

The Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees of Pembina Hills Public Schools was held on May 8, 2019 at the Calgary campus of Vista Virtual School. In attendance were Trustees J. Carson, J. Comeau, N. Keough J. Lefebvre, K. McElroy, W. Scinski and J. Tuininga. Also in attendance were Superintendent D. Garbutt and Secretary Treasurer T. Meunier.

- Call to Order Chair Tuininga called the meeting to order at 8:45 a.m.
- Acknowledgement Statement Chair Tuininga recited the acknowledgement statement from Administrative Procedure 60-20 Honoring First Nations, Métis and Inuit Culture.
- Amendments to the Agenda The following amendments were made to the Agenda:
Committee meetings attended from April 17 – May 7, 2019:
8) Busby School Council – Trustee Carson reported that she was unable to attend
14) Swan Hills School Council
- Adopting the Agenda – May 8, 2019 7495/05/19 Moved by Trustee Lefebvre that the agenda be adopted as submitted and amended. Carried
- Adopting the Minutes – April 17, 2019 7496/05/19 Moved by Trustee McElroy that the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees of Pembina Hills Regional Division No. 7 held on April 17, 2019 be adopted as circulated. Carried
- In Camera Session 7497/05/19 8:49 a.m. Moved by Trustee McElroy that the meeting convene as an In Camera Session to discuss land, labour, legal matters. Carried
- 7498/05/19 9:35 a.m. Moved by Trustee McElroy that the meeting reconvene as a Regular Meeting. Carried

NEW BUSINESS

Vista Virtual School Report

- Vista Virtual School Report Vista Virtual School (VVS) Principal Mike Loitz, along with Associate Principals Treena Bradbury and Frank McCallum provided the following overview:
- VVS is a PHPS school that serves a large and diverse student population through distance learning. The school has a collaborative team of teachers, administration and support staff who are committed to student success
 - VVS serves Alberta students located anywhere in the world:
 - o Grades 1-9 in elementary & junior high
 - o Grades 10-12 full time & part-time school students
 - o Adult students (over age 20), both for high school completion and academic upgrading
 - o Students with unique needs and abilities
 - VVS has 64 staff assigned, including:
 - o 1 principal, 2 associate principals
 - o 2 administrative assistants to the admin team
 - o 3 business managers
 - o 12 additional support staff
 - o 32 teachers
 - o 5 department heads
 - o 2 academic counsellors for school-age students & 2 academic counsellors for adults & off-campus education
 - o 1 special education teacher
 - o 1 assistant coordinator, business services
 - o 1 assistant coordinator, communications and marketing
 - VVS has approximately 1605 full-time-equivalent (FTE) students
 - o 1335 FTE taught by VVS teachers (1180 FTE senior high; 155 FTE elementary/junior high)
 - o 270 FTE taught by ADLC teachers
 - There are currently 8,193 total student enrolments as of April 30, 2019, including:
 - o 5 blended home education
 - o 17 full home education

- 55 self-declared FNMI
- Comparison – student enrolments by year for the past 6 years
- Comparison – student enrolments by program
- Comparison – student enrolments by location – Calgary represents approximately 51% of total Vista Virtual course enrolments
- Comparison – students by age – VVS’ youngest student is 7; the oldest student is 65; the mean student age is 18
- Comparison budget size by year – 2011-12 - \$2.9 million 2018-19 - \$7.8 million
- VVS reserves largely owing to the discrepancy noted between the September 30 count and final student enrolment. Steps are taken during the school year to address staffing as a result of these student enrolments.
- Education Plan areas of emphasis
 - Support for division priorities of literacy, numeracy, mental health, and FNMI
 - VVS continues to place a strong emphasis on successful completions enhanced by positive student-teacher relationships
- Review of the October 2018 accountability pillar results
- VVS provides accommodations for students with mental health concerns and learning disorders. The most common concerns are anxiety and/or depression, Attention Deficit and Hyperactivity Disorder, and specific writing and reading disabilities.
- Teacher-student relationships
- Academic counselling services
- Transition to VVS student information system (Genius) and learning management system (Moodle)
- 4 junior high Career & Technology Foundations (CTS) courses were offered in 2018-2019 – Foods, Wildlife, Photography and Programming
- Physical Education course at Vista Virtual School – the curriculum requires students participate in various activities across five dimensions - alternative environments (outdoor activities), dance, flexibility/gymnastics, games, individual activities
- Student stories
- Activities & Events
 - Awards Ceremonies in Calgary and Edmonton
 - Student Parent Teacher interviews
 - Connections program at Kamp Kiwanis
 - Telus World of Science
 - DNA WhoDunnit? Was held at VVS Calgary Campus
 - SAIT City – Career Exploration
- The future includes:
 - Continue to fully support our students
 - Enhance VVS’ identity
 - Maintain a collaborative and efficient relationship with ADLC
 - Continue to contribute to the positive culture at PHPS
 - Spread the news, create awareness and promote the education provided by VVS

