

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR BOARD MEETING OF THE MEDICINE HAT CATHOLIC BOARD OF EDUCATION HELD at St. Mary's School, 155 – 11th Street S.W., Medicine Hat, Alberta on January 16, 2012 @ 6:00 p.m.

TRUSTEES AND OFFICERS PRESENT

Peter Grad	Chair	
Jodi Churla	Vice-Chair	
Stan Aberle	Trustee	Via Tele-Conference
Kelly Van Ham	Trustee	
Dick Mastel	Trustee	
David Leahy	Superintendent of Schools	
Wayne Schlosser	Deputy Superintendent	
Greg MacPherson	Secretary Treasurer	
Hugh Lehr	Director of Student Services	
Amanda Crowley	Religious Education Coordinator	
Della Dewald	Executive Assistant	

OPENING PRAYER

Note: The meeting opened with prayer led by Mr. David Leahy.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF THE REGULAR BOARD MEETING

2576 Motion. Jodi Churla: "THAT the Minutes of December 13, 2011 be approved as circulated".

Carried unanimously.

APPROVAL OF THE ACTION AGENDA

2577 Motion. Kelly Van Ham. "THAT the Action Agenda dated January 16, 2012 be approved as amended".

Note: Amendment: Addition – Elections Act Violation Item 9.5
Addition – Mission Mexico Item 9.6

Carried unanimously.

APPROVAL OF THE NON-ACTION AGENDA

2578 Motion. Dick Mastel. "THAT the Non-Action Agenda dated January 16, 2012 be approved as circulated".

Carried unanimously.

PRESENTATION

Note: Environmental Advocates Miss Rachel Brown and Miss Katie Vandersloot presented the Board of Trustees with a proposal to ban the use of triclosan-based-products-a microbe-fighting ingredient; in all Catholic schools. Noticing that anti-bacterial products are everywhere today, the students started investigating as part of a science project. Finding *triclosan* resistant bacteria in local water systems, their research suggests it could contribute to the rise of antibiotic resistant bacteria. Winning Bronze at the *Canadian National Science Fair*, and winning the *Peace & Development Award* on Team Canada in an international competition in Slovakia, their advocacy against the use of *triclosan* has been articulated in *MacLean's Magazine* and acknowledged by **Dr. David Suzuki**. In fact, *The David Suzuki Foundation will be supporting a ban on this chemical adding it to the [Dirty Dozen List](#)*. The Board directed Senior Administration to investigate the use of *triclosan* in the hand-sanitizing products used in our schools. The Board thanked the students for their presentation. *Rachel & Katie say: "Kids should be using good old soap & water to wash*

their hands”.

See them on [You-Tube -We are making our own Superbugs!](#)

Note: Mr. Nick Gale, Coordinator of the Community Coming Together Mental Health Capacity Building Project was in attendance to educate the Board on the project goals and outcomes. Currently in its 4th year; this project serves Notre Dame Academy, St. Mary’s School and Monsignor McCoy High School offering a wide breadth of mental health promotion prevention and treatment services for staff, student and families. The Province of Alberta has recognized our project as leading the way in many areas of support. Services include Spirit Coaches, engagement of Community Resources, Partnerships, and Self Esteem Programs along with a Resiliency Outreach Coordinator.

APPENDIX “A”

CORPORATE COMMUNICATIONS

Note: Spreading the Good News – No entries for January 2012.

Note: Letter from Capital Planning approving the modular projects for St. Michael’s School Medicine Hat and the demolition and disposal of two portables at St. Thomas Aquinas School and the set up and connecting link at St. Patrick’s School.

Note: Letter from Mr. Thomas Lukaszuk, Minister of Education thanking the Board for the visit in December 2011.

Note: Letter sent from Mr. Thomas Lukaszuk, Minister of Education to all students in the Province of Alberta. This was a student engagement process.

Note: Bishop’s Dinner 2011 – The Diocese raised \$49,777 in funds to assist the Diocese for the *Living Project for Retired Priests* and for the *Father Lacombe Care Centre Foundation*.

APPENDIX “B”

BUDGET ASSUMPTIONS

Note: The Board was presented with the 2012 – 2013 Budget Assumptions prepared by Senior Administration.

2579 Motion. Stan Aberle: “THAT the Board of Trustees for the Medicine Hat Catholic Board of Education approve the Budget Assumptions for 2012 – 2013 as amended”.

Carried unanimously.

Note: Amendment: The Board will review staffing levels for certificated and non-certificated staff.

Amendment: Youth Ministry may cease.

Amendment: The Board will look at the revenues that are generated for each program; and determine the expenditures for those particular programs.

