

The Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees of Pembina Hills Regional Division No. 7 was held on October 7, 2015 at the Regional Services Office. In attendance were Trustees A. Bokenfohr, J. Comeau, J. Hoffart, J. Lefebvre, J. Tuininga, S. Watson, and K. Webster. Also in attendance were Superintendent C. Symyrozum-Watt, Director of Communications Services S. Lundrigan, and Secretary Treasurer T. Meunier.

- Call to Order Chair Tuininga called the meeting to order at 9:30 a.m.
- Invocation Pastor Ken Ree from the St. John's Lutheran Church performed the invocation.
- Amendments to the Agenda There following amendments were made to the agenda:
10. Committee Reports
q) delete – Staff Relations Committee Report
r) delete – Superintendent's Evaluation Committee Report – In Camera
t) delete – Swan Hills School Council Committee Report
- Adopting the Agenda – October 7, 2015 6558/10/15 Moved by Trustee Lefebvre that the Agenda be adopted as submitted and amended. Carried
- Adopting the Minutes – September 23, 2015 6559/10/15 Moved by Trustee Webster that the minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees of Pembina Hills Regional Division No. 7 held on September 23, 2015 be adopted as circulated.

ACCOUNTABILITY & INFORMATION REPORTS

Assistant Superintendent of Education Services Mark Thiesen was present during in the In Camera Session and presented the 2014-2015 Provincial Achievement Tests and Diploma Exam Results.

- In Camera Session 6560/10/15 Moved by Trustee Hoffart that the meeting convene as an In Camera Session for purposes of receiving the 2014-2015 Provincial Achievement Tests and Diploma Exam Results. Carried
- 6561/10/15 Moved by Trustee Webster that the meeting reconvene as a Regular Meeting. Carried

- ADLC Information Report/Update Assistant Superintendent of ADLC Cam Oulton and Director of ADLC Brett Cooper presented the ADLC Information Report/Update, highlighting the following:
- Enrolments for 2014-2015
 - o In 2014-2015 ADLC served 40,724 Alberta school-aged students in grades 1-12. The 40,724 students were enrolled in 50,724 courses. The total full-time equivalent students was 5,557.
 - o In addition, ADLC served approximately 2,400 adult students plus 600 students from out of province and are therefore ineligible for funding purposes.
 - o Over 91% of the students were enrolled in senior high; 3.4% in junior high; 2.3% in elementary; 2.7% in SuccessMaker courses and second languages.
 - o 9.2% of the enrolment is from Zone 1 (Northern Alberta); 45.2% from Zone 2/3, however 10% of these students reside outside of the zone and are registered to Vista Virtual School; 14.2% is from Zone 4 (Central, Red Deer area); 11.7% from Zone 5 (Calgary area); 15% from Zone 6 (Southern Alberta); 4.7% scattered throughout the province.
 - 2014-2015 was the first year of block funding from Alberta Education, under the ADLC Service Agreement Amendment.
 - o The benefits of block funding is that it is stable and predictable.
 - During 2015-2016 ADLC will continue to refine the model to gain the most efficiencies in order to provide the best service possible to Albertans under the terms of the Services Agreement.
 - Alberta Education has notified the Division that it wishes to extend the service

agreement for an additional two (2) years.

- A review of some of the innovative partnerships that ADLC is involved with including: robotics, rig simulation, welding simulators, WOLF (forestry), Stollery Children's Hospital (Chronic Pain 35), Job Safety Skills Society and Kainai Board of Education.
- New projects for 2015-2016 include online hunter education (in partnership with the Alberta Hunter Education Instructors Association – AHEIA) and synchronous instruction with high school sciences in southern Alberta during semester 2.

6562/10/15

Moved by Trustee Watson that the Board acknowledge receipt of the ADLC Information Report/Update for information purposes.

Carried

NEW BUSINESS

Assistant Superintendent of Employee Services and Facilities & Transportation David Garbutt and Busby Elementary School Principal Nadine Marchand entered the meeting at 11:20 a.m., along with three (3) parents.

Request for Board motion to direct Busby Elementary School to recite the Lord's Prayer as part of its morning exercises

Chair Tuininga outlined the process that would be used in order for the Board to hear the request for the Board to direct Busby Elementary School to recite the Lord's Prayer as part of its morning exercises, including providing an opportunity for the members of the public to provide their comments to the Board. Trustees provided their agreement to the process outlined.

