

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE EVERGREEN SCHOOL DIVISION HELD AT GIMLI, TUESDAY, June 17th, 2025, AT 6:30 P.M. AT THE EVERGREEN SUPPORT CENTRE

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

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 Mosher
 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 Helgason
 SECONDED BY: Trustee Banks

That the minutes from the Regular Meeting held on June 3rd, 2025, be adopted as distributed.

CARRIED

3. VISITORS AND DELEGATIONS:

4. SUPERINTENDENT'S DEPARTMENT REPORTS:

4a. MOVED BY: Trustee Kohler
 SECONDED BY: Trustee Mosher

That the Board approve the Superintendent's Department Reports.

CARRIED

4b. MOVED BY: Trustee Kohler
 SECONDED BY: Trustee Auer

That the Board support the Gimli High School Band Trip to Niagara Falls in May 2026.

CARRIED

5. **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

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

5a. MOVED BY: Trustee Yorga
SECONDED BY: Trustee Helgason

Motion that the Board Chair respond to communication received from a member of the public.

CARRIED

6. **CORRESPONDENCE AND INFORMATION PACKAGE:**

6a. MOVED BY: Trustee Kohler
SECONDED BY: Trustee Mosher

That the Correspondence & Information Package be received.

CARRIED

7. **OTHER**

7a. MOVED BY: Trustee Mosher
SECONDED BY: Trustee Banks

Motion that the Board extends this meeting past 9:15 p.m.

CARRIED

7b. MOVED BY: Trustee Yorga
SECONDED BY: Trustee Helgason

Motion that the Board move back to in-camera.


CARRIED


8. **ADJOURNMENT:**

8a. MOVED BY: Trustee Mosher

That the meeting be adjourned at 9:30 p.m.

CARRIED


Chairperson


Secretary-Treasurer

Superintendent's Report to the Board – June 17, 2025

5.1 Superintendent Report

1. Assistant Principals / Leadership Development

- Currently confirming Assistant Principal roles and participation in Leadership Development next year.
- Started a Leadership Development Program this year for the first time in many years. We had a very large cohort of 18 participants – over 15% of our teaching staff.
- Almost 30 participants signed up for next year with an overwhelming response from teachers. Two participants from last year will be 1st year Principals in September.
- We'll be adding in some professional learning through support for instructional and peer coaching with training through Steplab. Nearly all of our principals are currently engaged in this support for instructional coaching - participants have very positive feedback about their learning experience.
- With ~30 participants, we'll be getting closer to realizing what I thought was a much longer term 'dream' – to have many teachers working on peer coaching – improving the teaching and learning experience and outcomes for students and staff.

2. Reflections and Gratitude 2024-2025

I want to centre my report on a reflection of the school year, and express gratitude to the board (and our staff):

- **Board Leadership & Support**
 - Demonstrated support, high expectations, and courageous leadership through significant change.
 - Provided ongoing challenge, guidance, and trust in division leadership: High expectations; High level of support.
- **School Reconfiguration – significant investment**
 - Led and approved major system-wide school reconfiguration.
 - Support and challenge. Example: November 5th meeting—very late night meeting, tough questions, digging into the details. You made space for debate while never losing sight of our shared goal: to serve students better.
 - Prioritized public engagement, transparency, and community voice via school information nights, surveys, and detailed communications.
 - Supported significant infrastructure investments (e.g., practical arts upgrades, hard court surfaces, sensory rooms).
 - Respectful and sensitive staffing processes with union consultation.
 - Robust student transition strategies to support continuity, belonging, and success.

- **Full-Time Kindergarten Implementation – significant investment**
 - One of only three divisions in Manitoba to offer full-day Kindergarten.
 - Recent email from parent – “amazed” by how well her child is reading.
 - Resulted in dramatic literacy gains: from 25% to over 75% of students reading at benchmark by year-end. Impressive work by our K teachers.
 - Strengthened early learning foundations for future student success: pre-K initiatives, including wellness evenings “Play & Learn” program. These created opportunities for early intervention and helped families feel welcome, ready, and excited about starting school. Feedback has been overwhelmingly positive.
- **Early Years Class Size & Composition – significant investment**
 - Support for single-grade classrooms to reduce learning variability.
 - Creating more effective teaching and learning conditions through smaller, more focused classes.
- **Staff Capacity-Building & Professional Development – significant investment**
 - Over 35% of teaching staff participated in this “unprecedented” high-quality, evidence-based PD. Matching high expectations with support.
 - Educators report significant improvements in instructional practice, student focus, and engagement.
 - PD was intentionally designed to integrate learning with collaboration and morale-building. – testimony of 25 year veteran teacher via email:

“Having been part of the division for over 25 years, this is the first time I’ve experienced such meaningful opportunities to attend conferences of this caliber. The experience has been truly transformative—not only for my professional growth but also in pushing me to reflect deeply and shift my thinking in powerful ways.

