

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,**
September 22, 2026 AT 4:00 p.m.

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

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: Lee Krasilowez, Communications Manager
Katie Evans, Medicine Hat High School Student Delegate
Jarred Fuentes, Medicine Hat High School Student Delegate

CHAIR: Catherine Wilson

RECORDING SECRETARY: Debbie Terlson

I. CALL MEETING TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 4:00 PM.

II. TREATY 7 LAND ACKNOWLEDGMENT

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.

A Land Acknowledgement video was presented by Tanisha Wass, First Nations, Metis & Inuit Teacher Coordinator.

III. INTRODUCTION OF STUDENT DELEGATES

The Board welcomed student delegates, Jarred Fuentes, Katie Evans from Medicine Hat High School and Jordyn Nikiel from Crescent Heights High School was unable to attend.

IV. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Chair Wilson added to the agenda the following policies for review to VIII. Items For Action.

200 – Role of the Board of Trustees DRAFT
 202 – Role of Trustees DRAFT
 202.1 – Trustee Code of Conduct DRAFT
 202.5 – Board Delegation of Authority NEW

THAT the agenda be approved as amended.

1. 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, June 30, 2026** and the Committee of the Whole meeting held on **Tuesday, September 8, 2026**.

THAT the Regular and Committee of the Whole minutes from **Tuesday, June 30, 2026** and the Committee of the Whole minutes from **Tuesday, September 8, 2026** be approved.

2. M. Hilgendorf

CARRIED

VI. PRESENTATION

1. Complexity Teams Update: Elementary & Secondary

Carla Carrier, Acting Associate Superintendent Learning & Student Supports provided an update to the trustees on the implementation and evolution of Complexity Teams across Medicine Hat Public School Division. The update included an overview of the complexity team model, which was first implemented in elementary schools late in the 2025–26 school year and has now expanded to Grades 7–12 for the 2026–27 school year.

Classroom complexity teams provide embedded, school based, and in-class support for learning environments experiencing elevated academic, behavioural, social and emotional complexity. Their purpose is to stabilize classrooms, strengthen school teams, and improve student outcomes through early identification and responsive intervention. Complexity teamwork is data-informed and context-specific and upholds division goal of Supportive Communities.

An Alberta Education report outlines proactive strategies for supporting school teams. Collaborative Problem Solving & Response, Front-Loaded Programming and Planning (Early

Intervention & Monitoring), Mobile and Responsive Capacity-Building Teams, and Building Capacity Across the System. The report supported five enabling principles: Autonomy, Capacity, Flexibility, Responsiveness and Time.

Elementary complexity teams are comprised of 1 teacher and 2 EAs in 8 of our schools. The core support areas provided are; literacy, numeracy and social-emotional and behaviour.

Secondary complexity teams are designed to reflect the diverse needs of students in Grades 7–12. Staffing decisions are flexible and may include teachers, educational assistants, behaviour specialists, social workers, or other specialists. These teams support students in literacy and numeracy, social relationship skills, emotional and behavioural regulation, communication, and self-advocacy.

Complexity Teams participate in monthly professional learning to deepen their skills and knowledge, enabling them to better support school teams and students. These sessions are facilitated through both internal and external expertise.

Professional learning supports from within the division include OLCs, Inclusive Supports, and the Director of Psychology. The teams have also benefited from expertise across the province, including Supporting Teacher and EA Roles, Responsibilities and Relationships with Dr. MacCormack and the Resilience Scale Master Class offered by the Palix Foundation at no cost to the division.

A shared folder and handbook has been started with literacy, numeracy and social-emotional resources. Support is also being provided for Administrators with planning and operational support, collaborative response and continuum of supports.

Mr. Peters outlined the funding timeline, which enabled the division to add a total of 16 teachers, 18 educational assistants (EAs), and three Child and Youth Care Workers (CYCWs). Funding was announced in three stages. The first stage, focused on elementary complexity, supported the addition of eight teachers and 16 EAs. The second stage addressed class size for Kindergarten to Grade 9 but did not include high schools. The third stage, announced in late June, provided funding for secondary complexity; however, no grant funding was received specifically to address high school class sizes. As the high schools had already allocated staffing funds for CYCWs and established

supportive learning programs, the division was able to reallocate secondary complexity funding to help address high school class-size pressures.

