



Minutes of the In-Camera, In-Conference and Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees of Fort McMurray Public School District, held in the Main Board Room, Clearwater Public Education Centre, 2013 02 19.

- Attendees:
- Chair - J. Thompson
  - Vice Chair - G. Cooper
  - Trustee - L. Mywaart
  - Trustee - S. Drover
  - Trustee - A. Adams
  - Superintendent of Schools - D. Parsons
  - Associate Superintendent - A. Kallal (joined at 1435 hrs.)
    - Business & Finance
  - Associate Superintendent - P. Meagher (joined at 1606 hrs.)
    - Human Resources & Admin.
  - Associate Superintendent - B. Sautner (joined at 1606 hrs.)
    - Education & Admin.
  - Recording Secretary - S. Dunn

20538	Call to Order	Chair, Jeff Thompson, called the meeting to order at 1407 hrs.
20539	Additions to the In-Camera Agenda	1. Technology (service delivery, contract) 2. New Education Act and Regulation Implications for the District
20540	Approval of Agenda	Trustee Cooper served motion at 1416 hrs. M/C That the agenda be approved.
20541	In-Camera Meeting	Trustee Mywaart served motion at 1416 hrs. M/C That the meeting proceed to the in-camera meeting.
20542		Regrets: Chair, Jeff Thompson, at 1428 hrs.
20543		Vice Chair, Glenn Cooper, assumed the Chair at 1435 hrs. Associate Superintendent, Allan Kallal, joined at 1435 hrs.
20544		Chair, Jeff Thompson, joined at 1446 hrs.
20545		1504 hrs. – Superintendent Parsons, Associate Superintendent Allan Kallal and Recording Secretary Sharon Dunn were excused.
20546		1606 hrs. – Superintendent Parsons, Associate Superintendents Allan Kallal, Phil Meagher and Brenda Sautner and Recording Secretary Sharon Dunn joined.
20547	Out of In-Camera	Trustee Drover served motion at 1605 hrs. M/C That the Board of Trustees move out of the In-Camera meeting and proceed to In-Conference Agenda

