

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE EVERGREEN SCHOOL DIVISION HELD AT GIMLI, TUESDAY, January 27th, 2026, AT 6:30 P.M. AT THE EVERGREEN SUPPORT CENTRE

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

MEMBERS ABSENT: Jillian Yorga

ADMINISTRATION: Mr. Hill, Superintendent, Ms. Worden, Director of Programs and Student Services, 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

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 Auer

Motion that the minutes from the Regular Meeting held on December 2nd, 2025, be adopted as distributed.

CARRIED

3. VISITORS AND DELEGATIONS:

- Crystal MacDonald – Principal of Sigurbjorg Stefansson Early School
- Kelly Milne – Indigenous Consultant
- Kim Angus – Teacher, Dr. Goerge Johnson Middle School
- Kelly Croy - Teacher, Dr. Goerge Johnson Middle School

4. SUPERINTENDENT'S DEPARTMENT REPORTS:

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

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

CARRIED

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

Motion that the board approve the December cheque listing for the operating account cheques 31928 to 31957 inclusive which total \$70,286.04 and electronic funds transfer which total \$575,970.87 and the electronic funds transfer from payroll account in December which total \$1,210,543.79 be approved.

CARRIED

4c. MOVED BY: Trustee Auer
SECONDED BY: Trustee Helgason

Motion that the Board support a payment up to \$15,000 for Riverton Early Middle School playground structure.

CARRIED

5. COMMITTEE REPORTS

COMMITTEE of the WHOLE BOARD RECOMMENDATION

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

Motion from Board to indicate show of support for Leave Request from Employee 11826.

CARRIED

5b. MOVED BY: Trustee Davies
SECONDED BY: Trustee Kohler

Motion from Board to indicate show of support for Leave Request from Employee 14770.

CARRIED

5c. MOVED BY: Trustee Davies
SECONDED BY: Trustee Mosher

Motion from Board to indicate show of support for Reduction of FTE for Employee 14770.

CARRIED

POLICY COMMITTEE RECOMENDATION

5d. MOVED BY: Trustee Kohler
SECONDED BY: Trustee Helgason

Motion from Board with Recommendation to add the following topic to the spring planning session: Review and define in a procedure the Duration of Terms of Board Chair / Vic Chair / Committee Chairs, which perhaps should not exceed three years.

CARRIED

5e. MOVED BY:
SECONDED BY:

Trustee Kohler
Trustee Helgason

Motion that the minutes from the Policy Committee Meeting held on January 20th, 2026 be adopted as distributed.

CARRIED

EMPLOYEE RECOGNITION COMMITTEE

5f. MOVED BY:
SECONDED BY:

Trustee Kohler
Trustee Helgaon

Motion that the minutes from the Employee Recognition Meeting held on January 20th, 2026 be adopted as distributed.

CARRIED

6. CORRESPONDENCE AND INFORMATION PACKAGE:

6a. MOVED BY:
SECONDED BY:

Trustee Kohler
Trustee Auer

Motion that the Correspondence & Information Package be received.

CARRIED

7. ADJOURNMENT:

7a. MOVED BY:

Trustee Mosher

Motion that the meeting be adjourned at 8:55 p.m.

CARRIED

Sandra Davis
Chairperson

R. L. Jones
Secretary-Treasurer

Superintendent's Report to the Board – January 27, 2026

5.1 Superintendent Report

1. **Presentation: Kelly Milne, Kelly Croy, and Kim Angus — *Equity Through Structured Literacy: Empowering Indigenous Students*** — the powerful impact of evidence-based reading instruction on student achievement and well-being. Their work reflects Evergreen's commitment to equity, relationships, and strong literacy outcomes for all students.

