

MINUTES OF THE **REGULAR MEETING** OF THE MEDICINE HAT PUBLIC BOARD OF TRUSTEES HELD IN THE **BOARD ROOM** IN THE **SCHOOL DIVISION ADMINISTRATION OFFICE** ON **TUESDAY, May 26, 2026** AT 4:00 p.m.

TRUSTEES PRESENT: Catherine Wilson, Gwendoline Dirk, Megan Hilgendorf, Quinn Skelton

TRUSTEE ABSENT: Pat Grisonich

OFFICIALS PRESENT: Cody Edwards, Acting Superintendent of Schools
Leanne Dulle, Secretary Treasurer
Carla Carrier, Acting Associate Superintendent: Learning and Student Supports
Jason Peters, Associate Superintendent: Human Resources

OTHERS PRESENT: Jeeya Gupta, Medicine Hat High School Student Delegate
Nyaruach Ruach, Medicine Hat High School Student Delegate
Anthony Eva, HUB Virtual School Student Delegate
Jordyn Nikiel, Crescent Heights High School Student Delegate

CHAIR: Catherine Wilson

RECORDING SECRETARY: Debbie Terlson

I. CALL MEETING TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 4:01 PM.

II. TREATY 7 LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

We acknowledge that we are on the traditional territory of the Blackfoot Confederacy and the people of Treaty 7 Region in Southern Alberta. We honour and acknowledge the homeland of the Métis people. We are grateful for the traditional Knowledge Keepers and Elders who are still with us today and those who have gone before us.

Video Land Acknowledgement by Darrell Willier, First Nations, Metis & Inuit Coordinator

III. INTRODUCTION OF STUDENT DELEGATES

The Board of Trustees welcomed student delegates Jeeya Gupta (MHHS), Nyaruach Ruach (MHHS) and Anthony Eva (HUB).

IV. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

THAT the agenda be approved as presented.

71. G. Dirk

CARRIED

V. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

Presentation and adoption of the Minutes of the Regular and the Committee of the Whole meetings held on **Tuesday, April 28, 2026**.

THAT the minutes from **Tuesday, April 28, 2026**. be approved.

72. Q. Skelton

CARRIED

VI. PRESENTATION

1. Student Delegates

MHHS Students presented data collected on how students feel they were impacted by the teacher strike.

Student delegates from Medicine Hat High School, Jeeya Gupta and Nyaruach Ruach presented the results of their survey titled "*MHHS Student Survey on the Effects of the Teachers' Strike*". To collect data, they created a Google Forms survey containing a variety of questions and distributed it to students across the school. They visited classrooms where teachers introduced and explained the survey at the beginning of class. In addition, posters with QR codes linking to the survey were displayed throughout the school to encourage participation.

A total of 306 students from Grades 10–12 responded to the survey. The survey results indicated that the four main areas impacted by the teacher strike were academics, social life, mental well-being, and sports, with sports being the least affected area.

Student responses highlighted the pace of instruction following the strike. Many students felt that classes were rushed and that coursework was heavily condensed, resulting in increased pressure to complete assignments and exams within a shortened time frame.

The Board acknowledged the initiative and leadership shown by the students in designing the survey and presenting their work.

VII. RECOGNITION/ACCOMPLISHMENTS

1. **Kiskihkeyimowin**

The Medicine Hat Public School Division hosted Kiskihkeyimowin, a week-long Indigenous education event at Medicine Hat College from May 4–8, 2026. Designed for Grade 4 and 10 students, the program provided immersive, hands-on learning experiences rooted in Blackfoot, Cree, and Métis cultures. Students engaged with Elders, knowledge keepers, and community partners through activities such as smudging, drumming, traditional crafts, storytelling, and cultural teachings delivered in authentic tipi settings. The event was made possible through strong community collaboration, including Medicine Hat College, the Miywasin Friendship Centre, local Indigenous organizations, and numerous volunteers and sponsors, reinforcing MHPSD's commitment to fostering reconciliation through meaningful, experiential learning.

2. **2026 Honouring Spirit: Indigenous Student Award**

As part of their 2026 Honouring Spirit: Indigenous Student Awards initiative the Alberta School Boards Association (ASBA) gave an honourable mention to Aleigha Aaker, grade 9 Student at Crescent Heights High School for sharing her Métis culture. Aleigha was presented with an honourable mention certificate at the recent Kiskihkeyimowin event.

VIII. ITEMS FOR ACTION

1. **Budget 2026-2027 Spring Release**

As per the Education Act the Board is presented in May with a budget proposal for the upcoming school year. The Spring Release is built on best estimates available at the time. An update will be provided in the fall on actual student numbers.

