

## Regular Meeting of the Board

### Minutes

Thursday, March 11, 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, 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 8:01 p.m.

#### 3. AGENDA APPROVAL

##### Resolution # **BD20210311.1001**

Moved By C. Nachtigall

Seconded By S. Billingham

THAT the agenda be approved as amended.

**Carried**

#### 4. BOARD MINUTES APPROVAL

##### Resolution # **BD20210311.1002**

Moved By G. Melnyk

Seconded By T. Johnson

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

THAT the minutes of the Special Meeting of the Board held on March 4, 2021, be approved as circulated.

Carried

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

**Resolution # BD20210311.1003**

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 March 11, 2021, be ratified and,

THAT the Teacher Contract Alterations as listed in the Contract Alterations Report dated March 11, 2021, be approved and,

THAT the Substitute Teacher Contracts as listed in the 2020-21 Substitute Teacher Contracts Report dated March 11, 2021, be ratified and,

THAT the Board accept, with regret, the Resignations as listed in the Resignations Report dated March 11, 2021.

Carried

**6. DELEGATIONS**

**6.1 Fitzhenry Delegation - Band in Schools (In-Person)**

Members of the MB Band Parent Advocacy Group, M. Fitzhenry, M. Davidson, L. Lambert, S. Skwarchuk, U. Torquato, L. Woelk and C. Hiebert made a presentation to the Board.

While they understand there is a provincial Public Health Order restricting playing band instruments indoors, they are asking the board and the school division to advocate in support of lifting the public health order.

They shared their concerns and the negative impact this is having on band students across Pembina Trails. They believe not being able to play and practice as an ensemble properly with others is essential and could affect band enrolment. If band enrolment declines, they believe it will be years before our Pembina Trails bands get back to the excellence they are known for.

C. Hiebert stated that band is safe and teachers are ready. She shared some research and the details of what other jurisdictions are doing across North America.

She shared the University of Minnesota's research which states that band instrument emissions travel no further than one foot.

She also shared the international mitigation steps that are to be followed which includes masks for player and instrument, distance, minimum 30 minute time between rehearsals, air flow (HVAC air exchange) and increased hygiene and sanitization.

C. Hiebert encouraged the board to visit the MB Band Association website where this research is all publicly available.

The members of the MB Band Parent Advocacy Group thanked the board for the opportunity to present.

J. Glenat asked C. Hiebert if she can share information on what other jurisdictions are doing.

C. Hiebert responded that there is no consistency as the COVID situation varies throughout the provinces, but did share that the Winnipeg Symphony Orchestra has been able to play together since September as well as various post-secondary institutions.

J. Glenat asked the Superintendent if we have heard from the province at all with regard to this. The Superintendent advised at this time we have not heard of any changes that have been made to the Public Health Order.

J. Fisher asked where this lies in the Public Health Order. The Superintendent advised that it is found both within the Education Order as well as the Public Health Order.

The delegation asked if the board had a recommendation on who they can speak to directly with regard to advocating for an amendment to the Public Health Order.

The Superintendent advised he would connect with them to provide some suggestions on who they can communicate with directly.

**Resolution # BD20210311.1004**

Moved By C. Nachtigall

Seconded By S. Billingham

THAT the board receive the presentation as information.

**Carried**

**13. STANDING AND SPECIAL/ADVISORY COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**13.1 Buildings, Property and Transportation Committee**

**13.1.1 Transportation RFP Award**

**Resolution # BD20210311.1005**

Moved By T. Johnson

Seconded By D. Johnson

THAT the Board award RFP2021-003 - Student Transportation Services, to First Canada ULC for school years 2021-22 and 2022-23.

**Carried**

**13.4 Finance and Planning Committee**

**13.4.1 Budget 2021-22**

The Superintendent stated that we will be releasing the 2021-22 budget media release Friday morning.

