

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE MEDICINE HAT CATHOLIC BOARD OF EDUCATION HELD at the Catholic Education Centre, 1251 – 1st Avenue S.W., Medicine Hat, Alberta on September 29, 2009 @ 6:00 p.m.

TRUSTEES AND OFFICERS PRESENT

Stan Aberle	Chair	
Jodi Churla	Vice-Chair	
Peter Grad	Trustee	
Kelly Van Ham	Trustee	Absent
Ken Arthur	Trustee	Absent
David Leahy	Superintendent of Schools	
Greg MacPherson	Secretary Treasurer	
Della Dewald	Executive Assistant	
Hugh Lehr	Director of Student Services	

OPENING PRAYER

Note: The meeting opened with prayer led by Stan Aberle.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE REGULAR BOARD MEETING

2306 Motion. Jodi Churla: "THAT the Minutes of the Regular Board Meeting held September 08, 2009 be approved as circulated".

Carried unanimously.

APPROVAL OF THE ACTION AGENDA

2307 Motion. Peter Grad: "THAT the Action Agenda dated September 29, 2009 be approved as amended".

Additions: Regional Facility Plan incorporated in the Superintendent's Report
APEGGA Invitation

Carried unanimously.

APPROVAL OF THE NON-ACTION AGENDA

2308 Motion. Jodi Churla: "THAT the Non-Action Agenda dated September 29, 2009 be approved as circulated".

Carried unanimously.

CORPORATE COMMUNICATIONS

Note: A thank you letter was sent to the Knights of Columbus in appreciation for their support in organizing the Staff Pancake Breakfast; their support of initiatives in the Division including the re-naming of McCoy High School to Monsignor McCoy High School; our upcoming 100th centennial celebration and their involvement in the Religious Education Community Advisory Committee.

Note: A letter of thanks was sent to Leon's Furniture for their generous donation of School Supplies and a \$500 cash donation for school Breakfast and Lunch Programs.

Note: Invitation from the Rotary Club of Lethbridge East of a donation of 9 books to our School Division from the Lethbridge Historical Society on the History of the Lethbridge Viaduct – 100 Years Later and Still an Engineering Marvel. The Board Chair will attend the ceremony and receive the donation.

Note: APEGGA – The Association of Professional Engineers, Geologists and Geophysicists of Alberta extend an invitation to attend the annual APEGGA dinner in Suffield on Oct 26, 2009. No trustees were available to attend.

APPENDIX "A"

POLICY 17 – SCHOOL COUNCIL

Note: The Board reviewed Policy 17 in relation to the financial reporting requirements for School Councils. The item was deferred to a future meeting in order to contact Alberta Education to clarify the reporting requirements. It was noted that most schools have a school council and a fundraising society that; may or may not, operate independent of the other.

APPENDIX "B"

CHANGES TO THE SCHOOL ACT

Note: The Government of Alberta is proposing changes to The School Act at the sitting of the Legislative Assembly in the spring of 2010. The province is accepting feedback from school divisions by **October 30, 2009**; any suggestions from stakeholders need to be submitted to the Superintendent of Schools; a collective response will be forwarded to the government. The Alberta Catholic School Trustees Association and the Alberta School Boards Association are holding provincial meetings to express their concerns with the proposed school act changes.

Note: The Superintendent will be attending a meeting of the ACSTA regarding the proposed changes to the School Act on October 02, 2009. The ACSTA intends on developing a position paper in response to the proposed changes in relation to Catholic education and the proposed legislation.

APPENDIX "C"

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Note: The fiscal correction "2010 Budget" Discussion Document was reviewed. The Board directed administration to prepare a response for where the province could potentially save money.

Note: Business Continuity Plan has been developed that responds to pandemic planning and preparedness. The Superintendent presented a powerpoint that reviewed the steps the Division has taken to-date for emergency preparedness. Our schools have begun reporting absences due to illness; the Superintendent has the authority to activate the Pandemic Plan. The objective of the plan is to define our organization operations and categorize those operations as Critical; Vital, Necessary and Desired. The Medical Officer of Health, Dr. Paul Schnee reviewed the plan and has provided positive remarks; Dr. Schnee will provide his medical expertise at an information session for division employees.

APPENDIX "D"

REGIONAL FACILITY PLAN

Note: The Board was not in favor of the plan as presented; and expressed it's disappointment with the order in which our facility priorities were listed.

