Evergreen School Division Minutes

October 20, 2026
6:30 p.m

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE EVERGREEN SCHOOL DIVISION HELD AT GIMLI, TUESDAY, OCTOBER 20, 2026 AT 6:30PM AT THE EVERGREEN BOARD OFFICE

PRESENT Sandra Davies (Chair), Jillian Yorga, Glady Kohler, Penny Helgason, Amanda Mosher, Dianna Auer (Virtual)

ABSENT:

ADMINISTRATION: Superintendent Hill, Secretary-Treasurer Moore, Director Worden

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 Yorga
SECONDED BY: Trustee Kohler

Motion: That the agenda be adopted as distributed.

CARRIED

2. **MINUTES OF LAST BOARD MEETING:**

ADOPTION OF MINUTES:

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

Motion: That the minutes from the Regular Meeting held on September 22nd, 2026, be adopted as distributed.

CARRIED

3. **VISITORS AND DELEGATIONS:**

- Justin Charrier

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 Kohler
SECONDED BY: Trustee Helgason

Motion: That the Board approve Staff and Student Interactions Administrative Procedure.

CARRIED

4c. MOVED BY: Trustee Yorga
SECONDED BY: Trustee Mosher

Motion: That the Board approve Out of Province travel for Students scheduled for Spring of 2028.

CARRIED
Opposed – Trustee Auer

5. **COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

COMMITTEE of the WHOLE BOARD RECOMMENDATION

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

Motion: That the Board approve Leave Request for Employee 11620.

CARRIED

6. **CORRESPONDENCE AND INFORMATION PACKAGE:**

6a. MOVED BY: Trustee Helgason
SECONDED BY: Trustee Auer

Motion: That the Correspondence & Information Package be received.

CARRIED

Evergreen School Division Minutes

October 20, 2026
6:30 p.m

7. **ADJOURNMENT:**

7a. MOVED BY: Trustee Auer

Motion that the meeting be adjourned at 7:13 p.m.

CARRIED

Chairperson

Secretary-Treasurer

Superintendent's Report to the Board – October 6, 2026

5.1 Superintendent Report

1. **Administrative Procedures:**
    a. *'Staff and Student Interactions'*

2. **Seeking approval for out-of-province travel:** Europe 2028 through EF Tours – curricular connection: History

3. **EdCan / Canadian Education Association article** https://www.edcan.ca/articles/renovating-while-living-here-evergreen-school-divisions-structured-literacy-journey/

    Jess Worden and I were asked to write an article for the Canadian Education Association's EdCan magazine. In it, we share a version of our story improving reading instruction and intervention

4. **Evergreen Resolution**

5. **Thank you to the outgoing board of trustees**

    As this Board's four-year term draws to a close, I want to use my report tonight to say thank you.

    When I look back over the past four years, I am struck by how much has changed and how much we have accomplished together. None of this work belongs to any one person or group. It reflects our staff, school leaders, families, students, communities, and Trustees working together toward a common purpose: continually improving what we do for students.

    On a personal level, I want to thank you for your support and for the way you have worked with me. Your support has never meant simply agreeing. You have asked difficult questions, challenged my thinking, brought different perspectives to the table, and expected me to explain and defend recommendations. Those conversations have been fair, honest, and important, and I believe they have helped us make better decisions.

    Over these four years, you have supported significant renewal in leadership. We have welcomed a new Secretary-Treasurer, Transportation Supervisor, and Director of Programming and Student Services, increased our capacity in Indigenous Education, and introduced creative Principal, Vice-Principal, and Assistant Principal assignments.

    You also supported a leadership development program that has attracted more than 30 participants, an investment not just in the leadership we need today, but in those who will lead Evergreen in the future.

    That investment in people extends to our classrooms. You supported the early hiring and training of

new teachers, along with the addition of teachers and educational assistants to better support our students.

You have also supported significant changes in teaching and learning.

You provided resources and advocacy as we moved toward evidence-based approaches to reading instruction and intervention. You supported full-time Kindergarten and the shift toward single-grade elementary classrooms.

