

Minutes of the Special Meeting of the Board of Education of Prairie Spirit School Division No. 206 held in the Prairie Spirit School Division Office, on Monday, June 22, 2015, commencing at 10:30 a.m.

Present for the meeting were Board Members: Larry Pavloff, Chairperson; Sam Dyck, Vice Chairperson; Dawne Badrock; Joanne Brochu; Ken Crush; Deanna Greyeyes; Bonnie Hope (left at 11:45 a.m.); Bernie Howe (left at 12:10 p.m.); George Janzen; Keith Wagner (left at 11:45 a.m.); and Pam Wieler.

Also in attendance: John Kuzbik, Director of Education; Jim Shields, Chief Financial Officer; Bob Bayles, Superintendent of Human Resources; Brenda Erickson, Communications Consultant; and Nadine Meister, Assistant to the Director.

Absent: Shantelle Watson.

Larry Pavloff called the public meeting to order at 10:46 a.m.

1. THAT the agenda be adopted as presented.

Agenda
Hope

Carried.

2. THAT the minutes of June 15, 2015, be adopted as presented.

Minutes
Brochu

Carried.

John Kuzbik introduced the budget report and Jim Shields reviewed the report in detail. Larry Pavloff stated the following:

During the past school year, the Board has considered the following information in preparation of developing and approving the 2015/16 Budget:

- The Board of Education, because of funding inequities in the new funding model, has lobbied the Government of Saskatchewan extensively for the past three years, including a recent meeting on Wednesday, June 17, 2015, for additional funding, without any assurances a change would occur;
- The Board has reduced expenditures since 2012, including a reduction of \$5.1M in teacher staffing practices, while, at the same time, experiencing an increase in enrollment of 700 students;
- The Board has reduced expenditures since 2012, including a reduction of \$1.5M in Educational Associate (EA) staffing practices, while, at the same time, experiencing an increase in enrollment of 700 students;
- The Board has increased class sizes and reduced EA supports to students to achieve the reductions in staffing practices since 2012;
- The Board has analyzed compelling evidence that illustrates that Prairie Spirit is funded inequitably, which has resulted in a funding shortfall, when compared to other school divisions in the province;

- The Ministry has been unable to provide evidence that Prairie Spirit’s expenditures are out of step with school divisions in the province;
- The Board has reduced expenditures by \$2M in the 2014/15 budget;
- The Board has allocated \$3M from reserve funds to balance the 2014/15 budget;
- The Board has reduced expenditures by a further \$4.6M in the 2015/16 budget;
- The Board believes it would be fiscally irresponsible to, once again, balance the 2015/16 budget with reserve funds; and
- The Board believes it would be irresponsible to both students and staff to lay off up to 60 staff to balance the 2015/16 budget. It would fall short of the Board’s priorities (i.e. student learning, adult learning, staff retention and maintaining class sizes) to reduce the budget and would be out of step with the “student first” approach to improve learning.

And, therefore, submit the following two motions:

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| 3. THAT the Board approve the 2015/16 budget as presented with a deficit of \$2.5 million. | 2015/16
<u>Budget</u>
Janzen |
| Carried. | |
| 4. THAT the Board submit the deficit budget to the Ministry stating an additional grant of \$2.5 million is required to balance the budget; and Prairie Spirit reserve funds will not be applied to balance the budget. | Deficit -
Reserve
<u>Funds</u>
Howe |
| Carried. | |

Bonnie Hope and Keith Wagner left the meeting at 11:45 a.m.

Jim Shields presented the decision report regarding the Bracken and Yanke families’ presentation to the Board on June 15, 2015, appealing the Board’s decision made on May 19, 2015, to deny out of attendance area bus service from a non-existing Prairie Spirit bus stop to Clavet Composite School. The Board carefully considered the information presented, however, the deciding factor was the impact this decision would have on transportation exceptions across the Division.

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| 5. THAT the Board will adhere to policy and uphold their decision to deny the request for out of attendance area bus service from a non-existing Prairie Spirit bus stop. | Decision Report –
Bracken and
<u>Yanke Families</u>
Greyeyes |
| Carried. | |

Bernie Howe left the meeting at 12:10 p.m.

6. THAT the meeting be adjourned at 12:14 p.m. The next meeting to be held on Monday, August 17, 2015, at 3:00 p.m., at the Prairie Spirit School Division Office, in Warman.

Adjourn
Pavloff

Carried.

Chairperson

Secretary to the Board