

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE EVERGREEN SCHOOL DIVISION HELD AT GIMLI, TUESDAY, September 17th, 2024, AT 6:30 P.M. AT THE EVERGREEN SUPPORT CENTRE

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

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 Helgason

That the agenda be adopted as distributed.

CARRIED

2. MINUTES OF LAST BOARD MEETING:

ADOPTION OF MINUTES:

2a. Motion to approve the minutes of the regular meeting held on Tuesday, September 3rd, 2024, was deferred to the next meeting so modifications can be made.

3. VISITORS AND DELEGATIONS:

Jay Ewert (Evergreen Teachers Association).

4. SUPERINTENDENT'S DEPARTMENT REPORTS:

SUPERINTENDENT:

4a. MOVED BY: Trustee Helgason
SECONDED BY: Trustee Yorga

That the Board approve the Superintendent's Department Reports.

CARRIED

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

Motion to modify Bank Signors at Access Credit Union for Arborg Early Middle School Bank Account, to add Jessica Vandersteen. The other named individual(s) on the account would retain their current status.

CARRIED

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

Motion to modify Bank Signors at Access Credit Union for Evergreen School Division Bank Account, to remove Dianna Auer and remove Colette Banks and add Sandra Davies and add Jillian Yorga. The other named individual(s) on the account would retain their current status.

CARRIED

5. COMMITTEE REPORTS:

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

- 5a. No recommendations brought forward from the Committee of the Whole Board

POLICY 9: BOARD STATEMENT OF INTEGRITY / CODE OF CONDUCT:

- 5b. Policy 9: Board Statement of Integrity / Code of Conduct was reviewed and each Trustee acknowledged compliance with the codes as outlined.

6. CORRESPONDENCE AND INFORMATION PACKAGE:

- 6a. MOVED BY: Trustee Yorga
SECONDED BY: Trustee Mosher

That the Correspondence & Information Package be received.

CARRIED

7. ADJOURNMENT:

7a. MOVED BY: Trustee Kohler

That the meeting be adjourned at 7:02 p.m.

CARRIED



Chairperson



Secretary-Treasurer

Superintendent Report to the Board

September 17, 2024

5.1 Superintendent Report

- **September 3rd – Opening Day**

We welcomed Cadmus Delorme and Dianne Cross to our opening day gathering, and an impressive breakfast was provided by the Riverton & District Friendship Centre. We've received very positive feedback from this event. In our afternoon sessions, school staff completed their provincial requirement for Treaty Training (we are ahead of schedule relative to the provincial deadline for this), and other employee groups had role-specific training. With treaty training complete, we will likely return to role-specific training on the first day next year, as we move forward with our end-of-year celebration and employee recognition evening as an opportunity for all staff to be together.

- **September 4th**

On this "day before classes begin," school staff prepare for student arrival, have their initial staff meetings to review plans & procedures, and also receive URIS (United Referral and Intake System) training. Additionally, we offered some online Professional Learning for teachers in our school division who are piloting "JUMP Math," an evidence-based program to support math instruction, in Grades 7 & 8 (<https://jumpmath.org/ca/>). Operations staff receive role-specific training and prepare for our first day with students.

- **Provincial Collective Agreement – Teachers**

On September 6, Ron and I, along with Trustees Mosher and Davies, attended a walk-through of the new provincial contract with teachers, hosted by MSBA. There are many features that will require additional study and review in order to determine the impact on our practices and procedures. I submitted several questions to the MSBA contact seeking clarification on the implementation of specific clauses and am looking forward to a response.

A few important highlights from the new contract that I find interesting, and/or that will require some adjustments to our practice and procedures:

- No significant change re: **Prep time**; no required adjustment this year; only a minor adjustment required to formal prep time next year, though this will likely require a change to how we timetable the school day.
- Several school divisions would have had a '**multi-grade allowance**' in their contracts which provided additional salary for teachers in a multi-grade context. There is no such allowance in the new provincial contract.
- **Term contracts** – there is a more granular process for hiring term contracts that may present some challenges in staffing
- **Principal Time** – this clause may affect our assignment of Principals and VPs next year.
- **Extra Curricular Leave** – opportunity for additional paid leave time for teachers as well as an opportunity to combine hours across two school years to earn leave time.
- **Religious Holy Leave and Indigenous Ceremonial Leave** are both confirmed as paid leave possibilities in the new contract.
- **Summer work and PD in the summer** may constitute a need for us to change our practice, as these are now tied to a higher threshold of 'in lieu' paid leave time.