You supported the move of Grades 7 and 8 into our high schools, providing greater programming opportunities while opening space in our elementary schools for dedicated calming and sensory spaces. Alongside that change, you invested in our facilities, particularly in our smaller high schools, strengthening those schools and the communities they serve.

You supported additional non-contact time for K-8 teachers, bringing it in line with our high school teachers while creating additional opportunities for elementary students in art, music, and physical education.

These are significant investments in students, staff, schools, and communities. And you have made them while maintaining the lowest mill rate among our neighbouring school divisions.

Your advocacy has been equally important.

Within our communities, you have worked to build stronger relationships with municipal governments and citizens and to help people better understand the important work happening in Evergreen.

Our annual municipal breakfasts have created an important opportunity to bring municipal leaders together and provide updates on our work, our priorities, and what is happening in our schools. Our evening community gatherings have similarly created opportunities to speak directly with community members, share our work, and strengthen those connections.

You have also supported new ways of celebrating our staff through our year end recognition evening and newspaper staff spotlights, helping our communities see more of the extraordinary work happening in Evergreen every day.

But your advocacy has not stopped at the boundaries of our division.

You have advocated provincially for evidence-based reading instruction, adding Evergreen's voice to an important conversation about improving outcomes for students across Manitoba. Through the Manitoba School Boards Association, you helped advance a Statement of Integrity for member boards, affirming that our schools should be safe, welcoming, and respectful places for diverse students and staff.

I think that willingness to advocate both within and beyond our communities is an important part of this Board's contribution. You have recognized that Evergreen can learn from the broader education community, but also that Evergreen has something meaningful to contribute to it.

When you put all of this together, it really is remarkable what has happened in four years.

Of course, it has not always been easy. Meaningful change rarely is. Democratic governance requires

different perspectives, debate, and difficult questions. Continuous improvement in education requires much the same. If we genuinely want to do better for students, sometimes we must be willing to do things differently.

And I greatly appreciate this Board's willingness to do that work.

Perhaps the most important thing I want to say to you tonight, and particularly for those of you who are not running for re-election, is that the impact of your service will not end when your term does.

Many of the decisions you have made will continue to shape Evergreen for years to come.

Children will continue to benefit from full-time Kindergarten. Students will benefit from expanded programming, improved facilities, and learning environments designed to better meet their needs. Teachers will have additional time and support. Students who need calming or sensory spaces will have them. And our work in literacy, numeracy, and Indigenous education will continue to develop.

Perhaps most importantly, you have invested in people. New teachers have been welcomed and trained. More teachers and educational assistants are working directly with students. And future leaders are already developing the skills and experience they will need to lead Evergreen in the years ahead.

To me, that is the lasting impact of governance. It is not simply the decisions made around this table. It is what those decisions make possible for the people who come after us.

There will always be more work to do. That is the nature of education and continuous improvement. But there should also be moments when we stop, look back, and recognize just how far we have come.

This is one of those moments.

Thank you for your service to Evergreen School Division. Thank you for your confidence in our staff and leadership. Thank you for asking the difficult questions and for being willing to make difficult decisions.

And personally, thank you for challenging my thinking in fair and honest ways, and for pushing me to continue to become a better leader and a better learner.

It has been a privilege to work alongside you these past four years. I feel so lucky that all of us got to be here together at the same time. And I believe the real measure of what we have accomplished together will continue to be seen in Evergreen, and beyond Evergreen, for many years to come.

Thank you.

Secretary Treasurer Report
Oct 6th, 2026

Thanks!

I want to Publicly thank the Evergreen School Division Trustees for welcoming me into the role of Secretary Treasurer and supporting me through my various activities – budgets, audits and capital – transportation-financial initiatives. It has been a pleasure to work with each of you and I look forward to continue working with those that are fortunate to be re-elected.

Meetings / Correspondence

- Division Meetings – Meetings with Finance Team, Secretaries, Operations, and Transportation
- Operation Project Meetings
- Meetings with Auditors