2309 Motion. Jodi Churla: "THAT the Board receives for "**information only**" the Regional Facility Plan, as prepared by Simera Strategy Group".

Carried unanimously.

APPENDIX "E"

2310 Motion. Peter Grad: "THAT the Board develops a formal response and position to the Regional Facility Plan at the Board Retreat on Oct 19, 2009 and Oct 20, 2009; and that the Board communicates its response and position to the government and to the MLA's".

Carried unanimously.

Note: Alberta Average Weekly Earnings (AAWE) – The Board forwarded a communication to all certificated staff on September 23, 2009 noting the Board's decision to pay the 4.82% wage increase effective September 01, 2009.

IMR – INFRASTRUCTURE MAINTENANCE RENEWAL

2311 Motion. Jodi Churla: "THAT the Board approve the Infrastructure Maintenance Renewal in the amount of \$447,548.00".

Carried unanimously.

APPENDIX "F"

DIRECTOR OF STUDENT SERVICES

Note: Saamis Immigration Services – would like to include Medicine Hat Catholic schools when placing new Canadians in the education system. Mr. Lehr and Mr. Leahy attended a meeting with Saamis Immigration and Saamis indicated they are very encouraged by the exceptional programming we offer to students in ESL; they appreciate students are integrated into regular programming rather than being clustered.

Note: Introduction to the English Language Fundamentals (ELF) Program – This program is a focus for Special Education teachers and will assist them with strategies to differentiated instruction for ESL students. We have offered PD Sessions to teachers and support staff. ESL is a priority area for Student Services this year.

Note: Video Conferencing Series – A professional development opportunity for all educators including classroom learning assistants and those working with preschool children. This series is open to parents. A notice will be circulated in school newsletters.

ENROLMENT REPORT

Note: The Secretary-Treasurer presented the enrolment report as of September 29, 2009 noting that the hard count will be official as of September 30, 2009. The numbers on September 29, 2009 were 2726.5 FTE an increase of 32.5 students over budget. These are positive numbers. Pre-School is up by 19.5 FTE students.

BOARD RETREAT

Note: The Board Retreat is scheduled for October 19, 2009 and October 20, 2009 from 8:30 – 3:30 both days. Trustees and Senior Administration from Central Office will attend. The Retreat is facilitated by The Positive Culture Company. The goal of the retreat is to take an in-depth review of division programming utilizing the Regional Facility Plan.

BOARD SELF-EVALUATION

Note: In accordance with Board Policy; the Board has completed a self-evaluation. The Chair reviewed the evaluation process and noted that the Board measured its performance on ten standards that dealt with how the Board followed its mission, goals and areas of accountability.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION COMMUNITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Note: The Board will again meet with the Religious Education Community Advisory Committee to continue the conversation on Catholic education in our community. The Board will meet with community members on Wednesday, October 28, 2009 at 8:00 am at Holy Family Parish. Mrs. Jodi Churla will chair the meeting. Invitations will be sent to community members.

Note: Topics of discussion will include: Monsignor McCoy High School; Sacramental Preparation; Religious Education Coordinator; Religious Education Survey; Meeting with the Bishop; The School Act and other items the community members may bring forward.

STAFF APPRECIATION BOARD AND ATA EVENT – SEPTEMBER 1, 2009

Note: The Board priority is staff recognition and relationship building. The event was held on September 18, 2009 and extended to all Division staff. Staff were invited to spend the afternoon together from 2 – 5 that included a social gathering; the ATA induction ceremony and a comedian as the entertainment. This afternoon event replaced the Annual Board Dinner and Dance. Thank you to the ATA Local 39 for their partnering in offering this celebration to our employees.

MEETINGS WITH THE MLA'S – NOVEMBER 13, 2009

Note: The Board will meet with the MLA's on November 13, 2009 to review the Regional Facility Plan. The Board noted that following the Board Retreat a position will be determined on the facility plan and that position will be communicated to the MLA's in addition to providing them with programming accomplishments within our division. It was also noted that the Board wants to communicate to the MLA's the number of programming areas offered in partnership with our neighboring school communities. To name a few: Summer School Programs; Resource Officer; Mentorship; Joint Professional Development; Crisis Response; Tri-School Dances etc. The Board wants to focus this meeting on the positives in our Division as well as communicating the message in advocating for a new school.