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20548	Additions to Agenda	1. RaRa – March 2, 2013 2. 4.8.4 Zone 2/3 MLA Dinner - Thursday March 21 – 4:30 – 8:30 p.m.
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20549	Approval of Agenda	Trustee Drover served motion at 1608 hrs. M/C That the agenda be approved.
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20550	Minutes – In-Camera, In-Conference and Regular Meeting 2013 01 21	Trustee Cooper served motion at 1609 hrs. M/C That the Minutes of 2013 01 21 In-Camera, In-Conference & Regular Board Meeting be approved.
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20551	Minutes – Committee of the Whole Meeting 2013 02 04	Trustee Mywaart served motion at 1609 hrs. M/C That the Minutes of 2013 02 04 Committee of the Whole Meeting be approved.
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20552	Business Arising from the Minutes	Trustee Mywaart inquired about the upcoming ASBA public information sessions regarding “is trusteeship for me?” It was agreed Trustee Mywaart will bring this item forward as an Agenda item during the regular meeting.
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20553	Superintendent’s Report	Superintendent Parsons briefly reviewed his report for trustees and senior administration, including mention of the meeting with Minister Johnson, a meeting he attended with Alberta Education and Infrastructure representatives on January 31, 2013, an upcoming meeting with local MLA’s, and the status of filling the Partnership Facilitator position. He also mentioned his attendance at the Convergence YMM Session on February 13, 2013.  Trustee Mywaart indicated she had met the new Library Director and she will pass the contact information along to Superintendent Parsons for follow up.
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20554	Upcoming Meeting with MLA’s	Chair, Jeff Thompson, updated trustees and senior administration on the upcoming meeting with MLA’s. Trustees confirmed the briefing document that was prepared for the Honourable Jeff Johnson will be used as the basis for conversation with MLA’s.
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20555	Enrollment	Deferred.
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20556	Trustee Engagement	Trustees discussed the topic of Trustee Engagement and its placement on the Regular Board Meeting Agenda. They agreed this topic would be more appropriately discussed during the In-Conference meeting for all future Board meetings.
		<p><u>Trustee Engagement January 2013 – February 2013</u> – Trustees Mywaart and Drover reported on trustee engagement since the January 21, 2013, Board Meeting, including trustee attendance at the:</p> <p>January 25th ASBA zone 2/3 meeting – Edmonton  January 29th Meeting with Minister Jeff Johnson – CPEC  January 31st Town Hall Meeting – Ecole McTavish Junior High School  February 5th Town Hall Meeting – Westwood High School  February 6th Winter Walk – Beacon Hill School  February 6th Town Hall Meeting – Composite High School  February 7th Ecole McTavish School visit  February 7th &amp; 8th Board Retreat  February 9th – PSBC Council meeting - Edmonton  February 11th Public Session: Budget Discussion NDP – CEP Union Hall  February 11th Town Hall Meeting – CPEC  February 12th &amp; 13th Convergence YMM – Quality Inn  February 12th – Greely Road and Timberlea School visits  February 13th – Science Fair at Timberlea School  February 14th Breakfast – Westview School  February 15th Monthly Assembly—Beacon Hill School</p>
20557	Public School Boards Association (PSBA)	<p>Trustee Cooper updated Trustees and senior administration on a letter received from President, Patty Dittrick, dated February 4, 2013, and provided highlights of the February 9, 2013 PSBC meeting.</p> <p>Trustee Cooper also updated Trustees and senior administration on an upcoming meeting to discuss PSBA's survey regarding the Education Act and Regulatory Review. He mentioned this meeting falls on regularly scheduled Board meeting date. Trustees agreed further clarification was required, i.e. who can attend this meeting and deadline for survey completion. Superintendent Parsons and Trustee Cooper will follow up and report back.</p> <p>Trustee Cooper mentioned a presentation Alberta Distance Learning did at the PSBC February 2013 meeting.</p> <p>Trustee Mywaart indicated she may not be available to attend the Spring General Meeting.</p>
20558	Alberta School Boards Association (ASBA)	<p>Trustee Mywaart updated trustees and senior administration on action items requiring feedback. Trustees discussed the action items and agreed they would support the idea of not having a speaker during lunch, especially on the business day of the meeting.</p> <p>Trustees reviewed the annual Value Statement provided by ASBA.</p>
20559		<p>1703 hrs. – Regrets: Associate Superintendent Allan Kallal.  1705 hrs. – Excused: Trustee Stephen Drover.</p>
20560	Alberta School Boards Association (ASBA) (continued)	Trustee Cooper highlighted the key points of a teleconference call he attended, along with Trustees Mywaart and Adams.

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20561		1713 hrs. – Associate Superintendent Allan Kallal joined.
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20562	Alberta School Boards Association (ASBA) (continued)	Trustees briefly discussed the upcoming MLA Reception scheduled to be held March 21, 2013. Trustee Mywaart will ask for the list of MLA's who are planning to attend this event and FMPSD representation will be determined once the list is available.
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20563		1719 hrs. – Trustee Drover joined.
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20564	RaRa	The annual RaRa event is scheduled to be held on Saturday, March 2, 2013, at the Quality Inn. Trustee Adams agreed to attend as Board representative and present the Junior Achiever Award during the banquet. Recording Secretary, Ms. Dunn, will arrange for tickets for Trustee Adams. All other trustees will advise Ms. Dunn as soon as possible if they plan to attend.
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20565	Review of Public Agenda	Trustees reviewed the public agenda in preparation for the Regular Board meeting.
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20566	Recess	Trustee, Glenn Cooper, served motion to recess at 1726 hrs. M/C That the meeting move out of in-conference and recess until 1900 hours.
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20567	Convene Regular Meeting	Chair, Jeff Thompson, called the meeting to order M/C That the Board of Trustees reconvene the Regular Meeting at 1900 hrs.  Other attendees: Full Gallery Media: 4
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20568	O Canada	Chair, Jeff Thompson, welcomed everyone present and invited them to stand for the national anthem.
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20569	Question Period	There were no questions.
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20570	Additions to Agenda	Trustee Mywaart added 8.1 Trusteeship
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20571	Approval of Agenda	Trustee Drover served motion at 1907 hrs. M/C That the agenda be approved.
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20572 Delegations and Presentations