APPENDIX “C”

DELEGATION TO THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES – FRENCH IMMERSION PROGRAM

Note: French Immersion Delegation – The Board of Trustees heard from a delegation on behalf of the French Immersion (FI) Parent Community regarding the potential elimination of the high school programming for French Immersion, Mrs. Celena Gerl and Mr. Craig Elder spoke to the Board on behalf of the delegation to which, about 100 supporters were in attendance. The delegation presented many ideas and alternatives for the High School French Immersion program; they vowed to work with the Board and to be creative. The overarching

message: let us continue the momentum; let's reach our goal of graduating a FI class; we have built a solid foundation; we have excellent Teachers and parents are committed ...we can see the finish line. Parents said...*"Don't make us choose between French and our Faith Based Education"*. The Board of Trustees thanked the delegation for their presentation.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

- Note: Tripartite Talks – Discussions are continuing between the Alberta Teacher's Association, Alberta School Boards Association and the Government of Alberta. Discussions are being held to achieve a framework agreement; the Government is looking to secure labour peace, cost certainty and workforce stability in the education sector.
- Note: Town Hall Meeting – The date of the Town Hall Meeting is Monday, April 16, 2012 to be held at either St. Patrick's Parish Hall or Holy Family Parish Hall. Discussion points will be Budget, Programming and Effective and Efficient Operations of the Division.
- Note: 10 Point Plan – The Minister of Education has released his Ten Point Plan for education reform in Alberta including; reducing transportation time for students; more opportunities for high school students; better school building designs; support for FNMI students; stronger voice for parents; provincial achievement test review and full day kindergarten.
- Note: Class Size Survey – The class size survey data will be shared with the Board at the February 2012 Board Meeting.

APPENDIX "D"

ELECTIONS ACT VIOLATION

- Note: The Board, as stated in a media release dated January 13, 2012, disclosed that, in fact they did financially support five (5) representatives to attend the Premier's Dinner held in Medicine Hat in October 2011. The Board was informed at the December 2011 Board meeting that this financial support was in contradiction of the Election Finances and Contributions Disclosure Act Section 34 (1) (2); those representatives then reimbursed the board the contributions made. Mr. Grad stated that he wanted to ensure that our stakeholders understand and are aware, that it is the Board's policy and mandate to advocate for our School Division and to advocate the value of Catholic education in the province.

MISSION MEXICO

- Note: Earlier this year an anonymous donor provided the funds for four or five of our staff to be part of Mission Mexico; with the Board covering some of the sub costs to attend. Father Fred Monk has again informed us that another generous donation has been made to again offer the opportunity for staff to be part of Mission Mexico during Holy Week. The Division will not cover sub costs for this particular event. The Superintendent will send information to staff. PD funds would be available for certificated staff.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Medicine Hat Catholic Schools' Education Foundation – Mr. Kelly Van Ham

- Note: The Annual General Meeting is January 17, 2012; Mr. Mastel will attend on behalf of Mr. Van Ham.

Representative to ACSTA – Mr. Dick Mastel

- Note: The next ACSTA meeting is this week in Edmonton.

Representative to Teacher Board Advisory Committee – Mr. Dick Mastel

- Note: No report. No meeting.

Representative to ASBA Zone 6 – Mr. Peter Grad

Note: Attended zone meeting last week. The ASBA will host a grievance and arbitration workshop in Edmonton. A presentation was given on political advocacy; there will be a Task Force review that will make recommendations. A Teacher Task Force wants input from Boards on emerging issues; student instructional time; head lice and obesity. Tripartite discussions are ongoing.

Representative to Support Staff Board Advisory Committee – Mrs. Jodi Churla

Note: No report. Next meeting is January 25, 2012.

Representative to Parent Association – Mrs. Jodi Churla

Note: Next meeting is January 23, 2012 at Monsignor McCoy High School.

Representative to Salary Negotiations – ATA – Mr. Peter Grad

Note: No report.

Representative to Salary Negotiations – CUPE – Mr. Dick Mastel

Note: No report.

Representative to CUPE Staff Board Advisory Committee – Mr. Kelly Van Ham

Note: No report.

Spiritual Leadership Scholarship Board Representative Bow Island – Mr. Kelly Van Ham

Note: No report.

Spiritual Leadership Scholarship Board Representative Medicine Hat – Mr. Stan Aberle

Note: No report

Centennial Planning Representative – Mr. Stan Aberle

Note: A date will be set for the book launch in February 2012. An effort to re-engage the Trustees and Committee members is planned in order to establish a phone committee to spread the word on the Centennial Events. Mr. Van Ham will be working on the Golf Tournament; we are asking other Trustees to be involved to sell the Friday event and the Centennial Bishop's Dinner. March, April and May the committee will pound the pavement. We will continue to engage the Parish community by placing bulletins in the weekly publications.

ADJOURNMENT

Note: The meeting will adjourned at 8:40 p.m.

Peter Grad, Board Chair

Della Dewald, Executive Assistant

