

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

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

MEMBERS ABSENT: Colette Banks, Dianna Auer

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 Yorga

Motion that the agenda be adopted as distributed.

CARRIED

2. MINUTES OF LAST BOARD MEETING:

ADOPTION OF MINUTES:

2a. MOVED BY: Trustee Kohler
SECONDED BY: Trustee Helgason

Motion that the minutes from the Regular Meeting held on October 7th, 2025, be adopted as distributed.

CARRIED

3. VISITORS AND DELEGATIONS:

Gibby Finnbogason – Operations Supervisor
Brad Harding – Principal, Arborg Collegiate Institute
Erin Furgala – Principal, Riverton Collegiate Institute
Jamie Gilbert – Principal, Gimli High School

4. SUPERINTENDENT'S DEPARTMENT REPORTS:

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

Motion that the Board approve the Superintendent's Department Reports.

CARRIED

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

Motion that the board approve the early notice incentive for professional staff on Form 2 and Regular contracts for resignations effective June 30, 2026. The Division will provide an incentive of \$2,500.00 for notice of resignation received on or before January 5, 2026. For notification of resignation received between January 6, 2026 and February 27, 2026, the Division will provide an incentive of \$1,000.00.

CARRIED

5. **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

BOARD DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

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

Motion that the minutes from the Board Development Committee held on October 15, 2025, be adopted as distributed.

CARRIED

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

Motion that the board goals be updated as per the Board Development section presented.

CARRIED

- 5c. MOVED BY: Trustee Kohler
 SECONDED BY: Trustee Mosher

Motion that the Board establish a date in January for planning.

CARRIED

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

Motion that the Terms of Reference for the Board Development Committee be updated as presented.

CARRIED

ADVOCACY AND PUBLIC RELATIONS COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

- 5e. MOVED BY: Trustee Helgason
 SECONDED BY: Trustee Yorga

Motion that the board goals be updated as per the PR / Advocacy section presented.

CARRIED

- 5f. MOVED BY: Trustee Helgason
 SECONDED BY: Trustee Mosher

Motion that the board organize the municipality breakfast event for April 27, 2026.

CARRIED

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

Motion that the Board pursue opportunities for staff presentation(s), in partnership with the Superintendent, to summarize the Board's work this term.

CARRIED

5h. MOVED BY: Trustee Helgason
SECONDED BY: Trustee Mosher

Motion that the minutes from the Advocacy and Public Relations Committee held on October 20, 2025, be adopted as distributed.

CARRIED

6. CORRESPONDENCE AND INFORMATION PACKAGE:

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

Motion that the Correspondence & Information Package be received.

CARRIED

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

Motion that the Board respond to President of MSBA regarding comments made in MSBA Bill 225 Brief of Oct 8, 2025; to inquire about process and to voice the opinion of our Board regarding comments made on our behalf.

CARRIED

7. ADJOURNMENT:

7a. MOVED BY: Trustee Mosher

That the meeting be adjourned at 8:42 p.m.

CARRIED

Sandra Davis

Chairperson

Secretary-

Secretary-Treasurer

Superintendent's Report to the Board – November 4, 2025

5.1 Superintendent Report

1. **Delegation:** Reeve and Council members from RM of Armstrong will outline the RM's interest in purchasing the land in Fraserwood, including information about possible intentions for the property.

2. **Continuous Improvement Report – Preview (recently appeared on our 'socials')**

Toward a Knowledge-Rich Future

In Evergreen, we're shifting toward something powerful: a knowledge-rich approach to teaching and learning.

Why? Because knowledge is equity.

When students build deep background knowledge, they gain the tools to think critically, challenge injustice, and participate fully in society.

Here's how we're making that shift:

- ✓ Embedding meaningful content across subjects—from science to social studies to ELA
- ✓ Emphasizing structured, content-rich lessons grounded in evidence
- ✓ Ensuring every student—regardless of background—gets access to powerful knowledge

As our 5-Year Education Plan reminds us, literacy and critical thinking aren't separate goals—they go hand in hand. And it all begins with what we teach, how we teach it, and how we ensure every student can learn it.

 Want to learn more about the growing movement toward knowledge-rich education?

Listen to Season 3 of the Knowledge Matters Podcast:

 <https://knowledgematterscampaign.org/podcast/>

3. **Interventions Teacher PLC**

Our most recent meeting of Interventions Teacher PLC was held last week, and we were happy to welcome two staff members from Peguis – our relationship with the school in Peguis includes their participation in our early literacy learning and assistance that we receive from them re: land-based education.

