



Mother Earth's Children's Charter School

Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees
held via Zoom Cloud Meeting
April 11, 2022

- PRESENT:** Dale Friedel, Chair
Cindy Paul, Trustee
Emil Durocher, Trustee
- ALSO PRESENT:** Ed Wittchen, Superintendent
Erin Danforth, Principal
Anita LeMoignan, Secretary-Treasurer
- ABSENT:** Wendy Cunningham, Trustee
Terry Regamey, Trustee

GUEST:

Chair Friedel called the meeting to order at 6:10 pm

AGENDA APPROVAL

- #910-21/22 "To approve the agenda as amended."
4.6 Hot Lunch Donations

DUROCHER

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- #911-21/22 "To approve the minutes of February 14, 2021 Board Meeting
as presented."

DUROCHER

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

REMOVAL OF COVID RESTRICTIONS

Superintendent Wittchen - Colleagues across the country have noted that governments seem to have universally swapped from over-cautious to few, if any, restrictions. Student Covid numbers are climbing in many jurisdictions; staff shortages reported. It seems fewer people are masking in most circumstances.

NEW BUS

ST LeMoignan - The new bus has not arrived yet. It is expected later this month. We have been informed that there are delays due to border crossing and a lack of drivers to bring them up from the US.

SCHOOL REPORT

Principal Danforth - Paul Band School is closed until April 19th due to the large number of Covid case on the reserve. We had planned to invite parents to an Easter dinner on April 12th but have opted to serve students only, given the high number of cases on reserve. Right now we are reluctant to let the outside world into the school for the safety of all concerned.

New Humble Community School staff will be joining MECCS staff for a PD Day in May. Half the day will be planned and conducted by MECCS staff and half by New Humble.

Ed, Erin and Maxine will be meeting to discuss future plans for the Culture Camp program. Cape School in Medicine Hat has expressed interested in bringing students to the Culture Camp.

CULTURE CAMP WASHROOM

Superintendent Wittchen - Kopala Towers has been leasing Culture Camp washroom, to MECCS. We were notified in March that they were selling the washrooms and getting out of the business. They offered to sell the washroom MECCS has been leasing for the sum of \$9,300 + GST. This price is greatly reduced from the going rate of \$17,500. We polled the Board and received permission to purchase the washroom. Kopala Towers also donated cleaning products to the school. MECCS will provide Kopala Towers with a charity receipt for the \$7,000 difference.

CALENDAR 2022-2023

Superintendent Wittchen - The 2022-2023 school calendar is completed. We have opted not to follow Parkland County calendar as in previous years, because it has not resulted in any appreciable difference in enrolment or attendance, and it means we lose prime instructional days. Based on recent history we can anticipate losing between 8-12 days for cold or snowy weather/icy or muddy roads, so we need to maximize instructional time during other time. We opted for less professional development days and adjusted instructional days differing from Parkland.

#912-21/22

“To approve the 2022-2023 Calendar.”

PAUL

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

SAINT JOHN’S LEGACY FOUNDATION GRANT

Principal Danforth - We have received \$11,900 in grant funding from Saint John’s Legacy Foundation. This is \$1,900 more than was in the application, so it was a nice surprise. As per the application this money will be directed to the Culture Camp budget line.

BUDGET 2022-2023

ST LeMoignan - The funding manual and funding profile have been received. There are a couple of changes to the funding, but the bottom line remains the same as 2021-2022 funding as promised by the Minister. Budget forms have not been sent and there is no word yet when the budget is due, but historically speaking it will most likely need to be approved and submitted by May 31st.

HOT LUNCH DONATIONS

ST LeMoignan - This is the last year we are receiving funds from Enbridge to support the Hot Lunch/Breakfast program. Richard Bird approached his former colleagues at Enbridge to see if they would be interested in continuing the support.

Fortunately for us the long-standing partnership with us and the relationship with Richard made a difference and this is what their decision was:

“Given past support of the MECCS program, and commitment to supporting Indigenous youth, we would like to extend our support for the students through the hot lunch program for two more years at \$20,000 per year. Our team has personally visited the school, participated in celebrations and seen first-hand how the program makes a difference for these students.

The Ptarmigan Foundation (Richard Bird) has matched the donation, so we are in good shape for the Breakfast/Lunch program for the time being.

Chair Friedel adjourned the meeting at 6:39 pm.



CHAIR



SECRETARY-TREASURER