



Special Public Board Meeting

Minutes

Date: Wednesday, March 18, 2020
Time: 11:00 AM

Trustees	Nicole Buchanan, Chair Laurette Woodward, Vice Chair Dianne Macaulay, Trustee Bev Manning, Trustee Bill Stuebing, Trustee Cathy Peacocke, Trustee
Senior Administration	Stu Henry, Superintendent of Schools Bruce Buruma, Corporate Secretary Colin Cairney, Corporate Treasurer – via conference call Chad Erickson, Associate Superintendent

Notice of Special Meeting:

Having provided sufficient notice, and with the approval of the Board members present, the Board of Trustees proceeded with a Special Board Meeting.

Call to Order

The Special Public Meeting of the Board of Trustees was called to order at 11:00 A.M.

Approval of Agenda

Moved By: Dianne Macaulay, Trustee

That the agenda for Board Meeting March 18, 2020 be approved as presented.

Carried

Governance Agenda

COVID-19 Updates

The Government of Alberta suspended classes across the province effective Monday March 16, 2020 because of the COVID-19 pandemic. In making the announcement, the Minister of Education, Adriana LaGrange, committed to support the continuity of learning for students with staff continuing to work to support this.

Superintendent Henry shared information on many of the issues the Division has been working on including:

- Decisions on school closures are the responsibility of the Chief Medical Officer of Health and the Alberta Government. Closures are indefinite pending the status of the pandemic. It is anticipated the suspension could be months long.

- The government committed that:
 - students will receive final marks and continue on to the next grade
 - students in a position to complete high school diplomas will graduate
 - Provincial Achievement Tests are cancelled with Diploma Exams expected to continue but subject to change
 - school jurisdictions will continue to receive their approved funding and need to maintain operations and staffing as best they can
- Decisions have been very fluid and we are responding as needed to the dynamic nature of the pandemic.
- The Division has provided regular communications and updates to our families. We are working with other jurisdictions to provide a consistent approach on the many decisions affecting, students, families and staff.
- Schools are working hard to support continuity of learning that will begin with learning materials shared with students on Monday, March 23. Our focus on learning is as follows:
 - Kindergarten – activity-based learning
 - Elementary – literacy and numeracy
 - Middle Schools – core subject areas
 - High Schools – student timetables with a focus on core courses
- Division staff have been working hard to support students. We recognize there will be many issues and concerns students and families. We will do our best to support them.
- We will have a large number of Classified Staff available and will reassign them to other duties to support learning and students as well as other operational areas.
- In line with current health suggestions, the Division will allow staff to work from home with specific expectations to continue supporting continuity of learning.
- The Board agreed to cancel Division Satisfaction Surveys for this year.
- A number of Category 2 (outside Alberta and within Canada) and Category 3 (outside Canada) Field Studies trips were scheduled. The Board agreed to cancel those trips and suspend approval of future trips until further notice.
- Given the emerging situation, the Superintendent banned staff from work-related travel outside Canada and requested the Board to make a formal motion to this effect.
- A number of other human resources and business services related matters were also reviewed with the Board.

These are very challenging times within our schools but more importantly across our community the country and globally. We are very concerned for our students, families and staff. We will support them as much as we can.

MOTIONS FROM DISCUSSIONS:

Moved By: Bill Stuebing, Trustee

THAT The Board of Trustees cancel Category 2 and 3 field trips taking place before May 31, 2020 including:

- Lindsay Thurber Comprehensive High School - Bamfield Trip - March 19-23, 2020 (CAT 2)
- Lindsay Thurber Comprehensive High School - France and Belgium Trip - April 7-17, 2020 (CAT 3)
- Hunting Hills High School - Peru Trip - April 9-21, 2020 (CAT 3)
- Gateway Christian School - Dominican Republic Trip - April 9-21, 2020 (CAT 3)
- Central Middle School - Quebec Trip - May 8 to 15, 2020 (CAT 2)

Carried

Moved By: Laurette Woodward, Vice Chair

THAT The Board of Trustees ban all work-related travel outside of Canada until further notice.

Carried

Budget and Fees Update

The Board of Trustees held a planning retreat March 5 and 6, 2020 and identified priorities and direction for the 2020/21 division budget. On further review, we are waiting confirmation of funding from Alberta Education. In light of the uncertainty given the current pandemic situation, it was agreed that the Board of Trustees would hold off on final approval of the budget and related decisions until their April meeting.

Alberta Education requires the approved budget be submitted by June 30, 2020.

Adjournment

Chair Buchanan declared the meeting adjournment at 12:23 P.M.

Chair

Corporate Secretary