

Horizon School Division No. 67

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The Board of Trustees of Horizon School Division No. 67 held its Regular Board meeting on March 19, 2013 beginning at 1:30 p.m. in the Eric Johnson Room

TRUSTEES PRESENT: Audrey Krizsan, Board Chair
Derek Baron, Board Vice-Chair
Marie Logan, Bruce Francis, Sharon Holtman, Jennifer Crowson
Terry Michaelis

ALSO PRESENT: Cheryl Gilmore, Superintendent of Schools
John Rakai, Associate Superintendent of Finance & Operations
Dave Driscoll, Associate Superintendent of Programs & Services
Wilco Tymensen, Associate Superintendent of Curriculum & Instruction
Stan Ashbee, Taber Times
Barb McDonald, Recording Secretary

ACTION ITEMS

Moved by Sharon Holtman that the Board approve the agenda as presented with the following addition:

Under Discussion Items

#2. Provincial Budget Update and Implications to Horizon School
Division – John Rakai

Carried Unanimously

AGENDA APPROVED
14/13

Moved by Terry Michaelis that the Board approve the Minutes of the Regular Board Meeting held Thursday, February 14, 2013 as provided in Enclosure 1 of the agenda.

Carried Unanimously

REGULAR BOARD
MEETING MINUTES
APPROVED
15/13

Moved by Jennifer Crowson that the Board approve the Payment of Accounts report in the amount of \$4,357,974.79 as provided in Enclosure 2 of the agenda.

Carried Unanimously

PAYMENT OF
ACCOUNTS REPORT
APPROVED
16/13

DISCUSSION ITEMS

1. Horizon Transformation Agenda Update – Cheryl Gilmore

Cheryl Gilmore provided the following update in regards to the Transformation Agenda:

- **Professional Learning** – Focusing on Literacy in middle grades
- **Digital Citizenship** – New policy
- **Inclusive Learning** – Working on a new vision for structure and budgeting for funding for delivery of services to children

Ms. Gilmore also spoke about how the Transformation will move forward as a result of the impact of the March provincial budget announcement and the non-funding of AISI (Alberta Initiative for School Improvement) effective as of the end of March, 2013.

2. Budget Update and Implications to Horizon School Division – John Rakai

John Rakai provided information to the Board regarding the March 2013 provincial budget announcement for the 2013 – 2014 school year. The budget includes the following adjustments that will affect Horizon School Division:

- 2% grant rate increase to Inclusive education
- 2% grant rate increase for Class Size
- Copyright fees will no longer apply to school authorities
- Alberta Initiative for School Improvement (AIS) is suspended effective April 1, 2013
- Discontinued Fuel Price Contingency funding effective April 1, 2013
- Discontinued Learning Resources Credit Allocation effective September 1, 2013
- Restructured Equity of Opportunity grant whereby a portion of the per-student funding is reallocated to distance and low student density
- Introduction of Tier Four Credit Enrolment Units (CEU) for work experience and special projects whereby the level of funding will be reduced from \$187.48 to \$112.48 per CEU
- Distance Learning CEU funding will be reduced from \$187.48 to \$82.49 per CEU
- FTE Funded enrolment replaces FET weighted enrolment in the Plant Operations and Maintenance (PO&M) formula
- Board governance and system administration funding will be reduced by 10% of the total calculated allowable amount and will be deducted from monthly payments
- English as a Second Language (ESL) funding will be reduced from 7 years to 5 years

A budget profile summary was reviewed with the Board using 0% enrolment growth and implementation of the above adjustments which identified the potential of a \$1,125,468.00 decrease or -2.89% in funding.

A Budget Committee meeting will be called as soon as possible following the development of the detailed budget for 2013-2014.

INFORMATION ITEMS

1. Superintendent's Progress Report

Preliminary Budget Projections

The province announced the budget for 2013-14 on March 7. It is unquestionably a very challenging budget and the jurisdiction is still in the process of calculating overall budget implications. Some of the funding categories where Horizon experienced significant loss include the withdrawal of funding support for AISI (Alberta Initiative for School Improvement). This budget loss is effective this school year. Horizon will sustain the staffing allocations that fall under the umbrella of AISI for this school year. Schools have engaged in projects that are making a difference to instructional practice and student learning under this umbrella and we feel confident that some capacity has been built in schools that will serve as an impetus for the positive outcomes to move forward. We have significant reductions in transportation (fuel contingency), plant operations and maintenance, and system administration. The cut in Board and system administration end up being a loss to regular instruction because the Board has never used the full allocation and the money that was traditionally not used was put into the instructional block. Funds will be lost in distance learning and work experience programs at the high school level. The reduction of funding for English Language Learners will also be difficult. Overall, if we have stable enrollment next year, we will experience a short fall of approximately 1.2 million dollars.

Administrators Meeting

Administrator professional learning for the March administrators' meeting focused on highlights and issues at the high school level: Videoconferencing, distance learning, work experience, high school flexibility project, and adolescent literacy. The regular agenda included core practices of successful leaders (re-designing the organization), trends and issues, budget, digital citizenship, technology update, Education Week, and the Council of School Leadership update.

COSC Meeting

The agenda for the jurisdiction Council of School Councils included discussion on resolutions for the annual Alberta School Council Association Spring Conference. The committee will be sending 3-4 representatives to present Horizon resolutions at the conference. Horizon issue resolutions include: Early Intervention, Inclusive Model of Accountability, and Raising Responsible Citizens. Alberta Health Services Education liaison presented some of the resources available to schools through the health region. An update of the Horizon Transformation Agenda was provided and well as an update on provincial initiatives.