Superintendent Symyrozum-Watt provided the background information and process used by Busby Elementary School and Busby Elementary School Council to enable Principal Marchand to make her recommendation, highlighting the following:

- Busby Elementary School has had a long standing tradition of reciting the Lord's Prayer at the start of each school day. In doing so they followed Section 4 of [Administrative Procedure 60-23](#).
- Early in September, the Division received an inquiry regarding the school's legal authority to recite the Lord's Prayer. Based on further investigation, administration determined that the Board has the constitutional authority to direct the recitation of the Lord's Prayer. However, there is a requirement for strict compliance.
- During the investigation, Administration reviewed policies and administrative procedures of other school jurisdictions with regards to the recitation of the Lord's Prayer.
- Following the investigation, Administration worked with the Busby Elementary School Principal and School Council to establish a fair, open and transparent consultation process to establish the desires of the school community regarding this matter. The School Council was chosen as the vehicle to gather input, given Section 13(1) of the Alberta School Council Regulation.
- A letter dated September 14, 2015 was sent to all parents of students of Busby Elementary School, indicating that the recitation of the Lord's Prayer had been suspended, and the school would undergo a process to determine whether this exercise is part of the tradition and culture of the school.
- At the September 21, 2015 School Council Meeting, a process for the consultation process was determined. The process included a special School Council Meeting being called for September 30, 2015. Both the process and date of the special meeting were advertised on the school website, in the community announcement section of the Westlock News, in the school newsletter, as well as the Busby Alberta Community Facebook page (notices). The media also reported on the meeting.
- Based on the input received, Busby Elementary School Principal Nadine Marchand has provided a recommendation to the Board to consider requesting a motion that directs Busby Elementary School to recite the Lord's Prayer as part of its opening exercises in the school gymnasium, subject to conditions outlined in [Administrative Procedure 20-04](#). Principal Marchand forwarded a copy of her recommendation to the parents of Busby Elementary School students on October 2, 2015.
- The Board reviewed Administrative Procedure 20-04 Recitation of the Lord's Prayer, noting that the process outlined in AP 20-04 mirrors the process utilized during the Busby School consultation process.

Principal Marchand provided an overview of the information gathered at the Busby

Elementary School Council Special Meeting on September 30, 2015 that she considered in her recommendation, along with her recommendation, outlining the following:

- 33 families chose to cast ballots. The results of the balloting were: 30 families in favour of reciting the Lord's Prayer at the school and 3 families opposed to reciting the Lord's Prayer at the school.
- 13 parents with children at the school spoke in favour of reciting the Lord's Prayer at the school and 2 parents spoke against reciting the Lord's Prayer at the school.
- 4 community members without children attending the school spoke in favour of reciting the Lord's Prayer at the school and 0 community members spoke against reciting the Lord's Prayer at the school.
- After thoughtful consideration of the information gathered, and consultation with Assistant Superintendent David Garbutt, Principal Marchand's assessment of the information led her to conclude that the recitation of the Lord's Prayer is part of the culture and tradition of the Busby Elementary School community. Therefore, the recommendation to the Board is to request a motion that directs Busby Elementary School to recite the Lord's Prayer as part of its opening exercises in the school gymnasium.

Two parents of students at Busby Elementary School, Amber Kenyon and Tina Viney, spoke in favour of the recommendation.

6563/10/15

Moved by Trustee Bokenfohr that the Board direct Busby Elementary School to recite the Lord's Prayer as part of its opening exercises in the gymnasium, subject to the conditions outlined in [Administrative Procedure 20-04](#).

The Board discussed motion #6563/10/15 along with the process used to derive at the recommendation.

Chair Tuininga passed the Chair to Vice Chair Watson at 11:45 a.m. in order that she may speak to the motion. Vice Chair Watson passed the Chair back to Chair Tuininga at 11:46 a.m.

6563/10/15

Moved by Trustee Bokenfohr that the Board direct Busby Elementary School to recite the Lord's Prayer as part of its opening exercises in the gymnasium, subject to the conditions outlined in Administrative Procedure 20-04.

