

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

MINUTES

Tuesday, January 12, 2009

-001-

Present: M. Peers, S. Angle, G. Dennis, A. Frank, P. Heller, K. Cooper, G. Westgard, D. Nicholls . Superintendent, B. Andjelic . Deputy Superintendent, B. Volkman . Assistant Superintendent, P. Cocks . Secretary Treasurer, W. McLean . Communications

Absent: None

Other: R. Sanchez . Prairie Post, J. Rieger . The Commentator, A. Stephenson . Medicine Hat News, I. Sorensen . Medicine Hat News, J. McFarland . The Lounge

1. Call to Order - Board Chair

M. Peers called the meeting to order at 10:01 a.m.

1.1 Approval of the Agenda

Additions to the agenda: None

Moved by A. Frank that the agenda of the Tuesday, January 12 Regular Board Meeting be approved as presented.

CARRIED (2010-001)

2. Approval of the Minutes

2.1 Regular Board Meeting . December 8, 2009

Moved by G. Dennis that the minutes of the Tuesday, December 8 Regular Board Meeting be approved as presented.

CARRIED (2010-002)

B. Andjelic joined the meeting at 10:14 a.m.

3. Monitoring

3.1 Trustee Reports

K. Cooper reported that Foremost's basketball season is well underway and that students are preparing for exams. She also reported on the celebration of the Foremost boys volleyball team's provincial championship win that took place before Christmas.

P. Heller reported that Schuler is holding a mini-Olympics on Jan. 26.

A. Frank reported that one of the Wooding classes will be recognizing the Olympic flame's arrival on Saturday, Jan. 16 at about 6 p.m.

G. Dennis said the Olympic torch relay will pass through Seven Persons on Sunday, January 17. An introduction of Ralston's new principal will take place on Monday, Jan. 18.

G. Westgard reported that South Central had to cancel their Christmas concert before Christmas because of extreme weather conditions and it was held instead in early January.

S. Angle reported on Christmas concerts that happened prior to Christmas

M. Peers reported on Christmas concerts that happened prior to Christmas.

4. Action Items

4.1 Bindloss School . Notice of Motion

D. Nicholls spoke to some background of the Bindloss school and the meeting with parents that D. Nicholls and B. Volkman held at the school last fall.

There are currently 16 students at Bindloss. Anticipated enrollment in future years indicate that enrollment will not increase, rather it will decrease based on families in the area. D. Nicholls said there will be fewer than 15 students at Bindloss next year unless something unforeseen occurs, i.e. a new family with multiple children moving into the area.

D. Nicholls said the parents were supportive of the education they were receiving at Bindloss. Some of the parents believed the school should remain open based on the length of bus ride to Warren Peers. Some parents, however, believed that it may be time for them to look at other options for their children.

D. Nicholls and B. Volkman went back to the school council on Monday, Nov. 30 and at that point discussed a number of items including the increased number of transportation requests from Bindloss.

A majority vote would be required to start the process of considering school closure.

The motion would indicate the decision to close would be made on March 9, 2010.

D. Nicholls said the primary concerns brought forth by parents regarding possible closure were location, geography and bussing times.

D. Nicholls said there has been an emphasis on videoconferencing at Bindloss and that they have been participating in a music program.

D. Nicholls said there is a survey of Manyberries parents that will be conducted over the next couple of weeks to indicate how their schools' closure and transition has gone.

It is moved by A. Frank that the Board consider the closure of Bindloss school effective June 30, 2010 and that the Board decision on the potential closure be made at the regular board meeting to be held on March 9, 2010.

For: K. Cooper, P. Heller, A. Frank, G. Dennis, G. Westgard, S. Angle
Against: M. Peers

CARRIED (2010-003)

5. Superintendents' Reports

5.1 K-12 Technology Trends

D. Nicholls presented some information regarding e-books and e-readers. D. Nicholls said it's a technological look into the future since textbooks may slowly be phased out and e-books introduced in schools instead. He also said lower prices of smaller notebook computers (or netbooks) means a 1:1 ratio of students to computers may become more realistic for the school division in the future.

5.2 Superintendents' Reports

B. Andjelic announced that Cammie Kannekens of Eagle Butte will be replacing Tricia Unreiner as the AISI Social Studies Lead Teacher effective Jan. 29, 2010 while T. Unreiner is on her maternity leave.

He also said Cypress County has agreed to make an additional financial contribution to Prairie Rose's FSLW program.

B. Volkman reported that Eagle Butte will be subject to the first school review of this year and that surveys have already been distributed to the school community.

B. Volkman also reported that the Colony teachers have volunteered to host the provincial Colony teachers' conference.

D. Nicholls reported that he contacted Bindloss school and the school council chair to inform them of the decision made by the board at today's meeting. A letter will be drafted on Jan. 12 that will go home with students that same day.

B. Andjelic gave an update on the Play Therapy course happening the week of Jan. 11 at the division office. There are 26 people in attendance, including a pair of attendees from Calgary and one from the U.S. state of Virginia.

6. Other Reports

6.1 ASBA

A. Frank gave a report on the recent happenings and upcoming events of the Alberta School Board Association.

6.2 PSBAA

K. Cooper gave a report on the upcoming events of the Public School Boards Association of Alberta.

6.3 School Act Amendment

P. Cocks reported on an amendment to the School Act that allows trustees to attend a meeting via telephone or video conference as long as all parties can hear each other. Doing so will allow the board member to be considered present.

G. Westgard asked whether a trustee who was, for example, moving away for the winter months could still be an active board member while physically absent. P. Cocks responded that it appears such a decision would be up to each individual board to make.

8. Correspondence

8.3 Buffalo Trail Letter re: Funding

P. Cocks indicated that Buffalo Trail handles their financing differently from Prairie Rose, in that Buffalo Trail allocated grants individually to each school that qualified for them. Prairie Rose, however, pools it together into one fund and works with the funding in that manner.

8.2 Alberta Distance Learning Centre

D. Nicholls said Prairie Rose has had great success with ADLC and that the possible threat of cutting funding to the program could hurt Prairie Rose's success rates. A letter will be written in support of continued funding for ADLC.

8.1 Minister of Education re: Accountability Pillar

Submitted for information.

8.4 Congress on Rural Education . Saskatoon

Submitted for information.

8.5 Calgary Catholic School District re: World Skills Equipment

Submitted for information.

9. In Camera Session (Personnel Item and Contractual Item)

-005-

Moved by K. Cooper that the Regular Board Meeting of Tuesday, Jan. 12, 2010 move to an in camera session at 11:31 a.m.

CARRIED (2010-004)

M. Peers adjourned the meeting for lunch at 12:15 p.m.

M. Peers called the meeting to order at 12:55 p.m.

S. Angle moved to return to the Regular Board Meeting at 12:55 p.m.

CARRIED (2010-005)

Moved by A. Frank that the Board ratify the Superintendent's employment contract for the period August 1, 2010 to July 31, 2014 as proposed, subject to the prior written approval of the Minister of Education.

CARRIED (2010-006)

11. Adjournment

Moved by P. Heller to adjourn the meeting at 12:59 p.m.

CARRIED (2010-007)