

Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Board of Education of the Prairie Spirit School Division No. 206 held in the Prairie Spirit School Division Office, on Monday, October 5, 2009, commencing at 9:00 a.m.

Present for the meeting were Board Members: Andrew Bergen; Sam Dyck; Joan Heath; Norbert Hirschhorn (left at 12:46 p.m.); Bernie Howe; Natalie Keewatin (arrived at 9:24 a.m.; left at 12:05 p.m.); Merla McIntyre (left at 1:21 p.m.); Cathy Taylor; Pam Wieler (left at 12:05 p.m.); Gerald Yausie; Evelyn Novak, Director of Education; Brenda Erickson, Communications Consultant; Nadine Meister, Assistant to the Director; Noel Roche, Superintendent of Schools and Learning (left at 12:46 p.m.); and Heather Shockey, Superintendent of Schools and Learning (left at 12:46 p.m.); Syd Laskowski, Principal, Valley Christian Academy (left at 12:46 p.m.); Rick Cross, Principal, and Derek Zacharias, Vice Principal, Waldheim School (both left at 12:46 p.m.); and Keith Wagner, incoming Board Member.

Absent: Larry Pavloff

Andrew Bergen, Chair, called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

1. THAT the agenda be adopted as presented.

Agenda
Dyck

Carried.

2. THAT the September 21, 2009, minutes be adopted as presented.

Minutes
Yausie

Carried.

The Board discussed the article, "Petitioning for Separate School Board", from the September 30, 2009, edition of the Country Press and requested the Chairperson contact both Mr. Darren Saleski and Ms. Marion Laroque to further discuss.

Natalie Keewatin joined the meeting at 9:24 a.m.

Update from Committees:

- Career Development Action Team – Gerald Yausie provided the Board with a written report outlining the Team's five areas of focus, i.e. programs & curriculum, professional development, partnerships, parents & community and planning.
- Support Staff Negotiations – close to reaching agreements with CUPE and non-union groups.
- LINC Negotiations – PSTA has requested opening of the agreements

Board Orientation for newly elected and incumbent members to take place on Monday, November 2, 2009, at 9:00 a.m., in the Round Table Board Room.

Evelyn, Andrew, Gerald and Brenda will attend the Executive Meeting of the SSBA's Public Section on Friday, November 6, 2009, at 1:00 p.m., in the Board Room, at the Saskatoon School Division office.

Regarding the Open House, regret was expressed by the following who indicated they would be unable to attend: Joan Heath; Norbert Hirschhorn; Bernie Howe; Natalie Keewatin; Merla McIntyre; Cathy Taylor; and Pam Wieler.

Syd Laskowski stated Valley Christian Academy is enjoying a smooth start to the year. Soccer teams are busy and they will be hosting the Boys 1A Provincial Soccer Tournament on October 30th. Mr. Laskowski spoke highly of the Youth Apprenticeship Program, which offers students 3 levels and 4 major assignments and close to 60 trades are recognized. Through the assignments, students can earn hours toward their apprenticeship or journeyman status. Registration fee for secondary programs are waived for students if they complete the Youth Apprenticeship Program.

Rick Cross and Derek Zacharias touched on some highlights from Waldheim School. Mr. Cross mentioned Waldheim was looking at a possible Colombian resettlement which could include 24 children, pending immigration approval. Mr. Zacharias commended the staff for the compassion and passion they have for the in-care students that attend Waldheim School. He commented on the pride that teachers feel when they see a child, who may have been disengaged and unable to look you in the eye, start to show interest and self-confidence. It is particularly hard for the staff when these students are removed from the community.

Delegation from the Village and R.M. of Leask arrived at 10:45 a.m., including Gordon Harris (Village), Arthur Spriggs (Village), Jim Joannette (R.M.), Marcie Kreese (R.M.), Real Diehl (R.M.) and George Diehl (R.M.). The delegation brought forth many concerns, including:

- drop in enrolment in Leask Community School;
- quality of academics being offered in Leask Community School;
- discipline procedures in Leask Community School;
- how to work and communicate with in-school administrators at Leask Community School; and
- busing options and safety of students that are driving themselves to Blaine Lake Composite School.

The delegation left the meeting at 11:22 a.m.

The Board continued to discuss this matter at great length along with the Decision Report relating to student transportation consideration outside of current Board of Education Policy EL-10 – Transportation, Section 3.1.

The Board adjourned for lunch at 12:05 p.m.

Natalie Keewatin and Pam Wieler left the meeting at 12:06 p.m.

Norbert Hirschhorn, Noel Roche, Heather Shockey, Syd Laskowski, Rick Cross and Derek Zacharias left the meeting at 12:46 p.m.

The Board reconvened at 12:47 p.m.

Continuing the discussion regarding Leask, the Board recommended a change to Policy EL-10 to assist administration in dealing with the busing request raised in the Decision Report.

- 3. THAT the Board amend the Board of Education Policy EL-10 Transportation by replacing existing section 3.1 with the following:

Policy EL-10
Wieler

3.1 The Director shall not design bus routes or attendance boundaries in a way that negatively impacts parental choice of school for their children, unless providing such choice negatively impacts finances, operations and/or the choice of other parents.

Carried.

Agenda item 6.2.3 was not discussed and will be moved to a future Board meeting agenda.

Merla McIntyre left the meeting at 1:21 p.m.

- 5. THAT, due to a loss of quorum, the meeting be adjourned at 1:22 p.m. The next meeting to be held on Tuesday, October 13, 2009, at 9:00 a.m., at the Prairie Spirit School Division Office, in Warman.

Adjourn
Bergen

Carried.

Chairperson

Superintendent of Finance,
Administration and Planning