
SCHOOL DISTRICT OF MYSTERY LAKE



**MINUTES OF THE
REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

**Tuesday, March 24, 2009
7:00 p.m.**

Trustees

Cheryl Davies
David Gallant
Kelly Hause
Mamie Hendren
Guido Oliveira
Rob Pellizzaro
L. Valerie Wilson

Senior Administration Team

Hugh Fraser – Superintendent/CEO
Bruce Waldie – Assistant Superintendent
Christelle Waldie – Assistant Superintendent
Arnie Assoignon – Secretary-Treasurer
Keith Derksen – Facilities Manager
Cheryl Mulrooney – Executive Assistant

**Administration Office
408 Thompson Drive North, Thompson, MB
R8N 0C5**

Present:

Chairperson Davies
Trustee Gallant
Trustee Hendren
Trustee Hause
Trustee Oliveira
Trustee Wilson
Secretary-Treasurer
Superintendent/CEO Fraser
Assistant Superintendent C. Waldie
Executive Assistant Mulrooney

Regrets:

Vice-Chairperson Pellizzaro
Assistant Superintendent B. Waldie

1. CALL TO ORDER

The regular meeting of the Board of Trustees was called to order by Chairperson Davies at 7:08 p.m.

2. ADDITIONS TO AGENDA

Under 9 – Business from the Committee of the Whole #1179 – March 24, 2009

b) Request for School Space

3. APPROVAL OF AGENDA – March 24, 2009

MOTION 44/09

Moved by Trustee Hause, seconded by Trustee Wilson

That the agenda be approved as amended.

Carried

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – March 10, 2009

MOTION 45/09

Moved by Trustee Gallant, seconded by Trustee Oliveira

That the minutes of the regular board meeting of March 10, 2009, be adopted as circulated.

Carried

5. DELEGATIONS AND PRESENTATIONS

- a) Ms. Kim Colbourne, Principal of Ecole Riverside School, Mr. James McDonald, Vice-Principal and students Carl Colbourne and Tyler Thompson showed a power point presentation on activities taking place in the school. The four took turns making the presentation.

Ecole Riverside School has many activities taking place during the school year. Some of the events mentioned were:

Rachel's Challenge

- The students had a bake sale and sold candygrams to raise money for a Nintendo Wii system for the Personal Care Home. They also gave socks to the homeless shelter. Future plans include baking cupcakes for the Fire Department and the homeless shelter along with a coat drive. Students meet every second Wednesday during lunch and discuss ideas on how to help the community.

Mini Festival

- A Mini Festival du Voyageur is an annual event to celebrate the culture of Aboriginal, Métis and French people. The week has many special activities ranging from mini toque making, sock-hop, pancake breakfast, voyageur craft making and creative voyageur beard contest. The week ends with a wiener roast in the playground.

Science Fair

- One-hundred projects were entered into the Science Fair, sixteen were chosen to go to the City-Wide Science Fair and six projects from the City Wide were chosen to go to the Regional Science Fair which was held in Flin Flon on March 21, 2009.

Canadian Citizenship Ceremonies

- The annual Canadian Citizenship Ceremonies were held earlier this year. All students participated by performing individual group performances, dressing in red and white and decorating the school with Canadian symbols.

Other events held during the year were Jump Rope for Heart which raised \$6,000.00 and I Love to Read Month.

Trustee Wilson inquired about the length of the links of kindness that the school had from Rachel's Challenge.

Chairperson Davies stated that at the Manitoba Association of School Trustees Annual General Meeting in March schools and students were honored for their citizenship and contributions to their communities. Chairperson Davies said she is so proud of the District's schools and students for their many wonderful acts of kindness.

Assistant Superintendent Christelle Waldie stated that a District celebration for Rachel's Challenge will be on Wednesday, June 3.

6. BUSINESS FROM PREVIOUS BOARD MEETING

No Business coming for the previous board meeting.

7. SUPERINTENDENT/CEO REPORT

Information

a) RDPC Principal Search Update

R.D. Parker Administration has provided information on the proposed Department Head structure. It is anticipated that postings for the positions will be out following Spring Break to allow time for training before the end of this school year.

b) RDPC Department Heads Update

Senior administration is pleased to support the R.D. Parker Collegiate Department Head Structure as proposed by the staff. Postings for the positions will be out immediately following Spring Break to allow time for training before the end of this school year.

c) Grand Opening of the Northern Learning Support Centre for March 25

The Grand Opening will be held on Wednesday, March 25, 2009 from 3:00 – 5:00 p.m.

d) 2008-2009 Funding For RDPC Memorandum of Understanding Project

The District has received the \$50,000.00 the Province committed to the Memorandum of Understanding Project.

e) Cree Language Partnership Proposal Update ADM - Aileen Najduch Visit

The proposal for the Cree Language Partnership with Frontier School Division, Manitoba First Nations Education Resource Centre (MFNERC), Manitoba Hydro and the School District was presented to the Province on January 19, 2009.

