

# INTERLAKE SCHOOL DIVISION

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE INTERLAKE SCHOOL DIVISION HELD ON MONDAY, JUNE 28<sup>TH</sup>, 2021, IN THE BOARDROOM, 192-2<sup>ND</sup> AVENUE NORTH, (PTH#67), STONEWALL, MANITOBA.

## **PRESENT ELECTRONICALLY VIA ZOOM:**

ALAN CAMPBELL, BOARD CHAIRPERSON  
CINDY BRAD, TRUSTEE  
SALLY COOK, TRUSTEE  
FRAN FREDERICKSON, TRUSTEE  
JOHN HUEGING, TRUSTEE  
VICTORIA SCHINDLE, TRUSTEE  
BRIDGET YABLONSKI, TRUSTEE  
MARGARET WARD, SUPERINTENDENT/CEO  
TYLER MORAN, ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT  
AL LEIMAN, SECRETARY-TREASURER

THE MEETING WAS CALLED TO ORDER AT 7:00 P.M.

WE ACKNOWLEDGE WITH RESPECT THE HISTORY, CULTURE, AND LANGUAGE OF THE PEOPLES WITH WHOM TREATY ONE WAS SIGNED AND THE LAND UPON WHICH THE INTERLAKE SCHOOL DIVISION RESIDES.

WE ACKNOWLEDGE OUR RESPONSIBILITY AS TREATY MEMBERS AND HONOUR THE HERITAGE AND GIFTS OF MÉTIS PEOPLE.

WE ACKNOWLEDGE THE HARMS AND MISTAKES OF THE PAST AND COMMIT TO MOVING FORWARD IN PARTNERSHIP WITH INDIGENOUS PEOPLE AND COMMUNITIES IN A SPIRIT OF COLLABORATION AND RECONCILIATION.

## **APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA:**

### **MOTION #123/06/2021:**

MOVED BY COOK, SECONDED BY FREDERICKSON, THAT WE APPROVE THE AGENDA OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE INTERLAKE SCHOOL DIVISION HELD ON MONDAY, JUNE 28<sup>TH</sup>, 2021, AS AMENDED.

CARRIED

## **APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES:**

### **MOTION #124/06/2021:**

MOVED BY BRAD, SECONDED BY SCHINDLE, THAT WE APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE INTERLAKE SCHOOL DIVISION HELD ON MONDAY, JUNE 14<sup>TH</sup>, 2021, AS CIRCULATED.

CARRIED

## **DELEGATIONS:**

AT 7:05 P.M. MRS. AMBER MACDONALD MADE A PRESENTATION TO THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES REQUESTING TRANSPORTATION FOR HER CHILD WHO WILL BE ATTENDING BALMORAL SCHOOL AND WHO IS CURRENTLY OUT OF THE BALMORAL CATCHMENT AREA.

AT 7:20 P.M. PRESENT FOR THE BOARD MEETING WAS THE 2020-2021 GENERAL PROFICIENCY AWARD WINNERS FOR EACH OF THE HIGH SCHOOLS IN INTERLAKE SCHOOL DIVISION.

- KADEN STEWART FROM WARREN COLLEGIATE INSTITUTE
- JOSH CHARISON FROM TEULON COLLEGIATE INSTITUTE
- MADISON FINES FROM STONEWALL COLLEGIATE INSTITUTE

THESE THREE STUDENTS SPOKE TO THE BOARD AND THANKED THEM FOR THEIR AWARD AND EACH STUDENT HAD A FEW COMMENTS ON THEIR SCHOOL EXPERIENCE AND FUTURE ENDEAVORS.

**BOARD CORRESPONDENCE:**

**MANITOBA SCHOOLS BOARDS ASSOCIATION CORRESPONDENCE (MSBA):**

- E-BULLETIN, JUNE 16, 2021
- SUBJECT: COVID-19 VACCINE TOWN HALLS WITH DOCTORS
- CORRESPONDENCE FROM THREE PARTNER GROUPS IN EDUCATION

**SENIOR ADMINISTRATION REPORTS:**

**SUPERINTENDENT'S DEPARTMENT REPORT:**

THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES WAS PROVIDED WITH A LISTING OF STAFF CHANGES THAT HAVE BEEN APPROVED BY THE SUPERINTENDENT AS PER SECTION 52 OF THE PUBLIC SCHOOLS ACT AS OF JUNE 28<sup>TH</sup>, 2021.

THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES WAS PROVIDED WITH AN UPDATE REGARDING GRAD 2021 AT THE THREE HIGH SCHOOLS ALONG WITH THE COLONIES SCHOOLS IN THE INTERLAKE SCHOOL DIVISION.

THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES WAS PROVIDED WITH AN UPDATE ON COVID-19 PROTOCOLS AND INFORMATION THAT WAS RECEIVED FROM MANITOBA EDUCATION IN CONSULTATION WITH PUBLIC HEALTH:

- MANITOBA EDUCATION'S CASES IN SCHOOLS UNIT WILL BE MONITORING POSITIVE CASES CONNECTED TO SCHOOLS UNTIL FRIDAY, JULY 16<sup>TH</sup>. DIVISIONS HAVE BEEN ASKED TO IDENTIFY A CONTACT PERSON TO ASSIST WITH CONTACT TRACING AND NOTIFICATION DURING THIS PERIOD.
- COMMUNICATION WITH ÉCOLE R.W. BOBBY BEND SCHOOL ON JUNE 19<sup>TH</sup> REGARDING A POSITIVE CASE.
- MANITOBA EDUCATION, IN CONSULT WITH PUBLIC HEALTH, WILL PROVIDE AN UPDATE IN MID-AUGUST WITH REGARD TO IN-CLASS LEARNING GUIDELINES FOR SEPTEMBER.

**HONORABLE RALPH EICHER, MLA FOR LAKESIDE:**

AT 7:44 P.M. THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES HAD A QUESTION AND ANSWER PERIOD REGARDING BILL 64 WITH THE HONORABLE RALPH EICHER, MLA FOR LAKESIDE.

CHAIRPERSON CAMPBELL OPENED WITH INTRODUCTORY COMMENTS AND THANKED MR. EICHLER FOR MEETING WITH THE BOARD TONIGHT AS A FOLLOW UP TO THE DISCUSSION HELD ON FEBRUARY 22, 2021, BEFORE BILL 64 WAS PUBLICLY RELEASED.

CHAIRPERSON CAMPBELL ASKED MR. EICHLER TO PROVIDE A RATIONALE FOR HIS SUPPORT OF THE ELIMINATION OF BOARDS AND DISSOLUTION OF SCHOOL DIVISIONS WITH BILL 64.

MR. EICHLER:

- RECOGNIZED THAT TENS OF THOUSANDS OF PEOPLE ARE TALKING ABOUT THIS LEGISLATION, AND THAT SOME ARE FOR IT AND SOME ARE AGAINST.
- DOESN'T REMEMBER A TIME SINCE HE WAS AN ADMINISTRATOR IN 1967 WHEN DIVISIONS WERE FORMED, WHEN PEOPLE WERE TALKING THIS MUCH ABOUT EDUCATION. HE DREW A COMPARISON TO THE RATE OF SCHOOL TRUSTEE ACCLAMATIONS AT THAT TIME COMPARED TO NOW.
- NOTED THAT THE GOVERNMENT DOESN'T HAVE A STRONG DIALOGUE WITH THE 'TEACHERS ASSOCIATION' AND SCHOOL BOARDS ASSOCIATION, AND IT IS HIS INTENT TO LISTEN TO THE ONGOING FEEDBACK AND HEAR WHAT COMMITTEE HAS TO SAY.

**HONORABLE RALPH EICHER, MLA FOR LAKESIDE CONTINUED:**

CHAIRPERSON CAMPBELL:

- POINTED OUT THAT THE ACCLAMATION ARGUMENT WAS PART OF THE RATIONALE THAT THE PREVIOUS GOVERNMENT USED WHEN THEY FORCED THE AMALGAMATION OF MUNICIPALITIES IN THE LAST TEN YEARS, AND THAT IT SHOULD BE NOTED THAT IN MANY COMMUNITIES, INCLUDING STONEWALL, THE LOCAL TRUSTEES GET MORE VOTES THAN THE LOCAL MAYORS AND COUNCILLORS.
- CONTENDED THAT THE BEST WAY TO BUILD BRIDGES WITH MTS AND MSBA IS LIKELY NOT TO REMOVE PRINCIPALS FROM MTS AND ELIMINATE MSBA AND ITS MEMBERSHIP.
- REMINDED THE MINISTER THAT MANY THOUSANDS OF MANITOBANS PARTICIPATED IN THE K-12 REVIEW CONSULTATIONS, WHICH WERE IGNORED.

