

WILD ROSE SCHOOL DIVISION
REGULAR BOARD MEETING
TUESDAY, DECEMBER 15, 2020

To improve the life chances of ALL students

A Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Wild Rose School Division was held electronically on Tuesday, December 15, 2020, commencing at 9:33 am.

Present:

Chair, Russ Hickman
Trustees, Julie Andrew, Mae Tryon, Heidi Hetherington,
Gary Thompson
Superintendent, Brad Volkman
Deputy Superintendent, Greg Wedman
Secretary-Treasurer, Ama Urbinsky
Recording Secretary, Dawn Beeman

Trustee, Daryl Scott joined the meeting at 12:30 pm

ATA representative Mike Wheeler and CAAMSE representative Deb Goddard joined the meeting at 9:33 am.

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

115/20 **Moved by Julie Andrew:**
“that the December 15, 2020 Regular Board Meeting agenda be adopted as presented.”

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

ADOPTION OF MINUTES

116/20 **Moved by Heidi Hetherington:**
“that the following minutes be adopted as presented;
- Minutes of the Regular Board Meeting held on November 24, 2020.”

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

ACTION ITEMS

TRUSTEE MONTHLY EXPENSE / ACTIVITY FORM

117/20 **Moved by Mae Tryon:**
“that the Trustee Expense / Activity Forms be approved as presented.”

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

POLICY COMMITTEE REVIEW / FINAL APPROVAL

118/20 **Moved by Julie Andrew :**
“that the Board of Trustees approve all of the amendments made to the following policies as presented; and one additional amendment in Policy 20 where First Nation, Metis and Inuit will be replaced with Indigenous;
Draft Policy 2 - Role of the Board
Draft Policy 2 - Appendix A - Board Self Evaluation
Draft Policy 2 - Appendix C - Naming of Facilities
Draft Policy 20 - Welcoming, Caring, Respectful and Safe Learning and Working Environments.”

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

LETTERS OF SUPPORT FOR CLEARWATER COUNTY

119/20

Moved by Julie Andrew:

"that the Board approve a letter confirming that Wild Rose School Division supports Clearwater County's Broadband Internet Project which aims to deliver high speed Internet connectivity throughout the county. The Board also approves a letter of support indicating that if the population warranted re-opening a school in Nordegg, this project would be a mutual benefit."

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

ELECTIONS - SUBSTITUTE RETURNING OFFICER

120/20

Moved by Mae Tryon:

"In relation to the General Election to be held on October 18, 2021, it is recommended that the Board of Trustees approve the following:

1. That Ama Urbinsky be appointed as the Returning Officer and Dawn Beeman as the substitute Returning Officer.
2. That Melissa Rowe-Lyle and Linda Songer be appointed as the Deputy Returning Officers for the General Election in 2021."

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

INFORMATION ITEMS

- Superintendent's Report: Early Learning, Provincial COVID-19 Measures and Mandatory Shifts in Learning
- 2019-2020 Accountability Report: Student Services
 - This was a combined report with Early Learning and Assistive Technology. Highlights of the year were shared by the Director of Student Services, the Student Services Coordinator and the Assistive Technology Coordinator.
- Superintendent's Report Continued: Alberta School Athletic Association Hall of Fame Award, New Curriculum update
- Secretary Treasurer's Report: Trustee Remuneration Report, Monthly Fiscal Report
- Board Oversight and Re-Entry Measurables

The Honourable Mr. Jason Nixon, MLA for Rimbev, Rocky, Sundre joined the meeting at 11:00 am.

The Board enjoyed a candid conversation with our MLA, Jason Nixon regarding the need for financial support in education for wellness programs. In WRSD, our family wellness programs are funded one third each by the town, county and school board. Our third comes directly out of instructional dollars, but it is an essential part of our education plans. If we ever lost the contributing funds from our partners, our wellness program would be in jeopardy.

Trustees asked Mr. Nixon to recognize that the weighted moving average funding model has the capacity to negatively impact our future funding; this year our enrollment is an anomaly due to Covid-19 and many families choosing home schooling. We anticipate most of these students will return for the next school year, however, our funding will have already been significantly reduced due to this year's significantly lower enrollment numbers. We would like the government to hold harmless this year's enrollment from the weighted moving average for funding. The government is committed to the new funding formula, and they believe it is a better way of funding education for rural school boards.

The Board and Mr. Nixon discussed regulation concerns regarding the choice in Education Act and the recent Transportation Task Force recommendations. We have had significant success with transportation agreements with our neighbouring school divisions. All school boards should be on an even playing field regarding transportation, regardless of the number of kilometers a

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division has to travel. Transportation should not be used as a competitive edge by offering in town busing, nor should it hinder parents making a choice in education that is most appropriate for them. The Education Minister is reviewing the information provided by the task force panel, but has not provided any timeline for the recommendations to be made public.

The Board also took this opportunity to express our gratitude to Mr. Nixon and the government's support of our capital plans that has resulted in several new replacement schools in our division. These capital plans have allowed Wild Rose School Division to meet our community needs, while achieving proper utilization rates of our schools, which contributes to providing powerful learning opportunities for all of our students.

The board was very appreciative of Mr. Nixon's time and his willingness to commit to finding solutions.

Meeting recessed for lunch at 12:01 pm

Meeting reconvened at 12:32 pm

INFORMATION ITEMS - CONTINUED

- Board Oversight and Re-Entry Measurables
- IMR Expenditures Plan for 2020-2021 School Year

BOARD ITEMS

Committee Reports

- Zone 4 ASBA Report - Trustee Tryon let us know that the next meeting will be in January.
- RYSE Report - Dr. Unger will be presenting to DV and area, a workshop over zoom sponsored by FCSS.

CLOSED SESSION

121/20

Moved by Mae Tryon:

"that the Board of Trustees now (1:19pm) meet in closed session to deal with the following items:

- HR Update
- Drayton Valley Replacement School
- WRSD Capital Plan

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Trustee, Gary Thompson left the meeting at 1:30 pm and returned at 2:00 pm

122/20

Moved by Daryl Scott:

"that the Board of Trustees now (3:03 pm) meet in open session."

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

ADJOURNMENT

123/20

Moved by Gary Thompson:

"that the Regular Board Meeting of December 15, 2020, be adjourned at (3:04 pm)"

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Russ Hickman
Chair

Ama Urbinsky
Secretary Treasurer