

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE EVERGREEN SCHOOL DIVISION HELD AT GIMLI, TUESDAY, January 21st, 2025, AT 6:30 P.M. AT THE EVERGREEN SUPPORT CENTRE

MEMBERS PRESENT: Sandra Davies (Chair), Colette Banks, Jillian Yorga, Dianna Auer, Gladys Kohler, Penny Helgason, Amanda Mosher

MEMBERS ABSENT:

ADMINISTRATION: Mr. Hill, Superintendent, Mr. Moore, Secretary - Treasurer

In accordance with the revised procedure by-law, all motions have a recorded vote. The recording occurs by noting on each motion those trustees opposed, abstained or absent. When no trustees are recorded it represents a unanimous vote.

1. ADOPTION OF AGENDA:

1a. MOVED BY: Trustee Helgason
 SECONDED BY: Trustee Kohler

That the agenda be adopted as distributed.

CARRIED

2. MINUTES OF LAST BOARD MEETING:

ADOPTION OF MINUTES:

2a. MOVED BY: Trustee Auer
 SECONDED BY: Trustee Banks

That the minutes from the Regular Meeting held on December 3, 2024, be adopted as distributed.

CARRIED

2b. MOVED BY: Trustee Banks
 SECONDED BY: Trustee Yorga

That the minutes from the Special Meeting held on November 29, 2024, be adopted as distributed.

CARRIED

3. VISITORS AND DELEGATIONS:

Jay Ewert from ETA.

4. SUPERINTENDENT'S DEPARTMENT REPORTS:

- 4a. MOVED BY: Trustee Yorga
SECONDED BY: Trustee Kohler

That the Board approve the Superintendent's Department Reports.

CARRIED

- 4b. MOVED BY: Trustee Auer
SECONDED BY: Trustee Banks

That Board approve the December cheque listing for the operating account cheques 31420 to 31435 inclusive which total \$63,517.37 and electronic funds transfer which total \$757,805.88 and the electronic funds transfer from payroll account in December which total \$1,063,381.33.

CARRIED

- 4c. MOVED BY: Trustee Kohler
SECONDED BY: Trustee Auer

That Board approve 2nd and 3rd reading of Borrowing By-Law 1/24.

CARRIED

- 4d. MOVED BY: Trustee Yorga
SECONDED BY: Trustee Helgason

That Board approve adding Nancy Bomberak to Evergreen Division Regular Bank Account (900700510010) and to Evergreen Payroll Bank Account (900700690010) with Online View Only access.

CARRIED

5. CORRESPONDENCE AND INFORMATION PACKAGE:

- 5a. MOVED BY: Trustee Kohler
 SECONDED BY: Trustee Yorga

That the Correspondence & Information Package be received.

CARRIED

6. COMMITTEE REPORTS

COMMITTEE of the WHOLE BOARD (In-Camera) RECOMMENDATION:

6a. MOVED BY: Trustee Yorga
SECONDED BY: Trustee Helgason

Motion that the Board move to In-camera.

CARRIED

6b. MOVED BY: Trustee Yorga
SECONDED BY: Trustee Helgason

Motion that the Board Rise and Report from In-camera.

CARRIED

6c. MOVED BY: Trustee Yorga
SECONDED BY: Trustee Banks

Motion that the Board approve leave request by Employee 11654.

CARRIED

6d. MOVED BY: Trustee Yorga
SECONDED BY: Trustee Kohler

Motion that the Board approve leave request by Employee 13411.

CARRIED


7. ADJOURNMENT:

7a. MOVED BY: Trustee Auer

That the meeting be adjourned at 7:44 p.m.

CARRIED


Chairperson


Secretary-Treasurer

Superintendent Report to the Board - January 21, 2025

5.1 Superintendent Report

1. **Wellness Fairs**

In December, Evergreen School Division hosted a series of Community Wellness Fairs across our communities to support families with incoming kindergarten students for the 2025/2026 school year. In lieu of the junior kindergarten program, these fairs offered a valuable opportunity for parents and children to learn about essential services, gain helpful resources, and prepare for the transition to kindergarten.

The Wellness Fairs featured four interactive stations, each providing a wealth of information and resources to help families prepare for kindergarten:

1. **Speech & Language Screening** – Led by Katelyn Wallach, ensuring early speech and language development is on track.
2. **Literacy Information** – Britney Morrish and Kim Jonasson shared tips on early literacy, including the “Teach Your Child to Read in 100 Easy Lessons” program.
3. **Occupational Therapy Screening** – With support from CTNM therapists and Kaly Goodman, families learned about fine and gross motor development.
4. **Kindergarten Readiness** – Melissa Kushnir and Jessica Worden shared tips on how to prepare both academically and socially for kindergarten.

Families signed up in advance for one-hour time slots, rotating through each station to gain a comprehensive understanding of their child’s needs. Each station was designed to engage both parents and children, with support staff guiding families through the event.

The Wellness Fairs were a wonderful success, helping families feel more confident and prepared for the kindergarten year ahead. We look forward to continuing this event in the future.

We are thankful to the staff and volunteers who made the fairs possible, including secretaries, educational assistants, and clinicians. Their hard work and dedication ensured the success of the events. Additional support from the IERHA and CTNM brought essential services for preschool SLP, OT, public health, and dietetics.

Special thanks to Jessica Worden, Learning Coordinator for her leadership and thanks to our clinician team: Melissa Kushnir, School Psychologist; Kaly Goodman, Occupational Therapist; Britney Morrish, Speech-Language Pathologist.

