
SCHOOL DISTRICT OF MYSTERY LAKE



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

**Tuesday, November 10, 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
Vice-Chairperson Pellizzaro
Trustee Gallant by teleconference
Trustee Hause
Trustee Hendren
Trustee Wilson
Superintendent/CEO Fraser
Assistant Superintendent B. Waldie
Secretary-Treasurer Assoignon
Assistant Superintendent C. Waldie
Executive Assistant Mulrooney

Regrets:

Trustee Oliveira

1. CALL TO ORDER

The regular meeting of the Board of Trustees was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Chairperson Davies.

Chairperson Davies thanked everyone for joining the meeting.

2. ADDITIONS TO AGENDA

10(b) Correspondence for Information – Letter from Thompson Unlimited

3. APPROVAL OF AGENDA – November 10, 2009

MOTION 156/09

Moved by Trustee Hause, seconded by Trustee Wilson

That the agenda be approved as circulated and amended.

Carried

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – October 27, 2009

MOTION 157/09

Moved by Trustee Hendren, seconded by Trustee Wilson

That the minutes of the Regular Board meeting of October 13, 2009, be adopted as circulated.

Carried

5. DELEGATIONS AND PRESENTATIONS

- a) Ms. Patricia Griffin, counselor at Westwood School gave a presentation on community building which the school has been focusing on. The focus was usually on community building within their school and last year they expanded outside the school and looked at the community as a whole.

A project called the Westwood Community Building Project was created. A small group of teachers sit on this committee and the whole idea was to promote awareness about the organizations in Thompson as well as giving support and in the meantime promoting volunteerism and charitable acts within the student body.

The focus last year was on the Homeless Shelter because the committee wanted to change the negative attitudes toward the homeless and street people and build a sense of empathy around the students. The students focused on how to solve the problem, some of the things that happened were a summer picnic, where a barbeque, soup, stew and bannock was made, Easter goodie bags and Christmas food hampers were delivered and personal items were donated.

The Homeless Shelter was closed to provide an opportunity for the grade seven and eight students to have a tour and ask any questions they may have.

Trustee Wilson was very impressed with the presentation. She said it is a great place for children to be led into Citizenship and that Westwood School paved the way with the Seeds of hope project they started. It is encouraging to see children taking part in helping others. It is part of education; educating people for the future.

Chairperson Davies asked Ms. Griffin if she felt the students were starting to take a leadership role in the school.

Ms. Griffin stated that, this year, the students will be more involved in the decision making process.

6. BUSINESS FROM PREVIOUS BOARD MEETING

There is no business from the previous Board Meeting.

7. SUPERINTENDENT/CEO REPORT

INFORMATION

a) Manitoba School Improvement Program (MSIP)

The Board of Directors of the Manitoba School Improvement Program approved a grant of \$10,000.00 for the District in support of the school improvement efforts in R.D. Parker Collegiate.

The Manitoba School Improvement Program promotes educational equity and social justice by collaborating with public secondary schools and school divisions to build their capacity to improve student learning and engagement. When Manitoba School Improvement Program grants money then the District is expected to match that amount and take that into consideration when doing our budget.

b) Educational Assistant Retirement

Ms. Anita Philippe, Educational Assistant at Ecole Riverside School has retired from her position effective October 22, 2009. Ms. Philippe has been with the District since 1994.

The Board of Trustees thanked Ms. Philippe for her service to the District and wished her much health and happiness in her retirement.

c) Support Resignation

Ms. Joy Evans, Senior Accounts Officer at the School Board Office has given her resignation effective November 6, 2009. Ms. Evans has been with the District since July 2009.

The Board of Trustees thanked Ms. Evans for her service to the District and wished her much health and happiness in her future endeavors.

SUPERINTENDENT/CEO REPORT (continued)

d) Special Services – Christelle Waldie

Assistant Superintendent Christelle Waldie gave a Special Services report and gave an update on the Roots of Empathy Program.

The Roots of Empathy mission is to build caring, peaceful, and civil societies through the development of empathy in children and adults. The focus in the long term is to build capacity of the next generation for responsible citizenship and responsive parenting. In the short term focusing on raising levels of empathy, resulting in more respectful and caring relationships and reduced levels of bullying and aggression.

In September the District organized a three day training session for staff. The training was offered by Healthy Child Manitoba at no cost to the District. The Roots of Empathy program is now in every elementary school in the District.

Trustee Wilson commented that is an excellent way to help children learn and understand and help them to eventually be good parents.

e) Superintendent's Activities

Since the last Regular Board meeting on October 27th, Superintendent/CEO Fraser has attended the following on behalf of the Board of Trustees:

- i. Sustainable Community Plan Steering Committee meeting at City Hall to discuss the Schedule set by AECOM, a company contracted by the City to conduct community consultations.
- ii. Attended a Stakeholders' meeting along with the Chairperson to discuss sustainability issues.
- iii. Burntwood Regional Health Authority meeting.
- iv. National Aboriginal Veterans Day Assembly at Wapanohk Community School.
- v. R.D. Parker Collegiate Remembrance Walk to City Hall.