4. **Instructional Leadership**

Our Leadership Development program participants recently had their second training session with Zach Groshell in support of enhancing our understanding of and capacity to provide feedback to teachers on the Core Strategies of *My Evergreen Classroom*.

Our Principals recently had an online training session with Rachel Sewell from StepLab on using the StepLab digital platform for “drop ins” – a quick way to provide precise positive feedback to teachers after walk-throughs re: our core instructional strategies.

5. Research Ed Canada – Halifax

A team of teachers, school and division leaders attended Research Ed in Halifax last weekend. It was an excellent learning experience for all of us, and our staff also delivered two presentations on our work:

- I. Paul Bailey and Lisa Michaluk presented on '4 years of transformation at SSES in literacy instruction and intervention.'
- II. Crystal MacDonald, Della Magnusson, and Jess Worden presented on 'My Evergreen Classroom and Evidence-based teaching strategies'

An additional highlight for me as a participant was a presentation by Dr. George Georgeiou from the Faculty of Ed at University of Alberta. Dr. Georgeiou has led some research that highlights the inconsistency and inadequacy of teacher pre-service training re: structured literacy.

Some feedback from teacher participants in this high calibre professional learning experience:

"I wanted to extend my appreciation for the divisions support for PD. As a teacher in their first five years I felt it was extremely beneficial to my growth as a teacher especially in this division. It was exciting to see that a lot of the practices implemented in ESD were echoed in the sessions. The sessions I was able to attend gave me strategies that I can use to strengthen my literacy and math instruction that are aligned with the division goals. I feel very fortunate to be a part of a division that prioritizes teacher development."

"It means a great deal to be included in this work, and I am so proud to be in the company of such strong leaders who are moving our division forward. Sharing our learning with others further reinforced how important and impactful this work is."

"Even after more than twenty-five years in education, I truly value every chance to continue learning and growing as a teacher. The conference offered many practical ideas that connect directly to our school and classroom practices. I especially enjoyed the session with Kate Jones on Making Retrieval Practices Work in the Classroom, which aligned beautifully with Zach Groshell's session from the beginning of the school year. These strategies are not only research-based and easy to implement but also help ensure that all students can experience success. Thank you again for supporting professional learning opportunities like this one. I appreciate the division's continued commitment to fostering excellence in teaching and learning."

"I feel very fortunate to work in ESD. I feel very aligned with the principles of our division, and it's very encouraging to hear other professionals recommend things that we are already implementing, and ways that we can make it even stronger. I also feel extremely supported as a new teacher in our division, and really appreciate all of the opportunities for PD. I'm excited to get back into the classroom and to start applying all that I have learned."

"I appreciate that the Board and yourself are utilizing PD funds to attend more higher quality PD opportunities that align with our educational plan and focus."

"Beyond the learning itself, it reminded me what it means to be part of Evergreen School Division – a community that truly invests in growth, collaboration, and excellence. Your continued support makes a real difference for both staff and students. Thank you again for making this a priority!"

"The alignment between division PD and our school work reinforces that we are moving in the right direction. I left feeling both affirmed in our direction and eager to continue our work. I truly appreciate your continued support in prioritizing professional learning for all of us here in ESD."

"I left feeling inspired, proud, and energized by the work happening across our division."

6. Manitoba Human Rights Commission – Right to Read Report

I was honoured to be invited to speak at the public release of this report, hosted by Dyslexia Canada last week. I will share a version of my presentation this evening with the board. Evergreen is identified in the formal report as an acknowledgment of our exemplary practice. Several staff members from Evergreen attended the event, representing teachers, interventions teachers, school leaders and division staff. It was an inspiring and affirming event.

7. Evergreen School Division Literacy Videos

Jessica Worden and I met with a videographer who has some experience creating videos for school divisions regarding a three-part series outlining our approaches to literacy instruction and intervention. We believe that this will contribute to enhanced understanding among our parents and community members as well as consolidate understanding for staff and others beyond the school division in regard to our successful approaches to reading instruction and interventions. We'll keep the board updated on our progress.

Secretary Treasurer Report – Nov 4th 2025

Provincial Updates

- Province is reviewing the Nutrition Program.

Churchill School Trip update

Cheques

Please find October payment recap:

Cheque listing for the operating account cheques 31796 to 31883 inclusive which total \$142,290.44 and electronic funds transfer which total \$877,702.24 and the electronic funds transfer from payroll account in October which total \$1,147,087.40.

Accounts Receivable

As of October 31, 2025 ESD had accounts receivable outstanding of \$98,274.30. These have been analyzed and are deemed collectible.

Meetings / Correspondence

- Auditors / Kathy
- Rick Penner - Pupil Transportation Unit
- Board Meeting – Policy Committee

