
SCHOOL DISTRICT OF MYSTERY LAKE



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

**Tuesday, October 27, 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 Assognon – 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 Oliveira
Trustee Wilson
Superintendent/CEO Fraser
Assistant Superintendent B. Waldie
Assistant Superintendent C. Waldie
Executive Assistant Mulrooney

Regrets:

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. She said that the trustees know that the public shares their desire for a great education system in Thompson.

2. ADDITIONS TO AGENDA - NIL

3. APPROVAL OF AGENDA – October 27, 2009

MOTION 149/09

Moved by Trustee Hendren, seconded by Trustee Wilson

That the agenda be approved as circulated.

Carried

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – October 13, 2009

MOTION 150/09

Moved by Trustee Oliveira, 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) Mr. Ryan Land, Principal of R.D. Parker Collegiate

Mr. Land gave an overview of the new initiatives at R.D. Parker Collegiate. The priorities for action that came out of the school effectiveness review are:

- I. Adaptive Leadership
- II. Caring, Respectful, Healthy Environment
- III. Responsive Curriculum and Assessment
- IV. Authentic Partnerships
- V. Comprehensive Prevention and Intervention

To help R.D. Parker Collegiate deal with school improvement funds the School Improvement Grant Program was introduced. The School Improvement Grant is to dramatically improve the learning, achievement, success and/or graduation rates of R.D. Parker students through specific, measurable, sustainable initiatives. Seven applications for the School Improvement Grants were accepted. They are:

- I. Teen Mothers and Literacy
- II. Fast ForWord
- III. Vernier Data Loggers
- IV. Game Club
- V. Art Rocks
- VI. N Spire
- VII. GPS

Preliminary discussions regarding an Alternative Education Model at R.D. Parker Collegiate will be held on Thursday, October 29 at 3:45 p.m.

Chairperson Davies asked Mr. Land what students he considered would fit into that type of school.

Mr. Land stated that it would be for students who are already detached from the school. This will provide students with a different model for success and with a means to successfully re-enter the main stream of R.D. Parker Collegiate. It is about bringing students in.

Chairperson Davies stated that this would give these students confidence and a chance to succeed.

b) Mr. Murray Kissick and Ms. Katie Maloney-Buchanan, teachers from R.D. Parker Collegiate along with students Kaitlin Cohan and Carmen Lambert made a power point presentation on the Victory in Europe tour that students from R.D. Parker Collegiate will be participating in from April 28, 2010 to May 12, 2010.

DELEGATIONS AND PRESENTATIONS (continued)

The tour will take them through many significant military sites from WWI and WWII including Vimy Ridge, Ypres, and the beaches of Normandy and Juno Beach. They will participate in two national celebrations in the Netherlands: the candlelight ceremony and the Liberation Parade.

Trustee Hendren was interested to know if the students were going to complete a write up on the veteran, whose name they are given.

Mr. Kissick stated that the expectation of the students is to complete the historical aspect.

Trustee Hendren believes that it is important for young people today to realize the sacrifices that were made and it is good for them to go and live it and understand it.

Chairperson Davies said that the board is excited for them to go on the tour and is looking forward to hearing about the trip when they return.

6. BUSINESS FROM PREVIOUS BOARD MEETING - NIL

7. SUPERINTENDENT/CEO REPORT

INFORMATION

a) Administration Retreat

The principals, vice-principals and senior administration held a retreat in Winnipeg from October 20 -22. The main focus was to develop the District Plan with each school sharing their priorities and goals.

b) Brandon University Research Proposal

A group at Brandon University Faculty of Education is interested in pursuing what they have called VOICE – “Vital Outcome Indicators for Community Engagement” for Children and Youth.

The goal of the VOICE for Children and Youth Research Alliance is to improve children and youth success in northern, remote and First Nation Communities in Manitoba.

The problems that they have recognized are that children and youth face significant challenges in the North, that there is a lack of relevant outcome indicators about children and youth and that effective intervention strategies for children and youth are difficult to find and implement.

