



In-Camera and Regular Meeting Minutes of the Fort McMurray Public School District Board of Trustees, held at District Office in the Main Boardroom

Doing What's Best for Kids

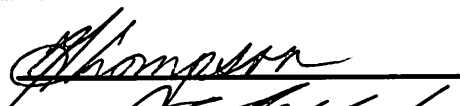
Location:	Board Room - District Office, 231 Hardin Street
Date:	April 15, 2015
In Attendance:	Linda Mywaart, Vice Chair Angela Adams, Trustee Tim O'Hara, Trustee Stephen Drover, Trustee Doug Nicholls, Superintendent Phil Meagher, Chief Deputy Superintendent - Human Resources & Administration Allan Kallal, Associate Superintendent - Business & Finance Dr. Brenda Sautner, Associate Superintendent - Education & Administration Teena Francis, Recording Secretary
Regrets:	Jeff Thompson, Board Chair

21473	Call to Order	Vice Chair Mywaart called the meeting to order at 2:04 p.m.
21474	Additions to In-Camera Agenda	No additions noted.
21475	Approval of Agenda	Motion by Trustee Drover to approve the In-Camera Agenda. M/C
21476	In-Camera Meeting	Motion by Trustee Adams to proceed to the In-Camera Meeting at 2:07 p.m. M/C
21477	Out of In-Camera	The remainder of the In-Camera Agenda resumed after the Regular Board Agenda. Motion by Trustee O'Hara to move out of the In-Camera Meeting at 3:03 p.m. M/C
21478	Regular Meeting	Vice Chair Mywaart called the Regular Meeting to order at 3:03 p.m.
21479	Additions to Agenda	No additions noted.
21480	Approval of Agenda	Motion by Trustee Drover to approve the Regular Meeting Agenda as circulated. M/C
21481	Declaration of Conflict	Vice Chair Mywaart advised Trustee O'Hara declared a conflict with agenda item Grade Configuration and will abstain from the discussion.
21482	Minutes: In-Camera & Regular of 03/18/2015 Committee of the Whole 03/02/2015	Motion by Trustee Adams to approve the In-Camera and Regular Meeting Minutes of 03/18/2015 as amended. M/C Motion by Trustee Drover to approve the Committee of the Whole Meeting Minutes of 03/02/2015 as amended. M/C
21483	Business Arising from Minutes	Vice Chair Mywaart advised the Edwin Parr Award Ceremony Invitation was forwarded to fellow Trustees. Further discussions are being held, more to follow. The date for the Board Evaluation is scheduled for May 21, 2015. The Trustees will be receiving a questionnaire to supplement the evaluation from ASBA. The deadline to complete the questionnaire is April 30th.

