

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE EVERGREEN SCHOOL DIVISION HELD AT GIMLI, TUESDAY, April 14<sup>th</sup>, 2026, AT 6:30 P.M. AT THE EVERGREEN SUPPORT CENTRE**

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

**MEMBERS ABSENT:**

**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 Helgason  
SECONDED BY: Trustee Auer

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 Yorga

Motion that the minutes from the Regular Meeting held on March 24<sup>th</sup>, 2026, be adopted as distributed.

CARRIED

**3. VISITORS AND DELEGATIONS:**

- Jessica Vandersteen – Principal at Arborg Early Middle School
- Mark Patrick – Transportation Supervisor

**4. SUPERINTENDENT'S DEPARTMENT REPORTS:**

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

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



## Superintendent's Report to the Board – April 14, 2026

### 5.1 Superintendent Report

1. **Presentation: Jess Vandersteen, Principal, Arborg Early Middle School; Mark Patrick, Transportation Manager**

2. **Residency – Dr. Zach Groshell**

Dr. Groshell spent the better part of three weeks here in Evergreen and made an incredibly valuable contribution to the important work of providing job-embedded professional development for teachers, principals and division staff. This professional development operated at many levels – classroom teachers received drop-in feedback or direct coaching; some of our teachers in the leadership development rehearsed and practiced providing drop-in feedback and coaching; Principals received feedback on their own drop-ins and coaching sessions. We're seeing the value of professional rehearsals and planning with the Evergreen 8 in mind. Zach was impressed by all our staff and the progress we've made in such a short time. It's hard to believe that we've only just begin with the Evergreen 8 this school year, and already we see excellent examples throughout our school division, creating highly participatory and inclusive classrooms rich in opportunities to respond for all students.

3. **Recent Visit**

SSES recently welcomed a team of 4 from Calvin Christian School who were interested in getting a first-hand look at our work in early literacy and direct instruction. As you know, we're hosting quite a few visits of this nature this year – Swan Valley school division is also sending a team shortly. Any of our schools would do a fine job of hosting such visits and I'm both proud of and grateful for our staff and the flexibility / vulnerability they demonstrate in welcoming so many guests to their schools and classrooms.

4. **IDA Conference**

The International Dyslexia Association held a conference in Toronto this past weekend and we had a team attend from Evergreen, including presenters Leanne Mager, Paul Bailey, and Della Magnusson.

Here are some excerpts from the feedback I have received from participants:

*I love when I have the opportunity to attend really good professional development like the last 4 days in Toronto. It gets me so excited about everything we are doing in ESD and all that our students will be able to do because of the teaching strategies we use, programs we implement, and support that teachers and students receive.*

...

*We had multiple comments [after our presentation] about how fortunate we are to have such a supportive school board and a strong leadership team backing this work. Based on the response and many questions afterwards, I wouldn't be surprised if this sparks a new wave of educators reaching out for support, and possibly even a few visitors from other provinces.*

*So again, thank you to you and our school board for supporting these amazing opportunities.*

## **5. School Visits**

Jessica Worden, Nicole Young, and Jenna Korschuk arrived in advance of the IDA conference to tour select alternative schools that they had researched which are focussed on supporting neurodivergent students. This research will help inform the work in our connect program and future approaches across our schools as we continue to seek out the most promising practices in support of all students.

*I have come out of this conference with so many ideas, I have been blowing Jess' phone up trying to talk through everything I can't wait to do next year.*

...

*Touring the 4 different programs was so eye-opening. I really believe we got something from each program we toured (even if that something was what NOT to do).*

*I think the most glaring thing that we realized from our tours was just how truly academically focused our program can be. In particular, 2 of the schools demonstrated that when we give students with complex needs the instruction at their level and the tools they need to be successful, they can thrive academically. Something that really struck us as we left \_\_\_ school was how we have missed serving some of our kids with needs...but I also believe that Connect has the power to change that.*

*There were moments that we had goosebumps and tears realizing the potential that the program has, and I feel that I have a very clear direction of what we want it to look like now. These tours were a critical aspect of knowing how to serve our students next year.*

## **6. Leadership Development Sessions**

On the evening of April 7, we held our final Leadership Development session for the year. Zach Groshell and I co-hosted, reviewing some of the key learnings from the year related to My Evergreen Classroom and the Evergreen 8. The group also engaged in discussion reflecting on the aims / intended outcomes of the program this year.

