

BUFFALO TRAIL PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Wednesday, March 16, 2022

The regular meeting of the Board of Trustees of Buffalo Trail Public Schools was held in the Communiplex Hall 1 on Wednesday, March 16, 2022.

PRESENT:

Chair: Stephanie Spornitz

Trustees: Barry Livingston, Jim King, Kara Jackson, Tanya Ford, David Bensmiller, Stephanie Cooper, and Darla Yonkman

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

Absent:

A. CALL TO ORDER:

Board Chair Spornitz called the meeting to order at 9:34 a.m.

The Board Chair shared a Treaty Acknowledgement

B. APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

Board Chair Spornitz asked for any additions to the agenda.

New Business - WHS Request
In-Camera - 1 Item

22-040 **KING: Moves that the agenda be approved as amended.**
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

C. MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING

22-041 **YONKMAN: That the Minutes of the Regular Meeting held February 16, 2022, be accepted as amended.**
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

E. IN-CAMERA:

22-042 **BENSMILLER: That the meeting move In-Camera at 9:41am.**
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

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

22-043 **LIVINGSTON: That the meeting come out of In-Camera at 10.31am.**
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Page two of the Minutes of the March 16, 2022, meeting of The Board of Trustees of Buffalo Trail Public Schools

D. Petitions and Delegations

Eli Myhovich - Diversity and Inclusion

Eli Myhovich joined the meeting and there was a round of introductions. Ms. Myhovich started her presentation to the Board referencing Board Policy 202, Students' Rights and Responsibilities. She told the Board that she was here today to bring an awareness of racism. She told the Board that she had spoken at a meeting before about the lack of multiculturalism in the draft curriculum. She shared several suggestions and opportunities for consideration in our communities. The Board Chair shared information regarding the dispute resolution process and thanked Ms. Myhovich for coming forward to share her information.

E. IN-CAMERA:

**22-044 FORD: That the meeting move In-Camera at 10:50am.
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

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

**22-045 KING: That the meeting come out of In-Camera at 11:17am.
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

Student Engagement - Perseverance and Resilience

Assistant Superintendent Trodden welcomed students from Wainwright Elementary, Dewberry and Hughenden Schools to the meeting. Board Chair Spornitz introduced herself and the rest of the Board members and Senior Administration. Each school took turns answering 3 questions on the topic of Perseverance and Resilience, 1) Why is perseverance and resilience helpful in school? 2) How does your school help you with perseverance and resilience? and 3) What would you wish for to help with perseverance and resilience?

Some of the feedback shared included, resilience is the ability to take a blow and stand back up and if you have resilience, you can persevere, the more you practice the easier it is, perseverance helps with learning. School staff help by making us feel comfortable even in a pandemic and school keeps us grounded. Tutorial classes and councilors help students. The Board Chair thanked the students for sharing and connecting with the Board.

2. Ad Hoc Insurance Committee:

- Update

The committee agreed to meet and prepare some final information to bring back to the Board.

22-046 KING: That the board meeting recess for lunch.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

The meeting reconvened at 1:05p.m. in the room with all Trustees except Trustee Livingston in attendance.

F. COMMITTEE/DEPARTMENT REPORTS:

1. Finance:

- Cheque Lists Dated; February 15, 28, 2022
- Accounts Payable Cheque Lists Dated; February 15, 18, 25, 28, March 4, 8, 15, 2022
- Manual Cheques Issued Dated: February 2-28, 2022
- February 28, 2022 Cash Flow Statement
- Highlights of the Alberta Education Budget Speech (February 25, 2022)

Secretary Treasurer Altaf reviewed the cheque lists with the Board.

22-047 BENSMILLER: Moves that the accounts payable cheque lists for the period ending February 28, 2022, beginning, and ending with cheques #133010 to #133165 and automated payments for the period ending March 15, 2022 beginning and ending with #800021463 to #800021652 and manual cheques issued #700001272 to #700001291 be received for information.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

- February 28, 2022 Cash Flow Statement

22-048 COOPER: Moves that the Board accept the February 28, 2022 Cash Flow Statement for information.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

- Highlights of the Alberta Education Budget Speech (February 25, 2022)

The Secretary Treasurer reviewed the highlights of the provincial budget with the Board and what it potentially means for BTPS. He noted that there is concern for the additional government funds directed to expand charter schools, the decline in BTPS enrolment and the wage increment increase in the salary grid.

Page four of the Minutes of the March 16, 2022, meeting of The Board of Trustees of Buffalo Trail Public Schools

G. SUPERINTENDENT'S DEPARTMENT

1. Superintendent's Report:

- Enrolment Reports
- Superintendents Public Speaking Competition - Call for Judges
- BTPS International Women's Day 2022 Live Event
- Letter to Parents/Guardians - Updated COVID-19 Protocols - March 1, 2022

- Enrolment Reports

The information was shared with the Board.

- Superintendents Public Speaking Competition - Call for Judges

Trustees Cooper and Ford volunteered to be judges.

