect to the PTTA arbitration be received as information.

Carried

14. ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

14.1 COVID-19 Update

The Superintendent shared an update and advised that a large number of parents/guardians who had signed up in November for remote learning are asking for their children to return to in-class learning. Parents are stating that when the Province moved Winnipeg schools into Level Orange, there was no suggestion at the time that it would last until June.

He shared that we are working diligently with schools to reorganize space where space is available in order to welcome students back into the classroom while following current Public Health guidelines.

The Superintendent advised that the intent is to welcome students back where feasible, without negatively impacting teachers' workloads.

He shared the details of the letter and the measures that are being taken.

The Superintendent stated that there is some confusion in schools about some information that came out recently from MB Health regarding new Covid-19 self-isolation guidelines. He has written to the province asking for clarification.

D. Zuk asked the Superintendent to expand on the restrictions as outlined in the letter.

The Superintendent advised that in order to honour our commitment to our teachers and to not impact their workload the letter was sent out as a fair notice process to advise parents what to expect should they choose to have their children transition to in-class learning after spring break.

J. Fisher asked if once a parent/guardian learns the circumstances of their child's return to in-class instruction will they have the option to change their mind. The Superintendent advised yes, that we anticipate remote learning to continue as an option in K-6 until the end of June. This is subject to change, based on Public Health directives.

14.2 School Administration Appointment

The selection process has now been completed for the interim Vice-Principalship of Ecole Charleswood School. It would now be in order for the Board to ratify the appointment.

Resolution #

Moved By J. Glenat

Seconded By S. Billinghamurst

THAT the Board of Trustees approve the appointment of Ryan Scott as interim Vice-Principal of Ecole Charleswood School for the period March 8, 2021 to June 30, 2021.

Carried

14.3 South Pointe Town Hall Update

The Superintendent shared a brief update regarding the South Pointe Town Hall that occurred on February 18, 2021.

He advised that a Q&A will be shared with the community by March 1, 2021.

J. Fisher asked that more details of the planning and rationale be included in the Q&A as well as the enrolment and population numbers be provided of all the surrounding schools to provide more clarity on the K-8 grade levels.

J. Fisher asked that this item be brought forward to a future board meeting to provide the community an opportunity to appear as a delegation should they wish to speak to this further.

16. CORRESPONDENCE FOR INFORMATION DISTRIBUTION LIST

Resolution #

Moved By T. Johnson

Seconded By J. Fisher

THAT the Correspondence for Information Distribution List dated February 25, 2021, be received as information.

Carried

17. QUESTIONS FROM TRUSTEES

D. Zuk had a question surrounding a provincial mandate letter that was sent out to Superintendents and Secretary Treasurers and asked for details.

The Superintendent shared the details of the letter and advised that the province will now have greater control over the collective bargaining process with our unions.

G. Melnyk spoke to the interference this may cause with collective bargaining, referencing the letter from the MTS president to the Minister of Education.

18. QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC IN ATTENDANCE

PTTA President, L. Legal asked if she could receive a copy of the draft budget. The Superintendent advised yes, it could be emailed to her in the morning.

19. REQUIREMENT FOR A COMMITTEE MEETING OF THE WHOLE

Resolution #

Moved By T. Johnson

Seconded By D. Zuk

THAT the Board move into Committee of the Whole.

Carried

20. ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned at 8:45 p.m.

Chair of the Board

Secretary-Treasurer