Spotlight on Education

Thickwood Heights Public School

Associate Superintendent, Mr. Phil Meagher, introduced Thickwood Heights Public School Principal, Mr. Kevin Bergen. Mr. Bergen introduced music teacher, Ms. Val Gondek and five students in their first year with the Thickwood Heights concert band who delighted trustees with the song "Let's Go Band". Students in the music program also performed two brief songs from their musical Winnie the Pooh production coming in March, 2013.

Decade Marker Presentation – Thickwood Heights Public School

Mr. Bergen and students provided trustees and senior administration with some interesting District historical facts from the 1962 – 1972 era and unveiled the decade marker for presentation to the Board.

Chair, Jeff Thompson, and trustees thanked the students for their delightful and enlightening presentations.

20573 Superintendent of Schools Report

Chair, Jeff Thompson, called upon Superintendent Parsons to provide the highlights of his report.

Superintendent Parsons briefly explained the rationale and purpose for the four Town Hall sessions that were held on January 31<sup>st</sup>, February 5<sup>th</sup>, 6<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup>. He thanked those who attended the Town Hall sessions and provided their valuable feedback.

Superintendent Parsons also provided trustees and senior administration with a brief list of District accomplishments to date.

Superintendent Parsons then called upon Associate Superintendent, Allan Kallal, to update trustees and senior administration on the current budget situation. Mr. Kallal reviewed the current budget deficit situation, and provided a brief explanation of new factors that now reflect a reduction in the projected budget deficit from \$4.4 Million to \$3 Million.

Trustee Drover questioned the reduction and Superintendent Parsons called upon Mr. Kallal to provide an explanation. Mr. Kallal indicated a discrepancy was discovered between government and District reporting that resulted in a credit to the District in the amount of \$700,000.

Trustee Mywaart inquired about the transportation grant, asking if it is sufficient to cover transportation costs. Mr. Kallal indicated transportation is in a deficit position.

Trustee Cooper thanked senior administration for the update on budget and inquired whether or not the \$700,000 credit would be part of the reduction in budget deficit realized through the proposed grade reconfiguration or compressed calendar.

Mr. Kallal indicated it was not a part of any changes that may be made to grade configuration or compressed calendar.

Trustee Adams asked Superintendent Parsons to explain how the District reached a \$4.4 million deficit.



20573 Superintendent of  
Schools Report  
(continued)

Superintendent Parsons reviewed the District's financial status going back two years. He outlined, year by year, the budget deficit and how the District arrived at the \$4.4 Million deficit today. Mr. Kallal also reviewed the grant structure.

Trustee Mywaart inquired further regarding bussing. Superintendent Parsons explained the shared bussing arrangement with the Catholic District and the City of Fort McMurray. Mr. Kallal provided an explanation of bussing fees.

Superintendent Parsons called upon Associate Superintendent, Phil Meagher, to speak to grade configuration. Through research conducted by senior administration, Mr. Meagher indicated a K-8/9 and 9-12 or 10-12 grade configuration is the better choice for student success. He then reviewed the options presented for Board consideration.

Trustee Drover inquired about the number of students we might anticipate if trustees were to proceed with some of the proposed grade reconfigurations. Superintendent Parsons replied that if Ecole McTavish were reconfigured to a Grade 7 – 12 school, the school could house 1100 students; however, the number of students that would actually enroll is unknown.

Superintendent Parsons felt the best choice for trustees would be to choose a path that would give parents choice.

Trustee Adams indicated that grade configuration was being talked about as a way to reduce the budget deficit. She asked how much the District would save by reconfiguring grades. Superintendent Parsons responded that he could not answer this question as student enrollment is an unknown factor.