Presentation: Crystal MacDonald re: SSES – Instructional Leadership

2. **January 6, 2026:** I recently hosted a Leadership Development program session with our ~30 participating teachers. Our focus was on *My Evergreen Classroom* – particular attention paid to our Evergreen 8 teaching practices and how we might continue to evolve our work as teachers and peer coaches to support these instructional strategies. Participants were able to share positive feedback about the impact of consistent teaching practices on students who move across schools in our division. We also modelled and rehearsed some of the teaching strategies and practiced writing “drop-in feedback” for colleagues. All of our school leaders are currently using drop-ins through our StepLab platform that supports teacher professional growth and coaching.
3. Our Principals, Ms. Worden and I had our principal meetings and walkthroughs at RCI on December 9 and REMS on January 20. It was a pleasure to see our teachers bringing our *My Evergreen Classroom* document to life in their classrooms with many examples of the core Evergreen 8 instructional strategies. Principals also received additional online training from StepLab coach Rachel Sewell on supporting teacher growth.
4. In December we were able to submit our treaty training completion rate of 100% to the province prior to their stated deadline of January 2026. Thanks to Kelly Milne and many others for their work to ensure our staff have had rich learning experiences in support of this important initiative.
5. We've recently had visitors from Turtle Mountain and Prairie Spirit School Divisions to learn more about our literacy programming and our *My Evergreen Classroom* document. Our guests consistently offer feedback about how inspiring it is for them to see teaching and learning in action in our schools. Thanks to our many teachers, principals and division staff who host, answer questions and offer PD / talks to our guests. I always hear back from Superintendent colleagues that teachers who visit us come back very impressed by what they've seen and learned.
6. I'm very busy with staffing work next year, navigating some internal moves as well as hiring new staff for next school year.

7. I recently presented at a MASS Leadership development event on *Building Board Relationships to Impact Student Learning*. I was very proud to share how strong our board is in collaborating with me and supporting efforts to move our education plan forward. I shared examples of the hard work that the board has put into connecting with communities, sharing our successes and advocating within and outside of our school division. I also shared how important it has been to have a board that sees how critical it is to invest in teacher professional development and supporting change initiatives with the resources teachers need to be successful.
8. I recently attended the AI in Education Summit with Ms. Worden, Charlie Marks and Brad Harding. Sessions focussed on the potential as well as the potential perils of a focus on AI readiness in our schools. One takeaway for me was how it seems evermore imperative that students learn strong foundational knowledge and skills that will allow them to be media literate and able to discern fact from fiction in an era when AI will be ubiquitous. My view is that it will be a mistake for systems to assume that 'soft skills' or 'competencies' that are often pushed by corporate interest can somehow be achieved without ensuring that students have sufficient and robust content knowledge. A message that I heard from the conference keynote is that 'we want our students to be the ones who can drive this in the future – with the values that we hold dear re: inclusion and so on... My feeling is that if we embrace that idea, we must make sure that our students grow to be literate, numerate and knowledgeable people who have learned how to speak up and contribute to their learning spaces and to their communities. A next step for me is to work on a divisional procedure re: AI that provides some guidance and support to our teachers.
9. Evergreen 8 posters are now drafted and you can have a look at your own copy from your mailbox!

Secretary Treasurer Report – Jan 27th 2026

Maintenance Update

- Restructure Project – Completed.
- WBS Beam Project – Completed.
- GHS Science Lab – Province has restarted the project. Scope is a Renewal of the Science Lab. Working with architect and Province to re-define the scope of work and timelines.

Transportation Update

- Driver update – working with CUPE and drivers have been successful in assigning a driver to each route during this shortage. However limited spare availability to cover driver illnesses.
- Capital Project – Radio network needs to be repaired. Reviewing 2 options – rebuilding the ESD network OR use the Province wide network (requires new radios and connection points).

Fraserwood Land

- Request sent to Province and waiting for response and letter.

December Financials

- Provided on a separate document.

Cheques

Please find December payment recap:

Cheque listing for the operating account cheques 31928 to 31957 inclusive which total \$70,286.04 and electronic funds transfer which total \$575,970.87 and the electronic funds transfer from payroll account in December which total \$1,210,543.79.

Accounts Receivable

As of December 31, 2025 ESD had accounts receivable outstanding of \$53,178.03. These have been analyzed and are deemed collectible.

Meetings / Correspondence

- Auditors
- Board Committee Meetings – Board Development, Policy, Employee Recognition, Planning

- Province of Manitoba – Various Finance meetings regarding changes to reporting.
- MASBO Meeting – discuss Insurance changes and Budget planning
- Division Meetings – Budget discussions, School Camera installations, Staff changes