

**Prairie Rose School Division No. 8
Regular Board Meeting**

**MINUTES
Tuesday, April 12, 2011**

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Present: M. Peers, G. Westgard, K. Cooper, P. Heller, G. Dennis, S. Angle, B. Wickens, D. Nicholls – Superintendent, B. Andjelic – D. Superintendent, B. Volkman – A. Superintendent, P. Cocks – Secretary Treasurer, A. Baron – Communications.

Absent: A. Frank

Other: M. Gogolinski, V. Miller

Media: A. Stephenson and photographer – MH News, R. Sanchez – P. Post

1. Call to Order

M. Peers called the meeting to order at 10:02 a.m.

1.1 Approval of the Agenda

Additions to the Agenda:

- None

Moved by G. Dennis to approve the April 12, 2011 Regular Board Meeting Agenda as presented.

CARRIED (2011-130)

2. Approval of the Minutes

2.1 Regular Board Meeting – March 8, 2011

Moved by G. Westgard to approve the March 8, 2011 Regular Board Meeting Minutes as presented.

CARRIED (2011-131)

3. Monitoring

3.1 Trustee Reports

M. Peers shared that G. Westgard, S. Angle, Division Administration and herself met with the Minister of Education in Edmonton in March to share the Board's concerns about budget funding for 2011-12. A delegation also travelled to Hanna to present to the Special Areas group.

B. Wickens explained that the recent transportation meetings in Redcliff to discuss changes to bussing for the upcoming year in the community are now over and went very well. Two Mennonite students have graduated through the ESL Evening Program at Margaret Wooding School. This is the first group of graduates through the program.

S. Angle shared that the road situation in the Bow Island area continues to be a concern. S. Angle shared that he had put a call into MLA Len Mitzel about the Edmonton budget presentation however there is nothing new to report.

G. Westgard explained that the Board was able to run a successful videoconference meeting together. The northern schools have all been very busy with various activities.

G. Dennis reported that the Seven Persons Jump Rope for Heart was a big success this year. The roads in the Seven Persons region continue to be an issue due to flooding.

P. Heller shared that Badminton is well underway in all the schools. Congratulations were passed along to the Eagle Butte girls curling team who went to provincials. They were awarded the Sportsmanship Award. The Board was reminded to check out the Eagle Butte website to listen to the Eagle radio station.

K. Cooper shared that the Foremost School had put on a big drama production. The school also hosted their spring carnival with a Minute to Win It theme. The Foremost School review is currently underway. A report will come forward to the Board in the next couple of months. Kindergarten registrations are well underway.

3.2 Video Presentation

A. Baron shared the *March Around the School Yard* video. Featured schools included Eagle Butte High, Beyond Walls Outreach School and Senator Gershaw. The video can be viewed on the Prairie Rose website at www.prrd.ab.ca.

M. Gogolinski joined the meeting at 10:30 a.m.

4. Action Items

4.1 Isabel F. Cox School Child Care Proposal

M. Gogolinski explained that the recent Board decision to reduce Kindergarten programming for the 2011-12 year is a concern for parents who need to access childcare. The parent council is proposing the addition of a daycare program at the school to meet the needs of the new part-time kindergarten program. The hours of operation would match the current afterschool program. This would reduce the number of students seeking access to the afterschool program and open up more spaces for additional students. The proposed cost for parents would be \$5 per hour (plus a \$30 registration fee and \$100 non-refundable deposit) with the program would open to government subsidies. Four possible options were presented to the Board as possible schedules for parents. The designated space for the daycare can hold up to 23 children with additional room option that could increase that number to 50. The program would be self-sustainable and would not receive any Board funding. The program would be staffed by EA's, some of which already have their certification. The parent council would like to try and pay equally to what a division EA would make. An individual with an Early Childcare diploma would need to be hired to run the program.

Moved by P. Heller that the Board authorize the I.F. Cox School Parent Advisory Association to operate a licensed Childcare program during regular school hours for the 2011-2012 school year at no cost to the Board.

CARRIED (2011-132)

M. Gogolinski and A. Stephenson left the meeting at 10:53 a.m.

4.2 Sale of Teacherage Rental Units

P. Cocks explained that the Division had asked for bids on two teacherage properties in Foremost. All received bids were very close, indicating the current market value. K. Cooper asked if the Board could reject the offers and continue to rent the properties until the market improves. P. Cocks explained that there are still two other properties that the Division owns in the community that are empty. It was explained that there would need to be some maintenance done on the buildings if the Division were to continue to rent the properties.

