

Public Schools Branch
Thirty-Second Public Board of Directors Meeting
December 10, 2020

Minutes

The Board of Directors for the Public Schools Branch met on Thursday, December 10, 2020 virtually via Webex.

Present: Bethany MacLeod, Board Chair
Mary Jane Ready
Norman Beck

Also in Attendance:

Norbert Carpenter, Acting Director of Public Schools Branch
Erin Johnston, Assistant Director
Becky Chaisson, Director of Corporate Services
Dave Gillis, Director of Transportation, Risk Management and RIM
Karen Redmond, Manager of Policy and Planning
Kelly Drummond, Director of Human Resources, Corporate Planning and Principal Support
Terri MacAdam, Director of Student Services
Janet Perry-Payne, EAL Program Administrator
Sheri Gauthier, Confidential Board Secretary
Sparrow McGowan, Senior Communications Officer

1. CALL TO ORDER AND WELCOME

The meeting was called to order at 3:32 p.m. Board Chair MacLeod welcomed all in attendance.

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

12/10/01 It was moved by Norman Beck and seconded by Bethany MacLeod that the agenda be approved. Motion carried.

3. MINUTES OF THE OCTOBER 7, 2020 BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

12/10/02 It was moved by Norman Beck and seconded by Bethany MacLeod that the minutes of the October 7, 2020 Board of Directors Meeting be adopted as presented. Motion carried.

3.1 BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

No business to report at this time.

4. ACTING DIRECTORS' REPORT

(The complete Directors' Report will be filed with the official minutes).

Acting Director, Norbert Carpenter shared the following report.

It is difficult to believe that we are three months into the school year at this point. We are very fortunate to live and work in this province. From the outset of the pandemic, we at the PSB have been of the mindset that the optimal model of education during these uncertain times is full-time, in person learning. Therefore, we are very grateful that we have been able to continue with this model for the past three months.

During the past three months we have been extremely proud of our students and all staff within the Public Schools Branch. For all intents and purposes, teaching and learning has normalized since school reconvened in September. Furthermore, we are now experiencing the return of band programs, interscholastic sports, school-based clubs and activities and the return to community use of facilities.

We have successfully held our first round of parent teacher interviews and have issued the school year's initial report cards. Also, various professional development sessions have been held for staff. Currently, our enrollment sits at 19,552 which represents a decrease of 138 from this time last year.

COVID-19 has added significant emotional, logistical and financial stress to our system. Consequently, we continue to collaborate with all stakeholders to ensure safe and positive working and learning conditions. We are very fortunate to have forged positive relationships with the Department of Education and Lifelong Learning, the Chief Public Health Office, the Teachers Federation, CUPE and others such as, the provincial home and school association. The past two weeks have been particularly challenging as we experienced our first case in a school. Our planning efforts were put to the test. Despite significant challenges, we were able to work with our partners to ensure teaching and learning continued at Charlottetown Rural High School. Nevertheless, lessons will be learned from this initial experience and tweaks and adjustments made.

Amidst it all, however, there is always good news. Schools continue to pursue unique and engaging educational activities.

Charlottetown Rural High School, for example, runs an Outdoor Classroom Project. The space includes an orchard, raised garden beds, walking and running trails and a wetland - all to support a range of learning outcomes.

A similar project was undertaken at L.M. Montgomery, where students in Grades 4 and 5 helped to plant a variety of plants and 100 trees on their property in conjunction with Tree Canada. The new space will serve as a gathering place for small groups of students and classes.

At M.E. Callaghan School, each cohort of students formed a letter of the word kindness for an aerial photograph to mark Bullying Prevention Week. Together, they pledged to be kind to one another.

Finally, at West Royalty Elementary, music teachers got creative with COVID-19 adaptations. They taught students how to sign O Canada in sign language, instead of singing it.

We are looking forward to the weeks and months ahead and want to wish everyone a safe and relaxing holiday season.

5. CHARLOTTETOWN AREA HIGH SCHOOLS UPDATE

5.1 It was moved by Norman Beck and seconded by Mary Jane Ready that there shall be no regularly scheduled classes, with the exception of individual programming which has been approved by the school principal in consultation with the Public Schools Branch, held at Charlottetown Rural High School, Colonel Gray High School or Bluefield High School from December 7, 2020 to December 18, 2020, inclusive, and that, the Public Schools Branch Board of Directors, or their delegate, shall review this notice on, or before, December 21, 2020 or on the advice or recommendation of the Chief Public Health Officer. Motion carried.

5.2 It was moved by Norman Beck and seconded by Mary Jane Ready that the Board of Directors for the Public Schools Branch authorizes the Director of the Public Schools Branch to cancel classes at any school operated by the Public Schools Branch under subsection 5(b) of the *Education Act School Calendar Regulations* where there is a significant risk to the health, safety or well-being of the students of other persons on school premises. The Public Schools Branch Board of Directors shall review this delegation on, or before, June 30, 2021 or on the advice or recommendation of the Chief Public Health Officer. Motion carried.

Karen Redmond, Manager of Policy and Planning, added that due to the current state of public health emergency, it may be the interest of the Board to delegate the Director of the Public Schools Branch to cancel classes on the Board's behalf.

6. PSB DIVISIONAL DIRECTOR'S UPDATE

The Directors of the Public Schools Branch provided divisional updates.

7. FINANCIAL INVOICES

Becky Chaisson, Director of Corporate Services, presented the following invoices for approval.

7.1 Invoice #320589 Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)

It was moved by Norman Beck and seconded by Mary Jane Ready that invoice #320589 dated October 29, 2020 for Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) supplies be approved as presented. Motion carried.

7.2 Invoice #320835 Automobile Premiums for 2020-2021

It was moved by Mary Jane Ready and seconded by Norman Beck that invoice #320835 dated November 9, 2020 for automobile premiums for 2020-2021 be approved as presented. Motion carried.

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7.3 Invoice #320850 Liability Premiums for 2020-2021

It was moved by Mary Jane Ready and seconded by Norman Beck that invoice #320850 dated November 9, 2020 for liability premiums for 2020-2021 be approved as presented. Motion carried.

7.4 Invoice #320856 Property Premiums for 2020-2021

It was moved by Mary Jane Ready and seconded by Norman Beck that invoice #320856 dated November 9, 2020 for property premiums for 2020-2021 be approved as presented. Motion carried.

8. OTHER BUSINESS

No new business at this time.

9. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 4:44 p.m.