

**MINUTES OF THE PUBLIC BOARD MEETING OF THE MEDICINE HAT CATHOLIC  
BOARD OF EDUCATION held at the Catholic Education Centre  
on January 14, 2025 at 2:45 p.m.**

**TRUSTEES AND OFFICERS PRESENT**

Kathy Glasgo	Board Chair	
Robert Risling	Vice-Chair	
Bernie Kinch	Trustee	
David Leahy	Trustee	
Dick Mastel	Trustee	
Dwayne Zarichny	Superintendent of Schools	
Nick Gale	Deputy Superintendent	
Greg MacPherson	Secretary Treasurer	
Hugh Lehr	Associate Superintendent Learning Services	
Heather Irvine	Religious Education Coordinator	
Derrian Hallas	Communications Coordinator	ABSENT
Chelsey Lybbert	Executive Assistant to the Superintendent (Recorder)	

**CALL TO ORDER**

Note: The meeting was chaired by Kathy Glasgo, Board Chair.

**OPENING PRAYER**

Note: Deacon Risling led the opening prayer.

**LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT**

Note: Dr. Zarichny read the land acknowledgement.

**PRESENTATIONS**

None

**APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE PUBLIC BOARD MEETING – December 10, 2024**

4130 Motion. Leahy: “THAT the Board of Trustees approve the minutes of the Public Board Meeting held on December 10, 2024 as circulated.”

Carried unanimously.

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

4131 Motion. Mastel: “THAT the agenda dated January 14, 2025 be approved as circulated.”

Carried unanimously.

**BOARD COMMUNICATIONS**

None

**CATHOLIC EDUCATION**

**School Parish Relations Committee**

Note: The next meeting will be on January 30, 2025.

**Religious Resources Update**

- Note: Report included in board agenda package.
- Note: Discussion about Bill 27 which will require parents/guardians to opt-in to content regarding human sexuality (instead of opting-out as is current practice). The division will be adding the “opt-in” option to the 2025-2026 registration form. Detailed information about the curriculum will be listed on the division website.

**BOARD WORK PLAN**

**2024-25 First Quarter Financial Update**

- Note: Mr. MacPherson gave an update on the first quarter: September 1 – November 30, 2024.
- Note: Trustees expressed concern about not having enough money in the unrestricted reserve.
- Note: Discussion about school budgets and plan to spend their reserves. Business Services will be meeting with all schools over the next month to talk about their budgets and spending plan.
- 4132 Motion. Risling: “Be it resolved that the Board of Trustees for the Medicine Hat Catholic Board of Education accept and approve the 2024-25 First Quarter Financial Update as presented.”

Carried unanimously.

**2025-26 Draft Budget Assumptions**

- Note: Mr. MacPherson presented the 2025-26 draft budget assumptions. These assumptions along with the 4-year education plan are the criteria used to develop the budget.
- Note: Trustee Leahy expressed concern with the budget assumptions and noted that he would like to see a balanced budget as well as an increase in the religious education budget.
- Note: Discussion about the religious education budget and potentially adding another Chaplain to free up the Religious Education Coordinator’s time so that she can work directly with teachers.
- Note: Trustee Leahy requested that the board be involved in creating the budget over the next few months.
- 4133 Motion. Risling: “Be it resolved that the Board of Trustees for the Medicine Hat Catholic Board of Education approve the 2025-26 Budget assumptions as presented.”

Carried 4-1  
(In favour: Glasgo, Kinch, Mastel, Risling  
Opposed: Leahy)

**2025-26 School Fees**

- Note: Mr. MacPherson let the board know that the 2025-26 school fees will be presented at the March 2025 board meeting.

**2024-25 Infrastructure Maintenance Renewal Plan**

- Note: Mr. MacPherson presented IMR Plan.

- 4134                    Motion. Kinch: “Be it resolved that the Board of Trustees for the Medicine Hat Catholic Board of Education approve the 2024-25 IMR plan for \$634,610 as presented.”

