

**MEETING OF THE BOARD HELD IN PUBLIC
MINUTES**

HELD ON TUESDAY, OCTOBER 11, 2022

In person at the School Board Office and via video conference

Board:

L. Trenaman, Chair
S. Nazarov, Vice-Chair
B. Maslechko
S. Walsh
D. Lang (*via video conference*)
B. Coons (*via video conference*)
A. Gribbin (*via video conference*)
C. Beebe (*via video conference*)
S. Chew (*via video conference*)

District Staff:

T. Smillie, Superintendent
J. Glaudemans, Secretary-Treasurer
D. Holitzki, Director of Instruction – Equity, Inclusion & Reconciliation
C. Singh, Director of Human Resources
B. Eaton, Director of Instruction – Innovative Learning Services
C. Kerr, Acting Director of Operations
N. Ross, District Principal – Early Years & Elementary Learning
S. Bruskowski, Executive Assistant

Guests:

Nil

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 5:01 pm.

2. Acknowledgement of Aboriginal Territory

3. Changes to the Proposed Agenda – Nil

4. Adoption of Agenda

UPON a motion duly made and seconded it was **RESOLVED:** 22/23-010

THAT the Agenda for this October 11, 2022 meeting **BE ADOPTED** as circulated.

5. Receiving Presentations – Nil

6. Comments or Questions from the Public regarding items on this Agenda – Nil

7. Consent Package – Nil

8. Adoption of Minutes

UPON a motion duly made and seconded it was **RESOLVED:** 22/23-011

THAT the minutes from the September 29, 2022 Meeting of the Board held in public

BE ADOPTED.

9. Future and Action Item Tracking

A Trustee asked whether there was an update on resolution 20/21-64. The Superintendent pointed out that it is still in progress, but it will be handled before the next election.

10. Education – Reports from Superintendent

A. Enrolment 2022-2023

The Superintendent presented the updated enrolment numbers, which show an increase of enrolment compared to the projections. In the attachment, enrolment numbers are broken down by each school in a year-over-year reporting.

The Trustees addressed questions about the enrolment report covering such items as the impact of enrollment on funding, declining enrollment in the Reach Program, Homelinks, future enrolment declines, funding protection, year-over-year per FTE funding change etc. The Superintendent responded to these questions. Another question related whether the report could show nominal capacity of the schools, which the Superintendent confirmed could be done on a going forward basis.

B. Special Education Designation and Support

The Director of Instruction – Equity, Inclusion & Reconciliation, Dr. D. Holitzki, gave a presentation on inclusive Education. The Ministry requests that students with special needs attend regular classrooms and provides additional funding to provide appropriate support. Classroom teachers provide primary support for all students in various ways such as technology support, seating changes, or adapted lesson plans. An Individual Education Plan (IEP) is created for all students with a special education designation. The additional funds can be used for measures such as staffing, extra materials, or IT support, with the goal of aiding all students to graduate.

C. Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity (SOGI) Education

The Director of Instruction – Equity, Inclusion & Reconciliation, Dr. D. Holitzki, gave a presentation on SOGI and initiatives within the district.

SOGI is an inclusive term that applies to all people. It celebrates diversity and teaches about human rights. The main objective of inclusion is that everyone can feel safe, respected, and that they are a welcome part of this society. SD8 is committed to create environments where all students can thrive.

D. Foundation Skills Assessment (FSA)

The District Principal – Innovative Learning, N. Ross, held a presentation on the FSAs. The FSAs provide information, which then helps with resource allocation and providing adequate support. The content of the FSAs is directly linked to the BC curriculum.

A. Budget Update

The Secretary-Treasurer provided a budget update that focused on the impact of the 1701 student count on the budget. The Secretary-Treasurer compared the actual numbers to the estimates in the 2022-2023 Budget approved in May 2022.

The budget shows a slightly positive development. There are, however, cost pressures including inflation and high energy prices. Even with the positive trend, the district is still below the healthy budget surplus of 3 % it is aiming for. Questions from Trustees were answered covering staffing in schools and enrollment and school supplies. The Secretary-Treasurer mentioned that there will be an update on capital funds at a later time in the year.

B. Student and Family Affordability Fund

The Superintendent gave a presentation on the Student and Family Affordability Fund. SD8 has received additional funds that can be used to provide nutritional food as well as reduce costs for school fees or basic school supplies connected to field trips, travel, equipment for sport activities, or music instruments. The funding is not to be used on items that are already in the budget but provide additional relief to families.

Funding goes out to schools equitably based on a per capita and remoteness funding formula. Principals can decide with their PACs on the best way to spend these funds.

Questions from Trustees were answered:

- The Superintendent explained that the disbursement of the funds is based on enrolment. The per capita amount will be higher in secondary schools as they have a higher school fee amount. As well, more remote schools will be funded higher in the area of transportation.
- Families will not be reimbursed but rather will not be charged for supplies for the next school year. Supplies for next year will need to be purchased before June 30.

One Trustee pointed out the necessity for ongoing communication with the Ministry to work towards making these funds a continuing program.

12. Governance and Policy – Nil

13. Human Resources – Nil

14. Trustee Reports

A. Trustees

- One Trustee reported that there are a lot of activities around campaigning and talking to numerous community members, as well as the “Get Connected” event at Selkirk College.
- The Vice Chair showed her appreciation to everyone who goes above and beyond every day for the students. She provided the example of a bus driver who escorted home students when he saw three bears as well as the email of appreciation the Superintendent sent that bus driver.

- One Trustee will be retiring and expressed gratitude to all the Board members. He thanked the Superintendent and the Secretary-Treasurer for coming to SD8, bringing in positivity, which makes it make it harder, but more comforting for him to leave.
- One Trustee will be relocating and thanked the board for the opportunity to learn and grow. The Trustee had joined to Board to make sure Creston was seen and heard and is grateful to have experienced a Board where all children matter.
- One Trustee reported from the activities around the National Day of Truth and reconciliation, with wonderful events.

B. Chair

- The Chair reported from the activities around the National Day of Truth and reconciliation and the encouraging atmosphere around a movement that is gaining momentum.
- As chair and trustee candidate she responded to a lot of questions to teachers, parents, and the community.
- The chair showed her appreciation to SD8, its incredible workforce, as well as the Trustees for their commitment to helping students to succeed.

C. BCSTA– Nil

D. BCPSEA– Nil

E. RDCK– Nil

F. Other Committees

G. Student Trustees

15. Comments or Questions from the Public

One guest expressed their gratitude to the Trustees for their service.

16. Meeting Schedule and Reminders

A. Board Meetings

The next Meeting of the Board held in the public is scheduled for November 8, 2022.

17. Adjournment of Meeting

The Meeting adjourned at 6:15 pm.


Board Chair


Secretary-Treasurer