

**BUFFALO TRAIL PUBLIC SCHOOLS**

Wednesday, March 17, 2021

The regular meeting of the Board of Trustees of Buffalo Trail Public Schools was held in the Administration Building Boardroom on Wednesday, March 17, 2021.

**PRESENT:**

Chair: Lanie Parr

Trustees: Darcy Eddleston, Rose Gorniak, Bruce Marriott, Marie Isaman, Barry Livingston, Jim King, Stephanie Spornitz and Sheldon Archibald (all attended via video)

Administration: Rhae-Ann Holoien, Superintendent, Michelle Webb, Deputy Superintendent, James Trodden, Assistant Superintendent Faye Dunne, Recording Secretary

Absent: Bob Brown, Secretary Treasurer

**A. CALL TO ORDER:**

Board Chair Parr called the meeting to order at 9:31 a.m.

The Board Chair shared a Treaty 6 Acknowledgement

**B. APPROVAL OF AGENDA:**

The Chair asked for any additions to the agenda.

**J. NEW BUSINESS:**

- Letter and Impact Statement from the County of Vermilion River
- Student Fatality STAR Catholic School Division

21-037 **SPORNITZ: Moves that the agenda be approved as amended.**

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

**C. MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING**

21-038 **SPORNITZ: That the Minutes of the regular meeting held February 17, 2021 be accepted as amended.**

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

21-039 **LIVINGSTON: That the Minutes of the public meeting held February 25, 2021 be accepted as presented.**

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

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**E. IN-CAMERA:**

21-040 **KING: That the meeting move In-Camera.**  
**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

Deputy Superintendent, Webb, Assistant Superintendent, Trodden and Recording Secretary, Dunne were in attendance.

21-041 **EDDLESTON: That the meeting come out of In-Camera.**  
**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

**F. COMMITTEE/DEPARTMENT REPORTS:**

**1. Finance:**

- Cheque Lists Dated; February 26, March 15, 2021
- Accounts Payable Cheque Lists Dated; February 19, 25, 26, March 15, 2021
- Manual Cheques Issued Dated: February 17 to March 10, 2021
- February 28, 2021 Cash Flow Statement

Assistant Treasurer Vivian Locher reviewed the cheque lists with the Board. Nadeem Altaf joined the meeting with Vivian Locher.

21-042 **GORNIAK: Moves that the accounts payable cheque lists for the period ending March 15, 2021 beginning and ending with cheques #131087 to #131254 and automated payments for the period ending March 15, 2021 beginning and ending with #800019646 to #800019796 and manual cheques issued #700001114 to #700001120 be received for information.**  
**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

- February, 2021 Cash Flow Statements

21-043 **KING: Moves that the Board accept the February 28, 2021 Cash Flow Statement for information.**  
**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

**2. Transportation:**

- Bus Route Amalgamations

21-044 **EDDLESTON: Moves that the Board approve the amalgamation of bus routes in the Innisfree area as presented by the Director of Transportation effective the 2021-2022 school year.**

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

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**2. Transportation Cont.:**

**21-045 LIVINGSTON: Moves that the Board approve the amalgamation of bus routes in the Marwayne area as presented by the Director of Transportation effective the 2021-2022 school year.**

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

**G. SUPERINTENDENT'S DEPARTMENT**

**1. Superintendent's Report:**

- Enrolment Reports
- Public Library Meeting Minutes
- Public Library Agreement 2021-2026
- BTPS 2020/2021 Education Plan and 2019/2020 Annual Education Results Report Letter

- Enrolment Reports

The information was shared with the Board.

- Public Library Meeting Minutes

The information was shared with the Board.

- Public Library Agreement 2021-2026

**21-046 MARRIOTT: Moves that the Board accept the joint use library agreement to be implemented by all private library boards for the term 2021-2026.**

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

- BTPS 2020/2021 Education Plan and 2019/2020 Annual Education Results Report Letter

The information was shared with the Board. BTPS Senior Administration had a very productive and positive meeting with the Alberta Education Senior Manager in January.

