

Regular Meeting of the Board

Minutes

Thursday, November 12, 2020
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, 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: T. Johnson

2. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 8:02 p.m.

3. AGENDA APPROVAL

Resolution # BD20201112.1001

Moved By G. Melnyk

Seconded By C. Nachtigall

THAT the agenda be approved as circulated.

Carried

4. BOARD MINUTES APPROVAL

Resolution # BD20201112.1002

Moved By J. Glenat

Seconded By S. Billingham

THAT the minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Board held on October 22, 2020, be approved as circulated.

Carried

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

Resolution # BD20201112.1003

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 November 12, 2020, be ratified and,

THAT the Teacher Contract Alterations as listed in the Contract Alterations Report dated November 12, 2020, be approved and,

THAT the Substitute Teacher Contracts as listed in the 2020-21 Substitute Teacher Contracts Report dated November 12, 2020, be ratified and,

THAT the Board accept, with regret, the Resignations as listed in the Resignations Report dated November 12, 2020, and,

THAT the Disbursements List for September 2020, in the amount of \$4,228,532.13 be approved.

Carried

6. DELEGATIONS

6.1 Meeting with Auditors re, Financial Statements for Year Ended June 30, 2020

S. Magnusson from KPMG was present and made a presentation to the Board with respect to the audit report. She said that they met with the Finance and Planning Committee on October 19, 2020, at which time they provided a complete and detailed report of the audit. She reviewed the submitted Auditor's Report. She said that there were no material errors in the Financial Statements which management had prepared and no internal control deficiencies of a significant nature, although financial projections and internal audits were not performed throughout the year. She also indicated that accounting department staffing shortages have been addressed in the current fiscal year and will need to remain place to ensure that the integrity of the internal control environment. She said that the Auditor's Opinion is a clean opinion. She explained selected aspects of the Financial Statements.

G. Melnyk shared his sincere appreciation on behalf of the board on a job well done.

S. Magnusson closed with an expression of sincere appreciation to the entire Secretary Treasurer team for their cooperation, professionalism and resilience during a very stressful year – transition of Secretary-Treasurer and Assistant Secretary-Treasurer, not to mention Covid-19.

Resolution # BD20201112.1004

Moved By J. Fisher

Seconded By G. Melnyk

THAT the Financial Statements for the year ending June 30, 2020, be approved by the Board and received as information.

Carried

6.2 Remote Learning for All Registered Kindergarten Students

A. Singh made a presentation to the Board with respect to providing a remote learning accommodation for his daughter in kindergarten.

A. Singh along with his sister-in-law, B. Moore started their presentation by expressing their appreciation to the board and senior administration as well as all of the teachers and staff working diligently during such a challenging time.

A. Singh provided some background regarding his father (also caregiver) being immuno-compromised and the impending challenges with his daughter attending school. He would like to decrease exposure of COVID-19 to his father and is requesting that his daughter be provided access to remote learning for Kindergarten.

He shared that back in the fall he received a note from the oncologist requesting that his daughter be provided with a remote learning option to reduce the exposure to her grandfather, which he provided to the school principal. He was then advised that Kindergarten was not being offered via remote learning but that if it was to be offered at a later date, he would be notified.

When the schools moved into the province's Pandemic Response Level Orange, A. Singh received the letter from the school advising that remote learning would be offered to all K-6 students in Pembina Trails.

Upon receiving this letter, he reached out to the principal and was told that this remote learning option was only available to students that were already actively attending school.

A. Singh stated that if he was aware of that from the beginning, his family could have looked for alternate options.

B. Moore shared that both A. Singh and his wife are frontline healthcare workers and would just like fair access to education for their daughter. She asked the board to acknowledge these hardworking health care workers and provide her niece with an adequate avenue to remote learning, not just for her education but to introduce her to her peers and for her mental well-being.

K. McMillan asked if A. Singh was given the option of homeschooling. He advised no.

J. Fisher asked if other divisions are offering remote learning for kindergarten to students who had not attended in person class previously. The Superintendent stated that he did not have that information readily available but would look into it.

D. Zuk thanked A. Singh for his service and asked if he could send any correspondence from the school to provide more clarification to the board for their deliberation. J. Fisher advised she had the email thread and would send it to the board for review.

K. McMillan thanked both K. Singh and B. Moore for their presentation and acknowledged the urgency of the matter. She advised that someone would be in contact with them regarding a decision as soon as possible.