**Resolution # BD20210311.1006**

Moved By J. Fisher

Seconded By T. Johnson

WHEREAS the Board has presented an opportunity for the community to provide input and to influence budget development decisions; and

WHEREAS stakeholders, either individually or as groups, have responded to the opportunity for consultation and input; and

WHEREAS the Board, after careful consideration of community input and the needs of all students, has developed a plan and budget for 2021/22 which includes the following:

- Using \$616,300 from our accumulated surplus fund to minimize high school class size increases and reductions to teacher-librarians;
- Growing our targeted literacy support, by four positions, in early years schools. This investment will directly help our students dealing with pandemic related learning loss;
- Placing a number of building maintenance and ongoing improvement projects on hold.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that Gross Operating and Capital Expenditures of \$183,772,080 be approved for the 2021/22 Fiscal Year, and

THAT the 2021 Special Levy of \$110,715,454 be approved and submitted to the City of Winnipeg, the Rural Municipality of Headingley and the Rural Municipality of Macdonald in order that these municipalities may fix and impose appropriate rates of taxation.

**Carried**

#### **13.4.2 Application of Accumulated Surplus**

The Superintendent shared that this is the first time in Pembina Trails history that the board has approved a deficit budget.

The Secretary-Treasurer formally thanked her finance team and the Assistant Secretary-Treasurer for all their hard work.

D. Zuk stated that the board did take very much into consideration all of our community feedback and suggestions. She was pleased to see the community engaged in the budget process and wanted to assure them that their concerns were heard.

The Chair concluded this section with high praise for the Secretary-Treasurer, her team, and for the entire SAT as they all provided sound advice and guidance during this challenging budget process.

#### **Resolution # BD20210311.1007**

Moved By J. Fisher

Seconded By G. Melnyk

THAT the Board approve an application of Accumulated Surplus for the 2020-21 Fiscal Year in the amount of \$929,700 to fund one-time infrastructure projects and equipment upgrades not supported in the 2021/22 budget, and

THAT the Board approve an application of Accumulated Surplus for the 2020-21 Fiscal Year in the amount of \$616,300 to offset the annual 2021/22 budgeted deficit.

**Carried**

### **13.5 Human Resources and Policy Committee**

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

The Secretary-Treasurer reviewed the proposed amendments to Policy GBJD and Regulation GBJD-R.

D. Zuk asked for clarification and if this policy is replacing the previous policy.

The Secretary-Treasurer shared that this policy modernizes the policy that was in place and makes it more robust. These amendments also bring Pembina Trails in alignment with other school divisions and entities.

D. Zuk reminded our community that this is first reading, so feedback can be considered prior to second and third reading and passing.

**Resolution # BD20210311.1008**

Moved By J. Glenat

Seconded By J. Fisher

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

**Carried**

**14. ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS**

**14.1 COVID-19 Update**

The Superintendent provided an update with respect to COVID-19 in the Division.

He is anticipating a new Public Health Order update coming from the province in preparation for Spring Break.

The Superintendent shared that he spent time with provincial officials and 300 principals from across the province clarifying the notification of the variants reminding them that the time factor has changed from 15 to 10 minutes.

The Superintendent spoke to the provinces warning that if VOC numbers rise there may be possibility of whole classes being quarantined.

The Superintendent shared details of working with parents on bringing students back to in class learning. He acknowledged some concerns coming out of one of our middle schools and the board will be reaching out. He stated that in some cases we do not have adequate space and/or a pool of qualified teachers to satisfy these parents' request.

J. Fisher asked if there was any discussion from the province about a timeline for vaccination for children under the age of 16. He responded that he is unaware of any discussions pertaining to that at this time.

The Superintendent shared that all five union groups have written a joint letter to Dr. Brent Roussin to request that all school staff be treated as a priority in the vaccination cue.

## 14.2 2021-22 School Calendar

G. Melnyk questioned the province's decision to have students return to school on a Thursday after Winter Break.

The Superintendent shared that Metro Superintendents had the same thought and had written to the Minister numerous times requesting that the 2021-22 winter break be extended by one day so that the break did not split two different weeks. The requests were denied.

The Superintendent shared the details surrounding the Minister's decision and the provincial regulation that schools cannot be in session after December 22, and the break should be no longer than two (2) weeks. He advised that the way Christmas fell this year will not meet the province's requirements. Hence the winter break will result in mid-week starting and ending dates

J. Fisher asked if there was any discussion around three (3) extra divisional days as was done in 2020-21. The Superintendent advised that there has not been any indication of this occurring in 2021-22, at this point in time.

