



Mother Earth's Children's Charter School

Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees
held via Zoom Cloud Meeting
March 13, 2023

- PRESENT:** Dale Friedel, Chair
Emil Durocher, Trustee
Jon Hutt, Trustee
Melanie Ure, Trustee
- ALSO PRESENT:** Ed Wittchen, Superintendent
Erin Danforth, Principal
Anita LeMoignan, Secretary-Treasurer
- ABSENT:** Wendy Cunningham, Trustee
Cindy Paul, Vice Chair
Melanie Ure, Trustee

GUEST:

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

AGENDA APPROVAL

- #933-22/23** "To approve the agenda as amended."
4.7 Accident involving school bus
HUTT **CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- #934-22/23** "To approve the minutes of January 9, 2023 Board Meeting as presented."
DUROCHER **CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

JORDAN'S PRINCIPLE - APPLICATION UPDATE

Principal Danforth - MECCS has been approved for two Education Assistants and a mental health counsellor. MP Psychology has contracted the people and will pay them as well. The Education Assistants started last week, and things are going well. The counsellor will start later this week and will be available one day per week.

ST. JOHN'S LEGACY FOUNDATION APPLICATION

Principal Danforth - We applied for the St. Johns Legacy Foundation Grant and have been approved to receive \$9,750 this year. It is a matching grant. Plans are to purchase equipment and possibly a shed for the Culture Camp. We were also informed that 2025 will be the last year for the grant.

SCHOOL REPORT

Principal Danforth - TransAlta sponsored a visit from Brian Trottier who visited the school March 8, 2023. Mr. Trottier brought several of his 7 Stanley Cup rings with him and let the students try them on. He handed out autographed books that he has written. He was also very generous with other autographs for anyone who asked. Principal Danforth is hoping to schedule a visit with author Sigmund Brouwer who writes book for young people.

OIL KING GAME

Superintendent Wittchen - Maxine Hildebrandt received a \$1,000 award from a local insurance company. She used the funds to take her students and parents to and Edmonton Oil King game. Trustee Paul attended with her daughter as well. She commented that the students were very enthusiastic and having a great time cheering.

SALE OF BUS

ST LeMoignan - The 2014 school bus has been sold to a company from Sherwood Park for the sum of \$25,000.

BUDGET SHORTFALL - ISC CALCULATION

ST LeMoignan - Due to continuing changes in the way ISC calculates the Alberta Education WMA, coupled with the dramatic increase in the cost of groceries, heating and fuel, MECCS will experience a shortfall in the 2022-2023 budget. The original budget was a deficit of \$141, 253. It included a commitment of \$17,500 from FOMEF to balance the System Admin line. ST LeMoignan anticipates a deficit of \$200,000. The Board is asking that FOMEF cover the additional shortfall.

QUEEN'S JUBILEE PLATINUM MEDAL

Superintendent Wittchen - Superintendent Wittchen was presented with the Queen Elizabeth II Platinum Jubilee Medal for his dedication and service to education. The

medal, in recognition of his valuable contribution to the province, was presented by Minister La Grange at a ceremony on January 24, 2023. Recipients were allowed 3 or 4 minutes to respond. Superintendent Wittchen learned that Minister LaGrange had nominated him. The Board expressed their congratulations.

CHARTER RENEWAL PROCESS - STEP 2 - ALBERTA EDUCATION TEAM VISIT

Superintendent Wittchen - Five Alberta Education, including MECCS Liaison Sonnia Sihota, former liaison Maurice Trottier, two other AE staff members from the First Nations Branch and a Capital Planning staff member will attend March 13th and 14th. Over the two days they will tour the facility and interview Chair Friedel, administrative staff, teachers, support staff, parents and students. Things went well the first day.

2023 ALBERTA EDUCATION BUDGET NOTES

Superintendent Wittchen - The Province tabled their budget on March 1, 2023. Following that Alberta Education with \$1.8 billion over three years to fund kindergarten to Grade 12 enrolment, to reduce class sizes and to improve bus transportation. MECCS will see increases in the following areas:

- Rural Small School Grant will increase by 6%
- Supports and Services grants including the Specialized Learning supports, Program Unit Funding, FNMI grants will increase by 10%
- Operations & Maintenance to address inflationary pressures impacting school operations, such as increases in utilities, insurance and supplies
- Transportation - 32% increase; fuel relief as prices remain above \$1.25 per litre
- Teacher Salary Settlement - two per cent salary increase starting in September 2023

EMERGENCY RESPONSE PLAN

Superintendent Wittchen - Having poured over various school division plans, Superintendent Wittchen has prepared a draft Emergency Response Plan for MECCS which was shared with those present.

#935-22/23 “To approve the Emergency Response Plan.”

HUTT

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

ACCIDENT INVOLVING SCHOOL BUS

Superintendent Wittchen - The representative from Capital Planning, who was to accompany the Charter Evaluation team, was involved in an accident with MECCS' school bus near the entrance to the maintenance shop. RCMP were called to record the incident. The bus is drivable; only the front bumper sustained minor damage which Dale can repair. The car was heavily damaged. No charges were laid by the RCMP.

Chair Friedel adjourned the meeting at 7:15 pm.



CHAIR



SECRETARY-TREASURER