21484	Public School Boards' Association (PSBA)	<p>PSBA Brochure and Work Plan were reviewed during a previous meeting. Vice Chair Mywaart reminded fellow Trustees she is attending the PSBA Meeting this week and will bring forward recommendations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • List of alternative programs across the province to identify we are inclusive. • Who are the stakeholders beyond the parents. • PSBA needs to take a stand on something.
21485	Alberta School Boards Association	Vice Chair Mywaart is attending this meeting and will present Trustees feedback on the ASBA Budget. As the ASBA Budget is being discussed at the meeting, fellow Trustees were encouraged to attend along with Vice Chair Mywaart.
21486	Approval-in-Principle for HICA Field Trip Submission from Westwood Community High School Student Travel to France & Venice (March 24 to April 3, 2016)	<p>Superintendent Nicholls provided an overview of HICA Field Trip Submission from Westwood Community High School. Staff at Westwood Community High School are experienced planning out of country student trips and will ensure everything is in place for students.</p> <p>Motion by Trustee Drover that the Board of Trustees give approval-in-principle for Westwood Community High School student travel to France and Venice, March 24 to April 3, 2016.</p> <p>M/C</p> <p>Superintendent Nicholls left the meeting at 3:30 p.m. and returned at 3:38 p.m.</p>
21487	Policy Amendment: HGAI First Nations, Métis and Inuit Education Policy	<p>Associate Superintendent B. Sautner provided an overview of the amendments to HGAI First Nations, Métis and Inuit Education policy. The amendments include using first person language; a greater focus on inclusive practices to support student learning and achievement; appreciation of students' culture and heritage and alignment to provincial and best practices.</p> <p>Motion by Trustee O'Hara to approve amendments to policy HGAI First Nations, Métis and Inuit Education.</p> <p>Additional amendment included, "The school principal shall permit the reasonable use of spiritual practices as part of celebrations or ceremonies to recognize the importance of spirituality as shared by local Elders."</p> <p>M/C with additional amendment.</p>
21488	Policy First Reading: Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity Policy	<p>Associate Superintendent B. Sautner reviewed the Sexual Orientation Gender Identity Policy. This policy has been well researched.</p> <p>Motion by Trustee Drover that the Board of Trustees approve first reading of draft policy Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity for review and feedback by the District's Policy Advisory Committee.</p> <p>Trustee Adams shared she is pleased that this policy is being brought forward to ensure all our students are safe and find a home within our schools.</p> <p>Associate Superintendent B. Sautner shared this policy will be brought forward to our local GSA's for their review.</p> <p>M/C</p>
21489	Review of Board Evening Meeting Agenda	Trustees and Senior Administration reviewed the evening agenda.
21490	Recess	<p>Motion to recess by Trustee Drover at 4:07 p.m.</p> <p>Motion to resume the in-camera portion at 4:14 p.m. by Trustee O'Hara</p> <p>Motion to conclude the in-camera portion by Adams at 5:37 p.m.</p> <p>Motion to recess by Trustee O'Hara at 5:38 p.m.</p>
21491	Reconvene Regular Meeting	<p>Motion to reconvene regular meeting at 6:30 p.m.</p> <p>Board Chair J. Thompson sends regrets.</p>
21492	O' Canada	Vice Chair Mywaart welcomed everyone present and invited attendees to stand for the national anthem.
21493	Question Period	There were no questions.

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reputation of Composite High School is a concern for some <p>Questions and discussion followed. Trustees thanks Superintendent Nicholls and Senior Administration for the work involved to prepare for this discussion.</p> <p>M/C</p>																
21497	Trustee Items/Engagement	<p>Vice Chair Mywaart provided a summary of community engagement and provincial association meetings that were attended by Trustees for the month of March/April 2015:</p> <table> <tr> <td>March 15</td> <td>Tackle Racism Awards Ceremony</td> </tr> <tr> <td>March 19</td> <td>Meeting at Beacon Hill School Re: Grade Configuration</td> </tr> <tr> <td>March 20</td> <td>ASBA Zone 2/3 meeting</td> </tr> <tr> <td>March 30</td> <td>School Visits to Timberlea and Walter & Gladys Hill</td> </tr> <tr> <td>March 30</td> <td>Joint Networks Committee Meeting</td> </tr> <tr> <td>March 31</td> <td>Performance of "Shrek" by Thickwood Heights School</td> </tr> <tr> <td>April 10</td> <td>Attended lunch hosted by Wildrose Leader Brian Jean</td> </tr> <tr> <td>April 15</td> <td>Lunch with Grades 5 - 7 Student Forum</td> </tr> </table>	March 15	Tackle Racism Awards Ceremony	March 19	Meeting at Beacon Hill School Re: Grade Configuration	March 20	ASBA Zone 2/3 meeting	March 30	School Visits to Timberlea and Walter & Gladys Hill	March 30	Joint Networks Committee Meeting	March 31	Performance of "Shrek" by Thickwood Heights School	April 10	Attended lunch hosted by Wildrose Leader Brian Jean	April 15	Lunch with Grades 5 - 7 Student Forum
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21498	Reports	<p>Superintendent D. Nicholls updated Trustees and Senior Administration on 2015 - 2016 Administrative Transfers. Transfers include, G. Abbott is moving to Thickwood Heights Public School and K. Bergen is moving to Fort McMurray Composite High School. J. Porter is moving to Westview Public School and M. Mitsopoulos is moving to Dr. K.A. Clark Elementary School. The four principals are working well together to establish transition and exit plans.</p> <p>Chief Deputy Superintendent P. Meagher updated Trustees and Senior Administration on the current scope of the Human Resources and Administration Department.</p> <p>Associate Superintendent A. Kallal updated Trustees and Senior Administration on the current scope of the Business & Finance Department.</p> <p>Associate Superintendent B. Sautner updated Trustees and Senior Administration on the current scope of the Education & Administration Department.</p>																
21499	Correspondence	<p>Superintendent Nicholls reviewed the correspondence received from T. Wendel, Director - Field Services, Alberta Education regarding the Combined 3 Year Education Plan and the Annual Education Results Report. The correspondence highlights areas where staff and students are succeeding and reminds FMPSD of the areas where improvements are possible.</p>																
21500	Business Arising from Presentations & Delegations at Previous Meetings	<p>None at this time.</p>																
21501	Other Business	<p>No other business.</p>																
21502	Request for Information	<p>Associate Superintendent P. Meagher will supply additional supporting documents regarding the Medical Leave Form.</p>																
21503	Future Agenda Items	<p>No items identified</p>																
21504	Adjourn	<p>There being no further business, Vice Chair Mywaart adjourned the Regular Board meeting at 8:28 p.m.</p>																

