

Special Meeting of the Board

Minutes

Thursday, February 16, 2023
Craig M. Stahlke Board Room
Administration Office
181 Henlow Bay, Winnipeg, MB R3Y 1M7

1. Recognition of Treaty Land

We acknowledge we are on the lands of Turtle Island where Indigenous Peoples have lived since time began. These are the ancestral lands of the Anishinaabe, Ininew, and Dakota Nations as well as the traditional trade and travel routes of the Anishinew, Dene, and Inuit. We also acknowledge we are on Treaty One territory and the homeland of the Red River Métis. Pembina Trails School Division is committed to working together in partnership with Indigenous communities in a spirit of reconciliation.

2. Attendance

Trustees:

T. Johnson, C. Nachtigall, A. Becker (remotely), J. Brar, D. Johnson, C. Jolly (arrived at 7:07 p.m.), L. Karn, S. Nixon, C. Stahlke

Administration:

L. Boles, Superintendent

C. Roberts, Assistant Superintendent, Curriculum and Learning Services

T. Scott, Assistant Superintendent, Personnel and Education Services

N. Wood, Secretary-Treasurer

Regrets: Nil

3. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m.

4. AGENDA APPROVAL

Resolution # SBM20230216.1001

Moved By C. Nachtigall
Seconded By J. Brar

THAT the agenda be approved as circulated.

Carried

5. 2023-24 Draft Budget

C. Stahlke, Chair of the Finance, Buildings, Property and Transportation Committee, shared the details of the draft media budget release.

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 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 Three Expectations for Student Learning: enhancing engagement, literacy and numeracy, and graduation. The Division must also ensure that its budget complies with the Provincial Government's restrictions on the amounts which may be raised through local property taxation and the amount which may be spent on administrative expenses.

Tonight, we will share the 2023/24 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 \$10,740,727, or 5.5 per cent, in the draft budget addresses many added resource needs particularly due to enrolment growth, learning recovery, mental health, staffing of Bison Run School, and staffing of Pembina Trails Collegiate, anticipated to open in September 2023. 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 656 students. With the return to increased immigration

during the current school year, enrolment projections reflect a return to even higher student enrolment growth.

- Full day Kindergarten will be discontinued at Westgrove School and, as with last year's budget, resources will continue to be directed to a broader-based approach to literacy, regulation and student well-being interventions where the greatest impact can be felt.
- More than two years of pandemic affected instruction and learning has meant Pembina Trails School Division, like other school divisions, has been engaged in the work of recovery learning, including supporting literacy, student regulation and well-being. Further investments in clinical supports including Speech-Language Pathology, Occupational Therapy and Social Work will further address post-pandemic needs around reading, regulation and mental health supports for students.
- A continued focus on maintaining class size guidelines at K-8 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 an 11.7 per cent increase for 2023/24 due to increases in projected enrolment, increase in the equalization grant and additional "one-time" grants, which have now been incorporated into Provincial funding. The total revenue increase from both Provincial and Non-Provincial sources (not including property tax) is projected to be 10.7 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 2023/24 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 23, 2023. 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 21, 2023.

Resolution # SBM20230216.1002

Moved By C. Stahlke

Seconded By D. Johnson

THAT the Draft 2023-24 Budget be approved for public disclosure.

Carried

Resolution # SBM20230216.1003

Moved By C. Stahlke

Seconded By D. Johnson

THAT the Board suspend Procedural By-Law No. 143 Section VII a) and lift the deadline for delegations to speak before the Board with respect to the Draft Budget on February 23, 2023.

Carried

6. Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 7:09 p.m.