8. BUSINESS FROM PREVIOUS BOARD MEETINGS

8.1 Resolution for the 2021 MSBA Convention - eResources

Resolution # BD20201112.1005

Moved By G. Melnyk

Seconded By D. Zuk

THAT the Board approve the Resolution with respect to eResources be forwarded to the Manitoba School Boards Association for consideration at the 2021 Convention.

Carried

10. BUSINESS FROM PREVIOUS COMMITTEE MEETING OF THE WHOLE

10.1 Inform Net Seats

Resolution # BD20201112.1006

Moved By D. Zuk

Seconded By D. Johnson

WHEREAS the budgeted number of InformNet seats for the 2020-21 school year have been fully filled by students in semester one, and

WHEREAS it is now evident that the COVID-19 pandemic is likely to continue well into Semester Two, and

WHEREAS our students will continue to need access to InformNet courses,

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Board of Trustees authorize 300 additional seats at \$300 per seat to Pembina Trails students, and that these costs come from accumulated surplus and be identified as COVID costs.

Carried

12. CORRESPONDENCE FOR DISCUSSION

12.1 Convention Award Program - Long Service Trustee Recognition

The Secretary-Treasurer reported that there are no trustees qualifying for long service recognition this year.

It was noted that nominations be referred to senior administration. If any board member has a nomination, please forward it to the Superintendent.

Resolution # BD20201112.1007

Moved By J. Fisher

Seconded By D. Johnson

THAT the report be received as information.

Carried

13. STANDING AND SPECIAL/ADVISORY COMMITTEE REPORTS

13.1 Buildings, Property and Transportation Committee

13.1.1 Land Purchase - 1350 Pembina Highway

D. Johnson shared the details of the possible purchase of 1350 Pembina Hwy.

The Assistant Superintendent-Divisional Support Services shared the details of the potential cost to the division being \$250,000. The Superintendent shared that if we do not lock this in before the city sells it, we could potentially lose access.

J. Fisher asked if we have any space to turn buses around in the Vincent Massey parking lot and if not, can we extend it.

The Assistant Superintendent-Divisional Support Services, stated that we do not own the Vincent Massey parking lot, the city does and it is blocked in.

J. Fisher asked about other possible options including possibly stopping the buses on Dowker. The Assistant Superintendent-Divisional Support Services thinks that may cause a traffic back up during peak hours.

N. Wood shared that any cost associated with this would have to come back to the Board for approval at a later date.

Resolution # BD20201112.1008

Moved By D. Johnson

Seconded By C. Nachtigall

WHEREAS the City of Winnipeg has expressed its intent to prepare to market City-owned property at 1350 Pembina Hwy for sale publicly; and

WHEREAS the School Division currently uses a portion of the City-owned property in the rear of 1350 Pembina Hwy for the purpose of school bus operations and other vehicular traffic; and

WHEREAS the City of Winnipeg has expressed a willingness to evaluate the possibility of opening the portion of City-owned property concurrently with the proposed public sale of 1350 Pembina Highway in order to establish a legal right-of-way and thereby allow continued use by the School Division for its purposes;

THAT the Board authorize the Secretary-Treasurer to negotiate with the City of Winnipeg for the purposes of establishing a legal right of way at 1350 Pembina Highway and to seek required PSFB approval as necessary.

Carried

16. CORRESPONDENCE FOR INFORMATION DISTRIBUTION LIST

Resolution # BD20201112.1009

Moved By D. Johnson

Seconded By J. Glenat

THAT the Correspondence for Information Distribution List dated November 12, 2020, be received as information.

Carried

17. QUESTIONS FROM TRUSTEES

D. Zuk asked if the board needed to register for the upcoming MSBA conference.

J. Fisher advised that there is no registration and no cost. She said that an email will be coming forth with a zoom link in the coming days. It was noted that K. McMillan will check with MSBA and report back.

D. Zuk asked for a follow up with regard to Bill 16-salaries for union representatives. The Superintendent shared the details behind D. Zuk's questions and advised that that does not apply to Pembina Trails.

18. QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC IN ATTENDANCE

A member of the public asked that the motion for 13.1- Land Purchase - 1350 Pembina Hwy be read. K. McMillan read the motion.

A member of the public attending via Teams wanted to take the opportunity to say a quick hello to her colleagues.

20. ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned at 9:42 p.m.

Chair of the Board

Secretary-Treasurer