VII. CORRESPONDENCE

1. Thank You Messages from Students

The following students have sent thank you messages for scholarships received:

Sawyer Grubert	Debra Bitz Memorial Scholarship
Mila Reid	Debra Bitz Memorial Scholarship
Kai Nunweiler	Debra Bitz Memorial Scholarship
Lyle Aleman	Debra Bitz Memorial Scholarship
Adriene Campbell	Thelma Berkeley Robinson Scholarship
Brody Elsom	Thelma Berkeley Robinson Scholarship
Colby Kirschenman	Thelma Berkeley Robinson Scholarship
Haejeong Lee	Thelma Berkeley Robinson Scholarship
Aileen Liu	Thelma Berkeley Robinson Scholarship
Keara Moskal	Thelma Berkeley Robinson Scholarship
Jasmine Prokosch	Thelma Berkeley Robinson Scholarship
Emily Wagner	Thelma Berkeley Robinson Scholarship
Sierra Wittevrongel	Thelma Berkeley Robinson Scholarship
Jayda Ziegenhagel	Thelma Berkeley Robinson Scholarship

VIII. ITEMS FOR ACTION

1. Policy 720: Off-Site Activities

The following policy and associated administrative procedures/exhibits have been updated.

Policy 720: Off-Site Activities

THAT the Board approve the changes to Policy 720: Off-Site Activities, with the significant changes and additions to Policy 720 Administrative Procedures and Exhibits to follow next month.

3. P. Grisonich

CARRIED

2. Policy 528: Discrimination, Harassment, Violence & Bullying

The following policy and associated administrative procedures/ exhibits have been updated.

Policy 528: Discrimination, Harassment, Violence and Bullying

THAT the Board approve the changes to Policy 528: Discrimination, Harassment, Violence & Bullying.

4. G. Dirk

CARRIED

Trustee Hilgendorf declared a conflict of interest, left the meeting and did not participate in the discussion or vote.

5:05p.m. Trustee Hilgendorf left the meeting.

3. International Off-Site Activity: Request for Approval in Principle

It is recommended that the Board approve, in principle, an international off-site activity for students from Crescent Heights High School (Drama), requested by teacher leader Jennifer Davies, to travel to New York from Tuesday, March 30, 2027, to Sunday, April 4, 2027.

Teacher leader Jennifer Davies has met the documentation and criteria required at the approval-in-principle stage for international travel under Policy 720: Off-Site Activities. Students have been provided with fundraising opportunities to help offset their travel costs, and a projected financial summary is enclosed for the Board's review.

The Board discussed the current political climate in the United States, recent changes to border-entry requirements, and the potential implications for student travel, duty of care, and risk management. Trustees also noted the importance of continuing to monitor travel conditions and applicable guidance as planning for the trip proceeds.

THAT the Board approve, in principle, an international off-site activity for students from Crescent Heights High School (Drama Program) represented by teacher Jennifer Davies, to travel to New York for the period Tuesday, March 30, 2027, to Sunday, April 4, 2027.

5. Q. Skelton

CARRIED

Chair Wilson and Trustees Grisonich and Skelton voted in favour. Trustee Dirk voted in opposition.

5:18 p.m. Trustee Hilgendorf returned to the meeting.

4. International Off-Site Activity: Request for Approval in Principle

It is recommended that the Board approve, in principle, an international off-site activity for students from Medicine Hat High School and Crescent Heights High School (Japanese Exchange Program), requested by teacher leader Glen Mori, to travel to Japan from Friday, July 16, 2027, to Saturday, July 31, 2027.

Teacher leader Glen Mori has met the documentation and criteria required at the approval-in-principle stage for international travel under Policy 720: Off-Site Activities. Students have been provided with fundraising opportunities to help offset their travel costs, and a projected financial summary is enclosed for the Board's review.

THAT the Board approve, in principle, an international off-site activity for students from both Medicine Hat High School and Crescent Heights High School (Japanese Exchange Program) represented by teacher Glen Mori, to travel to Japan for the period Friday, July 16, 2027, to Saturday, July 31, 2027.

6. P. Grisonich

CARRIED

5. Review of Policies

The following three policies have been updated and one new policy has been drafted to comply with the mandated September 1 deadline. *An Act to Remove Politics and Ideology from Classrooms and Amend the Education Act, 2026* (formerly Bill 25), and relevant Ministerial Orders.

