

## **Special Meeting of the Board**

### **Minutes**

Thursday, February 17, 2022  
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:

K. McMillan, J. Glenat, D. Johnson, T. Johnson, G. Melnyk (7:17 p.m.), C. Nachtigall, D. Zuk

Administration:

T. Fransen, Superintendent

L. Boles, Assistant Superintendent - Curriculum and Learning Services

E. Egan, Assistant Superintendent - Human Resources

N. Wood, Secretary-Treasurer

Regrets: J. Fisher

#### **3. Draft Budget 2022-23**

T. Johnson, in representation of the Finance, Buildings, Property and Transportation Committee shared the details of the draft budget media 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. 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 2022/23 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 \$11,767,161, or 6.4 per cent, in the draft budget addresses many added resource needs particularly due to enrolment growth, learning recovery and staffing of Bison Run K-8 School, anticipated to open in early 2023. Some of the major reasons for expenditure change in the draft budget include:

- Pembina Trails continues to grow. Our division is projecting a growth of approximately 250 students. With the interruption to immigration during the past year coupled with the suggestion from federal and provincial officials that immigration will not only resume but increase at a faster pace, projecting enrolment for this coming year came with unique challenges.
- Our focus on literacy in the early years will leverage the expertise of additional teachers who will be assigned to the schools where our data suggests we will have the greatest impact for the expenditures dedicated to literacy; accordingly, this draft budget proposes that Westgrove School will retain its full day Kindergarten while resources for the other full day Kindergartens will be directed to a broader-based approach to early years literacy intervention
- Cyclical replacement of school-based computer equipment to sustain the current and projected Divisional needs for school-based technology requires additional financial resources.

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 6.3 per cent increase for 2022/23 primarily due to the increase in the number of students and increase in equalization grant. Additionally, we have received a one-time Provincial grant to address ongoing wage pressures being experienced

throughout the sector. The total revenue increase from all sources (including the Province of Manitoba but excluding property tax) is projected to be 15.4 percent.

T. Johnson said that the draft budget would be uploaded to the divisional website on Friday.

It was noted that our Pembina Trails community is invited to email or appear as a delegation, virtually, at our public board meeting on Thursday, February 24, 2022 at 8:00 p.m.

Moved By T. Johnson

Seconded By D. Johnson

THAT the 2022-23 Draft Budget be approved for public disclosure.

**Carried**

**4. By-Law No. 144 - Ward Boundaries (Tuxedo to Move from Ward 2 to Ward 1)**

It was noted that By-Law No. 144 was given first reading at the February 10, 2022 Meeting of the Board, following community consultation.

T. Johnson inquired about the results of the Thought Exchange. The Superintendent provided a summary of the results shared his general impression was that the comments indicated that the general public might not fully understand Civic matters and the role of the Trustee. There was a brief discussion about what actions might be taken by the Division and Trustees to educate the public on these important matters.

D. Zuk asked what the most common misunderstanding noted on the Thought Exchange was. The Superintendent indicated that it was the misconception that Ward boundary changes would impact catchment areas.

Moved By D. Johnson

Seconded By T. Johnson

THAT By-Law No. 144 - Ward Boundaries be given second and third reading and passed.

**Carried**

**5. Questions from Trustees**

G. Melnyk joined the meeting at 7:16 pm.

## **6. Questions from Members of the Public in Attendance**

A member of the public in attendance wanted confirmation of 2022/23 enrolment at Bison Run. The Assistant Superintendent, Human Resources, indicated that Bison Run does not yet have a full catchment built out and therefore this information is not available. She indicated that it would however not look like the South Pointe plan, given that there is currently no neighbourhood established in the Bison Run community and that as a result, this is creating a much higher level of uncertainty for planning. It was further asked what the complement of specialist teachers is for 2022/23, given the projected increase to enrolment of 250 students. The Assistant Superintendent, Human Resources, indicated that the allocation of specialist teachers is determined by formula and that none of those formulas have changed. She noted that class sizes are projected to be similar to last year and remain relatively unchanged from last year. The one exception noted was to EAL teachers. There has been a slight formula change to EY level but remains unchanged at SY and MY. French Immersion allocation also remains status quo