



## Mother Earth's Children's Charter School

Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees  
held via Zoom Cloud Meeting  
February 22, 2021

**PRESENT:** Dale Friedel, Chair  
Cindy Paul, Trustee (6:43 PM)  
Wendy Cunningham, Trustee  
Emil Durocher, Trustee (6:43 PM)

**ALSO PRESENT:** Ed Wittchen, Superintendent  
Erin Danforth, Principal  
Anita LeMoignan, Secretary-Treasurer

**ABSENT:** Terry Regamey, Trustee

**GUESTS:** Richard Bird

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

### AGENDA APPROVAL

#882-20/21 "To approve the agenda as circulated."

CUNNINGHAM

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

### APPROVAL OF MINUTES

#883-20/21 "To approve the minutes of the November 23, 2020 Board Meeting as circulated."

CUNNINGHAM

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

### COVID 19 ISSUES UPDATE

Superintendent Wittchen - Teachers joined the meeting via Zoom. Board members and staff shared how COVID-19 has impacted their lives both professionally and personally. Maxine Hildebrandt shared her personal experience with COVID-19 having been hospitalized for several days during January.

## **TAAPCS PRIORITIES COMMITTEE**

Superintendent Wittchen - Chair Friedel and Trustee Cindy Paul are now taking part in this committee. The next meeting takes place February 25, 2021.

Trustee Paul - The committee is looking for governance training to provide to all boards. The committee is asking boards to suggest training topics. Trustee Paul feels Truth and Reconciliation and Indigenization is an important topic to share with other Charter Schools. The Board supports this topic suggestion.

## **SCHOOL REPORT**

Principal Danforth - Spirit North is coming to the school more frequently, which is very fortunate for MECCS. So far, they have been to the school 5 times. The students are outdoors walking, skiing, snowshoeing and playing in the snow and they love it.

Alberta Education sent out the second, smaller batch of PPE.

Online learning is taking place, but attendance/participation is challenging.

## **BUDGET UPDATE**

ST LeMoignan - INAC finally sent notification of their method of payment for the year. We had been waiting to learn whether they would remain with the old funding model or realign to coincide with the new Alberta Education model. They chose a modified version of the new model, using the actual amounts we received from Alberta Education for 2020-2021, and converting it to a per student basis. The result is that we lose approximately \$30,000 from the amount estimated on the initial budget.

## **FOIP REQUEST**

Superintendent Wittchen - In early January, a FOIP request was made to MECCS concerning the email sent to Alberta Education requesting that MECCS Grade 7-9 students be allowed to continue to attend school during the COVID restrictions. Apparently, a FOIP request has been made for all communications to Alberta Education during a specific time frame and our email fell into that time frame. Following a discussion with the Access and Privacy Advisor, Superintendent Wittchen was able to determine that the request does not pose a concern for MECCS if they release our email. He wrote a letter giving permission to release it.

## **AP 131 - INCLEMENT WEATHER/SCHOOL CLOSURE**

ST LeMoignan - The current Admin Procedure for Inclement Weather & School Closure does not agree with those of neighboring districts when determining cold temperature factors. Changes have also been made to the order of those responsible for decision-making. An addition was made that states the decisions of neighboring districts, during periods of inclement weather, will also be considered.

**#884-20/21**                    “To approve the amendments to  
AP 131 - Inclement Weather/School Closure as presented.”

**CUNNINGHAM**

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

## **CRITICAL WORKER BENEFIT**

ST LeMoignan - The Critical Worker Benefit will provide a one-time payment of \$1,200 to eligible Albertans in recognition of their hard work to provide Albertans with the care and critical services they need. To be eligible for the benefit, education workers must have worked a minimum of 300 paid hours between October 12, 2020 and January 31, 2021. The minimum number of hours will be prorated for periods of time when schools were required to be closed. In keeping with the list of eligible occupations, MECCS' eligible workers are bus drivers, food service workers and custodians. ST LeMoignan is required to complete a form that details eligible workers and submit it no later than March 5, 2021. Alberta Education will release the funds in time for distribution to staff on the March 31, 2021 pay cheques. The benefit is taxable; EI and CPP deductions are also applicable. The funding will include an allowance for the employer portion of EI and CPP.

## **STAFF SALARY ADJUSTMENT**

Superintendent Wittchen/ST LeMoignan - The last salary adjustment for staff was in the 2014-15 term, so staff have not had a raise in 6 years. (They have received 2 - \$1,500 bonuses during that time). The Board was asked to consider a 3% increase to base salaries (excluding any allowances) effective with the March 31, 2021 cheque, and another 3% increase to base salaries effective with the September 30, 2021 cheque. This would bring them to a level comparable with neighboring districts. We cannot increase the MECCS deficit so this will have to be a FOMEF issue to cover the increased costs at least for this year.

**#885-20/21**                    “To approve a 3% increase to base salaries for all staff,  
commencing on March 31, 2021 pay cheques, and another 3%  
increase to base salaries, commencing on the September 30,  
2021 pay cheque.”

**PAUL**

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

#886-20/21

“To request that Friends of MECCS Education Foundation contribute the funds necessary to provide a 3% salary increase to staff.”

CUNNINGHAM

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Chair Friedel adjourned the meeting at 7:35 pm.



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CHAIR



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SECRETARY-TREASURER