200 – Role of the Board of Trustees DRAFT

202 – Role of Trustees DRAFT

202.1 – Trustee Code of Conduct DRAFT

202.5 – Board Delegation of Authority NEW (adopted from the ASBA)

THAT the Board approve the amended Policies 200, 202, 202.1, and the new policy 202.5.

7. P. Grisonich

CARRIED

IX. REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

1. Canadian School Boards Association National Trustee Gathering on Indigenous Education

The British Columbia School Trustees Association hosted the 2026 CSBA Congress and National Trustee Gathering on Indigenous Education on July 5 to 8, 2026.

Trustees M. Hilgendorf, G. Dirk alongside Mrs. Leanne Dulle, Secretary Treasurer shared highlights from the event, noting excellent overall engagement and strong

representation from school board trustees across Canada. Attendees had the opportunity to select breakout sessions aligned with their specific areas of interest and reported that these sessions provided valuable insights.

Mrs. Dulle highlighted the value of connecting with Secretary Treasurers and Superintendents outside of Alberta, allowing for productive discussions and shared operational perspectives.

Ms. Dirk noted that the President of the Alberta School Boards Association (ASBA), has also been elected President of the Canadian School Boards Association (CSBA). Ms. Dirk also highlighted an engaging keynote address by Jody Wilson-Raybould.

2. Public School Boards' Council Meeting

Trustees, P. Grisonich and G. Dirk, attended the Public-School Boards' Association gathering in Edmonton from August 5 to 7, 2026.

Mr. Grisonich and Ms. Dirk described the conference as an enjoyable and valuable experience. It was noted that on PSBA's website there are two sessions being offered online on October 1, 2026. 1) Module 15 - What Makes A Good Board Chair and; 2) Module 17 – Trustee Code of Conduct. The deadline to register for both of these is September 30th. Trustees were encouraged to review the modules before attending the sessions.

X. ITEMS FOR INFORMATION

1. Schedule of School Council Meetings

The meetings for Medicine Hat Public School Division school councils:

Chair Wilson reminded the Trustees to consult the meeting calendar regularly, noting that meeting dates and times are subject to change or cancellation.

2. Superintendent Report

Dr. Cody Edwards, Acting Superintendent, thanked the Board for their support with the division welcome back BBQ held on August 28. The event provided an opportunity to work with staff on system-level professional learning and key initiatives for the upcoming school year which focused on communities of practice and based on MHPSDs Optimal Learning Environment framework. Secondary teachers engaged in learning centered on quality evidence of

learning and assessment practices, supporting ongoing work related to secondary assessment changes. Elementary teachers participated in communities of practice based on the four elements of the Optimal Learning Environment, allowing them to collaborate with colleagues from across the division.

Dr. Edwards shared that members of the leadership team had the unique opportunity to visit the new Medicine Hat Women's Shelter Society's – Phoenix Safe House. The visit provided valuable insight into the services and supports available to individuals and families in the community. The intentional design of the facility and its focus on creating a welcoming, caring, and supportive environment were particularly noteworthy. The experience highlighted the importance of community partnerships and the collective work being done to support the wellbeing of children, youth, and families throughout Medicine Hat.

3. School Visits for Trustees

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

Trustees attended School Councils at Vincent Massey, Ross Glen, Crestwood and Dr. Ken Sauer School.

Trustees will also attend the opening of the new Ross Glen School playground. Chair Wilson will send regrets.

4. Annual Conferences

The schedule of conferences for 2026-2027 is enclosed for information. Registration is available for NSBA, the advanced early-bird deadline is Friday, November 27, 2026 and the early-bird deadline is Friday, January 8, 2027.

Chair Wilson reminded trustees that, consistent with past Board practice, they may attend either the NSBA or CSBA annual conference, but not both.

Suspend: 5:45 p.m.

Resume: 5:58 p.m.

XI. MOVE TO IN-CAMERA

It is recommended that the Board moves to in-camera to discuss certain confidential matters.

8. M. Hilgendorf

CARRIED

The Board moved to Committee of the Whole at 5:58 PM.

XII. RECONVENE TO OPEN BOARD MEETING

The Board reconvened to the open Board meeting at 6:20 PM

XIII. ACTIONS ARISING OUT OF THE IN-CAMERA MEETING

No actions arose.

XIV. ADJOURNMENT

THAT the meeting be adjourned.

9. P. Grisonich

CARRIED

The meeting was adjourned at 6:23 PM.

CHAIR

SECRETARY TREASURER