

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 November 10, 2009 @ 6:00 p.m.

TRUSTEES AND OFFICERS PRESENT

Stan Aberle	Chair	
Jodi Churla	Vice-Chair	Absent
Peter Grad	Trustee	
Kelly Van Ham	Trustee	
Ken Arthur	Trustee	
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 Peter Grad.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE REGULAR BOARD MEETING

2314 Motion. Peter Grad: "THAT the Minutes of the Regular Meeting held September 29, 2009 be approved as circulated".

Carried unanimously.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING

2315 Motion. Kelly Van Ham: "THAT the Minutes of the Organizational Meeting held September 29, 2009 be approved as circulated".

Carried unanimously.

APPROVAL OF THE ACTION AGENDA

2316 Motion. Peter Grad: "THAT the Action Agenda be approved as amended".

Additions: Minister of Education
Annual Education Results Report

Carried unanimously.

APPROVAL OF THE NON-ACTION AGENDA

2317 Motion: Ken Arthur: "THAT the Non-Action Agenda be approved as circulated".

Carried unanimously.

PRESENTATION – Ambassadors for Catholic Education Recognition

Note: The Board recognized Miss Becky Martin a student from McCoy High School for her accomplishment in winning individual gold at the Alberta Schools' Athletic Association Provincial Golf Girls' Championships. Miss Martin was introduced by coach and teacher Mr. Rob Burzminski.

Note: The Board recognized Mr. Warren Immel a teacher at McCoy High School for his accomplishment in receiving the Provincial Youth Career Development Award for 2009 for his work in promoting and supporting students in Work Experience and Registered Apprenticeship. Mr. Immel was introduced by Mr. Wayne Schlosser, Deputy Superintendent.

BOARD WORK PLAN 2009 – 2010

- 2318 Motion. Kelly Van Ham: "THAT the Medicine Hat Catholic Board of Education revise the 2009 – 2010 Board Work Plan to replace the approval of the Year to Date Finance Report approval process with a Quarterly Financial Report approval process in the months of December, March and May".

APPENDIX "A"

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

- Note: Administrative Procedure AP 311 – Emergency Plan is revised to include additional procedures regarding school lockdown responsibilities; effective immediately.
- Note: Administrative Procedure AP 416 – Role of the Principal; AP 417 – Division Administrative Quality Standard; AP 418 – School Based Administrator Growth were presented for information. The AP's are in effect as of November 10, 2009.
- Note: MELRA Awards – The Board received recognition from the Minister of Education receiving seven MELRA Awards – Our accountability pillars results are good to excellent in the categories measured by the province including: Safe and Caring Schools; Student Learning Opportunities; Student Achievement; Preparation for Life Long Learning; Parental Involvement and Continuous Improvement.
- Note: Town Hall Meeting 2010 – The Board determined that the next Town Hall Meeting will be scheduled on Monday, January 18, 2010 with the topic of discussion; Budget and Programming.
- Note: Achievement and Diploma Exam Results were presented to the Board for information. Overall MHCBE continues to show strong results (higher than the province) in the Acceptable Standard in most courses with Significant Improvement shown in grade 9.
- Note: School Year Calendars 2010 – 2011 were presented in draft with two scenarios for consideration. School Staff and School Council will provide feedback by December 11, 2009. The Board will approve the calendars at the January 2010 Board Meeting.
- Note: Grade Re-configuration Special Meetings continue and have been well attended. The Board will consider all feedback prior to their decision at the Special Board Meeting scheduled for Thursday, December 10, 2009.

APPENDIX "B"

DIRECTOR OF STUDENT SERVICES REPORT

- Note: Child Care Modular's for St. Mary's school are awaiting final approval from Alberta Infrastructure; the modulars are to be ready to offer child care spaces in September 2010.
- Note: Social Services Sector Launch was recently held in Medicine Hat that will bring together a cross sector committee involving senior level representatives from Health, Education, Children and Youth Services and Justice. As the Director of Students Services, Mr. Hugh Lehr is our representative.
- Note: High Risk Youth Initiative – This initiative will provided a forum for the community to identify and collaborate on supports and services for high risk youth. Mr. Hugh Lehr will represent our school division at the committee level.