Carried

INFORMATION ITEMS

The following information items were presented:

- A copy of the September 2015 ASEBP Trustees' Report
- A copy of the Alberta Mental Health Review questionnaire
- A copy of the Joint Protocol between Alberta Education and the Alberta School Boards Association for the release of the 2014-2015 Provincial Achievement Test and Diploma Examination Results
- A copy of the 2014-2015 NorQuest College Regional Stewardship Stakeholder Report
- A copy of AP 60-23 Religious or Human Sexuality Instruction

COMMITTEE REPORTS

The following committee reports were presented:

- Alberta School Boards Association Zone 2/3 General Meeting
- Alberta School Boards Association Day for Advocacy
- Barrhead CARES Coalition Meeting
- Barrhead Composite High School Council Meeting
- Board Chair and Superintendent Meeting with the Minister of Education
- Busby School Council Meeting
- Busby School Meet the Teacher Barbeque
- Fort Assiniboine School Council Meeting
- GROWTH Meeting
- GROWTH School Expo
- Meeting with Covenant Canadian Reformed School
- Neerlandia Public Christian School Council Meeting
- Pembina North Community School Junior High Awards Night

- R.F. Staples Secondary School Council Meeting
- R.F. Staples Secondary School – Robb Nash Concert
- Swan Hills Community Matters Meeting
- Westlock Elementary School Council Meeting

Recess
6564/10/15
12:05 p.m. Moved by Trustee Comeau that the meeting recess until 12:30 p.m. Carried

Chair Tuininga called the meeting back to order at 12:30 p.m.

In Camera
Session
6565/10/15
12:30 p.m. Moved by Trustee Lefebvre that the meeting convene as an In Camera Session to discuss the following:
- Jarvie School Disposition Committee Report
- Land, legal, labour Carried

6566/10/15
1:00 p.m. Moved by Trustee Hoffart that the meeting reconvene as a Regular Meeting. Carried

Leave of Absence
- Vice Chair Chair Tuininga announced that Vice Chair Watson would be taking a leave of absence from her duties as Vice Chair effective October 8 to November 30, 2015. Vice Chair Watson would continue serving the capacity of school board trustee representing the Town of Swan Hills during this time.

6567/10/15 Moved by Trustee Bokenfohr that the balloting for the Acting Vice Chair position be by secret ballot. Carried

Acting Vice Chair Chair Tuininga called for nominations for Acting Vice Chair for the period October 8 to November 30, 2015.

Trustee Bokenfohr nominated Trustee Lefebvre. Trustee Lefebvre accepted the nomination.

Trustee Hoffart nominated Trustee Webster. Trustee Webster accepted the nomination.

Chair Tuininga called for nominations a 3rd time.

Nominations
Cease
6568/10/15 Moved by Trustee Watson that nominations cease. Carried

Trustee Webster was declared Acting Vice Chair for the period October 8 – November 30, 2015.

Destruction of the
Ballots
6569/10/15 Moved by Trustee Lefebvre that the ballots be destroyed. Carried

COMMITTEE REPORTS

The Board continued discussion of the committee reports.

BUSINESS ARISING

Assistant Superintendent of Employee Services and Facilities & Transportation David Garbutt, Transportation Supervisor Shantelle Haitel, and one parent were present for the 'Business Arising' agenda item regarding the request for the Board to consider transportation of typically developing children enrolled in division Early Learning programs.

Request for the
Board to consider
transportation of Superintendent Symyrozum-Watt provided background information regarding the request for the division to provide transportation services to typically developing children enrolled in division Early Learning programs along with the implications if the

typically developing children in designated PHRD Early Learning programs at existing bus stops

Board grants the request, highlighting the following information:

- At the September 23, 2015 Regular Board Meeting, the Board heard from three (3) delegations who presented their request for the Board to reconsider their decision not to transport typically developing children to Early Learning programs in the division.
- At the June 10, 2015 Regular Board Meeting the Board rescinded motion #4774/12/08 — Transportation of Typically Developing Children attending designated Early Education programs. These children are not funded by Alberta Education.
- Early Learning programs are created, operated and coordinated by the division's Early Learning team, a division of Education Services. These programs are contained within the physical space of a community school and are staffed by division employees.
- Early Learning programs are operated under the same principles of inclusion described in [Administrative Procedure 60-12 Inclusive Practices \(Student Placement and other Programming Decisions\)](#). While designed and intended to provide necessary supports to identified children – Program Unit Funding (PUF) and Mild/Moderate – a proportion of the groups in each setting shall include typically developing children.
- Children whom the “Funding Manual for School Authorities” has identified as eligible for transportation funding (PUF and Mild Moderate) are currently eligible to be transported by the division.
- Currently the division operates four (4) Early Learning programs: PREP at Barrhead Elementary School, C-PREP at Eleanor Hall School, READY-C at Pembina North Community School, and SPICE at Westlock Elementary School.
- In the requests from the delegations to the Board to reconsider their decision not to transport typically developing children to Early Learning Programs, the parents have indicated that they are willing to pay a fee for the service. They also understand that the pick up or drop off (depending on whether the child is in a morning or afternoon program) would be at an existing bus stop in the current year, and they would be responsible for transporting their child mid-day. In addition, it would be under the condition that there was room on the bus.
- If the Board reconsiders their June 10, 2015 decision, administration recommends that the approval be granted subject to conditions outlined in [Administrative Procedure 70-121](#) and [Form 7-121 Transportation of Typically Developing Children Enrolled in Early Learning Programs](#). The conditions are as follows:
 - o Transportation of children shall only occur at existing bus stops in the current year.
 - o Safety of students is not compromised.
 - o Level of service to other students on the bus is not negatively affected.
 - o Transporting the child does not require a harness to be installed in the bus.
 - o There is sufficient room on the bus.
 - o Prepayment of a fee that is the equivalent of the in-town transportation fee for ECS ([Rates Annex 5 In-Town Transportation Fees](#)).
 - o The child may only ride the bus on the days they are enrolled in the Early Learning program.
 - o The child must abide by [AP 70-105 Student Transportation Services – Rules, Responsibilities and Student Discipline Process](#)

6570/10/15

Moved by Trustee Comeau that the Board authorize children enrolled in Early Learning programs operated by Pembina Hills Regional Division No.7 to be transported on a school bus subject to the conditions outlined in Administrative Procedure 70-121 and Form 7-121.

The Board discussed motion #6570/10/15 along with the conditions of AP 70-121 and Form 7-121.

Chair Tuininga passed the Chair to Vice Chair Watson at 1:42 p.m. so she could speak to the motion. Vice Chair Watson passed the Chair back to Chair Tuininga at 1:43 p.m.

6570/10/15

Moved by Trustee Comeau that the Board authorize children enrolled in Early Learning programs operated by Pembina Hills Regional Division No.7 to be transported on a school bus subject to the conditions outlined in Administrative Procedure 70-121 and Form 7-121.

Carried



Vice Chair Watson left the meeting at 1:50 p.m.

INFORMATION ITEMS

The following information items were discussed:

- Material for the Public School Boards' Association of Alberta 2015 Annual General Meeting
- A copy of the division website news article entitled: 'Share your views about communications within and about Pembina Hills Regional Division'

BUSINESS ARISING

Review of
Attendance Areas
– Purpose,
Principles &
Process

Director of Communications Suzanne Lundrigan provided an overview of the draft purpose, principles and process for the Attendance Area Review that the Board will be embarking on in the 2015-2016 school year.

At the May 14, 2014 Regular Board Meeting, the following motion was passed:

Motion 6264/05/14 - Moved by Trustee Tuininga that the Board, with the assistance of Administration, complete a review of the attendance boundaries of Pembina Hills Regional Division No. 7, with the intent to sustain our rural schools.

The Board is responsible for establishing PHRD's attendance areas. Attendance areas determine which school a student is designated to attend.

Against the backdrop of declining enrollment, rising transportation costs and the Board's commitment to accommodating student choice, the Board is launching a review of the existing attendance areas to determine if the existing attendance areas support the needs of PHRD's schools and communities.

Before the Board makes decisions about attendance areas, it will gather input from its schools and communities.

6571/10/15

Moved by Trustee Comeau that the Board adopt the purpose and principles statements as presented that will guide the Board in its review of attendance area.

Carried

Adjournment
2:45 p.m.

Chair Tuininga declared the meeting adjourned at 2:45 p.m.

Board Chair

Secretary Treasurer