CATHOLIC EDUCATION SUNDAY

Note: Bishop Frederick Henry has announced a second collection on November 01, 2009. The second collection proceeds will go to Medicine Hat Catholic Board of Education; St. Mary's University College in Calgary and St. Joseph's Seminary in Edmonton. The Board determined that the funds will be used to enhance religious symbolism throughout the division; enhancements of classroom prayer centres; purchase of bibles for staff and students and in promoting staff faith formation and wellness by attending the SPICE Catholic Conference.

10TH ANNUAL BISHOP'S DINNER IN CALGARY

Note: Trustees and Senior Administration and invited guests will attend the Bishop's Dinner in Calgary on October 13, 2009. Proceeds from the event will be distributed to Medicine Hat Catholic Board of Education; Holy Spirit Catholic, Christ the Redeemer and Calgary Catholic Schools to support "Green Initiatives". The Bishop's message: *"Care for the environment is not an option but an imperative"*.

APPENDIX "G"

MCCOY HIGH SCHOOL ANNUAL AWARDS

Note: Mr. Peter Grad will attend the McCoy Awards on October 26, 2009 to present the Board sponsored awards and scholarships.

MONSIGNOR MCOY HIGH SCHOOL

Note: The Board wishes to formally thank the Knights of Columbus for drawing attention to Monsignor McCoy. The Board will continue to invite feedback from the Catholic community regarding the proposed re-naming of McCoy. Interested stakeholders can comment at communications@mhcbce.ab.ca before November 10, 2009.

NOVEMBER BOARD MEETING(S)

Note: The Minister of Education has indicated that a meeting is proposed for November 10, 2009 to review the fiscal correction; the Board noted that, that date is also the next regularly scheduled Board Meeting.

2312 Motion. Jodi Churla: "THAT if in the event the Minister calls a meeting for November 10, 2009; the Medicine Hat Catholic Board of Education moves the regularly scheduled meeting to November 12, 2009 @ 6:00 p.m."

Carried unanimously.

2313 Motion. Peter Grad: "THAT the Medicine Hat Catholic Board of Education hold a Special Board Meeting to approve the Audited Financial Statement and approval of the Budget based on the September 30, 2009 enrolment".

Carried unanimously.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Medicine Hat Catholic Schools' Education Foundation – Kelly Van Ham

Note: Mr. Van Ham absent. Report brought forward. Representatives from the Board were invited to attend a meeting with the Foundation Board Members on September 15, 2009 to discuss issues common to the Division and the Foundation. The Foundation continues to encourage participation. Discussion continues around the annual golf tournament date. The Foundation is interested in getting the message out that the Foundation is a funds donation organization and not a fundraising body.

Representative to ACSTA – Peter Grad

Note: Next meeting is scheduled for October 06, 2009 to review the budget in regards to a levy per student. The ACTSA is having much discussion regarding the Yellowknife and Aspen School Division cases; these case impact Catholic education in all of our communities. The ACTSA is encouraging school board's to donate \$500 toward the Catholic Conference to promote it's importance to all Catholic stakeholders; these donations could sponsor a family or student(s) to attend. ACSTA will decline the PSBA's invitation to participate in the meeting on the School Act. ACSTA has retained Kevin Feehan to provide them with the legal implications to Catholic education of the proposed changes to the School Act; there is a meeting scheduled for October 02, 2009 around this topic; Mr. David Leahy is scheduled to attend.

Representative to Teacher Board Advisory Committee – Stan Aberle

Note: The first meeting of the year is planned for October 26, 2009.

Representative to ASBA Zone 6 – Ken Arthur

Note: Mr. Arthur absent. No report.

Representative to Spiritual Leadership Scholarship Awards – Stan Aberle

Note: Board sponsored awards and scholarships will be presented at the October 26, 2009 celebration at McCoy. A trustee will present the awards.

Representative to Support Staff Board Advisory Committee – Jodi Churla

Note: The next meeting will be held in October. A date will be circulated.

Representative to Parent Association – Jodi Churla

Note: A meeting was held on September 28, 2009. Mrs. Barb Dolter is the President of Parent Association. Thank you is offered to all of the volunteers for their representation on the parent committees; their support is sincerely appreciated. Next meeting is October 26, 2009.

Salary Negotiations – ATA – Ken Arthur

Note: Absent. No report.

Salary Negotiations – CUPE – Peter Grad

Note: An amended contract has been signed with CUPE.

ADJOURNMENT

Note: The Board Chair adjourned the meeting.

Note: The meeting adjourned at 9:20 p.m.

Stan Aberle, Board Chair

Della Dewald, Executive Assistant