A video conference will be taking place in the morning of Thursday, March 26, 2009, to find out the Province's decision.

SUPERINTENDENT/CEO REPORT (continued)

f) Categorical Grant Review

Assistant Superintendent Christelle Waldie gave an update on the Categorical Grants in the District. The reporting used to be done in a written format. This year is the first year the reporting was done by video conferencing with Provincial representatives. Staff enjoyed the dialogue and stated that it is a positive way to do the reporting of the grants.

g) Distribution of Bookmarks to Students

Maureen MacKay, President of Wild Cards Advertising, on behalf of Canadian Centre on Substance Abuse will be distributing bookmarks to students in grades four to eight in school divisions throughout Canada. The bookmarks were developed to promote the new youth drug prevention website that the Canadian Centre on Substance Abuse has developed. The website is focused on raising awareness on drugs and their harmful effects.

h) Letter of Congratulations – R.D. Parker Collegiate Junior Varsity Basketball

Jody Williams, Tournament Convenor, wrote a letter congratulating the Junior Varsity Basketball teams on their accomplishment as they represented R.D. Parker Collegiate at this year's Manitoba High School Athletic Associations Junior Varsity Provincial Championship in Swan River. Jody stated that the students had a great spirit and were hard working. The girls Junior Varsity team came in first and the boys came in third.

i) Youssef Hassanien – Regional Science Fair

Youssef Hassanien from R.D. Parker Collegiate earned the Best in Engineering Award, the VIA Rail Environment Award and a Gold Medal at the Regional Science Fair. Youssef will be representing R.D. Parker Collegiate and the Norman Region at the Nation Wide Science Fair in May.

Trustee Wilson requested that letters of congratulations to go to the students and teams.

SUPERINTENDENT/CEO REPORT (continued)

Action

a) CancerCare Manitoba

Elizabeth Harland from CancerCare Manitoba is requesting R.D. Parker Collegiate to participate in a study aimed at reducing student smoking rates in high school aged kids. The survey will be done at R.D. Parker Collegiate during the last three months of the 2009/2010 school year. R.D. Parker Collegiate will be provided with a report on smoking rates in their school, comparisons with provincial and national rates, specifics of smoking and other behavior, smoking cessation, perceptions of peer smoking and environmental tobacco smoke.

MOTION 46/09

Moved by Trustee Wilson, seconded by Trustee Hause

That the board approves the participation of R.D. Parker Collegiate in the smoking survey.

Carried

Trustee Hause and Chairperson Davies would like to see the results of the smoking survey brought to the board.

8. SECRETARY-TREASURER'S REPORT

Information

a) Fairtax Recovery Consultants

Fairtax Recovery Consultants wish to pursue a GST rebate claim on behalf of the District based on the Northern travel Allowance that the District grants to the majority of employees. Their fee is 40% of anything recovered, however we gain the benefit of this claim on a go forward basis.

The District recently had another firm review the GST rebate claims and could not locate anything.

SECRETARY-TREASURER'S REPORT (continued)

Action

a) Debenture By-Law 03/09

A first reading is required for By-Law 03/09 for the purpose of borrowing the sum of \$61,300.00 by the issue and sale of debentures for the final payment of the roof replacement at Westwood School.

MOTION 47/09

Moved by Trustee Hause, seconded by Trustee Hendren

That By-Law 03/09 be given first reading and returned to the Schools' Finance Branch.

Carried

9. BUSINESS FROM COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE #1178 – March 17, 2009

a) Riverside Space

Information provided in a Superintendent's report from a previous regular meeting indicated that the Principal felt that there would be room to keep the current grade six English class in Riverside School for the 2009/2010 school year.

Motion 48/09

Moved by Trustee Wilson, seconded by Trustee Hause

That Riverside school remains as a K – 6 English Track school.

Carried

BUSINESS FROM COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE #1179 – March 24, 2009

a) Student

Motion #49/09

Moved by Trustee Oliveira, seconded by Trustee Hause

That the recommendation of the Administration pertaining to the student as discussed in the Committee of the Whole #1179 be approved.

Carried

BUSINESS FROM COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE #1179 – March 24, 2009

b) Request for School Space

Motion #50/09

Moved by Trustee Gallant, seconded by Trustee Oliveira

That the District allow the use of classroom space at Burntwood Elementary School by Division Scolaire Franco-Manitobaine subject to a satisfactory written agreement.

Carried

10. CORRESPONDENCE

Information

a) MAST

- i. Canadian School Board Association InfoPicks

Action

b) Request for Financial Assistance

Sonam Bhagria a grade twelve student at R.D. Parker is the first student in Manitoba to have been accepted to a ten day medical summer academy program hosted by St. George University in the Caribbean. The program cost is \$2000.00 us dollars and does not include the cost of travel. Sonam asked the District for some financial assistance.

Motion #51/09

Moved by Trustee Gallant, seconded by Trustee Wilson

That the student request for financial assistance to attend a medical summer academy program hosted by St. George University in the Caribbean be denied on past practice and a letter of congratulations be sent..

