



Mother Earth's Children's Charter School

Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees
held via Zoom Cloud Meeting
January 10, 2022
(Information-only meeting)

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

Chair Friedel called the meeting to order at 6:04 pm

ANNUAL EDUCATION RESULTS REPORT RESPONSE

Superintendent Wittchen - Maurice Trottier notified us that the AERR has received approval. A Zoom meeting is planned to discuss it with Superintendent Wittchen and Principal Danforth.

SCHOOL REPORT

Principal Danforth - We had a very busy, but successful lead-up to the Christmas break. From the opening of the camp to the delivery of the "Santa" gifts by Trans Alta we had activities planned every day. Unfortunately, Mother Nature had other plans as the frigid temperatures made it necessary for us to have a "snow day" on the 17th. You could tell there was excitement in the air as we came back for the last three days before the break. Our attendance was surprisingly good, especially on the 22nd as that was our Pajama Day/Movie Day/Delivery of the Christmas presents! TransAlta worked hard to outdo themselves again this year and our children were very well looked after. There were so many smiles and happy faces as wrapping paper and bows flew around the room. We are so grateful to the staff at TransAlta for their generosity and kindness.

During the dedication of the improved camp area (Oski Kisikaw Ena Makohche, which means New day for Mother Earth) the student helpers were friendly and knowledgeable

as they undertook various tasks like welcoming our guests, tending the fires, and interacting with our visitors talking about the activities that they had already enjoyed in the space. The lean-to was decorated with festive greenery and twinkle lights and, despite the extremely cold temperatures, we had a great turn out. I would consider the day a total success!

Looking to the upcoming month we are moving forward into this new year with some caution as the cases of COVID (Omicron variant) are looking to rise. With the arrival of the promised masks and test kits from the province we hope to be able to continue to operate in person as much as possible as we know that at-home learning is not the best option for our students and their families.

In January we are looking forward to the week of the 24th when Spirit North will return for a week of outdoor fun and games! WITH SNOW! At the end of the week, we will finish off with a Winter fun day at the camp. Bonfires, hot dogs on a stick and maple syrup taffy! Good times!

Superintendent Wittchen - We are getting great response from our newsletter blasts and with lots of interest in the Culture Camp. The only negative aspect is the lack of response or interest from the Minister. Several people have asked to come out to the Culture Camp.

ALBERTA EDUCATION PROVIDING TEST KITS AND MASKS

Superintendent Wittchen - Alberta Education announced last week that students will have the added safety of access to rapid tests and surgical masks, which are being distributed through schools to lower the risk of transmission of the Omicron variant of COVID-19. Two test kits for each student and staff member will be provided. The first shipment of masks and tests should arrive tomorrow; the remainder will arrive the third week of January. Staff will repackage them for distributions to families and staff.

N95 masks are in short supply, but ST LeMoignan has ordered some which should arrive later this week as well.

NEW BUS

ST LeMoignan - We currently own 3 busses - 2009, 2014 and 2017. The two older busses are both reaching the 250,000 km mark and are experiencing mechanical difficulties on a regular basis and have proved to be unreliable when required as a spare. The 2017 has 140,000 kms and is no longer on warranty. It has difficulty starting in cold weather, even when plugged in. It too is showing wear and requiring more regular repair. The time has come to purchase a new bus. Maintenance Supervisor LeMoignan has done the research, and a new bus will cost approximately \$120,000 (including a 4-camera system and seatbelts in the four

front seats). We will keep the 2017 as a spare and attempt to sell the two older busses, both of which have been properly maintained and regularly inspected.

MECCS does not have sufficient funds to purchase a bus, so ST LeMoignan is recommending that we ask FOMEF to fund the purchase.

Chair Friedel adjourned the meeting at 6:44 pm.