2. **Tour of Louis Riel SD “Steam Labs” and RRC Polytech**

On Friday, December 6, I visited some “Steam Labs” in LRSD along with a team from ESD (Ron Moore, Secretary-Treasurer; Gibby Finnbogason, Buildings Supervisor; Erin Furgala, Principal at RCI; Daniel Wallach, Teacher at RCI). The purpose of our visit was to see some modern practical arts spaces & equipment, and learn more about the potential for STEAM-style practical arts programming to be offered at RCI. As tools and equipment evolve, along with the applicable projects that make practical arts programming more relevant and engaging for students, it is possible to offer such programming without the historical need for a full “shop” with the

commensurate HVAC, dust collection etc. This opens up the exciting possibility of investing in the diversification of program offerings in each of our northern high schools (Grades 7-12 schools next year) to meet a wider array of student interests much more efficiently and effectively. We will continue to plan to upgrade our facilities to improve student learning opportunities at the direction of the Board as we continue through our Budget process.

3. Consultations re: Staffing

Annually I consult with Principals and Vice Principals about future assignments. I've also begun consultations with teaching staff in keeping with the collective bargaining agreement re: interests and transfer.

4. Pre-Christmas Holiday Concert Season

Special thanks to our staff, especially music, band and art teachers who put so much time and energy into the concert season.

5. School Support Sessions

We hosted our fourth session of school 'data teams' on December 17th at Dr. George Johnson School. We reviewed school-specific data with reference to our 23-28 Education plan. We engaged in collaborative conversations and each school made an action plan of next steps.

6. Superintendent Check-ins with Principals

On December 16th, I held my monthly check-ins with all principals to talk about the year's progress, action / growth planning, and future career planning.

7. Bus Driver Breakfast

On December 20, we had our annual Pancake breakfast for bus drivers!

8. Collaborative Classroom Visit

On January 9th we completed our third Superintendent and Principal walk-throughs in WBS classrooms. It was a great opportunity to see the hard work of teaching staff in action in classrooms to move forward in keeping with the school and division education plan. Principal Crystal MacDonald shared a refined version of a walk-through template that we are piloting to help classrooms observers learn more about Rosenshine's Principals of Instruction.

9. Leadership Development

On January 14, we held our 4th gathering of the Leadership Development co-hort. We talked through the Ontario Leadership / Effective Schools Framework, and I shared my experience and thinking in a Q&A about timely matters related to planning, hiring and transfers. I am very appreciative of this opportunity to have candid conversations with current and future leaders in our schools and explore important scenarios and thinking in school and system leadership. This experience reinforces the many advantages of working in a right-sized school system.

Secretary Treasurer Report
Jan 21st, 2025

Borrowing By-Law 1/24

Motion: That the Board approve Borrowing By-Law 1/24

Adding Staff to Online Only Access to Bank Account

To assist with monthly bank reconciliation and investigations into bank account activity, I would like to add Nancy Bomberak (AP/AR Clerk).

Motion: Add Nancy Bomberak to Evergreen Division Regular Bank Account (900700510010) and to Evergreen Payroll Bank Account (900700690010) with Online View Only access.

New Buses

Added to our bus fleet has been 1 propane bus and 2 diesel buses. Ordered was the smaller bus (24 seats) which is expected to arrive in April 2025. These 4 buses were included in the 2023-24 Budget and in the 2024-25 Budget.

Bus Drivers

Continue to be short drivers and to address the shortage we contracted out the Selkirk run for the month of January, with the option to contract for the remainder of the 2024-25 school year. This option was discussed with CUPE before it was decided and an Addendum to the CUPE contract was created and requires signature by Board Chair.

As a result of this decision, we had one day last week where all routes were covered by a driver. We continue to have drivers away for medical reasons, a driver resigned, and a new driver started. Two other drivers are in the process of getting their license and another driver training course is starting in early February.

In relation to our division neighbors, we are struggling the most with driver shortage, but all divisions are impacted.

Fraudulent Cheque - GHS

GHS received 5 fraudulent cheques and 1 cleared before the account could be closed. Claim for reversal has been sent to the bank. RCMP claim was made.

2025-26 Budget Kickoff

Budget meeting schedule handed out with dates and topics. Preliminary assumptions included in the handout to be reviewed and used to start the budget calculations.

MSBA Mar 20-21 Spring Conference

I have registered 9 participants – please select sessions you will attend.

Cheques

Please find December payment recap.

Recommendation: That Board approve the December cheque listing for the operating account cheques **31420** to **31435** inclusive which total \$63,517.37 and electronic funds transfer which total \$757,805.88 and the electronic funds transfer from payroll account in December which total \$1,063,381.33.

Accounts Receivable

As of December 31, 2024 ESD had accounts receivable outstanding of \$41,930.44. These have been analyzed and are deemed collectible.

Meetings / Correspondence

- Protecting Canadian Public Institution zoom information session
- Gimli Band Booster Dec meeting
- Secretary meeting / Board office & Operations Centre staff meetings
- Provincial monthly capital reporting update zoom meeting
- Provincial Accessibility Reporting zoom meeting
- Powerschool SIS Information session
- Louis Riel / Red River College site visit
- Gimli Christmas Parade
- Christmas Concerts
- MASBO Monthly zoom calls / emails and phone calls with other STs
- Province Capital Projects Update – New Schools
- Scholarship Committee meeting
- Various staff meeting to discuss restructure
- New auditors