**2. Deputy Superintendent's Report:**

- Staffing Reports

**21-047 SPORNITZ: Moves that the Board accept the Teacher and Support Staff Reports as presented for information.**

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

**H. Business Arising from Minutes:**

The letters were reviewed.

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**J. NEW BUSINESS:**

- Secretary Treasurer Appointment
- County of Vermilion River Request to Meet
  
- Secretary Treasurer Appointment

The Board is pleased that Nadeem Altaf is joining BTPS.

**21-048 GORNIAK: Moves that the Board appoint Nadeem Altaf as the Secretary Treasurer of Buffalo Trail Public Schools effective April 1, 2021.**

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

- County of Vermilion River Request to Meet

Trustees Marriot, Eddleston, Spornitz, Parr and Superintendent Holoien will attend. Direction was given to find out additional details of the meeting.

**D. PETITIONS AND DELEGATIONS:**

- Laurie Hopaluk

Board Chair Parr welcomed Laurie Hopaluk to the online meeting and there was a round of introductions. Laurie Hopaluk told the Board that she is a parent of 2 students and active community member of Clandonald. Bruce Pugh, principal of Clandonald School joined the meeting. Laurie thanked the Board for the warm welcome and shared an Irish blessing. Laurie Hopaluk shared her concerns and challenges of the formal process of the school review and how it could be better in the future. She shared that the zoom meeting worked well however it was challenging to be at home with small children. Ms. Hopaluk shared that she did not feel supported through the process and felt the process was not transparent and the importance of communication. Lastly, she shared that she feels that much good that can come with a partnership. The Board thanked Laurie for her feedback.

- Leith Matthews

Leith Matthews joined the meeting and started her presentation by telling the Board that she is a parent with 3 children attending the Clandonald School. Leith Matthews talked about the agricultural program proposal that was previously presented to the Board and was looking for some feedback from the Board. The Board shared that research was done by administration and by individuals. The Board shared there are some very unique opportunities and some challenges. Ms. Matthews gave credit to community members who also prepared and shared information. The Board shared that some were able to hear the Prairie Principal presentation. Leith said that she was impressed and thankful that the Board looked into this.

**D. PETITIONS AND DELEGATIONS Cont.:**

Leith also shared information from community meetings that have been held, telling the Board that those at the meetings were very excited for the possibility of a program like Altario. Leith Matthews also spoke about bussing in the area and asked if students could be bussed into Clandonald from Vermilion as the school is not being used to capacity. The Board shared school of choice is every parent's choice in Alberta. The Board thanked Leith for all the innovative ideas and taking time to present. Leith Matthews thanked the Board for considering change.

**21-049 KING: That the board meeting recess for lunch.**

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

The meeting reconvened at 1:02 p.m. in the Boardroom with all Trustees present.

**3. Assistant Superintendent's Report**

- Alternative Learning Program

Assistant Superintendent Trodden shared information with the Board regarding streamlining current programming under one program and development of BTPS learning materials. The Board had a thorough discussion and asked questions for additional understanding.

**21-050 MARRIOTT: Move to postpone any decision regarding the Alternate Learning Centre until after the March 31, 2021 budget information from Alberta Education.**

**CARRIED**

**J. NEW BUSINESS Cont.:**

- Secretary Treasurer Appointment
- County of Vermilion River Request to Meet
- Clandonald School Letters/Emails re; Board Review of Clandonald School
  - o Kaitlyn Snider
  - o Tammy Peterson
  - o Ron Harasiuk
  - o Carolyn Deford
  - o Jenni Popescul
  - o Stacey Nelson
  - o Leith Matthews
  - o Anita Dutchak
  - o Carrie Gallop
  - o Susanne Martin
  - o Denise Martin
  - o Twyla Quickstad
  - o Curtis Brodwin
  - o Heather Oddan