Board Chair:



Date: May 20, 2015

Secretary-Treasurer:



Date: May 20, 2015

21494	<p>FMPSD Spotlight on Education:</p> <p>Timberlea Public School</p> <p>Fort McMurray Composite High School</p>	<p>Associate Superintendent B. Sautner introduced Timberlea Public School Acting Principal Meipsy Shackelford, Vice Principal Ebrahim Dhooma, and Acting Vice Principal Nancy Ball.</p> <p>Acting Principal M. Shackelford introduced Mr. Rutledge and Ms. Chalk and together with students presented on Program Based Learning.</p> <p>Mr. Rutledge shared that the students created the presentation and wrote all the scripts.</p> <p>Trustees thanked the students for their hard work on the presentation.</p> <p>Associate Superintendent B. Sautner introduced Fort McMurray Composite High School Principal Graham Abbott, Teacher Julia McDougall, and FNMI Liaison Ann Marie Szenti . The Paul Martin Aboriginal Youth Entrepreneurial Program is in its second year and has been growing each year. There are nine students in the program this year.</p> <p>Students provided an overview of the program and shared their experiences meeting former Prime Minister Paul Martin. Students also thanked parents and guests for attending, and Trustees and sponsors for supporting the program.</p> <p>Trustee Adams thanked the students for their presentation. Superintendent Nicholls thanked the students and J. MacDougall for being a leader in the program. Vice Chair Mywaart thanked students and staff for their hard work.</p> <p>Students of the Paul Martin Aboriginal Youth Entrepreneurial Program presented Trustees and the Superintendent with a personal handmade gift.</p>
21495	Recess	<p>Motion by Trustee Drover to recess at 7:02 p.m.</p> <p>Regular Board Meeting reconvened at 7:11 p.m.</p>
21496	Grade Configuration	<p>A conflict of interest was noted for Trustee O'Hara. Trustee O'Hara left the meeting at 7:12 p.m.</p> <p>Superintendent Nicholls began the discussion by reviewing policy FL Closure of Facilities. The Board of Trustees provided direction to recommend options on grade configuration for the 2015 - 2016 School Year. This process began in January 2015. Twelve meetings were held to obtain feedback on the grade reconfiguration. Superintendent Nicholls thanked parents and school staff for attending and providing feedback and comments.</p> <p>Superintendent Nicholls reviewed supporting documents: Overview of Grade Configurations Options, Summary of Grade Configurations and Board Recommendation.</p> <p>Motion by Trustee Drover that the Board of Trustees approve the grades 7 - 9 program for the school attendance areas south of the Athabasca River, be moved to Fort McMurray Composite High School effective 2016 - 2017 year.</p> <p>Superintendent Nicholls reviewed the advantages and challenges associated with the recommendation:</p> <p>Summary of Future Opportunities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • More extra-curricular options for students/full teams • Different peer groups for students • Preparation for high school programming/realities in place in 7-12 • Greater choice in programming/complementary courses • Less chance of split classes • Proximity to Keyano College and partnership • Facilities at Composite High School are better suited/allow for more opportunities • Greater opportunity for teachers to deliver instruction in their speciality areas <p>Summary of Challenges:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Future of the three schools and the resource allocation in the years ahead • Bussing/transportation challenges as parents expressed concerns about public transit and jr. high students • Younger students interacting with older students/perception of safe/small school • Transition from a smaller school to a larger school • Safety/possible bullying a concern to some parents • Leadership opportunities may be lost for gr. 7-8 students if they are in a 7-12 environment • Class sizes may be larger