Mrs. Leanne Dulle, Secretary Treasurer presented the 2026-2027 Spring Budget reflecting on a balanced financial plan that responds to both funding growth and ongoing cost pressures. Total revenues are projected at approximately \$101.97 million, an increase of 4.0% from the prior year, driven primarily by a 4.2% increase in various types of provincial grant funding.

Enrolment is expected to decline slightly, however, it is consistent with broader demographic trends. The Division continues to see steady participation across programs, including growth in international student enrolment.

Staffing remains the most significant investment. Salaries and benefits total over \$78 million and account for the majority of costs. Although base grants increased by 3%, this does not fully offset rising staffing expenses related to wage settlements, grid movement, and benefit increases, resulting in continued budget pressures. To support student learning needs, staffing levels are increasing overall, particularly in certificated staff and educational assistants.

Funding adjustments include targeted increases in instruction, such as class size and complexity supports, alongside reductions in some operational and transportation funding areas.

It is recommended that the Board approve the Budget 2026-2027 Spring Release.

THAT the Board approve the Budget 2026-2027 Spring Release.

73. M. Hilgendorf

CARRIED

2. Education Plan

Dr. Cody Edwards, Acting Superintendent presented the Education Plan 2026-2030. Highlighting three universal goals that will guide the Division's work:

1. Optimal Learning
2. Supportive Communities
3. Thriving, Future Ready Learners

These priorities reflect a shared commitment to equitable, inclusive learning environments and meaningful relationships that support the diverse needs, interests, and aspirations of students.

The plan emphasizes strong foundational literacy and numeracy skills, high-quality instructional practices, and purposeful use of both digital and non-digital learning experiences. It also highlights the importance of safe, caring school environments where students, staff, and families feel connected, valued, and supported through wellness initiatives, responsive systems of care and community partnerships. The goals also include strategies to celebrate and cultivate partnerships.

The Division is focused on preparing learners for an evolving world by strengthening communication, critical

thinking, and real world learning opportunities. Career education and dual credit programming, will support students in making informed decisions about their futures.

A continued commitment to Truth and Reconciliation and First Nations, Métis, and Inuit student success is embedded across all goals, supported by authentic partnerships and a system wide approach.

THAT the Board approve the 2026-2030 Education Plan with the minor picture amendment noted.

74. Q. Skelton

CARRIED

3. Policy Updates – New Privacy Legislation

Effective June 11, 2025, Alberta replaced the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy (FOIP) Act with two new laws: the **Access to Information Act** and the **Protection of Privacy Act**. The following policies have been updated to ensure compliance consistent practices.

It is recommended that the Board approve updates to policies 412, 624 and 644 as presented.

Policy 412: Managing Division Information, Access & Privacy (New)

Policy 624: Student Records (Draft)

Policy 644: Video Surveillance (Draft)
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That the Board approve changes to Policy 412: Managing Division Information, Access & Privacy (New). Policy 624: Student Records (Draft) and Policy 644: Video Surveillance (Draft)

75. M. Hilgendorf

CARRIED

4. Policy 518: Long-Term Leave of Absence

This policy was updated to include a Deferred Salary Leave Plan (DSLPL) for eligible teachers as outlined in the Alberta Teachers’ Association (ATA) Collective Agreement. It is recommended that the Board approve the updates to policy 518 as presented.

That the Board approve the updates to Policy 518: Long-Term Leave of Absence.

76. G. Dirk

CARRIED

5. Authorization of Locally Developed Course

Request to authorize the following locally developed course:

Course Name: Introduction To Artificial Intelligence

Code: LCD1026 Credit: 5 Start Date: 5 Sept 1, 2026

It is recommended that the Board approve the authorization of: Introduction to Artificial Intelligence.

That the Board approve the new course: Introduction to Artificial Intelligence.

