

ST. JAMES-ASSINIBOIA SCHOOL DIVISION**REPORT OF THE MEETING WITH CONSERVATIVE MLAs**

Meeting Held: Monday, November 15, 2021, Virtual via Microsoft Teams, 6:04 p.m.

In Attendance:

MLA

Honourable Myrna Driedger, MLA (Roblin)
Honourable Scott Fielding, MLA (Kirkfield Park)
Scott Johnston, MLA (Assiniboia)

St. James-Assiniboia School Division

Cheryl Smukowich, Chair of the Board
Jennifer Lawson, Vice-Chair of the Board
Nicole Bowering, Trustee
Bruce Chegus, Trustee
Craig Glennie, Trustee
Holly Hunter, Trustee
Craig Johnson, Trustee
Sandy Lethbridge, Trustee
Bryan Metcalfe, Trustee
Mike Wake, Superintendent
Carrie Melville, Secretary-Treasurer/CFO

Regrets:

DISCUSSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Approval of Agenda

The Agenda was adopted as circulated.

2. Salary Settlements/CPI

The Board advised the MLAs that the COLA salary increase attached to the teacher's settlement is trending higher than what was expected at budget time. Administration clarified that COLA language is not contract terminology that would have been negotiated had the Division been able to reach its own agreement, but rather it came out of the Pembina Trails School Division teacher's arbitration.

The MLAs advised that Government is aware of the issue of high inflationary rates that are affecting the COLA and the issue will be under consideration as part of the Education Governance process.

3. 2022/2023 Funding

The Board expressed concern that increasing salary costs coupled with inflation will make it impossible to maintain the Divisions service at the current level, unless the Province is prepared to increase funding. It was further explained that if reductions became necessary that there would be an impact on the classroom.

At the time of the meeting, the MLAs were not able to provide information on how School Divisions would be funded in 2022/23, or whether the province would be

taking over provincial teacher bargaining. The MLAs advised that the required information would be released in the upcoming throne speech or at budget time.

4. Safe Schools Funding

The Board shared that the expenditures required to achieve 'business as usual' school operations while Covid-19 persists exceed the Safe Schools funding from the Province. The shortfall is approximately \$800,000.

The Board requested consideration for additional Safe Schools funding.

The MLAs requested that additional information on the Division's Safe Schools budget be provided so the matter could be considered further.

5. Phoenix School Gym and Shared Space

The Board reviewed correspondence that was sent to the province regarding the need for a new gym at Phoenix School as well as a renovation to the existing gym space to provide shared space for the School and Bright Beginnings Educare.

The Honourable Myrna Driedger advised that she was prepared to follow up on the request in terms of having Government look at it and accepted an invitation to tour Phoenix School.

6. Surplus Buildings – Britannia and Allard

The Board provided a status update on the two surplus buildings that Division owns. The Allard building is currently under review for disposal options. The Britannia building is currently leased to childcare providers. The potential for disposal options for this building were discussed.

The meeting adjourned at 7:23 p.m.

Minutes recorded by Carrie Melville, Secretary-Treasurer/CFO

Minutes presented by Jennifer Lawson, Board Vice-Chair