SUPERINTENDENT/CEO REPORT (continued)

INFORMATION

The research proposal is to build a strong community-university partnership that will be sustained through a research agenda comprised of six types of activities which are:

- i. Community knowledge and capacity building
- ii. Development and community-based indicators
- iii. Development and implementation of interventions for children and youth
- iv. Evaluation research of the function and utility of the community-based measures
- v. Knowledge mobilization
- vi. Institutionalization

c) District Plan

Assistant Superintendent Christelle Waldie walked through the draft of the District Plan.

Superintendent/CEO Fraser brought the plan forward for the board's consideration and approval before sending it to the Department of Education.

d) Field Trip Request – École Riverside School

The grade seven and eight French Immersion students from Ecole Riverside School along with several chaperones will be attending the Festival du Voyageur in Saint Boniface in February 2010.

e) Enrollment Report – September 30th EIS – Educational Information System

Assistant Superintendent Bruce Waldie thanked the clerical staff and Priscilla Cohan for all their hard work to ensure all the data was correct.

The student enrollment for the 2009/2010 school year is 2980.

SUPERINTENDENT/CEO REPORT (continued)

INFORMATION

f) SynreVoice

SynreVoice is a computer program that enables automated telephoning from schools to families and community members. It can deliver a wide variety of school notices and reminders by phone and e-mail to parents and staff at a very high speed.

The District is excited about using SynrerVoice to enhance communication and improve the quality of education for our students.

Wapanohk Community School will be the pilot school for SynreVoice.

Trustee Pellizzaro asked how can you tell who has answered the phone to receive the message.

Assistant Superintendent Bruce Waldie said that if it is discovered that the parent is not receiving the message they can have a four digit pin code that only the parent will know and the message will continue until the parent acknowledges receiving the message using the four digit pin code.

Trustee Hendren was wondering what happens if you have a parent that does not have access to a computer at home or at work.

Assistant Superintendent Bruce Waldie said the parent can choose to have their work number as the first contact number for the school to call.

g) H1N1 Update

The District has a daily absence report on the web site www.mysterynet.mb.ca. The public can view the report and see what the absences for each day are.

A notice from the government to parents about who should get the first H1N1 flu shot first has been sent to all schools for students to take home. Parents can also view the notice on the District web site.

The District is not offering flu shots at any of the schools. Public Health will be administering the vaccine. You can contact them for more information.

SUPERINTENDENT/CEO REPORT (continued)

INFORMATION

h) Superintendent/CEO Retirement

Superintendent/CEO Fraser announced his retirement from the District effective June 30th, 2010.

Superintendent/CEO Fraser stated that he has really appreciated the opportunity to serve the Board of Trustees.

Chairperson Davies said that the board truly appreciates all the responsibility Superintendent/CEO Fraser has taken over and his service to the District.

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 151/09

Moved by Trustee Hause, seconded by Trustee Wilson

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

Trustee Pellizzaro had a question regarding the effective date of the by-law being the 27th day of October, 2010. The ward system has to be abolished prior to the election being called.

Motion 152/09

Moved by Trustee Oliveira, seconded by Trustee Hause

That this item be tabled to the next Regular Board meeting on November 10, 2009, in order to clarify the effective date of the by-law.

Carried

9. BUSINESS FROM COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE - No Report

10. CORRESPONDENCE

Information

- a) Manitoba School Boards Association (MSBA)
 - i. Newspaper Clippings pertaining to education in the province
 - ii. Greg Selinger's response to policy questions
 - iii. Steve Ashton's response to policy questions
 - iv. Memo from Carolyn Duhamel re: Committee Survey Results
 - v. Citizenship Award Application Package
 - vi. Alliance of Manitoba Sector Councils invitation to Parents' Career Expo
 - vii. Call for Convention Resolutions

- b) Manitoba Education Research Network (MERN)

Manitoba Education Research Network is hosting a forum on "Learning What Works for Social Justice" at the Manitoba Teachers' Society on Friday, January 20, 2010.

This forum will focus attention on critical pedagogy- learning what works for social justice – engaging in collective inquiry to improve student learning and achievement for all Manitoba's children and youth.

Manitoba Education Research Network is soliciting research presentations, either completed studies or in progress, that address educational policies, practices and programs in this context. The deadline for submitting proposals is Friday, November 20, 2009.