ELECTORAL BOUNDARIES

Note: The Board will revise the electoral boundaries information at the December 2009 Board Meeting. As stated; there is a noted error in the electoral ward descriptions.

APPENDIX "C"

MONSIGNOR MCOY HIGH SCHOOL

2319 Motion. Kelly Van Ham: "THAT the Medicine Hat Catholic Board of Education rename McCoy High School to Monsignor McCoy High School effective the September 2010 – 2011 school year".

Carried unanimously.

Note: The Board noted that as part of McCoy's 50th Anniversary in 2010 – 2011; this name change will be part of that celebration.

CATHOLIC EDUCATION CONFERENCE

2320 Motion. Ken Arthur: "THAT the Medicine Hat Catholic Board of Education financially support the Alberta Catholic School Trustees' Association Catholic Conference in March 2010 in the amount of \$1,000."

Carried unanimously.

Note: The Board will allocate \$1,000 to the conference and continue to advocate support from our local stakeholders and parishes to cover the cost.

ALBERTA SCHOOL BOARDS ASSOCIATION PUBLIC RELATIONS CAMPAIGN

2321 Motion. Peter Grad: "THAT the Medicine Hat Catholic Board of Education support the Alberta School Boards Association Public Relations Campaign by posting the "Stop the Cuts" link on the Division website".

Carried unanimously.

SCHOOL ACT

Note: The Board reviewed the responses sent to the Minister of Education from the Alberta Catholic Schools Trustees Association; Red Deer Public Schools and Alberta Teachers' Association. No action by the Board at this time; the Minister of Education is aware of the concerns expressed by the Catholic School Boards across the province in relation to changes to the School Act.

BOARD RETREAT

Note: The Board of Trustees met on October 19, 2009 and October 20, 2009 in a retreat to do an in-depth review of Division Programming; Facilities; Grade Re-Configuration and Catholicity. The retreat was facilitated by The Positive Culture Company.

MEETING WITH THE MLA'S

Note: The Board will meet with the Honourable Rob Renner MLA and Mr. Len Mitzel, MLA to discuss: The Regional Facility Plan, the Provincial Budget and The School Act. The Board will express appreciation to the government for the initiatives thus far that have greatly supported our Division including; The Supernet; the 5-Year Memorandum of Agreement; Local Autonomy for School Boards; the amount of money that has been allocated and spent on Education. The Board will express their concern with the regional facility plan and the priority in which our school division is listed to receive a new school.

SPECIAL MEETINGS – GRADE RE-CONFIGURATION COMMUNICATION STRATEGY FOR REGIONAL FACILITY PLAN – ASBA

2322 Motion. Ken Arthur: "THAT the Medicine Hat Catholic Board of Education hold the Special Board Meeting scheduled for December 10, 2009 at St. Louis School at 7:00 p.m."

Carried unanimously.

Note: In accordance with Board Policy 7- Board Operations; the Board must make arrangements for appropriate meeting space.

TRUSTEE HONORARIUMS

Note: As set out in Board Policy 7 – Board Operations; Trustees must be informed by Administration at the first regular meeting following October 31 of each year, the honorarium payable to each trustee for that school year; calculated on the average teacher salary on September 30th. The average teacher salary is noted as \$80,919.

CATHOLIC EDUCATION SUNDAY – NOVEMBER 01, 2009

Note: A second collection on Catholic Education Sunday was collected at St. Patrick's Parish, Holy Family Parish and St. Michael's Parish in Bow Island. Proceeds will be dedicated to purchase religious symbolisms in all Catholic Schools in the Division. The Board indicated that next year if the Bishop's directs a second collection/special collection on Catholic Education Sunday, the School Division will provide special envelopes for the parishes.