Some excerpts from participant feedback:

*I have been with the division for 17 years and for a long time I felt like I was somewhat on an island and not necessarily able to form connections with people outside of our school.*

*This opportunity among other things that are happening in the division has, I feel, created a real sense of community as we share with each other and have common language and goals. I liked*

*learning about your role, the boards' role and how it all works. I appreciated your openness for us to ask you questions as well.*

*I felt valued and that you and your team cared about our opinion and I liked that these meetings have provided us with tools we can use in our leadership roles in our schools.*

...

*One of the parts of the program I appreciated most was the opportunity to support colleagues through drop-in feedback using Step Lab. Not going to lie at first it seemed intimidating coming into a classroom and providing feedback for co-workers who are doing amazing things and are extremely experienced in teaching. This year, more than ever, has forced me out of my comfort zone and pushed me to be more purposeful in my observations and helped me grow in how I give feedback. It was also a reminder that leadership does not always have to look big or formal. Sometimes it is simply taking the time to notice, encourage, and support growth in others even if it is fine tuning something that is already going well. That part of the experience made me feel even more connected to the learning community within Evergreen. We have come a long way from teaching with closed doors.*

...

*I really feel strongly that being a part of this program has allowed me to really deepen my understanding of our Evergreen 8. I believe practice and time to learn is invaluable which this year gave us but so was the coaching aspect of the program. I really needed to reflect on my teaching and what I wanted to improve on as I was then sharing this with colleagues so they could come and observe and give me feedback. I felt supported and motivated to really dig in and learn the language and the inner nuances of these practices.*

...

*What I've appreciated most about the program is how tangible and applicable the strategies are. They've supported and strengthened my teaching process without infringing on my autonomy or my ability to remain authentic in the classroom. Instead, they've helped streamline both my instruction and my classroom operations in a way that feels natural and sustainable.*

...

*What made this program especially meaningful was the opportunity to engage in thoughtful conversations about what makes a strong educator, while also receiving feedback and affirmation from experienced mentors. Those moments of confirmation helped build my confidence and reassured me that I have been moving in the right direction. I am very grateful for the time and commitment that has been invested into this program to ensure we feel supported and equipped with the tools needed to grow and improve as educators.*

## **7. Early Dismissal**

Our next early dismissal session is scheduled for April 24. These early dismissals have been integral to our efforts to support PD for teachers with our My Evergreen Classroom document and to build instructional leadership capacity.

At the end of the month, principals will gather for planning session to prepare for next year's professional development sessions in early dismissals – continuing our focus on My Evergreen Classroom and the Evergreen 8.

**8. Kindergarten Orientation Evenings**

As you know, our schools will host orientation sessions for our fall kindergarten students and families this week. Trustees will be in attendance and available at a station with welcome packages for our new students!

**9. Evergreen Teachers Association**

The ETA recently held its annual general meeting. As you know, local president Jay Ewert has stepped aside, and Justin Charrier will serve as president in the 2026 / 2027 school year. I'd like to thank Mr. Ewert for his professionalism and co-operation in working on our shared aim of continually improving the teaching and learning context in all our schools.

**10. Trustee Brochure re: Being a Trustee in Evergreen**

I am in receipt of an updated version of this document for review (hope to send Monday).

**11. Municipal Breakfast**

We will have a photographer and videographer on hand for the annual municipal breakfast later this month.

## **Secretary Treasurer Report – Apr 14<sup>th</sup> 2026**

### **Transportation**

Recent illnesses in both route drivers and spare drivers will impact route coverage until the end of the school year. We hired a charter from Winnipeg for the month of April to drive 1 route, and we now expect to continue using them through most of May. We have 2 people going through training – 1 expect to start at end of April and the other to start mid May.

### **Cheques**

Please find March payment recap:

Cheque listing for the operating account cheques 32000 to 32028 inclusive which total \$98,390.83 and electronic funds transfer which total \$672,023.52 and the electronic funds transfer from payroll account in March which total \$1,129,330.70.

### **Accounts Receivable**

As of March 31, 2026 ESD had accounts receivable outstanding of \$18,986.95. These have been analyzed and are deemed collectible.

### **Meetings / Correspondence**

- Provincial Meetings to discuss Capital Projects
- Auditors
- School Board Election Officers Training
- RM of Gimli – Recreation Development / Daycare
- Provincial Meeting about Daycare
- Division Meetings – Operations and Transportation