TRUSTEE SCHINDLE PROVIDED A SUMMARY OF EXAMPLES WHERE COMMUNITIES RALLIED AGAINST THE CLOSURE OF THEIR SMALL RURAL SCHOOLS, AND THE BOARD LISTENED TO THEM. SHE CITED BRANT-ARGYLE SCHOOL AS AN EXAMPLE OF A STRONG COMMUNITY SCHOOL WHICH HAS BEEN REVITALIZED.

TRUSTEE SCHINDLE ASKED MR. EICHLER TO OUTLINE THE IMPACT OF BILL 64 ON THE MORATORIUM ON SCHOOL CLOSURES AND THE LIMIT ON BUS RIDE TIMES. SHE ALSO ASKED HIM WHAT HE CAN DO AS OUR LOCAL MLA TO ENSURE THE INTEGRITY OF LEGISLATION WHICH PROVIDES LOCAL VOICE.

MR EICHLER:

- NOTED THAT THE GOVERNMENT IS BUILDING 20 NEW SCHOOLS AND HAS NO CURRENT PLANS TO CLOSE ANY SCHOOLS.
- OFFERED HIS UNDERSTANDING THAT THE SCHOOL CLOSURE PROTOCOLS AND THE BUS RIDE TIME LIMITS IN BILL 64 ARE THE SAME AS THEY ARE IN THE CURRENT PUBLIC SCHOOLS ACT, AS HE HASN'T SEEN ANYTHING TO SAY OTHERWISE.
- STATED HIS UNDERSTANDING THAT ONE PERSON WILL BE APPOINTED FROM EACH REGION FOR LOCAL VOICE, INSTEAD OF AN ELECTED SCHOOL BOARD.

TRUSTEE SCHINDLE:

- ADDED THAT THE ADVISORY COUNCIL FOR SCHOOL LEADERSHIP REGULATION #5496 FROM 1997 IS ALMOST IDENTICAL WORDING AS WHAT IS FOUND IN BILL 64, AND IT HASN'T WORKED FOR THE LAST 25 YEARS.

CHAIRPERSON CAMPBELL CLARIFIED FOR MR. EICHLER THAT,

- BILL 64 ELIMINATES THE MORATORIUM ON SCHOOL CLOSURES.
- THE PROCESS FOR SCHOOL CLOSURES WILL NOT BE THE SAME, BECAUSE THE CURRENT CONSULTATION PROCESS IS DEFINED AND EXECUTED BY THE LOCALLY ELECTED SCHOOL BOARD, WHICH WILL BE ELIMINATED UNDER BILL 64.

MR EICHLER REITERATED THAT IN HIS SPEAKING NOTES, BILL 64 CARRIES OUT THE SAME SCHOOL CLOSURE PROCESS AS THE PSA AND ASKED IF HIS NOTES ARE INCORRECT.

CHAIRPERSON CAMPBELL CONFIRMED FOR MR. EICHLER THAT HIS SPEAKING NOTES ARE INCORRECT. WITHOUT A LOCAL BOARD, THE LOCAL CONSULTATION PROCESS IS GONE.

TRUSTEE FREDERICKSON NOTED THAT BILL 64 HAS ONLY PASSED FIRST READING AND WAS INTRODUCED AS A BLANK DOCUMENT. SHE FURTHER NOTED THE RECORD INDICATES 460 PEOPLE ARE REGISTERED TO SPEAK AT THE COMMITTEE HEARINGS IN OCTOBER 2021.

SHE FURTHER NOTED THAT IN SPITE OF THIS, THE GOVERNMENT IS PUSHING AHEAD WITH IMPLEMENTATION PLANS FOR BILL 64 AND ASKED IF THIS GOVERNMENT REALLY VALUES INPUT FROM MANITOBANS WHEN THEY'RE MAKING CHANGES BEFORE THE LEGISLATION HAS EVEN PASSED.