Chair, Jeff Thompson, asked trustees if there were any additional questions for clarification. There were none.

Chair, Jeff Thompson, asked trustees for a motion on the floor for debate.

Superintendent Parsons reconfirmed that the options brought forward were just that – options.

A lengthy debate ensued with a number of pros and cons for grade reconfiguration discussed.

Trustee Cooper served motion at 2028 hrs.

Motion Defeated

That the Board of Trustees revisit the grade configurations option following the provincial budget announcements on March 7<sup>th</sup>. Once we know if our District will be receiving new schools to address our identified growth needs, we can determine if there is a need to institute interim changes in grade configuration or not.

Trustee Drover served motion at 2037 hrs.

Motion Defeated as amended

That the Board of Trustees reconfigure Ecole McTavish Junior High Public School to a K-8 school and redirect the Grade 9's to Westwood.

Trustee Mywaart served motion at 2120 hrs.

M/C

That the Board of Trustees stay with the status quo on grade configuration for the upcoming school year.



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- 20574 Superintendent's Report (continued) Superintendent Parsons returned to his report and called upon Associate Superintendent, Dr. Brenda Sautner, to speak to a possible compressed instructional week. Dr. Sautner reviewed her research and provided Trustees and senior administration with some statistics and related cost savings. She reviewed the pros and cons of a compressed instructional week.
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- 20575 Compressed Calendar Chair, Jeff Thompson, asked trustees if they had any questions or required any clarification.
- Trustee Mywaart asked if the Districts studied were in the same economic situation as Fort McMurray Public. Dr. Sautner indicated yes. A brief debate followed.
- Trustee Adams served motion at 2156 hrs.  
M/C  
That the Board of Trustees stay with the current calendar.
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- 20576 Approval-in-Principle – Ecole McTavish Junior High School Students Travel to Quebec City, Montreal and Ottawa, May 17 – 23, 2013 Superintendent Parsons updated trustees and senior administration on a proposed trip for Ecole McTavish Junior High Public School students to travel to Quebec City, Montreal and Ottawa, May 17 – 23, 2013.
- Trustee Drover served motion at 2211 hrs.  
M/C  
That the Board of Trustees give approval-in-principle for Ecole McTavish Junior High School Students travel to Quebec City, Montreal and Ottawa, May 17 – 23, 2013.
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- 20577 Trustee Items Trustee Mywaart updated Trustees and senior administration on upcoming Alberta School Boards Association (ASBA) information sessions called "Is school trusteeship for me", scheduled as follows:
- Medicine Hat 7:00 pm Tuesday, March 19 Medicine Hat Lodge, 1051 Ross Glen Drive SE
- Lethbridge 7:00 pm Wednesday, March 20 Lethbridge Lodge, 320 Scenic Drive
- Grande Prairie 7:00 pm Wednesday, March 27 Sandman Inn, 9805 100th Street
- Calgary 7:00 pm Thursday, April 4 Executive Royal Inn, 2828–23 Street NE
- Red Deer 7:00 pm Monday, April 22 Sheraton, 3310–50 Avenue
- Edmonton 7:00 pm Friday, April 26 Royal Glenora, 11160 River Valley Road
- Trustee Mywaart asked that this information be posted on our Website as a web link and also brought to the attention of Networks Committee members.
- Trustee Adams, Chair of the Networks Committee, noted there were no sessions scheduled to be held in Fort McMurray and asked Trustee Mywaart to follow up on the possibility of ASBA being able to offer this session in Fort McMurray in June.
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- 20578 Correspondence
1. Chair, Jeff Thompson, updated trustees on the January 31, 2013, letter from the Fort McMurray Victim Services inviting donations for an upcoming event.
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20579 Business Arising None

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20580 Other Business None

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20581 Request for Information None

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20582 Future Agenda Items None

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20583 Adjournment There being no further business, Chair, Jeff Thompson, adjourned the meeting at 2219 hrs.

  
BOARD CHAIR

  
SECRETARY-TREASURER

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