

**ST. JAMES-ASSINIBOIA SCHOOL DIVISION**

**REPORT OF THE MEETING WITH NDP MLAs**

**Meeting Held:** Monday, November 29, 2021, Virtual via Microsoft Teams, 6:00 p.m.

**In Attendance:**

**MLA**

Malaya Marcelino, MLA (Notre Dame)  
Adrien Sala, MLA (St. James)

**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 (left 6:27 p.m.)  
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 COLA language was introduced to teacher settlements as a result of an arbitration that occurred at Pembina Trails School Division. As CPI rates increase, it creates budgetary pressure.

The MLAs responded that they were not aware of how the Government might address School Division budget pressures.

**3. 2022/2023 Funding**

Administration provided information on how inflation is impacting the non-salary portion of the budget. Many expenses are seeing increases in the double digits.

If Provincial funding does not keep pace with inflation, the School Division will not be able to maintain its current level of service.

The MLAs offered to follow up with government on this matter.

**4. COVID Impacts  
21-22 Budget  
22-23 Budget**

Administration advised that the Safe Schools funding has assisted the School Division in addressing COVID-19 needs. However, the School Division did have to mark surplus dollars to assist in additional expenses related to the pandemic as well.

**5. Ventilation in SJASD Schools**

Administration advised that the Maintenance Department has assessed all ventilation units in school buildings and they are compliant with the ASHRAE standards that the Province has provided.

**6. Better Education Starts Today – SJASD Input**

The MLAs asked if the Government had sought input from the School Division on the Better Education Starts Today Strategy.

The Board responded that input was not requested from the SJASD Board of Trustees.

**7. Community Concerns**

The MLAs brought forward a few matters from the community for discussion.

The meeting adjourned at 7:12 p.m.

Minutes recorded by Carrie Melville, Secretary-Treasurer/CFO  
Minutes presented by Jennifer Lawson, Board Vice-Chair