MR. EICHLER:

- POINTED TO HIS 18 YEARS IN OFFICE AND HIS TRACK RECORD FOR CONSULTATION, EVEN WHILE IN OPPOSITION.
- STATED: "HAVE WE DONE A GOOD JOB ON THIS" ? PROBABLY NOT.... I GUARANTEE THAT I'LL BE LISTENING "TO THE LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE".

**HONORABLE RALPH EICHER, MLA FOR LAKESIDE CONTINUED:**

TRUSTEE FREDERICKSON:

- NOTED THAT MR. EICHLER'S COLLEAGUES ALSO NEED TO LISTEN AND GIVEN THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION SEEMS TO BE PUSHING AHEAD WITH IMPLEMENTATION, CAN HE SPEAK TO THAT.

MR. EICHLER:

- STATED THAT HE CAN'T SPEAK EXACTLY TO WHAT EDUCATION MINISTER CULLEN IS DOING IN REGARDS TO THE MEETINGS THAT HE'S HAVING AND HE KNOWS THAT IT'S RUFFLED SOME FEATHERS, BUT CERTAINLY HE CAN SAY THAT HE THINKS IT'S A GOOD THING THAT HE'S HAVING THESE CONVERSATIONS.
- OFFERED HIS PERSPECTIVE THAT IF THERE ARE TWEAKS TO BE MADE, NOW IS THE TIME TO DO IT AS OPPOSED TO WAITING UNTIL AFTER THE BILL PASSES.
- STATED THAT HE DOESN'T THINK THAT IMPLEMENTATION HAS STARTED AND THAT HE HASN'T BEEN TOLD THAT GOVERNMENT IS IMPLEMENTING ANYTHING AT THIS POINT.

CHAIRPERSON CAMPBELL:

- OFFERED THE FOLLOWING CLARIFICATIONS FOR MR. EICHLER:
  - THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT HAS BEEN SPECIFICALLY ASKED BY DIVISION ADMINISTRATORS, WHAT HAPPENS TO THIS TRANSFORMATION PROCESS IF THE LEGISLATION IS AMENDED OR DOESN'T PASS. DEPARTMENT STAFF HAVE STATED THAT THE GOVERNMENT HAS A MAJORITY, SO THEY'RE PUSHING AHEAD.
  - DEPARTMENT STAFF ARE MEETING WITH THE PRINCIPALS OF INTERLAKE SD SCHOOLS AND LORD SELKIRK SD SCHOOLS, AS THOUGH THEY ARE ALREADY PART OF THE SAME REGION DICTATED BY BILL 64. ON THE FRONT-LINES, THIS IS CONSIDERED IMPLEMENTATION.

CHAIRPERSON CAMPBELL ASKED MR. EICHLER, AS THE MLA FOR LAKESIDE WHERE HUNDREDS IF NOT THOUSANDS OF CONSTITUENTS ARE OPPOSED TO BILL 64, WHAT IT WILL TAKE FOR HIM TO BREAK WITH PARTY LINES AND OPPOSE THE LEGISLATION OR CALL FOR ITS WITHDRAWAL BEFORE SECOND READING ON OCTOBER 7, 2021.

MR EICHLER:

- STATED THAT UNTIL HE HEARS ALL THE VOICES HE'S NOT GOING TO MAKE A COMMITMENT TO CHANGE OR SUPPORT BILL 64.
- INFORMED THE BOARD THAT HE HAS RECEIVED HUNDREDS OF LETTERS ON IT, BUT NOT EVERYONE IS TALKING ABOUT IT, AND THOSE THAT ARE SEEM TO BE SPLIT, WITHOUT A MAJORITY IN FAVOUR OR OPPOSED.
- NOTED THAT ISD AND MSBA HAVE DONE A FANTASTIC JOB OF ADVOCATING AND THAT MSBA HAS A CRITICAL ROLE TO PLAY PROVINCIALY.
- THINKS AND HOPES THAT GOVERNMENT IS SMART ENOUGH TO LISTEN.
- STATED THAT HE HAS TOO MUCH INVESTED IN THIS LEGISLATION TO STATE A POSITION TONIGHT.
- INTENDS TO CONTINUE FOCUSING ON OUTCOMES AND WHAT'S BEST FOR STUDENTS
- EXPRESSED HIS PERSPECTIVE THAT INTERLAKE SD IS THE ENVY OF MANY OTHER DIVISIONS WITH OUR TAX BASE AND OUR ENERGIZED PEOPLE, AND THAT THERE ARE MANY OTHER DIVISIONS WHO ARE ASKING GOVERNMENT TO PUSH AHEAD WITH BILL 64 BECAUSE THEY CAN'T COMPETE.
- STATED THAT THIS ISN'T ABOUT PARTY LINES AT ALL. THIS IS ABOUT MAKING SURE WE GET THE BEST RESULTS FOR OUR STUDENTS IN MANITOBA.

**HONORABLE RALPH EICHER, MLA FOR LAKESIDE CONTINUED:**

CHAIRPERSON CAMPBELL:

- THANKED MINISTER EICHLER FOR HIS COMMENTS ABOUT WHAT'S BEST FOR STUDENTS, BECAUSE THAT'S ONE OF THE FEW THINGS WE AGREE ON.
- REMINDED MR. EICHLER OF THE FOLLOWING:
  - THERE IS NO EVIDENCE THAT ELIMINATING BOARDS WILL HELP STUDENTS
  - THERE IS NO EVIDENCE THAT DISSOLVING DIVISIONS WILL HELP STUDENTS
  - THERE ARE SEVERAL CANADIAN EXAMPLES WHERE ELIMINATION OF BOARDS AND DISSOLUTION OF DIVISIONS HAS ACTUALLY HURT PUBLIC EDUCATION.
  - DESPITE THE GOVERNMENT'S CLAIMS ABOUT POOR ACADEMIC OUTCOMES, 8 OF 10 MANITOBA STUDENTS MEET OR EXCEED STANDARDS IN MATH, READING AND SCIENCE, WHICH IS THE SAME AS EVERY OTHER PROVINCE.
  - DISCUSSIONS ABOUT ACADEMIC OUTCOMES MUST ALSO BE CONTEXTUALIZED WITH MANITOBA'S HIGHEST RATES OF CHILD POVERTY AND CHILDREN IN CARE.
- COMMITTED ON BEHALF OF THE BOARD, TO CONTINUE CONSULTING WITH MR. EICHLER IN THE LEAD UP TO SECOND READING OF BILL 64 IN OCTOBER.

MR. EICHLER THANKED THE BOARD FOR THE DIALOGUE AND REITERATED THAT HE NEEDED TO CHANGE HIS SCHEDULE TO ACCOMMODATE, BUT RECOGNIZES HOW IMPORTANT THE DISCUSSION IS.

**IN-CAMERA:**

**MOTION #125/06/2021:**

MOVED BY SCHINDLE, SECONDED BY COOK, THAT THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE INTERLAKE SCHOOL DIVISION GO INTO CAMERA INTO A MEETING OF THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE AND UPON COMPLETION OF DISCUSSIONS THAT WE RESUME REGULAR SITTING OF THE BOARD.

CARRIED

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

**MOTION #126/06/2021:**

MOVED BY HUEGING, SECONDED BY FREDERICKSON, THAT THE INTERLAKE SCHOOL DIVISION BOARD OF TRUSTEES GIVE APPROVAL TO THE TRANSPORTATION FOR OUT OF CATCHMENT REQUEST FROM MRS. AMBER MACDONALD AS PRESENTED.

TRUSTEE HUEGING REQUESTED A RECORDED VOTE ON MOTION #126/06/2021.

IN FAVOR: SCHINDLE, YABLONSKI, HUEGING.  
AGAINST: CAMPBELL, COOK, BRAD, FREDERICKSON.  
ABSTAINED:  
ABSENT:

DEFEATED

**ADJOURNMENT:**

**MOTION #127/06/2021:**

MOVED BY COOK, THAT WE DO ADJOURN.

CARRIED

THE MEETING ADJOURNED AT 9:10 P.M.

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BOARD CHAIRPERSON

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SECRETARY-TREASURER