77. Q. Skelton

CARRIED

DRAFT

6. Reauthorization of Locally Developed Courses

Request to reauthorize the following locally developed courses:

Course Name	Code	Credit	Start Date
Musical Theatre Performance 15	LDC1858	5	Sept. 1/26
Musical Theatre Performance 25	LDC2858	5	Sept. 1/26
Musical Theatre Performance 35	LDC3858	5	Sept. 1/26
Academic Achievement Through English Language Development 35	LDC3149	3	Sept. 1/26
Academic Achievement Through English Language Development 35	LDC3149	5	Sept. 1/26
Competencies in Math 15	LDC1515	3	Sept. 1/26
Competencies in Math 15	LDC1515	5	Sept. 1/26
Learning Strategies 15	LDC1599	3	Sept. 1/26
Learning Strategies 15	LDC1599	5	Sept. 1/26
Learning Strategies 25	LDC2599	3	Sept. 1/26
Learning Strategies 25	LDC2599	5	Sept. 1/26
Learning Strategies 35	LDC3599	3	Sept. 1/26
Learning Strategies 35	LDC3599	5	Sept. 1/26
Astronomy 15	LDC1947	3	Sept. 1/26
Nutrition and Biochemistry 25	LDC2342	3	Sept. 1/26
Psychology – Abnormal 35	LDC3155	3	Sept. 1/26

All courses have been previously offered in our Division.

It is recommended that the Board approve the reauthorization of these courses for another term.

That the Board approve the reauthorization of the above listed courses for another term.

78. G. Dirk

CARRIED

IX. REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

1. **Board Chairs-Ministerial Engagement Sessions**

The ASBA hosted a Board Chairs-Ministerial Engagement session on Monday, May 4, 2026. An update was provided to the Board.

Chair Wilson and Acting Superintendent Edwards participated in the session virtually. The meeting focused primarily on the review and discussion of Bill 25. It was a full-day session marked by productive and meaningful dialogue, including a variety of breakout sessions that supported in-depth discussion and collaboration.

2. **Division Council of School Councils'**

The Division Council of School Councils held a meeting on Thursday, May 7, 2026. The meeting minutes were enclosed for information.

Dr. Cody Edwards, Acting Superintendent provided highlights from the Division Council of School Councils meeting. Mrs. Leanne Dulle, Secretary-Treasurer, presented an overview of the draft 2026–2027 Spring Budget.

Trustee Megan Hilgendorf suggested that trustees provide a presentation to School Councils outlining the role of trustees within the Division.

Chair Wilson is currently collaborating with Kurt Sacher on an initiative that may result in a presentation to the School Council.

3. **Coordinating Committee**

The Coordinating Committee held their meeting on Monday, May 11, 2026. The meeting minutes were enclosed for information.

X. ITEMS FOR INFORMATION

1. Administrative Procedure Updates

412 AP 001: Privacy Management Program
412 E 001: Delegation of Authority
412 E 002: Security Classification
412 E 003: Personal Information Banks
412 AP 002: Collection and Correction of Personal Information
412 E 004: Correction of Personal Information
412 AP 003: Privacy Incidents
412 AP 004: Access to Information
412 E 005: Access to Information Fee Schedule
412 AP 005: Logging and Auditing
518 AP 002: Deferred Salary Leave Plan
518 E 001: Application-Deferred Salary Leave Plan
530 AP 007: Media Relations
644 AP 001: Video Surveillance
644 E 002: Security Camera Installation Request Form
644 E 003: Notice
628 E 001: Secondary School Fee Schedule
628 E 003: International Student Fee Schedule

2. Superintendent Report

The Acting Superintendent provided an overview of the Division's engagement over the past month.

Dr. Cody Edwards, Acting Superintendent gave leadership updates that included several appointments with new leadership confirmed at HUB/Pathways School and Crestwood STEM School. System capacity building was also supported through the *Pathways to System Leadership* professional learning session, where more than 10 leaders engaged in learning with Kurt Sacher and Ray Hoppins.

A total of 33 positions were posted across a mix of full-time, part-time, temporary, and probationary roles. This includes staffing tied to 15 FTE funded through provincial investments in K-6 complexity and K-9 class size. Planning continues as the Division awaits further direction on high school funding. Additionally, 29 staff transfers were completed, the majority connected to school amalgamation.

Learning Supports – Tanisha Preston has been identified as First Nations, Métis, and Inuit Coordinator. Professional learning opportunities included the final Attic Club session with Dr. MacCormack (University of Lethbridge) and a Resilience MasterClass through the Palix Foundation.

3. School Visits for Trustees

A report was be provided on which schools trustees visited in the month of May.

Trustees reported visits to Webster Niblock School, the HUB, and River Heights School. They also attended Connaught School’s ‘Connaught-a-thon’ fundraiser.

4. Medicine Hat Public School Division Pancake Breakfast

The Board of Trustees and the Division will host the annual Pancake Breakfast for all staff on Friday, June 26 from 7:00 – 9:00 a.m. at Medicine Hat High School.

XI. Adjournment

THAT the meeting be adjourned.

79. G. Dirk

CARRIED

The meeting was adjourned at 5:30 PM.

CHAIR

SECRETARY TREASURER