Tour The Board was taken on a tour of the Calgary campus of Vista Virtual School. The Board toured the Edmonton campus on May 7, 2019.

2018-19
Minister’s Youth
Council
Experience

Grade 9 Vista Virtual School Student, Tahir Natha, provided an overview of his experience on the 2018-2019 Minister of Education Youth Council:

- 32 students from across the province were selected to serve on the council, out of 350 applications
- The Youth Council had an opportunity to meet with both the Premier and Minister of Education
- Structure of the Youth Council meetings
- Reasons Tahir applied for the Minister’s Council
- Raising awareness for students and their isolated problems
- The first thing influenced by the current Council and implemented was the GSA policy
- The Council also provided advice to the Minister on curriculum reform
- The Council discussed the need for equity in the system, recognizing differences in school/community size and location, as well as areas including diversity, STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics), mental health and environment issues
- The influence of the Council
- The Council recently met with the new Minister of Education, Adriana LaGrange.

The Council will be advising the Minister on the new Education Act this summer, including the weighting of diploma examinations

- The experience of being on the Council – education learning, leadership experience, social gains, networking, pride and joy in making a change in education, and impact

- Presentation – The Board recognized VVS student Tahir Natha for being a member of the Minister’s Youth Council.
- Presentation – Long Service Awards The Board recognized VVS Calgary staff Sherry Lahaye-Nguyen, Shelley Rizzo, Laurie Brinton, Michelle Blagdon, and Kerry Smith with long service awards.
- The Board recognized VVS Edmonton staff Bryan Frechette, Chris Pethybridge, and Aletta Seward on May 7, 2019.
- Recess 7499/05/19 Moved by Trustee Scinski that the meeting recess until 12:35 p.m. Carried
- Chair Tuininga called the meeting back to order at 12:40 p.m.
- NEW BUSINESS
- School Based Early Learning Programs – Name Changes Many of the Division’s elementary schools have developed Early Learning programs over the last several years. These programs began as a means to consolidate services and to be efficient with resources. The first program was dubbed “PIN” which stood for Preparing for Inclusion Now”.
- All of these programs are intended to support the mild moderate and severe needs pre-school aged children in a learning environment that also includes typically developing children. As the programs developed, they branded themselves to align with the local community.
- After PIN was established in Westlock Elementary, PREP (Preschool Readiness Education Program) started in Barrhead Elementary, and soon after, PIN rebranded to become SPICE to represent the Social, Physical, Intellectual, Creative and Emotional dimensions of childhood development.
- Preschool programs in other communities evolved from community programs facilitated by local preschool societies to school based programs on request by these societies. Over time, school based programs were initiated in Eleanor Hall School, Pembina North Community School, Busby and Swan Hills. Dunstable supports an in-school program, but to date has not had the number of Program Unit Funded (PUF) students to warrant a school based program facilitated by our Early Learning staff. They currently name the program DEN (Dunstable Early Nurturing).
- The most recent community to request and adopt a school based Early Learning Program was Swan Hills. Part of the discussion at the Board was about the variety of names that these programs had acquired and it was suggested that they be aligned.
- The Early Learning principal, her team, and the principals at the affected schools have discussed aligned names and developed the following recommendation:
- PREP in Barrhead
 - B-PREP in Busby
 - C-PREP in Clyde
 - D-PREP in Dunstable
 - PN-PREP in Pembina North
 - S-PREP in Swan Hills
 - W-PREP in Westlock
- 7500/05/19 Moved by Trustee Comeau that the Board give authorization to change the names of the community school Early Learning programs to variations of PREP (Preschool Readiness Education Programs) as follows:
- PREP in Barrhead
 - B-PREP in Busby
 - C-PREP in Clyde
 - D-PREP in Dunstable
 - PN-PREP in Pembina North
 - S-PREP in Swan Hills

- W-PREP in Westlock

Carried

Canadian School Board Association (CSBA) – Strategic Plan Survey

The Board discussed and completed a survey from the Canadian School Boards Association (CSBA) to provide input into their strategic plan.

