

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR BOARD MEETING OF THE MEDICINE HAT CATHOLIC BOARD OF EDUCATION HELD at the Catholic Education Centre, 1251 – 1<sup>st</sup> Avenue S.W., Medicine Hat, Alberta on April 07, 2009 @ 6:00 p.m.**

**TRUSTEES AND OFFICERS PRESENT**

Stan Aberle	Chair
Jodi Churla	Vice-Chair
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	Acting Director of Student Services

**OPENING PRAYER**

**APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING**

2263 Motion. Kelly Van Ham: “THAT the Minutes of the Regular Meeting dated March 10, 2009 be approved as circulated”.

Carried unanimously.

**APPROVAL OF THE ACTION AGENDA**

2264 Motion. Jodi Churla: “THAT the Action Agenda dated April 07, 2009 be approved as amended”.

Amendment: Addition of Item # 14B Knights of Columbus letter

Carried unanimously.

**APPROVAL OF THE NON-ACTION AGENDA**

2265 Motion. Peter Grad: “THAT the Non-Action Agenda dated April 07, 2009 be approved as circulated”.

Carried unanimously.

**PRESENTATION – EXCELLENCE IN TEACHING AWARD – MRS. BEVERLY FUNE**

Note: The Board recognized Mrs. Beverly Fune as a nominee for the 2009 Excellence in Teaching Award. Mrs. Fune is one of 134 semi-finalists from 365 eligible teachers. Mr. Ron Blackmer was in attendance to introduce Mrs. Fune. Twenty three teachers will be chosen as finalists and award winners in May 2009. The Board acknowledges Mrs. Fune as an “Ambassador for Catholic Education” and congratulates her on her nomination.

**CORPORATE COMMUNICATIONS**

Note: McCoy High School students, Miss Rachel Brown and Miss Katie Vandersloot, are Regional Science Fair Winners two years in a row. The students will represent Medicine Hat in the National Science Fair in Winnipeg in May. The board will invite the students to share their experience at an upcoming Board meeting.

Note: Alberta Arts Day is scheduled for September 18, 2009. This year the event will expand to a 3 day celebration of the arts and culture in Alberta from September 18 – 20, 2009; the day is to foster and showcase talents of students across the province.

Note: The Board forwarded a letter of support for McCoy High School in their bid to host the 2010 Provincial Basketball Championships.

Note: The Board acknowledged the donation of \$500 from The Prism Players Theatre to the St. Mary's School Fine Arts Program.

#### APPENDIX "A"

##### **ENGAGE – (A dialogue with Albertans)**

Note: The Board reviewed the communication from the Government of Alberta; that invites all Albertans including schools and school boards to become involved and join in the conversation on what the future of education will look like in the province of Alberta. [www.inspiringeducation.alberta.ca](http://www.inspiringeducation.alberta.ca)

##### **POLICY 8 – COMMITTEES OF THE BOARD**

Note: The Board voted on first reading to remove Article #6 – Audit Committee

2266 Motion. Kelly Van Ham: "THAT the Medicine Hat Catholic Board of Education approve first reading of Policy 8 – Committees of the Board".

Vote: In Favor (3)  
Opposed: Opposed (2)

Carried.

#### APPENDIX "B"

##### **BOARD WORK PLAN DEVELOPMENT**

Note: The Board Work Plan is developed annually in accordance with Board Policy. The plan is annually reviewed to identify areas of accountability and is to be used by the Board as a planning document. The Board will develop their Work Plan to reflect only Board responsibilities with no reference to Administrative Procedures. The plan will be approved at the September Board meeting.

##### **PARENT ASSOCIATION FUNDRAISING**

Note: In accordance with Bishop Frederick Henry's directive to cease using bingo and casinos for fundraising by March 01, 2010; Parent Association is considering an umbrella fundraising group. Opportunities and challenges will be reviewed by the Board, School Councils and Parent Association.

##### **SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT**

Note: Central Office Support Staff Handbook was presented for information; implementation of this document is June 30, 2009.

Note: School Based Support Staff Handbook revision will include 2 paid days leave for non-critical illness; effective June 30, 2009.

Note: The Town Hall 3 Meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, May 19, 2009 at St. Patrick's Parish Hall. We would like to personally invite 5 representatives from each school to attend. Topics of discussion will include: items remaining from previous Town Hall Meetings, Facilities, Catholicity and Electoral Wards.