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**J. NEW BUSINESS Cont. :**

- o Lyle and Yvette Lawrence
- o Jade McCormack
- o Marjori Lawrence, Clandonald Friendship Centre
- o Mark Schommer
- o Clandonald Agricultural Society Executive & Directors
- o Twyla Quickstad
- o Rob and Idella Matthews
- o Clandonald 4-H Multiclub
- o Bruce and Darlene Goldsmith re; Transportation Area
- o Vermilion and Area Brighter Beginnings
- o Midwest Family Connections
- o Carrie Goldsmith re; Transportation Area
- Additional Information re; Clandonald School
  - o Vermilion is Being Empowered (VIBE) Letter
  - o Shelby Rowein - Rural Development Network
  - o Angela Irvine Consulting
  - o Kaitlyn Snider re; French Immersion and Follow-up Letter
  - o Heather Oddan Requests/Concerns/Ideas
  - o Bonnie Martin - Clandonald Agriculture School
  - o Tracy Snider Email and Agriculture School Proposal
  - o Twyla Quickstad re; Presentations and Prairie Principal
  - o Clandonald Vision Board
- County of Vermilion River Letter and Impact Statement
- Student Fatality at STAR Catholic
  
- Clandonald School Letters/Emails re; Board Review of Clandonald School
  
- County of Vermilion River Letter and Impact Statement

The information was shared with the Board. The Board had an opportunity to review the plans of the County of Vermilion River with regard to Clandonald and are appreciative of the work of the CVR. The Board and County continue to have some of the same concerns regarding rural challenges.

- Student Fatality

The Board shared its sadness regarding the death of a Leduc student.

**21-051 EDDLESTON: Moves that the Board send a card of support and flowers with condolences to the Board of Trustees of STAR Catholic for the tragic loss of the student at Christ the King School.**

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

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**J. NEW BUSINESS Cont.:**

- Clandonald School Continued

**21-052 MARRIOTT: Moves that the Board close the Clandonald School effective June 30, 2021.**

**CARRIED**

The Board Chair shared that the Board had an opportunity to review all of the information and letters from the community. The Trustees individually shared their feelings, several factors and reasoning on how they would vote on the motion. There was a thorough discussion of the motion. Some considerations noted were that there was no concern with the education being provided to the students of Clandonald, however the change in the funding model for schools under 35 students and lack of enrollment growth were factors. Trustees also noted they must consider the entire division into their decision. The Board was appreciative of the support of the community for the school. The Board realizes the decision is a difficult one and are hopeful the reimagining of the community of Clandonald will continue.

Appeals; none

**K. TRUSTEE REPORTS:**

- ASBA - Trustee Marriott shared that there was another learning day at ASBA Zone 2/3. He told the Board that the ASBA Library and Learning Centre has many resources and videos available. Of note information on trustee elections and social media are very good. Dr. Abboud is looking into sharing information with municipalities. There will be a session on bylaws for Zone 2/3. MNP did some rewording of bylaws and the membership will address again this Friday. The Minister of Education wasn't able to attend the last meeting but will be there March 26<sup>th</sup> at 8am.

Lanie joining the diversity group from JRR to hear what they are working on.

Direction was given for the Board Secretary to share one of the ASBA resource videos at the Committee meeting in April.

- PSBC - Vice Chair Spornitz shared that at this time there was no new information. There are a few professional development events coming up. The PSBAA member portal is now active. Next meeting of the council is in April.
- RCASB - No news. The Executive will meet at the end of the month to finalize the next meeting agenda. There is a lot of focus on mental health.
- TEBA - no update.

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**L. TRUSTEE READINGS:**

- None

**M. INFORMATION ITEMS:**

The information was reviewed.

**N. COMMUNICATION STRATEGY**

- Alberta Education Letter re; AERR
- Further Investigation on the Alternative Learning Program
- Welcome to New Secretary-Treasurer Nadeem Altaf
- Bus Amalgamations
- Clandonald
- Library Agreements

**21-053 KING: That the board meeting adjourn.**

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

Time: 3:35 pm hours (15:35PM)

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Board Chair

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Recording Secretary