

# Beautiful Plains School Division

## REGULAR BOARD MEETING

### February 20, 2024

Present: Chairperson R. Manns, Vice Chairperson L. Biehn and Trustees K. Guillas, S. Kohinski, J. McNeily, R. Toews

Also Present: J. Young, K. Reynolds, S. Bayes

Regrets: G. Hunter

BPTA: M. Kolbe (Regular Meeting Only)

#### ***In Camera***

1. Superintendent's Confidential Report
  - a) New Vocational School Planning Update
  - b) Board Reflection
  - c) Maternity/Parental Leave Request
  - d) Contingency Funding Update
  
2. Secretary-Treasurer's Confidential Report
  - a) Portable Classroom Update
  - b) 2024/25 Budget Considerations
  - c) Staffing Recommendation

The Business Meeting was called to order at 5:17 p.m.

1. The agenda was approved as amended.
  
2. The minutes of the February 6, 2024 Regular Board meeting were approved as circulated.
  
3. Superintendent's Business Report
  - a) Irene Conde was employed as an educational assistant effective February 8, 2024 and assigned to J.M. Young School.
  
  - b) The request for maternity/parental leave from May 6, 2024 to September 2, 2025 as outlined in the Superintendent's Confidential Report item c) of this date was approved.
  
  - c) The within division school of choice request from Wendy Kaspick and Michael Baraniuk for their son Thomas Yuriy Baraniuk to attend Grade 4 at Hazel M Kellington School instead of J.M. Young School effective February 16, 2024 was approved.

- d) The Division will support the Western Manitoba Science Fair 2024 with a donation of \$250.<sup>00</sup>.

#### 4. Secretary-Treasurer's Business Report

- a) The lowest quotation from Powerland and Elco Systems for the 2024/25 purchase of desktops and monitors was approved.
- b) Brien Walsh was added to the spare bus driver list effective February 20, 2024.
- c) Jenelle Coutu was employed as a regular bus driver effective February 20, 2024.
- d) Staffing recommendation presented in-camera was approved.

#### 5. Other Reports

- a) MSBA – e-news February 7, 2024 was circulated. Lieutenant Governor's Award applications will be accepted until March 1, 2024. Manitoba Accessibility Fund provides access to grants for organizations. The Division applies for these grants when appropriate.
- b) MSBA – Executive Highlights for 5, 2024 were reviewed. Interim leader of the Manitoba Liberal Party, Cindy Lamoreux, attended the Executive meeting, CFO presented the association's draft budget and the executive reviewed the 2024 - 25 funding of schools announcement.
- c) MSBA – 2024 Resolutions Package – The procedures for debating, voting and amendments were reviewed. Housekeeping by-laws and proposed resolutions were also reviewed.
- d) MSBA – Distribution of board Ballots – Board determined the trustees who will receive board ballots. Ballots will be used when voting on by-laws and by-law amendments at the Annual Convention.
- e) MSBA – National School Food Program Advocacy Template - MSBA presented a template that can be tailored to divisional support for this program. Trustees indicated their support to send this advocacy letter.

#### 6. Superintendent's Information and Correspondence

- a) Article – "Class Size Data to go Online this Fall" – This article regarding keeping class sizes down to 20 students per class and to report class size was reviewed. Class sizes for all our classes in Kindergarten to Grade 3 was provided to the board. Our class sizes are hovering around 20 students. Small class sizes has always been a priority for our division.
- b) Board Letter to Minister - Board expressed desire to write a letter to Minister Altomare and Deputy Minister O'Leary regarding the immediate need for the new high school project in Neepawa to continue based on our population growth and regional demand. A draft was presented and trustees agreed to send the letter with minor changes.

7. Secretary-Treasurer's Information and Correspondence

- a) Article – “Additional Provincial Funding available to Beautiful Plains School Division” - This article provided a review of the 2024 – 25 provincial funding announcement and the impact to our division.
- b) Premier of Manitoba Finance Mandate Letter – During budget discussions, the school property tax rebate was discussed with Education Funding Branch regarding the possibility of this initiative continuing beyond 2024. We were directed to the mandate letter from the Premier of Manitoba to the Minister of Finance, which references for the Minister to maintain the property tax rebate program as a priority.
- c) MSBA Convention Planning - Trustees were requested to provide their PD session preferences for the Annual Convention.
- d) Article – “School boards carefully weighing tax options” – This article indicates that local school boards are considering both the financial situation of property tax payers and the divisional needs when setting 2024 – 25 school division budgets.

8. Open Forum

- a) Board Quote was approved for circulation.
- b) Coming Events were reviewed.
- c) Thank-you to Trustees who helped out with “I Love to Read Month”

Resolutions:

- 1. That the agenda be approved as amended. *Carried*
- 2. That the minutes of the February 6, 2024 Regular Board Meeting be approved as circulated. *Carried*
- 3. That Irene Conde be employed as an educational assistant effective February 8, 2024 and assigned to J.M. Young School. *Carried*
- 4. That the request for maternity/parental leave from May 6, 2024 to September 2, 2025 as outlined in the Superintendent's Confidential Report item c) of this date be approved. *Carried*
- 5. That the within division school of choice request from Wendy Kaspick and Michael Baraniuk for their son Thomas Yuriy Baraniuk to attend Grade 4 at Hazel M Kellington School instead of J.M. Young School effective February 16, 2024 be approved. *Carried*
- 6. That the Division support the Western Manitoba Science Fair 2024 with a donation of \$ 250.<sup>00</sup>. *Carried*

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7. That the lowest quotation from Powerland and Elco Systems for the 2024/25 bulk purchase of desktops and monitors be approved. *Carried*
8. That Brien Walsh be added to the spare bus driver list effective February 20, 2024. *Carried*
9. That Jenelle Coutu be employed as a regular bus driver effective February 20, 2024. *Carried*
10. That the staff recommendation as outlined in the Secretary-Treasurer's Confidential Report item c) of this date be accepted. *Carried*

Meeting adjourned at 5:52 p.m.

The next Regular Board Meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, March 5, 2024 at 4:30 p.m.

*Minutes are available on the Division Web Site at [www.beautifulplainssd.ca](http://www.beautifulplainssd.ca)  
This site also links to Division Schools.*