

SCHOOL DISTRICT #81 (FORT NELSON)
FORT NELSON SCHOOL BOARD MINUTES

Open Meeting
6:00 pm

Tuesday
April 21, 2020

In Attendance:

L. Dolen, Chair
M. Gilbert, Trustee VIA Telephone
R. Irwin, Trustee VIA Microsoft Teams
Y. Taylor, Trustee
B. Dolan, Trustee, VIA Telephone
D. Samchuck, Superintendent
M. Hall, Secretary-Treasurer
P. Anderson, Recording Secretary
S. Smith, FNDTA President
E. Dorosz – Gagne, FNDTA Liaison VIA Microsoft Teams

Call to Order

Chair Dolen called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm.

Acceptance of Agenda

Chair Dolen called for any additions or changes to the Open Agenda.
One item was added to Business Arising:

- Time change for next Board Meeting

R20-023 That the Board of Education accept the Open Agenda as amended.
CARRIED

Y. Taylor/R. Irwin

Acceptance of Minutes

Chair Dolen called for any errors or omissions to the Open Minutes.
As no errors or omissions were identified, Chair Dolen declared the minutes accepted as presented.

Report on Closed Items

- Vote on Proposed Teacher Collective Agreement
- Staff Appreciation Ideas
- JSC Principal

Business Arising

Time change for next Board Meeting

Because of the quarantine the Open meeting will be held on May 12, 2020 at 1:00 pm followed by Closed Meeting. We will hold the meeting through Zoom for those who wish to attend virtually.

That the Board of Education file the March Monthly Financials as received.

CARRIED

Secretary-Treasurer Hall stated that the monthly reports show a couple of overages. We will have staff look into these overages to ensure that the numbers are accurately reported.

Trustee Reports/Inquiries/Celebrations

Internet access after month end

Trustee Gilbert stated that it is not known that NWTel has submitted requests to CRTC for a waiver of overages for the month of May, after that, things remain uncertain.

WCB Working alone regulations & do they apply

We have been instructed to pay attention to WCB regulations. Trustee Gilbert stated that the rule that applies to the NRRM and imagine same as the School District is that if a person is working alone at work, check ins are required. Superintendent Samchuck stated that we were told that staff need to check in and check out of the building as they come and go.

2020/2021 Budget

Chair Dolen stated that the Minister said that they will stick with the budget for this year. They will look at what supports may need to be put in place for September. It doesn't look like we will have an extension of the school year due to extreme costs associated with this. Secretary-Treasurer Hall said that the Deputy Minister's message from Friday included a spreadsheet where we can start tracking our expenses and savings during this time. Trustee Gilbert asked if there are any significant cost savings as a result of this situation? Are we still required to make payments to our bus contract? Secretary-Treasurer Hall stated that she is working with the bussing company to negotiate a price. She has submitted what she thinks is fair during these times and is waiting to hear back. The payment will not be relieved all together. There is nothing stipulated in the contract for this type of situation.

- Trustee Irwin – Reading letters from RLA, they are positive and important.
- Trustee Dolan – Very pleased that the Pro D committee was able to confirm Dr. Harrington to speak at next year's Pro D.

Wondered if there had been any push back or issues surrounding the playground closures. None to date.

- Trustee Taylor – Nothing to report
- Trustee Gilbert – Would like to extend appreciation to staff for the extra effort and agility with which this situation has been handled. He is living up close and personal with three of our staff and sees first hand the extra hard work that is put in. Kudos to all staff.
- Chair Dolen – Also wanted to pass along thanks and appreciation to staff and thanks to Board members for dealing with frustrations and technical difficulties experienced while trying to use Microsoft Teams.
- Superintendent Samchuck – Thanks to all staff, they are doing an incredible job. They remain generally positive which is remarkable in this situation.
- Secretary-Treasurer Hall – We have spent some time conversing with the architects. We currently have two large projects starting soon at FNSS. It's interesting that WCB was mentioned as we just heard from our contractor, he has to look at our project a little differently now. Due to social distancing, he is unable to have as many workers on site as planned. This could cause delays and increase time required for the completion of the project. We are waiting to hear from the Ministry to see if school is going back, if not, there is a chance that they can start the project earlier.
- FNDDA Liaison, E.Dorosz – Gagne – There have been many questions surrounding graduation. Will have a meeting with Superintendent Samchuck and Principal Theobald to explore some options.
- FNDDA President S. Smith – Appreciation to the district for the positive way in which they are dealing with these times. Administration and teachers are working well together. The general meeting to elect a new FNDDA president should happen in May.

S. Smith proceeded to read a letter to the Board from the FNDDA regarding the process of the selection of the school calendars outlining their disappointment in the process and selection with such disregard to the input received.

Superintendent Samchuck received a letter from D. Woodworth stating that he received two scholarships from UNBC. It was so nice to receive good news right now.

Adjournment

Chair Dolen declared the meeting adjourned at 6:38 pm. Next meeting will be on May 12 at 1:00 pm starting with open followed by closed.

Linda Dolen
Chair

Margaret-Anne Hall
Secretary-Treasurer