

MINUTES OF THE

REGULAR MEETING OF THE LOUIS RIEL SCHOOL DIVISION BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Tuesday, February 1, 2022, 6:30 P.M.
50 Monterey Road, Winnipeg
Hybrid Meeting

BOARD MEMBERS: Louise Johnston, Chair
Sandy Nemeth, Vice-Chair
Pamela Kolochuk, Trustee
Josie Landry, Trustee
Robert Page, Trustee
Tom Parker, Trustee, virtual
Chris Sigurdson, Trustee
Cindy Turner, Trustee, virtual
Neil Vadeboncoeur, Trustee, virtual

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE: Christian Michalik, Superintendent & CEO
Jamie Rudnicki, Secretary-Treasurer & CFO
Lisa Aitken, Assistant Superintendent Staff Services, virtual
Jeff Anderson, Assistant Superintendent Instructional Services, virtual
Amarbeer Bhandari, Director of Facilities, Maintenance and Transportation, virtual
Ron Cadez, Divisional Principal, virtual
Darcy Cormack, Assistant Superintendent Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Services
Clarke Hagan, Director of Information Technology Systems
Michelle Jean-Paul, Divisional Principal, virtual
Deneen Madden, Executive Assistant, virtual
Lexi Muise, Executive Assistant
Marlene Murray, Assistant Superintendent Student Services

1. CALL TO ORDER

The Feb. 1 Regular Meeting of the Louis Riel School Division (LRSD) Board of Trustees was called to order by Louise Johnston, Chair, LRSD Board of Trustees at 6:30 p.m.

1.1 LRSD Land Acknowledgement

The Louis Riel School Division (LRSD) brings together a community of schools on the traditional land of the Anishinaabek, Ininewak, and Dakota. Our division is located on

the homeland of the Métis. We recognize that Manitoba is also the traditional land of the Anishininwak and Dene.

We respect the treaties made on this land and acknowledge the harms and mistakes of the past and present. We dedicate ourselves to authentic alliances with Indigenous communities in a spirit of reconciliation and cooperation.

The ongoing development of LRSD's land acknowledgement is guided by our Indigenous Council of Grandmothers and Grandfathers, and we thank them for their generosity and collaboration.

1.2 Welcome and Announcements

I would like to welcome everyone participating in this hybrid meeting. This is also to notify you that we audio record Board meetings for accuracy. Unless approved, photographs, personal recordings, audio, visual or otherwise, are not permitted.

1.3 Affirmation of Vision and Mission

The Chair read the division's Vision and Mission statements.

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA AND MINUTES

2.1 Approval of Agenda for Regular Board Meeting – Feb. 1, 2022

2021-085

Moved by Trustee Page

Seconded by Trustee Kolochuk

THAT the Feb. 1 agenda for the Regular Board Meeting be approved.

CARRIED

2.2 Approval of Minutes of Regular Board Meeting – Jan. 18, 2022

As there were no changes, the Jan. 18 minutes of the Regular Board Meeting were accepted as distributed.

2.3 Approval of Minutes of Special Board Meeting - Jan. 25, 2022

As there were no changes, the Jan. 25 minutes of the Special Board Meeting were accepted as distributed.

3. LRSD NEWS

3.1 News from the Board of Trustees Provided by Trustee Johnston

First, I want to express my gratitude to the incredible custodial team, transportation team, and support team who have been shoveling and moving large amounts of snow, and driving buses through treacherous roads to ensure our students and staff can safely get to school. LRSD is so fortunate to have great people.

Next, I would like to share a solid example of “Student Voice” in LRSD.

Mme Cadez, teacher at École George-McDowell, gave three of her classes a writing assignment to express their opinions to the divisional board office. These letters were well researched and included important discussion pieces.

Trustee Nemeth and I spent the morning virtually following up with these students discussing what they shared in their letters. It was a powerful morning of student-led conversations. The students’ opinions were focused on the betterment of their class and their school.

Here’s a few examples of student voice:

- Students would like the opportunity to participate in the teacher evaluation process:
 - share ideas about teaching strategies
 - share what works well and what could be improved upon
 - discuss drive and motivation
 - evaluation forms similar to the forms used by the University could work well
- Computer refresh and sharing process:
 - rotation schedule of the newer technology in a school was suggested
 - unblock some student websites was requested
- Review school start and ends times
- Request for healthy vending machines
- Request for gym every day

We came away from these meetings feeling that students in LRSD are receiving an excellent education. While the pandemic has and continues to challenge us, our students are learning and are fully engaged in their education.

3.2 News from Superintendent Michalik

I want to highlight the following stories:

- In January, we recognized Lincoln Alexander, the first black member of parliament, in anticipation of Black History month in February. During February, we will be celebrating Black History Month and you will be able to learn more and join the celebration by following our social media feeds. Michelle Jean-Paul, Divisional Principal of Diversity, Equity and Anti-Racism, was interviewed by CBC Manitoba Radio-Canada, to talk about Black History Month. A link to this interview will be shared shortly.
- In January, we also celebrated the International Day of Education, which is one of the United Nations days of commemoration.
- January 26 was *Bell Let’s Talk Day*, which promotes mental health awareness and encourages conversations about mental health and positive change

I recently received important letters from students in Grade 10 at Collège Jeanne-Sauvé whose assignment was to research a cause and raise awareness. Here is a summary of the four letters I received:

- Bryndis Bjornson-Namaka wrote of her concerns about specific learning needs regarding early literacy. I am in the process of writing her back and offering the opportunity of meeting with Darcy Cormack, Assistant Superintendent, Jeff Anderson, Assistant Superintendent, and Ron Cadez, Divisional Principal, to talk about the work we are doing in LRSD and to discuss her suggestions.
- Chloe Crockford wrote about concerns of the availability of menstrual products in schools. Again, I will reply to Chloe providing information about the efforts the division is making to address this concern and I will also invite Chloe to a meeting with Darcy Cormack.
- Isabel O'Brien provided some ideas about distributing menstrual products in LRSD. So, we might setup a Teams meeting with Chloe, Isabel, Darcy Cormack and myself.
- Rodge Deluz wrote regarding his concerns about fairness with respect to platforms that aren't able to connect on our Wi-Fi. Clarke Hagan, Director of Information Technology Systems, and I had a discussion about this and I will invite Rodge to a conversation regarding some changes he suggested.

I also want to highlight:

- Emma Wallis, Grade 11 student at J. H. Bruns Collegiate, was highlighted when she talked with CJOB about her poem entitled, *Too Much Time*, reflecting on her lived experience during COVID-19.
- Carlos Garcia, Grade 12 student at DCI, was the recipient of a Manitoba Indigenous Youth Achievement Award.
- Marney Blunt, teacher at Windsor Park Collegiate, shared with Global News about how the pandemic is weighing on students and teachers.

And finally, I want to remind parents that virtual kindergarten information sessions for parents to prepare for kindergarten enrolment will take place on Feb. 15 for the French Immersion Program and Feb. 17 for the English Program.

4. BOARD EDUCATION

The Chair led a conversation regarding Bill 45 and the implications.

5. FINANCE AND AUDIT

5.1 Funding Announcements

Secretary-Treasurer Rudnicki advised that the province has announced an addition \$80 million in funding to support school divisions in response to financial pressures stemming from the Cost of Living Adjustment (COLA) agreements as well as additional COVID-19 expenses. Out of that \$80 million, LRSD has been allocated \$6,347,179 to address these current financial pressures. This is a one-time, incremental cost pressure payment.

5.2 Spotlight Story RE: Public Budget Consultation and MailChimp Invite

Secretary-Treasurer Rudnicki and Superintendent Michalik referenced the spotlight story encouraging public participation in the 2022-2023 Budget ThoughtExchange. We are asking for your feedback on what should be our focus as we deliberate over next year's budget.

5.3 COLA Calculation Update

Secretary-Treasurer Rudnicki provided clarification regarding the COLA calculation for the 2021 calendar year and its implications.

6. INFORMATION TO THE BOARD

6.1 Pandemic Updates

Superintendent Michalik provided pandemic updates including the student and staff report absence dashboards and rapid antigen testing.

6.2 École Provencher Transition for 2022-2023

Superintendent Michalik and Assistant Superintendent Anderson provided an update regarding École Provencher transitioning to Kindergarten to Grade 4 and École Henri-Bergeron transitioning to Grade 5 to Grade 8 in 2022-2023. In 2015, École Provencher became a Kindergarten to Grade 3 school and École Henri-Bergeron became a Grade 4 to Grade 8 school. At that time, it was hoped that the schools would one day be reconfigured and that is now possible due to the evolution of the French Immersion population.

6.3 Metro Winnipeg School Board Liaison Meeting with Councillor Brian Mayes - Jan. 26, 2022

The Chair shared an update from the Metro Winnipeg School Board Liaison Meeting with Councillor Brian Mayes held on Jan. 26, 2022. The Chair thanked Councillor Mayes for his ongoing support.

6.4 Home School Summary

Superintendent Michalik shared the trends in the number of children homeschooled in LRSD.

7. CORRESPONDENCE

7.1 School Board Correspondence – Received

The following correspondence will be received by the Board:

Manitoba Education:

- (Page 1) Letter from Hon. Minister Ewasko RE: Manitoba inclusive Education Month (Jan. 28, 2022)
- (Page 2) Manitoba Inclusive Education Month Proclamation

Education Funding Branch:

- None

General:

- (Page 3) Thank you note from A. Proulx
- (Page 4) Email from L. Tyler (Jan. 27, 2022)

7.2 School Board Correspondence – Sent

The following correspondence was sent by the Board:

- email to B. Mayes, MLA (Jan. 20, 2021)

7.3 Manitoba School Boards Association (MSBA) Correspondence – Received

The following MSBA correspondence was received by the Board:

Labour Relations:

- (Page 1) Memo RE: COLA Calculations as per the Pembina Trails Arbitration Award (Jan. 26, 2022)

General MSBA Correspondence:

- (Page 2) Copied letter to Hon. Minister Fielding (Jan. 17, 2022)
- (Page 9) International Holocaust Remembrance Day
- (Page 12) e-bulletin (Jan. 26, 2022)

8. ACTION ITEMS

9. PUBLIC FORUM

The following members of the public were in attendance and had the opportunity to ask questions for information or clarification from items on this evening's agenda:

- Curtis Lowton
- Irene Bindi

- Jay McGurran
- Kirk Goodlet
- Maggie Macintosh
- Margaret Whitlaw
- Nicholas Kelly
- Sandy Lethbridge
- Scott Wood

10. ADJOURNMENT

The Feb. 1 Regular Meeting adjourned at 7:35 p.m.

"Original signed by L. Johnston"

Chair

"Original signed by J. Rudnicki"

Secretary-Treasurer