

Special Meeting of the Board

Minutes

Thursday, February 15, 2024

Craig M. Stahlke Board Room

Administration Office

181 Henlow Bay, Winnipeg, MB R3Y 1M7

1. Recognition of Treaty Land

We acknowledge with respect the history, spirituality and culture of the peoples with whom Treaty One was signed and the land upon which Pembina Trails School Division resides. We acknowledge our responsibility as Treaty members and honour the heritage and gifts of the Red River Métis. We commit to moving forward in partnership with Indigenous communities in a spirit of collaboration and reconciliation.

2. Attendance

Trustees:

T. Johnson, C. Nachtigall, A. Becker, J. Brar, D. Johnson, C. Jolly, L. Karn, S. Nixon

Administration:

L. Boles, Superintendent

C. Roberts, Assistant Superintendent, Curriculum and Learning Services

T. Scott, Assistant Superintendent, Personnel and Education Services

S. Carleton, Secretary-Treasurer

L. Farmer, Chief Human Resources Officer

C. Hepworth, Assistant Secretary-Treasurer

Regrets:

C. Stahlke

D. Johnson joined the meeting at 7:01 pm.

3. Call to Order

Meeting was called to order at 7:03 p.m.

4. Agenda Approval

Resolution # SBM20240215.1001

Moved By J. Brar

Seconded By A. Becker

THAT the agenda be approved as circulated.

Carried

5. 2024-25 Draft Budget

On behalf of the Finance, Buildings, Properties and Transportation Committee, Trustee D. Johnson read the following:

Pembina Trails is dedicated to providing learning opportunities that support the growth of all our students. Each year, our Board of Trustees must rise to the challenge of stretching every dollar of public money to maximize the positive impact of our budget and ensure we continue to provide quality education. To help our students succeed, we must invest in exceptional resources, programs and staffing across the division. All of this must be done within the context of ever-increasing student population growth, increasing costs and increased fixed expenditures. Our annual budget aims to reflect investments, which support our strategic plan, including the Three Expectations for Student Learning: enhancing engagement, literacy and numeracy, and graduation and our anti-racism initiatives. This budget complies with the provincial guidelines on the amount that may be spent on administrative expenses. While the Division has received a slight increase in overall funding, it is not enough to keep up with student enrolment increases, salary increases and fixed cost increases like utilities. The Provincial Government has also lifted the restriction on the amount of funding that may be raised through local property taxation. Pembina Trails Board of Trustees has endeavored to balance the needs of providing excellence in education and impacts to local property owners.

Tonight, we will share the 2024/25 draft budget summary, including information about expenditures, explanation of expenditure increase, revenue, and the impact on property taxes. This is not the final budget. Over the next few weeks, the Board of Trustees will review the draft and decide on any necessary changes based on a balance between the needs of the division and the impact on our taxpayers.

The increase in combined operating and capital expenditures of \$14,802,990 or 7.2 per cent, in the draft budget addresses additional resource needs particularly

due to enrolment growth, class size guidelines, and staffing of Pembina Trails Collegiate as it becomes a Grade 9-12 school next year. Some of the major reasons for expenditure change in the draft budget include:

- Pembina Trails continues to grow. Our division is projecting growth of approximately 703 students. Our projections indicate that enrolment will continue to grow over the next five years at a similar rate.
- Resources will continue to be directed to a broad-based approach to literacy, regulation and student well-being interventions where the greatest impact can be felt.
- A continued focus on maintaining or decreasing class sizes in general at K-8 with a large emphasis on K-3, will further allow Pembina Trails to focus on the Board's Three Expectations for Student Learning.

Aside from property tax revenue, the largest source of financial support comes from the Provincial Funding of Schools Program, which is projected to provide a 4.38 percent increase for 2024/25 due to increases in projected enrolment and additional "one-time" grants including nutrition program funding, offset by a decrease in the equalization grant. The total revenue increase from both Provincial and Non-Provincial sources (not including property tax) is projected to be 4.7 percent.

Details of the full draft budget media release will be available to the public on our website, as of Friday (tomorrow) morning. We value pre-budget community consultation, and our trustees truly want to hear from the public. Feedback regarding the 2024/25 Draft Budget can be made by letter directed to the Board of Trustees, by email at budget@pembinatrails.ca or by appearing as a delegation, in person, at the regular board meeting on Thursday, February 29, 2024. Parties interested in appearing as a delegation are required to email their notice to appear and written presentation to Emily Vickers at evickers@pembinatrails.ca by Tuesday, February 20, 2024.

Following Trustee D. Johnson's statement, the Secretary-Treasurer gave a brief presentation outlining key elements of the proposed draft budget. He indicated that presentation notes would be available to the public via the division website following the approval of the February 15, 2024, minutes at the February 29, 2024 board meeting.

S. Nixon joined the meeting at 7:10 pm.

Resolution # SBM20240215.1002

Moved By D. Johnson
Seconded By A. Becker

THAT the 2024-25 Draft Budget be approved for public disclosure.

Carried

6. Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 7:30 p.m.