

BUFFALO TRAIL PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Wednesday, April 17, 2024

The regular meeting of the Board of Trustees of Buffalo Trail Public Schools was held in the Administration Building Boardroom on Wednesday, April 17, 2024.

PRESENT:

Chair: Kara Jackson, Board Chair

Trustees: In Person - Tanya Ford, Barry Livingston Stephanie Spornitz, Jim King, Stephanie Cooper, Arthur Block
Online - Trustees Darla Yonkman and David Bensmiller

Administration: Michelle Webb, Superintendent, Peter Neale, Secretary Treasurer, Assistant Superintendent James Trodden, Assistant Superintendent Camille Quinton, Recording Secretary Faye Dunne

Absent:

A. CALL TO ORDER:

Board Chair Jackson called the meeting to order at 9:34 A.M. and shared a Treaty Acknowledgement.

B. APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

Chair Jackson asked for any emergent additions to the agenda.

F. SUPERINTENDENT REPORTS:

- 2 Celebrations

I. NEW BUSINESS:

- Carbon Tax Survey from the Minister's Office
- Cell Phone Survey from the Minister's Office

24-080 COOPER: Moves that the agenda be approved as amended.
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

C. MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING

24-081 BLOCK: That the Minutes of the Regular Meeting held March 31, 2024, be accepted as presented.
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

E. IN-CAMERA:

24-082 FORD: That the meeting move In-Camera at 9:37AM.
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Secretary Treasurer Neale and Recording Secretary Dunne were in attendance.

Trustee Livingston joined the meeting at 9:41AM.

Recording Secretary Dunne left at the in-camera at 9:55AM.

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E. IN-CAMERA:

**24-083 KING: That the meeting come out of In-Camera at 10:05 AM.
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

Recording Secretary Dunne rejoined the meeting at 10:06, Assistant Superintendents Trodden and Quinton joined the meeting at 10:07AM

F. SUPERINTENDENT REPORTS:

- Leadership Highlights
 - o Website Updates
 - Trustee Bios
 - Department of Inclusive Learning Team Poster
 - o WES Communications Regarding Funding for Replacement School
 - Letter to the Minister
 - Media Release
 - CBC Radio Interview
 - Celebrations
 - o WHS Art Academy
 - o Rural Caucus of Alberta School Boards
 - Flourishing Stories - BTPS Hosts Art Academy
 - o Dewberry School Council Radio Ads
 - o School Division Badminton - Addition
 - o Lieutenant Governor Award Nominee - Addition
 - Leadership and Board Workshop
 - Updates to Grade 6 Provincial Achievement Tests 2023/24 School Year
 - School Council Connections
 - Locally Developed Courses
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- Leadership Highlights - The following information was shared with the Board.
 - o Website Updates
 - Trustee Bios
 - Department of Inclusive Learning Team Poster
 - o WES Communications Regarding Funding for Replacement School - The following information was shared with the Board.
 - Letter to the Minister
 - Media Release
 - CBC Radio Interview

The Division continues to advocate to ensure Wainwright Elementary replacement school remains in the news.
 - Celebrations
 - o WHS Art Academy - The report was shared with the Board.
 - o Rural Caucus of Alberta School Boards
 - Flourishing Stories - BTPS Hosts Art Academy - BTPS continues to share our good news stories on a regular basis.
 - o Dewberry School Council Radio Ads - Students at Dewberry are narrating radio ads to promote the school and its programs.

F. SUPERINTENDENT REPORTS Cont.:

- o School Division Badminton - Many schools in the division are currently participating in badminton and the schools are sharing resources like teacher supervisors/coaches and collaborating for best use of their resources.
- o Lieutenant Governor Award Nominee - An EH Walter student has been recommended for the Lieutenant Governor award.

- Leadership and Board Workshop - The information was shared and there was an opportunity for questions.

- Updates to Grade 6 Provincial Achievement Tests 2023/24 School Year - Assistant Superintendent Trodden told the Board that Grade 6 Provincial Achievement Tests in English Language Arts and Literature and Mathematics will not be administered in the 2023/24 school year. This the data will not be included in the AERR. Teachers and Students will be taking part in a pilot assessment.

- School Council Connections - The Superintendent shared a few ideas of how to engage with school councils at a divisional level. Information and ideas will be sought to understand what BTPS school councils find beneficial. The Board would like to engage in collaboration after school council elections in the new school year.

