

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, March 1, 2010, commencing at 9:00 a.m.

Present for the meeting were Board Members: Andrew Bergen; Sam Dyck; Lorraine Greyeyes; Joan Heath; Bonnie Hope; Louis LeDoux; Larry Pavloff; Cathy Taylor; Keith Wagner; Pam Wieler; Gerald Yausie; Greg Tebay, Principal, and Glenn Key, Vice Principal, Osler School; Alvin Kolach, Principal, and Jon Yellowlees, Vice Principal, Prairie View School; Sharon Compton, Superintendent of Schools and Learning; Noel Roche, Superintendent of Schools and Learning; Evelyn Novak, Director of Education; Brenda Erickson, Communications Consultant; and Nadine Meister, Assistant to the Director.

Absent: Bernie Howe

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

1. THAT an excused absence be granted to Bernie Howe for February 23, 2010 and March 1, 2010.

Excused
Absence
Bergen

Carried.

2. THAT the agenda be adopted as presented.

Agenda
Yausie

Carried.

3. THAT the February 23, 2010, minutes be adopted as presented.

Minutes
Dyck

Carried.

The Board participate in a PD activity led by Joan Heath discussing trends in education.

Greg Tebay provided some school news from Osler School. Osler School is the only K-9 school in the division. The school has more of an elementary school feel to it and the middle-years students have had a good chance to step up as leaders. The staff is focusing on math curriculum and utilizing school-based PD days to expand on that, as well as the use of technology and inquiry-based learning to increase student engagement and satisfaction. Code of Conduct was reviewed with SCC and included input from parents, staff and students. Draft is being presented to staff. Overall, Greg complimented his amazing staff and stated they have a nice balance of experienced teachers and new teachers.

Jon Yellowlees advised that Prairie View School is focusing on student engagement by teaching virtues and creating grade level partners. Jon stated he is pleased to see how the virtues have been "hitting the playground". Jon also highlighted some interesting partnerships with the community, including a speech arts workshop, mini Olympics, a curling bonspiel and a Kindergarten parents night.

The Board will have time on the agenda at the SCC Spring Assembly being held on March 16, 2010, at Warman High School. The topics to be presented by the Chair:

- brief overview of Board's role
- importance of having community members engaged enough to be on an SCC
- importance of grass roots advocacy

Committee Reports:

Advocacy – Brenda Erickson outlined advocacy efforts to date with respect to situation in Warman.

Home-Based Educators Liaison – Bonnie Hope advised that the committee met on January 7th. Advised that HBE Program Coordinator has held some very successful workshops. Discussion was held on utilization of distance education opportunities and the opportunity for a debate program. The fact that HBE bursary has not seen an increase since 2006 continues to be a topic of discussion.

LINC – Larry Pavloff stated prep time is still a hot topic and will continue to be discussed at their meeting on March 2nd.

Partnership – Louis LeDoux and Pam Wieler advised that Aboriginal Educational Development met with Kihitwam for the first time and they are looking forward to making some good connections.

Stobart Schools Building Project – Keith Wagner attended a progress meeting on February 26th. Some delays have occurred due to piling issues. Day-care and adult education areas are still on schedule to be completed in time for fall.

Career Development Action Team – Gerald Yausie emailed a document to Board members. Board members were asked to keep the document confidential as it is not yet final.

Professional Support (Calendar) – Evelyn Novak advised the committee has met once. A sub-committee is developing options and will bring those back to the full committee on March 10th. PSTA, CUPE and non-union support staff representatives are working on a procedure to provide support staff with an opportunity for input on the calendar. The PSTA has taken a strong leadership role in this area and it is appreciated by the Division.

With respect to SSBA business, Gerald Yausie received several comments and concerns from Board members with respect to the branding exercise. Gerald will take these comments and concerns back to the Public Section.

4. THAT the Board table content review of Board of Education Policy GP-10 Board Linkage with Ownership until March 29, 2010.

Policy GP-10
Wieler

Carried.

5. THAT the Board affirm Board of Education Policy GP-11 – Board Linkage with other Organizations.

Policy GP-11
Wagner

Carried.

Discussion with respect to the format of the Annual General Meeting in Warman on March 23, 2010, followed. Gerald Yausie will chair and the Board agreed to keep the meeting focused.

The Board adjourned for lunch at 12:06 p.m.

Greg Tebay, Glenn Key, Alvin Kolach, Jon Yellowlees, Sharon Compton and Noel Roche left the meeting at 12:52 p.m.

The Board reconvened at 12:53 p.m.

6. THAT the Board affirm Board of Education Policy EL-1 – Treatment of Students and Parents/Guardians.

Policy EL-1
Wagner

Carried.

7. THAT the Board affirm Board of Education Policy EL-4 – Financial Condition and Activities.

Policy EL-4
Wieler

Carried.

8. THAT the Board affirm Board of Education Policy EL-8 – Emergency Executive Succession.

Policy EL-8
Taylor

Carried.

9. THAT the Board amend Board of Education Policy EL-10 – Transportation by adding “student safety” as 3.2(1) and renumbering the existing four points:

Policy EL-10
Wieler

“3.2 Provide transportation within an urban community without consideration of the following criteria:

- 1) student safety,
- 2) major highway running through the town that would create unsafe conditions for walking,
- 3) a major railway or railway crossing creating unsafe conditions for walking,
- 4) a distance of greater than 1.0 kilometres from the school; and,
- 5) no school in the town.”

Carried.

Nadine Meister left the meeting at 1:45 p.m. Brenda Erickson took minutes.

10. THAT the Board approve the required approvals agenda as presented.

Required Approvals
Wieler

Carried.

Bernie Howe was to provide a report on GP-12 – Board Planning Cycle and Agenda Control. As Bernie was not in attendance, the Board took turns reporting on their performance. As Chair, Andrew Bergen stated that it has been helpful to have an agenda cycle. Items come back in a cyclical way and no gaps are left.

Cathy Taylor provided a report on the Board’s performance with respect to Board of Education Policy GP-13 – Governance Succession Planning. Cathy reported the Board is doing a good job, but can always improve. Cathy cited many different ways in which the Board is developing linkage with owners. There was some discussion on the improving the publication of location of elections polls with respect to board member elections.

Louis LeDoux provided a report on the Board’s performance with respect to Board of Education Policy BMD-3 – Delegation to the Director of Education. Louis reported that the Board is working within the parameters set out in this policy.

11. THAT the Board go into closed session at 2:15 p.m.

Closed
Session
Wagner

Carried.

12. THAT the Board return from closed session at 2:35 p.m.

Closed
Session

Dyck

Carried.

As the Horizon School Division representatives are able to attend the Board of Education meeting scheduled for March 29th, the March 22, 2010, meeting is cancelled.

9. THAT the meeting be adjourned at 2:42 p.m. The next meeting to be held on Monday, March 29, 2010, at 9:00 a.m., at the Prairie Spirit School Division Office, in Warman.

Adjourn
Wieler

Carried.

Chairperson

Superintendent of Finance,
Administration and Planning