Superintendent/CEO Fraser said it was quite moving to see the students understand what Remembrance Day is all about. Ms. Sharon McKay, wife of one of the District's principals was present at the assembly and was acknowledged as the mother of a soldier who is currently serving in Afghanistan.

SUPERINTENDENT/CEO REPORT (continued)

Action

a) Gideons International Request

Mr. Ken Giesbrecht, Gideons International Representative is seeking permission to distribute the New Testaments to the grade five students in the District

MOTION 158/09

Moved by Trustee Wilson, seconded by Trustee Hendren

That the Gideons International Representative be allowed to distribute New Testaments to the grade five students in the District providing prior notification is given to parents

Carried

8. SECRETARY-TREASURER'S REPORT

a) Election at Large By-Law 06/09

The Public Schools Act was recently amended to allow the abolishment of wards and establish the number of trustees to be elected at large if:

- The 1998 election was at large
- The municipal council is to be elected at large

Motion 159/09

Moved by Trustee Hendren, seconded by Trustee Wilson

That the Election at Large By-Law 06/09 be considered read for the first time.

Carried

9. BUSINESS FROM COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE #1188

Information

a) 2008/2009 Financial Statements

Manisha Pandya meet with the trustees on November 3 to present the June 2009 Financial Statement. The full document is public and will be made available to anyone interested.

Chairperson Davies noted that the trustees had budgeted for a deficit of \$479,000.00 but actually ended the year with a surplus of \$126,000.00

b) Region 4 Meeting

Chairperson Davies, at the last meeting, presented the trustees with a brief recap of the Region 4 Trustees Association Meeting. Trustee from the District were not able to attend due to prior commitments but the information was provided.

c) Technology Plan

At the meeting on November 3, 2009, Assistant Superintendent Bruce Waldie gave an update on the Technology Plan for the District.

Chairperson Davies read a letter that will be going to all the teachers regarding the Technology Plan.

Action

a) Employee Leave Request

Moved by Trustee Hendren, seconded by Trustee Hause

Motion 160/09

That the request for a leave of absence from November 30, 2009 to December 18, 2009, for employee #3389 be approved.

Carried

BUSINESS FROM COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE #1188 (continued)

Action

b) Service Awards

Moved by Trustee Hendren, seconded by Trustee Hause

Motion 161/09

Moved by Trustee Hendren, seconded by Trustee Wilson

That the policy on Long Service Awards reflect continuous service with the District.

Carried

c) District Plan

Motion 162/09

Moved by Trustee Hause, seconded by Trustee Wilson

That the 2009/2010 District Plan be approved before sending it to the Department.

Carried

10. CORRESPONDENCE

Information

a) Manitoba School Boards Association (MSBA)

- i. Newspaper Clippings pertaining to education in the province
- ii. North American Association of Educational Negotiators (NAEN) conference information and registration package March 7 – 10, 2010
- iii. Executive Highlights from the Manitoba School Boards Association

b) Thompson Unlimited

Mr. Mark Matiasek, M.R.D., General Manager for Thompson Unlimited, invited representatives of the District to a proposed Aerospace Job Fair planning meeting for upcoming positions at the jet engine facility currently under development. The facility is located approximately eight miles south of Thompson along Highway #6.

The meeting is to take place during the week of November 23rd. The letter will be referred to R. D. Parker for a representative.

11. COMMITTEE REPORTS

Action

a) USW Negotiating Committee

Motion 163/09

Moved by Trustee Hendren, seconded by Trustee Hause

That the board ratify the collective agreement for 8223 for the period covering May 1, 2009, to April 30, 2012.

Carried

Motion 163/09

Moved by Trustee Hendren, seconded by Hause

That the board ratify the collective agreement for 7911 for the period covering May 1, 2009, to April 30, 2012.

Carried

b) Finance Committee

Approval of Expenditures October 2009

- i. Accounts Payable in the amount of \$ 1,239,500.35
- ii. Teacher payroll in the amount of \$1,701,978.42
- iii. Non-teaching payroll in the amount of \$700,267.72

Motion 164/09

Moved by Trustee Hause, seconded by Hendren

That the above expenditures for October 2009 be approved.

Carried

12. TRUSTEE COMMENTS/QUESTIONS

Trustee Hendren attended the Remembrance Day service at Juniper School. She said it was amazing when they had the moment of silence, and it was completely quiet. It is so important to have the students realize that it is not a holiday but a day to remember.

Trustee Wilson acknowledged Superintendent's Fraser representation of the board at different functions. She feels it is very important for the District to have representation at these functions and really appreciates Superintendent Fraser's attendance.

13. QUESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC ABOUT ITEMS PERTAINING TO THE AGENDA

Question: a) Continuous service, does it include approved leave.

Response: Yes, it does include approved leave.

Question: b) How will it be determined which computers will be replaced first.

Response: We will replace computers based on the operating system

TTA President, Ms. Anne Lindsay thanked the board for agreeing to replace all the computes.

14. ADJOURNMENT

Motion 165/09

Moved by Trustee Hause, seconded by Hendren

That the meeting be adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

Carried

Chairperson

Secretary-Treasurer