- BTPS International Women's Day 2022 Live Event

The information was shared

- Letter to Parents/Guardians - Updated COVID-19 Protocols - March 1, 2022

The information was shared with the Board. The Superintendent shared that the leadership team thanks the Board for its support in the measured approach to the updated COVID-19 protocols. Custodians continue to implement enhanced cleaning and school councils are still meeting online. There may be updates after Easter break.

Trustee Livingston rejoined the meeting 1:20pm

2. Deputy Superintendent's Report:

- Edwin Parr Update
- 2022 OH&S Audits

22-049 FORD: Moves that the Board receive the staffing report for information.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

- Edwin Parr Update

22-050 YONKMAN: Moves that the Board accept the Edwin Parr Committee's recommendation to nominate Austin Shaw, from Irma School, for the Alberta School Board Associations' Edwin Parr Award.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

- 2022 OH&S Audits

The Deputy Superintendent updated the Board on the OH&S Audits happening at schools throughout the division.

3. Assistant Superintendent Report:

- International Student Program Recommendation

22-051 BENS MILLER: Moves that the Board terminate the BTPS International Student Program.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

H. Business Arising from Minutes:

The information was shared with the Board. The board re-considered Bill-70 and how being included could be beneficial to school boards in consideration of insurance concerns.

22-052 COOPER: Moves that the Board write a letter in support of school boards being included in Bill-70.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

J. NEW BUSINESS:

- Trustee Vacancy
- Trustee Professional Development
- WHS Request for Support

- Trustee Vacancy

Board Chair Spornitz reviewed sections of the Education Act regarding trustee vacancies. The Board discussed the financial implications of a byelection, concerns of the electorate regarding representation, enrolment decline and the possibility of a ward review before the next election. For the interim, the Board will ensure there is representation for school council meetings and gather additional information regarding a byelection possibly in the fall. Trustees are to let the Board Chair know if they are available for meetings and events in Ward 4 Subdivision 3.

- Trustee Professional Development

The Board had a discussion regarding its next professional development opportunities. Several trustees indicated their interest in attending the PABAA and ASBA SGM conferences. The Board evaluation was also considered.

22-053 LIVINGSTON: Moves that the Board research facilitators and their availability for a Board evaluation for August.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

- WHS Request for Support

22-054 BENS MILLER: Moves that the Board support the request from Wainwright High School for a donation of \$1000 to help offset the costs of the Commandos Senior Boys Basketball team as they go to provincials for the first time.

CARRIED

K. TRUSTEE REPORTS:

- ASBA - Vice Chair Yonkman reported on the Zone 2/3 meeting she attended. Curriculum implementation and charter schools continue to be of importance to school boards. ASBA meets with government and take issues forward on behalf of Boards. Trustees are encouraged to check out the ASBA member website for resources and information.
- PSBAA/PSBC - Vice Chair Yonkman shared that there is a research paper on the PSBAA website regarding charter schools. ASBA and PSBAA both are focused on curriculum and charter schools, but they support and promote in different ways. The Board expressed its support for the Board Chair to attend the PSBC event on April 7th.
- TEBA - Board Chair Spornitz shared there are ongoing meetings but no update at this time.
- RCASB - Trustee King told the Board that the meeting was postponed to March 31, 2022.
- ARES - Trustee King shared an update from the Alberta Rural Education Symposium. On Sunday there were greetings from Minister of Education and several MLAs attended and shared a message. The meeting theme this year was 'Flourishing Rural School Communities'. The breakout session were very good and guest speakers gave good ideas.
- Trustee Jackson attended the U of A Crash Course on draft K-6 Curriculum. She shared it was interesting and there is a recording of it on the ATA website.

L. TRUSTEE READINGS:

Trustee Yonkman shared information regarding the book 'The Governance Core' and several Trustees and the Superintendent expressed interest in a book study. Trustee Yonkman is on the professional learning committee of PSBAA.

M. INFORMATION ITEMS:

The information was shared with the Board.

22-055 YONKMAN: Moves that the Board write a letter to the Minister of Education requesting further delaying the implementation of the K-6 curriculum.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Page seven of the Minutes of the March 16, 2022, meeting of The Board of Trustees of Buffalo Trail Public Schools

N. COMMUNICATION STRATEGY

- Edwin Parr Nominee
- Termination of the International Student Program
- Letter to the Minister re; Further Delay of K-6 Curriculum Implementation
- Student Engagement
- Superintendent Public Speaking Competition
- Preliminary budget information and charter school concerns.
- Provincial Sporting Achievements - Recognizing JR Robson, WHS, EH Walter, Irma Sports Teams

Assistant Superintendent Trodden left the meeting at 3:06pm.

AGENDA Items for Next Meeting

- None noted

Board Work Plan Items for the Next Board Meeting

- Superintendent's Public Speaking
- School Fees Review/Update
- Budget Guidelines Review
- Board meeting on 4th Wednesday, April 27, 2022

22-056 FORD: Moves that the meeting adjourn.

Time: 3:10 pm hours (15:10PM)

Board Chair

Recording Secretary