

Regular Meeting of the Board

Minutes

Thursday, March 25, 2021
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

Regrets: Nil

2. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 8:08 p.m.

3. AGENDA APPROVAL

Item 14.4 Ecole South Pointe Catchment Motion removed from the board agenda.

Resolution # BD20210325.1001

Moved By G. Melnyk

Seconded By T. Johnson

THAT the agenda be approved as amended.

Carried

4. BOARD MINUTES APPROVAL

Correction: March 11, 2021, Admin Reports Item 14.1

Corrected to read:

J. Fisher asked if there was any discussion from the province about a timeline for vaccination for children under the age of 16. The Superintendent responded that he is

unaware of any discussions pertaining to that at this time. She asked if the province has given any indication to divisions that community vaccine rate could impact/improve our current school response to mask wearing and distance between students, as our students cannot get vaccinated.

Resolution # BD20210325.1002

Moved By J. Glenat

Seconded By D. Johnson

THAT the minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Board held on March 11, 2021 be approved as corrected and,

THAT the minutes of the Special Meeting of the Board held on March 23, 2021, be approved as circulated.

Carried

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

Resolution # BD20210325.1003

Moved By D. Zuk

Seconded By J. Fisher

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 March 25, 2021, be ratified and,

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

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

THAT the Board accept, with regret, the Resignations as listed in the Resignations Report dated March 25, 2021.

Carried

6. DELEGATIONS

6.1 South Pointe Notice of Motion

J. Knaggs and J. Shah made a presentation to the Board expressing concerns with the proposed South Pointe catchment decision.

J. Knaggs began her presentation stating her concern with French language representation amongst senior administration and the board.

She shared their perspectives regarding the challenges of ensuring children have access to French Language education. She believes that a number of students have been inadvertently pushed into English programming due to transportation and childcare restraints.

She believes there has been no effort from senior administration to investigate transportation from daycares.

J. Knaggs shared her disappointment with the board that the community was promised community consultation before catchment changes were made and this was not fulfilled. She believed the South Pointe Town Hall was not meaningful engagement and was used to "point policy fingers".

J. Knaggs provided enrolment details and space availability at St. Avila that she believes may be a solution to providing closer proximity French programming to South Pointe students.

She spoke to the grandfathering of siblings and stated that this number is fewer than ten over multiple enrolment years and will be fewer than five by 2022-23.

J. Knaggs requested that the board reconsider their notice of motion to change the catchment for South Pointe and provide meaningful consultation with the community.

J. Shah spoke on behalf of a number of impacted families in the community. She believes these changes will have adverse effects on Richmond West families and shared the importance that the board understand the French community's commitment on this issue.

J. Shah asked the trustees to honour their commitments to these families. She spoke to Section A of the Pembina Trails Public Involvement in Decision-Making Policy and the role of the trustee where they "welcome and value public participation in the affairs of the division". She believes that this has not been fulfilled.

She also advised that the South Pointe Parent Advisory Council was also not consulted on this catchment change and shared details of the Education Administration Act where she believes this is a direct violation. While she understands that Bill 64 may complicate this, she stated that there is still uncertainty and that the Bill should not affect the board's decision making in this respect.

J. Shah shared her frustration with the board regarding the results of the public consultation being in the form of a word cloud with little to no rationale and or data supporting the decision that was made.

J. Knaggs asked that the board defer the vote and leave the current catchment as is until there is more certainty around Bill 64, COVID learning recovery and the impact that the K-12 Education Review will have.

She asked the board to:

1. Provide meaningful consultation with the community on schools of choice and other catchment solutions;
2. Solve the practical issues of daycare spacing and provide needs within St. Avila;
3. Arrange for a long-term transportation hub at Ecole South Pointe School for affected students for a minimum of three years; and
4. Ensure that busing is provided to any child under the age of twelve who has to travel more than 1.6 km to school regardless of their grade.

J. Knaggs ended her presentation stating that a situation that requires a single student to attend five (5) schools in seven (7) years is damaging.

T. Johnson advised J. Knaggs and J. Shah that the decision on the South Pointe catchment had already removed from this evening's board agenda so that the board would have adequate time to consider the points made in their presentation. He asked if the points made by the delegation be provided to the board for deliberation.

J. Knaggs agreed to share the details of their presentation and said they would like a seat at the table and to see the enrolment numbers.

J. Fisher asked if the South Pointe PAC should be a first point of communication or through the entire school. J. Knaggs believes the division needs to be transparent with the whole school, but meaningful conversations should be had with the Parent Advisory Council.

K. McMillan thanked them for their presentation.

6.2 Ecole Charleswood School - Alternating Schedule

Dr. K. Pederson, Dr. A. Madison and Ms. V. Burgess made a presentation to the Board with respect to concerns for an alternating schedule for Grades 7 and 8 at Ecole Charleswood School (ECS).

Dr. A. Madison and Dr. K Pederson shared a PowerPoint presentation on behalf of 100 parents who are concerned with the learning situation at Ecole Charleswood School.

