

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, January 4, 2010, commencing at 9:00 a.m.

Present for the meeting were Board Members: Andrew Bergen; Sam Dyck; Joan Heath; Bonnie Hope; Bernie Howe; Louis LeDoux; Larry Pavloff; Keith Wagner; Pam Wieler; Gerald Yausie; Sharon Compton, Superintendent of Schools and Learning; Heather Shockey, Superintendent of Schools and Learning; Laura Prefontaine, Principal, Pike Lake School; Audrey Kampen, Principal, and Bruce Mellesmoen, Vice Principal, Langham Elementary School; Evelyn Novak, Director of Education; Brenda Erickson, Communications Consultant; and Nadine Meister, Assistant to the Director.

Absent: Lorraine Greyeyes; Cathy Taylor

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

1. THAT excused absences be granted to Lorraine Greyeyes and Cathy Taylor.

Excused
Absences
Wieler

Carried.

Items 6.2.2 (Board Policy GP-6) and 6.4.1 (Audited Financial Statements) were removed from the agenda. Item 4.1 (Update regarding communication with the business community) was added to the agenda.

2. THAT the agenda be adopted as amended.

Agenda
Wagner

Carried.

3. THAT the December 7, 2009, minutes be adopted as presented.

Minutes
Howe

Carried.

4. THAT the December 10, 2009, minutes be adopted as presented.

Minutes
Dyck

Carried.

Little to no response has been received from the business community in response to the Board's letter sent in October 2009. Board members have followed up with businesses and the consensus was that letters went out at a busy time of year and business owners were not able to find the time to complete the questionnaire. Other businesses requested additional information around why the Board was requesting this information. Suggestions to improve interest included establishing personal contact with the businesses and for Board Chair to establish contact with a relevant business association.

Committee Reports:

- The Advocacy Committee sent a letter to the Provincial Treasury Board and MLA's, plus made phone calls in response to a request from Warman Elementary School with regard to increasing enrolments.
- LINC Negotiation Team will meet on January 5, 2010, to begin negotiations.

5. THAT the Board will support any Board Member and Senior Administrator wanting to attend the CSBA Congress 2010, being held July 7-9, 2010, in St. John's, NF.

CSBA
Congress
2010
Pavloff

Carried.

Further to a request from the SSBA, additional lobbying of the government for sufficient funding for education will be done by the Board.

Following the annual content review of Governance Process and Board-Management Delegation Policies, the content of these policies will then need to be reviewed only every three (3) years, with the exception of GP-7, Board and Committee Expenses, which will be reviewed on an annual basis.

Discussion was then held, as per GP-7, whether or not to increase indemnity and expense reimbursement rates. The current rates were set in 2005. Impact of the uncertainty of the level of funding to be received from the government on budgeting dollars was discussed and the Board agreed to not increase indemnities.

6. THAT Board Policy GP-7, Board and Committee Expenses, be approved as presented.

Policy GP-7
Howe

Carried.

Jim Shields, Superintendent of Finance, Administration and Planning, joined the meeting at 10:00 a.m.

7. THAT the Board support the submission of a B-3 to the Ministry of Education to award the tender for the Stobart Community School project to Dominion Construction for the tender bid of \$18,708,329.00

B-3
Submission -
Stobart
Wagner

Carried.

School Reports:

Laura Prefontaine highlighted Pike Lake's focus on the reading comprehension goal because of the students' oral needs. There is an EA in every class and this has allowed increased counselling time. They are looking forward to year-end to see how their focused efforts have impacted the students.

Audrey Kampen and Bruce Mellesmoen reported on Langham Elementary's efforts in improving understanding of mathematics, with a focus on problem-solving. A math evening for parents was held and was extremely well received, so this will be done again with Trish Reeve. Audrey Kampen advised that the new school year calendar with regular early dismissals on Thursday has resulted in the school organizing a weekly community-wide walk following every lunch and has been a very positive activity for the school.

Jim Shields left the meeting at 10:52 a.m.

Bryan Wilson, Chairperson, and Larry Huber, Executive Director, of the Public Section of the Saskatchewan School Boards Association, joined the meeting at 11:00 a.m.

An in-depth discussion followed and good ideas and strategies were shared. It was agreed that most importantly the process continue to be respectful and diplomatic, and that the message that a public system is an inclusive system be conveyed. It was agreed that this item should be a standing item on Board agendas in order to receive regular updates.

The Board adjourned for lunch at 12:03 p.m.

Bryan Wilson, Larry Huber, Audrey Kampen, Bruce Mellesmoen, Laura Prefontaine, Heather Shockey and Sharon Compton left the meeting at 12:40 p.m.

The Board reconvened at 12:43 p.m.

8. THAT the required approvals agenda be approved as presented.

Required
Approvals
Wieler

Carried.

Report of Board performance in relation to Policy GP-8, Code of Conduct, was presented by Larry Pavloff. Larry addressed Section 4 and questioned what the legalities are if the code of conduct is breached and how “issues of a sensitive nature” are determined. With respect to Section 6.3, Larry questioned whether this related to negative and/or positive comments made to staff by a Board member. If it relates to both, is that what we want it to mean? Suggested a change in wording for “employees of the Director” to “employees of Prairie Spirit School Division”. Larry also questioned how Section 10 might be monitored and felt that “shall” was a strong word. With respect to Section 6.1, a couple of particular situations and how best to handle those situations were discussed.

Report of Board performance in relation to Policy GP-9, Investment in Governance was presented by Bonnie Hope. Bonnie advised that, as a recently elected Board Member, she found access to election information was readily available. She stated that both Andrew Bergen and Evelyn Novak do a good job in including and updating new Board Members. Bonnie believes Section 2.3 is still a bit of struggle, but continues to be a work in progress. Questions arose whether student performance should be measured when monitoring board performance and whether or not Section 4. or Policy BMD-2, Accountability of the Director of Education, covered this, as well as whether or not the outcome of the Ends should be an added line to this policy.

Pam Wieler left the meeting at 1:16 p.m.

Report of Board performance in relation to Policy BMD-2, Accountability of the Director of Education, was presented by Larry Pavloff. Larry questioned how “reasonable is determined and felt there was much room for interpretation in this policy.

9. THAT the meeting be adjourned at 1:47 p.m. The next meeting to be held on Monday, January 18, 2010, at 9:00 a.m., at the Prairie Spirit School Division Office, in Warman.

Adjourn
Bergen

Carried.

Chairperson

Superintendent of Finance,
Administration and Planning