Note: The Board wishes to thank our community stakeholders for their generous donations.

MCCOY HIGH SCHOOL ANNUAL AWARDS

Note: Mr. Peter Grad attended the awards on October 26, 2009 at McCoy High School and presented the Division sponsored awards for Merit; Social and Spiritual Leadership Scholarship and High Average in Grade 12 Academics. Overall, McCoy presented approximately \$127,000 in award money to students.

FRENCH IMMERSION PROGRAM EXPANSION GRANT

Note: The Division submitted a four-year grant proposal. The proposal was presented to the Board by the Superintendent for information only.

APPENDIX "D"

ASBA PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT VIDEO CONFERENCE

Note: The Board is invited to participate in a video conference offered by the Alberta School Boards' Association. The conference is titled: Public Engagement: Tips and Techniques. The video conference will be arranged for November 16, 2009 @ 12:00 at the Board Office and will be attended by member of the Board.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION COMMUNITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE (RECAC) MEETING

Note: The Board and Central Office Senior Administration met with the committee on October 28, 2009 at Holy Family Parish to discuss: The McCoy High School name change to Monsignor McCoy High School; Sacramental Preparation; Religious Education Coordinator; High School Religious Education Courses; Religious Education Survey; Meeting with Bishop; School Act Changes and recognition for the Year of the Priest.

The Board was pleased with the meeting and members feel it is beneficial to meet on an annual basis.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Medicine Hat Catholic Schools' Education Foundation – Kelly Van Ham

Note: The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, November 17, 2009. Mr. Van Ham is unavailable to attend; no other Trustee was available to represent the Board at the Foundation Meeting.

Representative to ACSTA – Peter Grad

Note: The next meeting is the Friday of the Annual General Meeting in Edmonton in November 2009. Mr. Grad will present a report following the AGM.

Representative to Teacher Board Advisory Committee – Stan Aberle

Note: The TBAC meeting was held last Thursday; discussion included the McCoy name change; Staff Appreciation Event; Facilities; Full Day Kindergarten; Budget; Class Size and Division Programming. The next meeting is scheduled for December; meeting date to be determined.

Representative to ASBA Zone 6 – Ken Arthur

Note: The Board was presented with the MELRA Awards at the Zone 6 meeting in Lethbridge attended by Peter Grad, David Leahy and Stan Aberle.

Note: Emergent issues for the fall AGM that were unanimously supported by the Zone 6 members were: Reinstatement of the written portion of the Chemistry Diploma Exam; and The student mark be changed to 70/30 from 50/50 for the final student grade.

Note: Discussion and support for School Boards regarding the ASBA "Stop the Cuts" Campaign.

Representative to Spiritual Leadership Scholarship Awards – Stan Aberle

Note: No further report other than the Spiritual Leadership Scholarship Awards were presented at the McCoy Awards on October 26, 2009.

Representative to Support Staff Board Advisory Committee – Jodi Churla

Note: A review of changes to the Support Staff Handbook were discussed; annually the handbook is updated in June.

Note: Support Staff appreciate the opportunity created in the pandemic plan that allows them to stay home with their family with no loss in pay. The next meeting will be scheduled to accommodate Mrs. Churla's schedule in January 2010.

Note: Thank you to Mr. Lehr and Mr. Traichel for attending the meeting to assist with answering questions.

Representative to Parent Association – Jodi Churla

Note: No report.

Representative to Salary Negotiations ATA – Ken Arthur

Note: The Board is waiting for formal withdrawal from SBEBAs; at this time, the Standby Letter of Credit has not been returned to the Board.

Representative to Salary Negotiations CUPE – Peter Grad

Note: No report.

The Board Chair called the meeting adjourned at 9:25 pm.

Stan Aberle, Board Chair

Della Dewald, Executive Assistant