They provided an outline for their presentation stating that they wanted to discuss concerns with current educational format, provide suggestions to

improve learning, highlight ongoing parental questions and provide the board with suggested next steps.

Dr. K. Pederson advised that none of their discussion will disregard the Public Health Orders related to COVID-19.

They shared a number of concerns with the board surrounding the educational impact where they believe curriculum objectives are not being met and some students are struggling to keep up with remote learning. The delegation also spoke to mental health/isolation and physical health concerns.

The delegation acknowledged that Pembina Trails is committed to supporting resilience and asked how this support can be better implemented at ECS.

They shared some suggestions based on information gathered which included alternate use of gym space, music and band rooms, art/drama, woodworking, graphics/human ecology classrooms, possibility of portable classrooms or alternate community options such as curling clubs or churches.

The delegation asked what percentage of students in Grades 7 & 8 are attending on alternate days and how it compares to the city.

They provided suggested next steps as outlined in the presentation and asked the board for a written response to their suggestions.

J. Fisher asked about the gym usage and what it was currently being used for? The delegation advised gym class.

J. Glenat thanked them for the presentation and asked if they have had any chance to loop in the PAC as well and/or speak with and consult with administration.

Dr. K. Pederson advised that this issue has been brought up to PAC President, V. Burgess, who advised that parents have brought concerns forward at the last two meetings. The principal is also aware and knows that families are not satisfied with the current situation

Dr. K. Pederson spoke to the possibility of surveying the parents and shared her concerns on French learning loss with remote learning.

K. McMillan thanked the delegation for their presentation to the board.

11. BY-LAWS AND/OR POLICIES

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

Resolution # BD20210325.1004

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 first reading.

Carried

13. STANDING AND SPECIAL/ADVISORY COMMITTEE REPORTS

13.5 Human Resources and Policy Committee

13.5.1 Policy GBJD and Regulation GBJD-R - Access and Privacy Policy

D. Zuk asked if there was any feedback on this policy after the first reading.

The Assistant Superintendent, Divisional Support Services advised that policy feedback was reviewed and sent back to the committee for review and consideration. The amended policy is now before the board.

Resolution # BD20210325.1005

Moved By J. Glenat

Seconded By J. Fisher

THAT Policy GBJD and Regulation GBJD-R - Access and Privacy Policy, as amended, be given second and third reading and passed.

Carried

14. ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

14.1 Pembina Trails Band Advocacy Parents

The Superintendent shared the revised provincial COVID protocols pertaining to resuming band/music classes.

He shared that these classes are now back up and running with the exception of some MY band classes and music classes due to space restrictions and teacher availability. Some MY band teachers were already assigned to other courses.

The Superintendent shared that the Pembina Trails Band Advocacy Parents have since sent a thank you note to the board.

Resolution # BD20210325.1006

Moved By J. Glenat

Seconded By C. Nachtigall

THAT the board accept this as information with direction for a formal letter of acknowledgement from the Chair.

Carried

14.2 COVID Update

The administration provided an update with respect to COVID-19.

The Superintendent shared details of the Provincial revision to resume in class band and music instruction.

He updated the board on provincial vaccination rates and details of the provincial call with principals.

14.3 "Better Education Starts Today" Plan and K-12 Education Review Report

The Superintendent provided the province's plan and the Education Review report to the board for a formal record for the archives.

D. Johnson shared his disappointment with the report and stated that he does not like the title of the report and thinks the name should be reflected in the minutes as the K-12 Education Review Report.

Resolution # BD20210325.1007

Moved By D. Johnson

Seconded By D. Zuk

THAT the Board receive the K-12 Education Report as information.

Carried

16. CORRESPONDENCE FOR INFORMATION DISTRIBUTION LIST

Resolution # BD20210325.1008

Moved By D. Johnson

Seconded By G. Melnyk

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

Carried

17. QUESTIONS FROM TRUSTEES

D. Zuk asked if the Province is still taking names of people or groups who would like to present to the committee regarding Bill 64?

K. McMillan shared that Pembina Trails has indicated our interest to present and has registered.

D. Zuk wanted to share the contact information to register (204.945.3636), where groups and citizens can ask to speak to Bill 64 at the committee hearing in the Fall.

18. QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC IN ATTENDANCE

L Legal asked for the details of item 11.1 By Law No. 146 (Borrowing By-Law).

The Secretary Treasurer shared the details and that this is customary each year for cash management of the division's line of credit.

L. Legal commented that the divisional music consultant was completely removed from a 0.5 FTE position to zero FTE, and shared her disappointment that this was not included in the draft budget narrative. She believes that had this been known, there would have been opportunity to advocate on behalf of the position.

L. Legal thanked senior administration and the board and hopes everyone has time to rest and enjoy time with their families over spring break.

19. REQUIREMENT FOR A COMMITTEE MEETING OF THE WHOLE

Resolution # BD20210325.1009

Moved By T. Johnson

Seconded By C. Nachtigall

THAT the Board move into Committee of the Whole.

Carried

20. ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned at 9:31 p.m.

Chair of the Board

Secretary-Treasurer