Note: Division Leadership Team Retreat – This PD opportunity was financially supported by the MH Catholic Schools' Education Foundation in the amount of \$6,000. The PD was facilitated by Mr. Lyle Lorenz with the focus on Instructional Leadership and developing A Vision of Exemplary Teaching.

Note: St. Michael's School Principal, Coordinator of Religious Education and the Director of Student Services competitions are complete; with the successful candidates announced following the interview process.

Note: The provincial budget announcement on April 07, 2009 reflects a 3.8% increase across the province for operational funds. No new money for capital projects and no increase in funding for students with severe disabilities.

### **REPORT FROM THE MINISTER'S MEETING WITH BOARD CHAIRS AND CHIEF SUPERINTENDENTS**

Note: Mr. Stan Aberle and Mr. Wayne Schlosser attended the provincial meeting on March 26, 2009. Highlights from the meeting: The province's number one priority is health; Increasing student success for First Nations, Métis and Inuit (FNMI) students; Refocus of curriculum implementation; *Speaking out* – a forum for students to voice their opinions to assist in mapping out a framework for Albertans; Achievement tests continue to measure the viability of the educational system and not the learning of students; the government will continue to support these tests; The Government of Alberta is committed to completing the 135 capital projects previously budget for.

### **ALBERTA SCHOOL BOARDS ASSOCIATION HIGH SCHOOL COMPLETION TASK FORCE ON-LINE SURVEY**

Note: The Board discussed each survey question and provided their input to assist senior administration in submitting the responses on behalf of the Division. The survey is a priority advocacy initiative by the ASBA.

### **KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS LETTER**

Note: The Board received a letter from the Knights of Columbus that recommended that McCoy High School be renamed.

2267 Motion. Kelly Van Ham: "THAT the Medicine Hat Catholic Board of Education gather feedback from Catholic stakeholders in regards to a name change of McCoy High School to Monsignor McCoy High School".

Note: The Board will add this item to Agenda of the Town Hall 3 on May 19, 2009.

Carried unanimously.

### **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

#### **Medicine Hat Catholic Schools' Education Foundation – Kelly Van Ham**

Note: Details of the Annual Foundation Golf Tournament are being discussed. More information will be forthcoming to the public.

#### **Representative to ACSTA – Peter Grad**

Note: On the ACSTA website at [www.acsta.ab.ca](http://www.acsta.ab.ca) there is an article by Mr. Kevin Feehan on What makes a Catholic school Catholic? This article is insightful and a great read; There is significant discussion at the provincial level regarding the amalgamation of public and catholic schools, even though Catholic education is a constitutional right; Trustees should make an effort to attend the ACSTA Spring Conference in 2011; Bishop Frederick Henry met with the Minister of Education regarding the HPV Vaccination; The Annual General Meeting of the ACSTA is scheduled for November 20 – 22, 2009.

#### **Representative to Teacher Board Advisory Committee – Stan Aberle**

Note: No report.

#### **Representative to ASBA Zone 6 – Ken Arthur**

Note: Mr. Ken Arthur and Mr. Peter Grad attended the ASBA Summit, one of the messages was about getting the public involved in education; Mr.

Nick Gale from our Division gave a presentation on the "Community Coming Together" project; On June 8 and June 9, 2009 there is a "Setting the Direction" for Special Education Forum that we are encouraged to attend.

**Representative to Spiritual Leadership Scholarship Award – Stan Aberle**

Note: The next meeting is planned for to identify the candidates for the Spiritual Leadership Scholarship Awards.

**Representative to Support Staff Board Advisory Committee – Jodi Churla**

Note: Discussion included overtime work and time in lieu in relation to attending events that are outside of the regular work hours. We essentially do not expect people to work unless they are being compensated; if they are not paid to attend, they are not required to attend an event; however, employees are encouraged to attend events to promote individual professional development and life-long learning.

**Representative to Parent Association – Jodi Churla**

Note: Discussion was school policy and plagiarism; Sports Academy eligibility and the equality of that eligibility.

**Representative to the Audit Committee – TBA**

Note: No report.

**Salary Negotiations ATA – Ken Arthur**

Note: No report

**Salary Negotiations CUPE – Peter Grad**

Note: No report.

**ADJOURNMENT**

2268 Motion. Jodi Churla: "THAT the meeting be adjourned".

Carried unanimously.

Note: The meeting adjourned at 8:40 pm.

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Stan Aberle, Board Chair

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Della Dewald, Executive Assistant