Moved by G. Dennis that the Board accept Bid #1 on teacherage rental unit F28 in Foremost.

CARRIED (2011-133)

Moved by P. Heller that the Board accept Bid #1 on teacherage rental unit F4 in Foremost.

CARRIED (2011-134)

V. Miller joined the meeting at 11:02 a.m.

4.3 Attendance Area Appeal - Senator Gershaw to Foremost

V. Miller explained that a family in the Gershaw attendance area was asking the Board to approve a transportation appeal to have their child bussed to Foremost School. The family would be unable to drive their child to meet a Foremost bus as both parents drive bus at that time of day. V. Miller provided an overview of the bussing situation in that area of the division. Approximately 9 students would be affected by the requested bussing change. K. Cooper explained that she would like to see the Board approve the request for one year, as the student would be old enough to drive the following year.

Moved by G. Westgard that the Board uphold its attendance area policy for Senator Gershaw School and deny the request.

CARRIED (2011-135)

4.4 Attendance Area Appeal – Warren Peers Area to Oyen Public School

V. Miller explained that a family was asking for transportation from inside the Warren Peers attendance area to Oyen. The family has lived in the Oyen area for years, but recently sold their home. The family is now renting in the Warren Peers attendance area temporarily while their new home is being built. The request asks for transportation of their three children to South Central, Oyen Public and Assumption School. The family has been driving their children to Oyen daily.

Moved by S. Angle that the Board uphold its attendance area policy for Oyen Public School and its transportation agreement with Christ the Redeemer for Assumption School and deny the request.

CARRIED (2011-136)

5. Superintendents' Reports

5.1 Superintendents' Reports

D. Nicholls reported that the Division would like to do more to recognize school bus drivers. V. Miller explained that some schools already put on small event recognitions for the drivers and make them feel like part of the staff. It was suggested that a Driver Appreciation Day be established to thank our drivers for all their work in ensuring that our students get to and from school safely on a daily basis. This year has been a particularly tough year for drivers based on the road conditions.

V. Miller left the meeting at 11:36 a.m.

D. Nicholls reported that a Budget Task Force has been established to discuss possible cost saving measures for the 2011-12 school year. The first meeting has been set for April 18th. Staff and parents who are not involved in the task force will be able to make recommendations through email and letters.

D. Nicholls informed the Board that there will be School of School Councils meeting on April 18, 2011. It was asked if the Board could start thinking about various topics to discuss at the meeting.

D. Nicholls reported that the Division Office staff was inviting the Board to take part in a staff lunch on Tuesday, April 19, 2011.

B. Andjelic shared that the Red Cross had been in contact with him to congratulate the Division for bringing in over \$10,000 in funds for communities who have been hit by the flooding. A certificate of thanks has been issued. The news will be shared with staff through the News email folder.

B. Volkman reported that he along with a couple of students from Eagle Butte High School will be attending the RAP dinner at the Medicine Hat College on April 12, 2011.

6. Other Reports / Information Items

6.1 ASBA

S. Angle reported that he would be attending the ASBA Zone Executive Meeting on April 13th.

6.2 PSBAA

K. Cooper informed the Board that the PSBAA will be asking whether the Division would like to support the Public School Board's advertising campaign. There will be some further discussion on the issue at the spring meeting set for April 14th. A summary of the agenda was provided to the Board as information.

6.3 March 18 Professional Development Day Report

S. Angle reported that the Tech Conference portion of the March 18, 2011 district-wide PD day was very successful and the group is already planning for next year. B. Andjelic informed the Board that a survey was sent out asking for feedback on the sessions. The PD Committee will be looking at bringing back some of the popular sessions to the next PD Day. This will give staff who were unable to take in all their preferred sessions the opportunity to take them in at a later date. September 19th is the next date set for the Division wide PD day. Social networking will be featured for that event.

8. Correspondence / Information

The following items were provided as information:

- 8.1 Highway #3 Open House – Bow Island Legion
- April 14, 2011 – 4:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.
- 8.2 ASBA Issues, Budget, By-Laws Bulletin

Trustees are asked to contact D. Keeler to register for the event and confirm hotel reservations.

10. Adjournment

Moved by S. Angle at 12:02 p.m. that the April 12, 2011 Regular Board Meeting be adjourned.

CARRIED (2011-137)

Marian Peers, Board Chair

Pat Cocks, Secretary-Treasurer