### **Resolution # BD20210311.1009**

Moved By G. Melnyk

Seconded By S. Billinghamurst

THAT the Board approve the 2021-22 School Calendar.

**Carried**

## 14.3 South Pointe Catchment - Notice of Motion

J. Glenat declared a notice of motion, printed below in the minutes, for the proposed catchment changes for Ecole South Pointe School which will be made formally on March 25, 2021. She said that a notification to the community will be posted to the Divisional webpage.

**THAT, effective 2022-23, the grandfathering provisions in Resolution BD20180125.1004 no longer apply and,**

**THAT, all students residing in Richmond West/Fairfield Park who are in grade 5 or grade 6 in 2022-23 and 2023-24, have the option of attending Ecole Viscount Alexander with transportation for these years only.**

### **Resolution # BD20210311.1010**

Moved By J. Glenat

THAT the Board approve the Notice of Motion with respect to the Ecole South Pointe Catchment be formally made at the March 25, 2021 Board Meeting and,

THAT the Notice of Motion be posted to the divisional webpage to notify the community.

**Carried**

**14.4 New Cell Tower Near Ecole Dieppe and Sunnyside Daycare**

The Superintendent shared that there are some concerns within the Ecole Dieppe community pertaining to the proposed location of a new cell phone tower at 523 Harstone Road and its close proximity to the school.

He advised that this is out of the board's jurisdiction however, this is a Federal regulatory matter that can be addressed locally through the City of Winnipeg Planning Department

G. Melnyk shared his disappointment with the lack of communication by the City and Rogers Communications advising the board of this.

The Assistant Superintendent Divisional Support Services advised that notifications only go out to establishments within 92 metres of the proposed cell phone location.

G. Melnyk recommended to the board that a letter be sent to the City Planner and Federal officials addressing this matter and sharing the community concerns.

**Resolution # BD20210311.1011**

Moved By G. Melnyk

Seconded By D. Zuk

THAT the board write a letter addressing the communities concerns to the City Planner and asking that the letter be shared with Federal Officials.

**Carried**

**16. CORRESPONDENCE FOR INFORMATION DISTRIBUTION LIST**

J. Fisher brought the MSBA Code of Conduct Updates to the board's attention.

**Resolution # BD20210311.1012**

Moved By J. Fisher

Seconded By C. Nachtigall

THAT the Correspondence for Information Distribution List dated March 11, 2021 be received as information.

**Carried**



**17. QUESTIONS FROM TRUSTEES**

D. Zuk shared that today marks the one-year anniversary that COVID-19 was declared a pandemic, by the World Health Organization.

She advised that Pembina Trails has released our 2020-21 Report to the Community and encouraged the community to visit our website to view the report.

This publication celebrates the resilience and grit that our staff, students and families have discovered in themselves over the past year. It includes personal stories of adaptation and triumph that are intermixed with a timeline of events and changes, investments in technology, safety and mental health, and an overview of the sources that support those investments.

D. Zuk thanked the Communications Officer, Graphic Technician and the Communications and Community Relations Committee for all their hard work on this report.

**18. QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC IN ATTENDANCE**

The PTTA President asked for clarification surrounding the total amount of teaching positions being eliminated and not being filled in order to accommodate enrolment projections. She would like to know the overall FTE shortfall.

The Secretary-Treasurer advised there was a slight increase of 0.575 FTE as opposed to the decrease proposed in the draft budget. It was through the hard work of trustees and SAT as the feedback was incorporated that the teaching positions were preserved for the coming school year.

The PTTA President asked what percentage of those were EAL cuts.

The Assistant Superintendent, Human Resources did not have that information with her, but advised that this was based on a data driven decision where we have used our resources a little more broadly.

The PTTA President asked if the MTS PD day is included on the 2021-22 calendar.

The Superintendent advised that it is marked as a Metro Common PD day and is consistent as in past years, which in Pembina Trails has been the MTS PD Day, with the exception of the year

**19. REQUIREMENT FOR A COMMITTEE MEETING OF THE WHOLE**

**20. ADJOURNMENT**

Meeting adjourned at 9:09 p.m.

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Chair of the Board

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Secretary-Treasurer