

May 10, 2018

Call to Order

The regular meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Wolf Creek School Division No. 72 was called to order by the chair at 9:00 a.m. in the Learning Centre of the Ponoka office.

Present

Chair: L. Jess; Trustees: T. Bratland, B. Buchanan, P. Hansen, L. Henry; Superintendent of Schools: J. Lovell; Assistant Superintendent of People Services: C. Thorsteinson; Secretary Treasurer: R. Hall; Recording Secretary: J. Haines

Regrets: K. Lowry

Agenda Item 1.1 - Treaty Six Land Acknowledgement Agreement

Trustee Buchanan recited the Treaty Six Land Agreement Acknowledgement:

"We acknowledge that we are on Treaty Six territory and recognize all the many First Nations, Metis, Inuit and non-First Nations whose footsteps have marked these lands."

Agenda Item 1.2 - Adopt Agenda

140.18
Adopt Agenda

Moved by P. Hansen that the agenda for May 10, 2018 be adopted as follows:

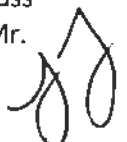
1. Call to Order
2. In Camera
3. Appointments
4. Superintendent's Report
 - 4.1 Classroom Improvement Fund
 - 4.2 2017-2018 Inclusive Education Funding
 - 4.3 Update 2018-2018 Budget
 - 4.4 Early Years Intervention Funding Proposal
5. Action Items
 - 5.1 Additions to the Agenda
 - 5.2 Minutes 04.26.2018
 - 5.3 Transportation Survey
 - 5.4 Policy 9 Review
 - 5.5 Policy 10 Review
 - 5.6 June Board Meeting Dates
 - 5.7 Trustee Reports
 - 5.8 Treaty Six Flag
 - 5.9 PSBAA Jun 28, 2018 - Mary Lynn Campbell & Cathy Hogg
 - 5.10 Growing in Governance - June 25, 2018
 - 5.11 Select Board Retreat Dates
 - 5.12 EA Hours and Aligned Calendar
 - 5.13 Town of Bashaw
 - 5.14 Mental Health Capacity
 - 5.15 ASBA - Spring General Meeting
 - 5.16 Ratify Trustee to CIF Meeting
 - 5.17 Clearview Public Schools Board Meeting June 20, 2018
 - 5.18 Spring General Meeting - PSBAA
6. Trustee Reports
7. Information Items
 - 7.1 ASBA Zone 4
 - 7.2 PSBAA

Carried Unanimously.

Agenda Item 2.0 - In Camera

141.18
Meeting of the
Whole

Moved by P. Hansen that the Board hold a meeting of the whole to discuss labour with all persons excluded except Mr. Lovell, Mrs. Thorsteinson, Mr.



Hall and Mrs. Haines.

Carried Unanimously.

142.18
Open Meeting

Moved by L. Henry that the Board revert back to an open meeting.

Carried Unanimously.

The Board recessed at 10:10 a.m. and reconvened at 10:20 a.m. with the following persons in attendance:

Chair: L. Jess; Trustees: T. Bratland, B. Buchanan, P. Hansen, L. Henry;
Superintendent of Schools: J. Lovell; Secretary Treasurer: R. Hall; Recording Secretary: J. Haines

Appointments

There were no appointments.

Superintendent's Report

Agenda Item 4.1 - Classroom Improvement Fund Update

Mr. Lovell provided a verbal update specific to the Classroom Improvement Fund. The division is still awaiting final confirmation of funding dollars.

Agenda Item 4.2 - 2017-2018 Inclusive Education Funding

Mr. Lovell reviewed and explained the attached 2018-2019 Inclusive Education Funding Profile

Agenda Item 4.3 - Update 2018-2019 Budget

Mr. Lovell provided information on the 2018-19 budget.

Agenda Item 4.4 - Early Years Intervention Funding Proposal

Mr. Lovell spoke to the attached funding proposal for Early Years Intervention.

Action Items

Agenda Item 5.1 - Additions to the Agenda

There were no further additions to the agenda.

Agenda Item 5.2 - Minutes 04.26.2018

143.18
April 26, 2018
Minutes Approved

Moved by L. Henry that the Board approve the minutes of April 26, 2018 as presented.

Carried Unanimously.