Board Visits

The Superintendent accompanied representative Board members on visits to Copperfield Colony, W. R. Myers High School, and D. A. Ferguson Middle School. Thank-you to the schools for the incredible hospitality and the opportunity to see students engaged in quality learning.

Value Management

The superintendent joined some members of the Board in a very productive Value Management session at Warner School hosted by Alberta Capital Planning Branch. The purpose of the session was to explore potential parameters for a capital project should the province consider approving one in the future. The principal, staff, parents, community members, the Village Council, and County of Warner can be commended for a well prepared delivery of community capacity.

Other

The Superintendent facilitated the delivery of professional development to English Language Arts 6-9 teachers (Unpacking Outcomes, development of writing exemplars). A meeting with Alberta Education following up on an interagency meeting regarding the Low German-speaking Mennonite population was held. Horizon Support Staff Negotiating Committee met with CUPE and non-CUPE members for a preliminary meeting prior to engaging in negotiations. The Superintendent also attended the ASBA Zone 6 meeting, and a provincial ASBA meeting.

Trustee/Committee Reports:

2.1 ASBA Zone 6 Report – Marie Logan, Zone 6 Representative provided information from the Zone 6 meeting which was held March 13 (?) . 2013 and included the following highlights:

- Edwin Parr Award selection committee process and general update;
 - Deadline April 5, 2013
 - Interviews April 24, 2013
 - Edwin Parr Awards will take place on Wednesday, May 8, 2013 at the Taber Heritage
- April 10, 2013 ASBA Workshop – Public Sector Accounting Standards, Budgeting during times of fiscal restraints and results based budgeting. Marie Logan, John Rakai, Terry Michaelis, Dave Driscoll and Cheryl Gilmore will be attending this workshop.
- Presentations – March Meeting
 - Canada Wide Science Fair – taking place May 11-18, 2013
- ASEBP's Health Services
- Ron Taylor's report included the following information:
 - Provided information Inspiring Education and encouraged everyone to read the Steering Committee Report
 - Added that Zone 6 is a phenomenal zone to work with
 - Informed the group regarding Alberta Education budget and staff cutbacks
- ASBA Bylaws review
- Upcoming professional learning opportunities for Trustees
- Upcoming ASBA Spring General Meeting in Red Deer
- Revision of the ASBA Zone 6 Handbook

2.2 Facilities Committee Report – Jennifer Crowson, Facilities Committee Chair, provided updates on work undertaken during the past month within the Facilities Department as provided in the handout that was distributed. The report included the following information:

- Vauxhall Bus Garage/Vauxhall MAP Renovation

- New Arden T. Litt Centre in Grassy Lake
- 2013 IMR Project Planning
- Miscellaneous Maintenance work completed during February and March, 2013

2.3 March Administrators' Meeting Review

Terry Michaelis provided a brief review of the Administrators' Meeting that took place on Tuesday, March 12, 2013 in the Eric Johnson Room. Highlights included the following:

- Professional Learning for High School Principals (Areas of learning included the High School Flexibility Project, videoconferencing, adolescent literacy and dual credit programs)
- Provincial Competency Indicators
- Discussion on no-zero grading, bullying/harassment policy, issues regarding smokeless cigarettes
- Budget
- Technology/Digital Citizenship
- Inclusive Learning
- Review of Policy HICA (Off-Site Activities)

The next Administrators' Meeting will take place on Tuesday, April 9, 2013 beginning at 10:00 a.m. at Hays School. Jennifer Crowson will be the trustee representative attending from the Board.

2. Associate Superintendent of Finance and Operations Report

John Rakai provided a report and update as follows:

- With the assistance of Andy Tuveson and Joe Matthews, submitted the Vauxhall schools project as an entry for the Architectural award at the CEFPI (Council of Educational Facility Planners International) Conference held in March. Although Horizon's project was outstanding, it did not win the award.
- Attended a workshop in regards to proceedings of the upcoming Fall 2013 elections.
- Attended the Warner School capital project facility discussion

3. Associate Superintendent of Program & Instruction

Dave Driscoll, Associate Superintendent of Programs & Services reported on the following:

- Provided an update regarding the Inclusive Learning Committee, making sure that their philosophies line up with the Transformation Agenda. The goal is to make sure that funding is sustainable and will be able to accommodate the Inclusive Education philosophy.
- Continuing with attendance at ongoing Regional Collaborative Services delivery meetings. An agreement was reached that funding from existing SHIP (Student Health Initiative Partnerships) model will continue into next year.
- Spoke about the first and hopefully annual International dinner (put on by the current group of international students attending Horizon) held on March 16th at the W.R. Myers High School Gym. Students from Korea, Japan, Columbia, China and Mexico prepared foods traditional to their heritage.

4. Associate Superintendent of Curriculum and Instruction Report

- Wilco Tymensen presented to the January 2013 Diploma Exam results to the Board noting that Horizon students excelled in all areas, reaching above provincial average results in every subject

COMMITTEE ITEMS

Moved by Bruce Francis that the Board meet in Committee.
Carried Unanimously

COMMITTEE
17/13

Moved by Marie Logan that the meeting reconvene.
Carried Unanimously

RECONVENE
18/13

Moved by Derek Baron that the meeting adjourn
Carried Unanimously

MEETING
ADJOURNED
19/13

Chair

Secretary