The conference was incredibly impactful. I’ve already begun using many of the routines we were introduced to, and I can clearly see the positive difference they’re making in my classroom. It has prompted me to think more intentionally about my students’ cognitive load—even before they walk through the door. I’m now even more aware of how small adjustments to my classroom organization and daily routines can significantly reduce stress for students and create conditions that support more effective, focused learning.”
 - Evergreen teachers recognized by international peers for their commitment and cohesion in evening debriefing at ResearchEd.
- **Staffing Investments**

- Funded new positions: 10 additional teachers, 10 educational assistants, more assistant principals, and an increase to full-time Indigenous Education Consultant.
- Supported early hiring of new graduates to ensure strong onboarding and reduce reliance on uncertified teachers.
- **Fiscal Responsibility & Strategic Budgeting**
 - Past two years: Made bold investments (as outlined throughout this report) after seven years of cuts and declining real-dollar provincial funding.
 - Prioritized student and staff success in all financial decisions.
- **Governance & Oversight**
 - Doubled the number of public board meetings since 2016–17.
 - Expanded board committee work to reflect a refined vision for the board’s work, increasing complexity and accountability.
 - Updating Policy 9 with guidance and direction from MSBA to uphold a high standard for ethical conduct.
 - Balanced strong oversight with flexible, responsive leadership.
- **Community & Provincial Engagement**
 - Hosted community / municipal events to highlight student reading progress and system innovation, strengthening relationships with municipal council members.
 - Championed and passed a provincial resolution advocating for evidence-based reading instruction in teacher preparation programs.
 - Recognized by the Manitoba Human Rights Commission as a provincial leader in literacy and inclusive practice.
- **Equity, Inclusion & Safe Environments**
 - Updated policy re: public board meetings to uphold safe, respectful board spaces. Showing support and securing safety for a diverse community of staff and students.
 - Advocated for appropriate and respectful conduct legislation across Manitoba school boards.
 - Upholding core values of inclusion, safety, and belonging.
- **Superintendent Growth & Public Communication**
 - Encouraged and supported and collaborated with the Superintendent to more actively share Evergreen’s story publicly (e.g., podcasts, articles, presentations).
 - Positioned Evergreen as a high-performing, values-driven division, “punching above its weight.”(*Anna Stokke*)

3. **Human Rights Commission** “Right to Read” visit to Evergreen – June 17
4. **Research Ed** attendance and presentation – June 7
5. **Tom Sherrington** / Teaching Walk-Thrus & Evidence Based Inclusive teaching – June 5
 - a. Principals were given time to plan early dismissals next year that will centre around the core teaching strategies we have observed in learning walks this year, including:
 - i. Cold Calling / “Warm Calling”
 - ii. Think, Pair, Share / Turn & Talk
 - iii. Choral Response
 - iv. Mini-White Boards / Show Me Boards
 - v. What to Do
 - vi. Radar and Be Seen Looking
 - vii. Make Expectations Visible
 - viii. Least Invasive Intervention

Secretary Treasurer Report
June 17th, 2025

Restructure Recap / Update

The movement of grades within the division resulted in the following work:

GHS

- Modify / updated classrooms
- Replaced equipment in the food / nutrition room
- Install lockers
- Install outdoor basketball court / 4 square
- Extend the parking lot for additional staff
- Modify existing parking spaces to facilitate increase in drop off traffic (as per traffic study)

ACI

- Modified / update classrooms
- Installed lockers
- Created Foods / Nutrition / Sewing Room – in previous Library space
- Purchase equipment and supplies for the above program
- Moved Library
- Moved Cafeteria
- Created Resource room
- Relocated Gym equipment from AEMS
- Expanded Band room

RCI

- Modified / updated classrooms, Relocate Gym Equipment
- Created STEAM Lab (room 14)
- Purchased equipment and supplies for the STEAM Program
- Created passage from room 14 to room 12
- Replaced counter tops and cupboards in room 12
- Replaced counter tops and cupboards in room 10
- Created outdoor storage space
- Installed outdoor basketball court / 4 square

All High Schools

- Provided additional resources as needed due to increase in student population – ie: adding tables in the lunchroom, additional microwaves,

Other Schools

- Modifications to add resource rooms & sensory rooms

Staff Movement

- Portal created to allow staff to notify maintenance if they are moving schools / classrooms.
- Moving supplies provided to teachers
- Maintenance will move supplies during the summer so teachers can setup their room at the beginning of school year

Summer Students

To support the additional work anticipated for this summer we decided to hire 4 summer students.

May Financials

Meetings / Correspondence

- ACI Boiler Replacement Project Update Meetings
- Meeting with Province to discuss 5 Year Capital Requests
- Restructure Update Meeting
- Employee Recognition Meeting
- REMS Secretary Interviews
- DGJMS / WBS Band Concert