Carried

Chairperson Davies explained that the District does not have a budget to help students financially. The Board does want to recognize Sonam for her achievements.

11. COMMITTEE REPORTS

a) Finance Committee – March 16, 2009

The Finance Committee met on March 16, 2009 and discussed the following items:

- I. Contracts for Out of Scope Personnel
- II. Review of the 2009/2010 Budgeting Process
 - A brief survey to parents which determines what they deem important in education could be done in September or October 2009.
- III. Trustee Indemnity By-Law

Motion #52/09

Moved by Trustee Gallant, seconded by Trustee Hause

That the Finance Committee report as presented by accepted for filing.

Carried

Trustee Wilson thought it was a good idea that the Finance Committee consult with parents about what is important.

12. TRUSTEE COMMENTS/QUESTIONS

a) Chairperson Davies' Report on the MAST Conference and Annual Convention 2009

Five of Mystery Lake's seven trustees were able to attend the Manitoba Association of School Trustees conference and Annual General Meeting. We were all able to attend a variety of workshops and participate in the resolution debates and voting. During the course of the conference, the School District of Mystery Lake was portrayed in a very positive light.

During the Celebration of Success evening, Greg Monias, an R. D. Parker grade 12 student, was in attendance to receive a MAST Student Citizenship Award. He was among five other Manitoba high school students who received an award consisting of a cash prize and a certificate of recognition, given annually to Manitoba students who have demonstrated their commitment to the values of citizenship in their school and broader communities.

TRUSTEE COMMENTS/QUESTIONS (continued)

Westwood Elementary School, while not winning the Student Group Citizenship Award for their Seeds of Hope Africa project, received a Certificate of Merit, as well as the recognition of having raised the most money ever for a school project.

The Celebration of Success evening was an absolute highlight of the conference.

Also during the conference, the School Boards Work campaign was launched. On the website for this campaign, Wapanohk Community School will be highlighted as a program which is focused on student achievement, originated at the local level, and is able to continue thanks to local support. The website address will be announced as soon as it is live.

During debate and resolutions, the name of the Manitoba Association of School Trustees was changed to the Manitoba School Boards Association. There are several reasons for the change of name.

- To offset confusion. Although we are voted in as trustees, people refer to School Board elections.
- To fit with the other provinces and countries – Nova Scotia School Boards Assoc., Saskatchewan School Boards Assoc., Iowa Association of School Boards, etc.
- To fit in with the School Boards Work campaign.
- To promote awareness that boards, as a whole, have authority, not individual trustees.

As many will have heard, trustees were also asked to vote on lobbying the Provincial government to change the legal drinking age from 18 to 19. There was much discussion on this, but the resolution was voted down. Resolutions that were carried included those which asked MAST to lobby the government to provide more funding for student travel in the north and more funding for special needs students and classrooms.

Trustees also elected a new president and vice-presidents. Hugh Colbourne, trustee with Louis Riel School Division was elected president. Jacque Field, trustee with Pembina Trails School Division was elected Vice-President for divisions over 6000, and Robert Rivard, trustee from Seine River School Division was elected Vice-President for divisions under 6000. Voting was also held for Regional Directors.

On Saturday morning, chairs of all school boards had about an hour to breakfast with Education Minister Peter Bjornson and ask questions. Most questions revolved around funding, and Minister Bjornson reiterated the fact that increasing the education tax goes against the government's and the local taxpayer's wishes. He reminded us that on March 18th the Saskatchewan provincial government assumed direct control over how much

TRUSTEE COMMENTS/QUESTIONS (continued)

property owners pay on the education portion of their tax bills. Minister Bjornson stated that Manitoba was now the only province that still allowed local school boards to set the education portion of tax bills.

Although not all workshops and speakers had something meaningful to say for our school district, having a voice during elections and resolution debate is very important for divisions in the North, and we were proud to represent the students, teachers, staff and community of the School District of Mystery Lake.

Trustee Wilson was not able to attend the MAST Conference and thanked Chairperson Davies for her concise report.

- b) Chairperson Davies stated that Trustee Pellizzaro will be attending the National School Boards Association Conference in San Diego, California, from April 3 – 7, 2009.

13. PUBLIC FORUM

Members of the public are invited to seek clarification about items on the agenda.

Questions: a) Is someone going to contact the teacher who moved from Ecole Riverside School to Deerwood School?

Response: Yes, Superintendent Fraser will contact the teacher.

- b) What is the timeline for the request for space from Division Scolaire Franco-Manitobaine?

Response: They are requesting space for September 2009.

- c) How many students will they have because this will take away from our students funding.

Response: Possibly up to forty students. We won't know until registration is completed.

14. ADJOURNMENT

Motion #53/09

Moved by Trustee Gallant, seconded by Trustee Oliveira

That the meeting be adjourned at 7:55 p.m.

Carried

Chairperson

Secretary-Treasurer