- Locally Developed Courses

24-084 COOPER: Moves that the Board approve the following list of locally developed courses to be taught in BTPS Schools;

- **Academic Achievement Through English Language Development 15-3 credits**
- **Academic Achievement Through English Language Development 15-5 credits**
- **Academic Achievement Through English Language Development 25-3 credits**
- **Academic Achievement Through English Language Development 25-5 credits**
- **Academic Achievement Through English Language Development 35-3 credits**
- **Academic Achievement Through English Language Development 35-5 credits**
- **ESL Introduction to Canadian Studies 15 - 5 Credits**
- **ESL Introduction to Canadian Studies 25 - 5 Credits**
- **ESL Introduction to Science 15 - 5 Credits**
- **ESL Introduction to Science 25 - 5 Credits**
- **Yoga 15 - 3 credits**
- **Yoga 15 - 5 credits**
- **Yoga 25 - 3 credits**
- **Yoga 25 - 5 credits**
- **Yoga 35 - 3 credits**
- **Yoga 35 - 5 credits**

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

2. Secretary Treasurer Report:

Accounts Payable:

- Cheque Lists Dated; March 28, April 15, 2024
- Accounts Payable Cheque Lists Dated; March 22, 25, 26, 27, 28, April 15, 2024
- Manual Cheques Issued Dated: March 8 to April 8, 2024
- March 31, 2024 Cash Flow Statement
- Budget Update
- Budget Guidelines Review

Accounts Payable:

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- Manual Cheques Issued Dated: March 8 to April 8, 2024
- March 31, 2024 Cash Flow Statement

The Board had an opportunity to ask any questions regarding the accounts payable information that was presented.

24-085 LIVINGSTON: Moves that the accounts payable cheque lists for the period ending April 15, 2024 beginning and ending with cheques #137522 to #137651 and automated payments for the period ending April 15, 2024, beginning, and ending with #800025587 to #800025757 and manual cheques issued #700001639 to #700001653 be received for information.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

- March 31, 2024 Cash Flow Statement

24-086 FORD: Moves that the Board accept the March 31, 2024 Cash Flow Statement for information.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

- Budget Update

Secretary Treasurer Neale provided an update on the budget process. He told the Board that there has been support provided to schools through human resources as well as budget meetings with individual schools. Budget Guidelines will be updated to reflect the current information. Each school will have one on one collaborative focus meetings prior to the final budget coming to the Board for approval in May.

- Budget Guidelines Review

The recommended changes were presented and explained by the Secretary Treasurer. There was an opportunity for questions for clarity.

24-087 YONKMAN: Moves that the Board receive 601.1AP, Exhibit 1 Budget Guidelines, as amended, for information.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

- Student Engagement - Supporting Your School

The Board Chair welcomed students from Vermilion Elementary, JR Robson and Kitscoty High schools to the student engagement. Trustees asked the following questions to their schools; 1) How have you helped make your school a better place? 2) How could students be used to help build success in the school? The Students representing elementary, junior, and senior high shared a variety of answers and information with the Board. Many positive examples of what students do in their individual schools were shared including the areas of leadership, volunteering, and kindness toward others. The Board thanked the students for their participation and for taking time to meet.

G. COMMITTEE REPORTS

- Policy Committee

- Policy Committee Meeting Minutes; April 8, 2024
- The Policy Committee Recommends third and final reading of 701BP Student Transportation
- The Policy Committee recommends third and final reading of 101BP Board Operations

- Policy Committee Meeting Minutes; April 8, 2024

24-088 SPORNITZ: Moves that the Board accept the April 8, 2024 Policy Committee minutes for information as presented. CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

- The Policy Committee Recommends third and final reading of 701BP Student Transportation

24-089 LIVINGSTON: Moves that the Board receive 701BP, Student Transportation Services, as amended for third and final reading. CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

- The Policy Committee recommends third and final reading of 101BP Board Operations

Chair Cooper reviewed the amendments to BP101, electronic attendance at meetings, and opened the floor for discussion. There was a generative discussion regarding the amendments to 101BP.

24-090 KING: That the board meeting recess for lunch at 12:18PM. CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

The meeting reconvened at 12:57 PM in the Boardroom with all Trustees present. Superintendent Webb, Secretary Treasurer Neale, Recording Secretary Dunne, and Assistant Superintendents Trodden and Quinton also rejoined the meeting.

D. Petitions and Delegations

Hardisty and District Development Group

Brian Golka and Blake Moser from the Hardisty and District Development Group joined the Board to make a presentation. Mr. Moser began his presentation by thanking the Board for its time. The presentation focused on the group requesting asking for the support of Buffalo Trail Public Schools in order for them to go to the government to request moving the division boundaries to include the Town of Hardisty. The group is looking for educational solutions in Hardisty. The Board had an opportunity to ask questions for clarity.

- 24-091 LIVINGSTON: Moves that the Board add an in-camera to the agenda after committee reports.**

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Assistant Superintendent's Trodden and Quinton left the meeting at 1:32pm.

- Policy Committee Cont.:

- 24-092 SPORNITZ: Moves that the Board receive 101BP, as amended, for third and final reading.**

**Trustee Bensmiller requested a recorded vote;
In FAVOR - Livingston, Block, King, Ford, Jackson,
Cooper, Spornitz
Opposed - Bensmiller, Yonkman**

CARRIED

E. IN-CAMERA Cont.:

- 24-093 COOPER: That the meeting move In-Camera at 1:56pm.**

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Secretary Treasurer Neale and Recording Secretary Dunne were in attendance.