- Several paid leave scenarios are now formally articulated as pending the availability of a substitute – divisions must create procedures that will determine related processes.
- **Transfer** Process for teachers and Principals is outlined with additional clarity.
- **55 Minute meal period** – this may require some adjustments to school timetables next year.

I am uncertain, at this stage, what the impact of the new collective agreement, or any potential change in the labour relations climate related to a provincial agreement, might mean for some of our practices related to the school calendar and days that close conference periods, and days that close schools just before the winter break and just before the summer break.

- **Interview with Anna Stokke for Chalk & Talk Podcast**

An interview that I did on this podcast was published on Friday, September 13th. I was proud to share the efforts of our school division in implementing our Education Plan priorities related to student achievement & well-being, indigenous education, and instructional leadership. I also spoke a little bit about cell phones, student behaviour, and the goals of public education.

- **Assistant Principals / Leadership Development Cohort**

On Sept 10, I hosted the first of six evening sessions with our “largest ever” Leadership Development Cohort, which includes VPs, APs, and teachers.

I taught the group a little bit about School Division Governance and our policy / procedures, and we spent some time discussing our mission, vision, and values.

We also discussed some of the ‘in-between’ spaces / tensions that are relevant to some challenges that face schools. These in-between spaces include:

- Public / Private
- Past / Future
- Collective / Individual
- Childhood / Adulthood

We have an impressive group of teacher-leaders in our school division and this process should build capacity, broaden engagement, contribute to a spirit of collaboration and teamwork, and put the division in good stead regarding succession planning. The future is bright for Evergreen!

- **Principal Mtg / PLC**

At our first meeting of Principals, we debriefed each school’s opening day gatherings and reflected on how these gatherings variously helped lay the groundwork for principals to move forward with their respective instructional leadership goals. We also welcomed Ron Moore for some operations and finance items, and Morgan Whiteway from MSBA to discuss supervision and evaluation.

A special online professional development session featured Mr. Casey Sovo, Education Program Director from the Bureau of Indian Education, Belcourt / Turtle Mountain, North Dakota. Mr. Sovo used the 7 sacred teachings as a framework for sharing the importance of evidence-based reading practices, direct instruction, and a tiered system of supports (RTI / MTSS) in meeting the moral imperative of improving student achievement & well-being. His story, lens, and references resonate with the work we’re doing through our education plan and we look forward to future opportunities to connect with Mr. Sovo and the work in his communities.

- **Open Houses**

I attended the open houses at Riverton Early Middle School on the 13th of September along with Ron Moore and Trustees Mosher and Yorga, and at Sigurbjorg Stefansson Early School on the 16th of September along with Ron Moore and Trustee Mosher.

- **SISA** – I attended the regional meeting of Superintendents on September 14th.

Secretary Treasurer Report
Sep 17th, 2024

GHS Donation

Contacted one of the donors and scheduling a date and time to meet and discuss the donation.

Change in Bank Signors

Additional change in signors for bank accounts.

Motion to Change Bank Signor at AEMS

Motion to modify Bank Signors at Access Credit Union for Arborg Early Middle School Bank Account, to add Jessica Vandersteen. The other named individual(s) on the account would retain their current status.

Motion to Change Bank Signor for Evergreen School Division

Motion to modify Bank Signors at Access Credit Union for Evergreen School Division Bank Account, to remove Dianna Auer and remove Colette Banks and add Sanda Davies and add Jillian Yorga. The other named individual(s) on the account would retain their current status.

Meetings / Correspondence

- MASBO Secretary Treasurer Meeting to discuss MTS agreement
- GHS Donor
- REMS Open House
- SSES Open House
- Existing and New Auditors