Action

- a) Royal Canadian Legion

The Royal Canadian Legion will be holding the Remembrance Day Service on Wednesday, November 11, at the Centennial Hall of the Legion. The Burntwood River Branch of the Royal Canadian Legion is seeking support from the School District of Mystery Lake by asking the district to purchase a wreath for Remembrance Day. A Trustee be named to present to the wreath at the Remembrance Day Service.

CORRESPONDENCE (continued)

Motion 153/09

Moved by Trustee Hendren, seconded by Trustee Wilson

That the purchase of a \$100.00 wreath for the Remembrance Day Services at the Royal Canadian Legion be authorized.

Chairperson Davies will present the wreath at the Remembrance Day Service on behalf of the board.

11. COMMITTEE REPORTS

City/Board Liaison Meeting

City Council, their administration, and the school board administration and trustees have the opportunity to meet four times a year to discuss issues which concern both the City and the District.

On October 15th we had the opportunity to meet and the discussion went well.

12. TRUSTEE COMMENTS/QUESTIONS

a) Board Goals – Chairperson Davies

The trustees had an opportunity to meet in September to talk about what it means to be a board and discuss future direction. As part of the retreat they focused on six goals or priorities they wanted to undertake. The following are the goals they would like to start working towards now.

- i. Review of our vision, mission, beliefs and values
- ii. To review, revise and continue to develop policies
- iii. To improve the financial situation of the School District of Mystery Lake
- iv. To cultivate relationships with the community
- v. To implement regular reporting to the board on educational matters, programs and emerging issues.
- vi. Develop and manage succession plans within the District.

TRUSTEE COMMENTS/QUESTIONS (continued)

Motion 154/09

Moved by Trustee Hause, seconded by Trustee Hendren

That the board goals be accepted for 2009/2010.

Carried

b) Chairperson's Report

- Manitoba Education, Citizenship and Youth is launching this year's Minister's Awards to celebrate excellence in teaching by outstanding Manitoba educators. The awards recognize innovative and exemplary practices that contribute to student engagement and achievement.

This year, awards will be presented in the following categories:

- I. Teaching Excellence – Three awards will be presented: one teacher from Early Years level, one from Middle Years level, and one from Senior Years level.
- II. Outstanding New Teacher – One award will be presented to a new teacher with a maximum of two year's teaching experience as of June 2009.
- III. Team Collaboration – One award will be presented to a team of teachers (maximum of three) in recognition of the importance of collaborative work among educators for the benefit of students.

Outstanding School Leader – Two awards will be presented: one principal and one vice-principal will be recognized for excellence in administrative and educational leadership.

The submission deadline for nominations is December 21, 2009. The nomination process and all necessary forms are available online at www.edu.gov.mb.ca/ks/excellence/.

c) Call for Convention Workshop Presentations

The 2010 Convention of the Manitoba School Boards Association will build on the 2009 theme of "Making Every Future Count." Last year, the Convention included presentations and workshops designed to build awareness of the diverse needs and strengths of students in our schools. This year, the Manitoba School Boards Association will be inviting

TRUSTEE COMMENTS/QUESTIONS (continued)

school districts to share with delegates some of their success stories, some of the initiatives they have undertaken to make sure every child's future does in fact count.

Workshops will be held throughout the day on Thursday, March 18, and on the morning of Saturday, March 20. Deadline for considerations is November 2, 2009.

d) Manitoba School Boards Association Executive Minutes and Website

Chairperson Davies encouraged trustees to visit the newly formatted website and read over the Executive minutes found there.

Chairperson Davies provided copies of the Manitoba School Boards Association Executive Highlights for the trustees to read.

Chairperson Davies gave the trustees information on the National School Boards Association conference and the Canadian School Boards Association conference.

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

Anne Lindsay, TTA President, requested a written copy of the board's priorities and goals.

14. ADJOURNMENT

Motion 155/09

Moved by Trustee Hause, seconded by Trustee Wilson

That the meeting be adjourned at 9:05 p.m.

Carried

Chairperson

Secretary-Treasurer