Carried unanimously.

**2024-25 Capital Maintenance Renewal Plan**

Note:                    Mr. MacPherson presented CMR Plan.

- 4135                    Motion. Risling: “Be it resolved that the Board of Trustees for the Medicine Hat Catholic Board of Education approve the 2024-25 CMR plan for \$723,783 as presented.”

Carried unanimously.

**Boundary Review**

Note:                    The division boundary review is on the annual board work plan for March. Mr. MacPherson brought this item to the January meeting so that it could be put forward to the board for approval and put into place to help with the registration process.

Note:                    The proposed changes to the boundaries for 2025-2026 are due to the grade 6 students from École St. John Paul II moving over to St. Mary’s School.

- 4136                    Motion. Mastel: “Be it resolved that the 2025-26 school attendance boundaries for École St. John Paul II School, St. Mary’s School and Notre Dame Academy be amended as presented to match the programming changes at the schools.”

Carried 4-1  
(In favour: Glasgo, Kinch, Mastel, Risling  
Opposed: Leahy)

**INFORMATION ITEMS**

**Strategic Priorities Update**

Note:                    Report included in board agenda package.

**Communications Report**

Note:                    Report included in board agenda package.

**ACTION/DISCUSSION ITEMS**

**Movement of the French Immersion Program**

Note:                    Dr. Zarichny discussed the movement of the French immersion program to St. Mary’s School in 2027 when Holy Trinity Academy opens. This was discussed at the previous board meeting when the decision to move grade 6 from École St. John Paul II School was made.

Note:                    Discussion about the utilization rate of St. Mary’s School and what it will be at in 2027 when Holy Trinity Academy Opens. Trustee Leahy expressed concerns about the utilization rate at St. Mary’s with the French immersion program.

- 4137 Motion. Mastel: "THAT the Board of Trustees approve the move of the French Immersion Program at École St. John Paul II School to St. Mary's School effective for the 2027/2028 school year."

Carried 4-1  
(In favour: Glasgo, Kinch, Mastel, Risling  
Opposed: Leahy)

**2026-2027 School Year Calendar**

- Note: Mr. Gale presented the results from the 2026-2027 school calendar survey. There were 444 responses total (12 administrators, 73 teachers, 55 support staff and 304 parents).
- Note: The results from this survey will be the criteria used to create the 2026-2027 calendar. The calendar will be presented to the board for approval at the February public meeting.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**Alberta Teachers' Association (ATA) Negotiation Committee**

- Note: Nothing to report.

**Canadian Union of Public Employees (CUPE) Negotiation Committee**

- Note: Negotiations are scheduled to take place January 15-16.

**Teacher Board Advisory Committee**

- Note: Nothing to report.

**Support Staff Board Advisory Committee**

- Note: Nothing to report.

**CUPE Support Staff Advisory Committee**

- Note: Nothing to report.

**Student Board Advisory Committee**

- Note: Nothing to report.

**Audit Committee**

- Note: Nothing to report.

**Holy Trinity Academy Update**

- Note: Nothing to report.

**Alberta School Boards' Association - Zone 6 Representative**

- Note: Nothing to report.

**Alberta Catholic School Trustees' Association Representative**

- Note: Nothing to report.

**Medicine Hat Catholic Schools' Education Foundation Representative**

- Note: The Education Foundation AGM is scheduled for January 21, 2025.

**Parent Association Representative**

Note:            Nothing to report.

**Teachers' Employer Bargaining Association (TEBA) Representative**

Note:            The next meeting will be held in February.

**CLOSING PRAYER**

Note:            The meeting closed with prayer.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Note:            The meeting was adjourned by the Board Chair.

Note:            The meeting adjourned at 4:39 PM.

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Kathy Glasgo, Board Chair

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Greg MacPherson, Secretary Treasurer