INFORMATION ITEMS

The following information items were presented:

- a) A copy of the April 2019 issue of the ASEBP Trustees' Report
- b) A letter from the Terry Fox Foundation, reporting that 11 schools from the Division took part in a Terry Fox event in 2018, raising \$10,251.10 to benefit cancer research

ASSURANCE REPORTS AND INFORMATION UPDATES

Satisfaction Survey Summary

Assistant Superintendent of Education Services Mark Thiesen joined the meeting virtually to provide an overview of the 2018-19 PHPS Satisfaction Survey Summary, highlighting the following:

- Purpose of the satisfaction survey:
 - o To monitor the perception of our students, staff and parents relative to the outcomes in the Education Plan
 - o Survey questions are one source of measurement
- PHPS questions are aligned to outcomes in school/division education plans
- Similar questions are asked of parents, staff and students with the intention of gaining triangular perspectives
- Process used for conducting the survey:
 - o All school staff and students in grades 4-12 complete the survey online during the month of February. Education Services staff call all parents and seek to complete survey with at least 50 percent of the parent population at a school
 - o 1288 responses were collected over the phone by temporary staff hired for this process
- Response rate – 53 percent parents; 73 percent students in grades 4-12; 89 percent school staff
- Education Services staff collect and organize the data, school by school, then collate it for the Division level, as well as sharing with the individual schools. Moving forward, Regional Office will be following up with individual schools, where required
- School data is input into each school's Education Plan, aligned to the outcome it measured
- For purposes of a summary report, data from specific groups of questions have been combined to create themes: administration/leadership; safe and caring environments; character education; satisfaction with instruction; assessment and inclusion; co-curricular/extra-curricular activities; special education services; educational technology; school and community partnerships; overall quality of education
- Division data is Division-wide averages (broad strokes)
- Review of the results for each of the themes
- 97.9 percent of parents indicated that they have access to internet in their homes; 76.5 percent of parents reported that they check their child's schools attendance, marks, progress, etc. online.
- 93 percent of respondents were satisfied with the overall quality of education – this is consistent over the past 10 years.

7501/05/19

Moved by Trustee Keough that the Board acknowledge receipt of the 2018-2019 Pembina Hills Public School Satisfaction Survey Results Report for information purposes.

Carried

COMMITTEE MEETINGS ATTENDED

Committee Meetings attended from April 17, 2019 – May 7, 2019

- 1) Alberta Library Conference
- 2) Alberta School Boards Association (ASBA) Zone 2/3

- 3) Admin Building Committee
- 4) Administrative Support Liaison
- 5) Barrhead Composite High School Council
- 6) Barrhead Elementary School – Citizenship Award Presentation
- 7) Board Chair and County of Barrhead Agriculture Service Board Chair Walter Preugschas meeting
- 8) Bus Driver Appreciation
- 9) Eleanor Hall School Council
- 10) Neerlandia Public Christian School Council
- 11) Support Staff Discussion Meeting
- 12) Swan Hills Community Matters
- 13) Swan Hills School Council

In Camera Session 7502/05/19 2:09 p.m. Moved by Trustee Lefebvre that the meeting convene as an In Camera Session to discuss land, labour, legal matters. Carried

Superintendent Garbutt and Secretary Treasurer Meunier left the meeting at 3:40 p.m., returning at 3:50 p.m.

7503/05/19 3:40 p.m. Moved by Trustee McElroy that the meeting reconvene as a Regular Meeting. Carried

Adjournment 3:51 p.m. Chair Tuininga declared the meeting adjourned at 3:51 p.m.

Board Chair

Secretary Treasurer

Unapproved