- 24-094 COOPER: That the meeting come out of In-Camera at 2:24pm.**

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

- 24-095 YONKMAN: THAT the Board of Trustees supports the Board Chair to write a letter to the Minister of Education to receive information on the process for changing the Buffalo Trail Public Schools jurisdiction boundary to include the Town of Hardisty and surrounding areas with a cc: to the Hardisty and District Development Group.**

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

H. Business Arising from Minutes:

- none

I. NEW BUSINESS:

- Multi School International Field Trip Request Spring 2025
- Irma Joint Facilities Agreement Schedule E
- Letter from the Town of Wainwright and M.D. of Wainwright to Minister Nicolaides re; Waitlisted WES
- Letter from the Town of Wainwright and M.D. of Wainwright to MLA Rowswell re; Waitlisted WES
- Carbon Tax Impact on the School Division
- Hughenden Public School International Field Trip Request Spring 2025

- Multi School International Field Trip Request Spring 2025

24-096 FORD: Moves that the Board approve the international field trip request from Lead Teacher Jenny Thomson for Irma, Wainwright High, Provost Public and Kitscoty High Schools to travel to Greece during Easter Break 2025, as outlined in the proposal and supported by all principals, provided that the trip is not subject to a Government of Canada travel advisory above 'Take Normal Security Precautions', adheres to Board Policy and Administrative Procedures, the tour company providing satisfactory supervision and all legal obligations are satisfactory to the Board.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

- Irma Joint Facilities Agreement Schedule E

24-097 FORD: Moves that the Board of Trustees of Buffalo Trail Public Schools incorporate *Schedule E* into the Irma Joint Use Facilities Agreement between The Village of Irma and the Board.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

- Letter from the Town of Wainwright and M.D. of Wainwright to Minister Nicolaides re; Waitlisted WES
- Letter from the Town of Wainwright and M.D. of Wainwright to MLA Rowswell re; Waitlisted WES

24-098 COOPER: Moves that the Board write a letter of appreciation to both the Town of Wainwright and M.D. of Wainwright to thank them for their advocacy efforts on behalf of Buffalo Trail Public Schools for the Wainwright Elementary replacement school.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

- Carbon Tax Impact on the School Division

The Secretary Treasurer told the Board that the government is requesting school boards to gather carbon tax data and any rebate information and report back by May 3, 2024.

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- Hughenden Public School International Field Trip Request Spring 2025

24-099 LIVINGSTON: Moves that the Board approve the international field trip request of Hughenden School to travel to Greece during Easter Break 2025 as outlined in their proposal, provided that the trip is not subject to a Government of Canada travel advisory above 'Take Normal Security Precautions', adheres to Board Policy and Administrative Procedures, the tour company providing satisfactory supervision and all legal obligations are satisfactory to the Board.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Carbon Tax - Reported on page seven.

Cell Phones - The Superintendent shared that there is also a request from government for school divisions to share a survey on cellphone use in schools with stakeholders. The survey closes May 3, 2024. Information regarding BTPS division and school cellphone use will be presented to the Board in May.

Secretary Treasurer Neale left the meeting.

J. TRUSTEE REPORTS:

- ASBA - Trustee Spornitz shared information from the last Zone 2/3 meeting. The group was seeking clarity on ASBA's approach regarding gender policy. There is no position statement on gender policies for the Spring General Meeting. ASBA continues to have Speakers Corners and the information is on the member website. Trustee Spornitz shared a discussion on acoustic design standards for schools and Child and Adolescent Services Association (CASA) Classrooms. She also shared that there will be a Ministers panel at the ASBA SGM.
- ASBA Trustee Governance Program - Trustee Yonkman will give an update on her program at the next board meeting.
- PSBAA/PSBC - Trustee Cooper shared information from the April PSBC meeting with the Board. She heard speakers talk about the impact of AI and technology on students. There was a session from Ft. McMurray on building relationships with Indigenous communities. PSBAA will share land acknowledgments created by students.

Secretary Neale Rejoined the meeting.

Additional information shared by Trustee Cooper included starting to get the word out on being a trustee, backlog on modulars, discussion on charter schools, Bill 13, concern about federal money not being approved by the provincial government, CASA classrooms and PSBAA budget including membership dues.

- TEBA - Trustee Ford reported that the March meeting was cancelled.

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J. TRUSTEE REPORTS Cont.:

- RCASB - Trustee King shared that June 2nd is the next RCASB meeting.

K. TRUSTEE READINGS:

- none

L. INFORMATION ITEMS:

The information was shared with the Board.

M. COMMUNICATION STRATEGY:

- Advocacy for Wainwright Elementary School
- WHS Art Academy
- Dewberry Radio Ads
- Hardisty and District Development Group Delegation
- Piloting PATs for Grade 6
- Locally Developed Courses
- Student Engagement
- School Council Connections
- Budget 2024/2025
- Policy Updates
- International Field Trip Approvals
- Thank-you Letters to the Town and M.D of Wainwright
- Carbon Tax and Cellphone Surveys
- Ward Review Engagement Meetings

AGENDA Items for Next Meeting

- None

Trustees Spornitz and Livingston will attend the Zone 2/3 Edwin Parr Awards event to represent the Board.

24-100 KING: Moves that the meeting adjourn.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Time: 3:16 P.M. hours (15:16PM)

Board Chair

Recording Secretary