Agenda Item 5.3 - Transportation Survey

144.18
Transportation
Survey Completed
with Determined
Responses

Moved by L. Henry that the Board authorize the completion of the Transportation Survey on behalf of the Wolf Creek School Division with the attached responses as well as authorizing the supplemental letter to Rick Grebenstein.

Carried Unanimously.

Agenda Item 5.4 - Policy 9 Review

No action taken.

Agenda Item 5.5 - Policy 10 Review

No action taken

Agenda Item 5.6 - June Board Meeting Dates

No action taken.

Agenda Item 5.7 - Trustee Reports

145.18
Trustees to Submit
Written Reports for
2nd Meeting in Each
Month

Moved by P. Hansen that the Board direct the Trustees to submit written Trustee Reports to the 2nd board meeting of each month for addition to the agenda package.

Carried Unanimously.

Agenda Item 5.8 - Treaty Six Flag

146.18
Superintendent to
Organize Treaty 6
Flag Raising
Ceremony

Moved by P. Hansen that the Board direct the Superintendent to erect a Treaty 6 flag pole and to plan a formal Treaty 6 flag raising ceremony at division office for a date to be determined in September 2018.

Carried Unanimously.

Agenda Item 5.9 - PSBAA - June 28, 2018 Mary Lynn Campbell & Cathy Hogg Appointment

147.18
Invite PSBAA
Executive Director
and President to June
28, 2018 Meeting

Moved by P. Hansen that the Board direct the Superintendent to invite PSBAA President, Cathy Hogg and Executive Director, Mary Lynne Campbell to the June 28, 2018 Board meeting.

Carried Unanimously.

Agenda Item 5.10 - Growing in Governance - June 25, 2018

The board recessed for lunch at 11:55 a.m. and reconvened at 12:40 p.m. with the following persons in attendance:
Chair: L. Jess; Trustees: T. Bratland, B. Buchanan, P. Hansen, L. Henry;
Superintendent of Schools: J. Lovell; Secretary Treasurer: R. Hall; Recording Secretary: J. Haines.

148.18
Growing in
Governance Session
June 25, 2018

Moved by L. Henry that the Board approve June 25, 2018 for the Growing in Governance session, facilitated by Mr. Terry Gunderson from Alberta School Boards' Association.

Carried Unanimously.

Agenda Item 5.11 - Select Board Retreat Dates

It was the consensus of the Board to move this item to June 28, 2018 Board meeting.

Agenda Item 5.12 - EA Hours and Aligned Calendar

No action taken.

Agenda Item 5.13 - Town of Bashaw

149.18
Trustee to Attend
Town of Bashaw
Meeting

Moved by L. Jess that the Board authorize Trustee Henry to attend the Town of Bashaw meeting May 17, 2018.

Carried Unanimously.

Agenda Item 5.14 - Mental Health Capacity

No action taken.

Agenda Item 5.15 - ASBA Spring General Meeting

No action taken.

Agenda Item 5.16 - Ratify Trustee to CIF Meeting

150.18
Ratify Attendance of
Trustee to CIF
Meeting

Moved by B. Buchanan that the Board ratify the attendance of Trustee Henry to the Classroom Improvement Fund meeting held May 8, 2018.

Carried Unanimously.

Agenda Item 5.17 - Clearview Public Schools Board Meeting June 20, 2018

151.18
Ratify Attendance of
Trustee to Clearview
Public Schools Board
Meeting

Moved by P. Hansen that the Board ratify the attendance of Trustee Jess to attend the Clearview Public Schools Board meeting June 20, 2018 for the purpose of a joint photograph commemorating the Enhanced Learning Model partnership between the two divisions.

Carried Unanimously.

Agenda Item 5.18 - PSBAA Spring General Meeting

152.18
Trustees Authorized
to Attend PSBAA
Spring General
Meeting Governance
Session

Moved by B. Buchanan that the Board authorize trustees to attend the Governance Session June 1, 2018 at the PSBAA Spring General Meeting.

Carried Unanimously.

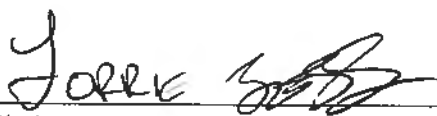
Agenda Item 6. – 7.2 were accepted for information.

Adjournment

153.18
Meeting Adjourn

Moved by T. Bratland that the meeting adjourn. Time 2:30 p.m.

Carried Unanimously.



Chair



Secretary-Treasurer

Wolf Creek Public Schools

Student Transportation Survey Responses - Transportation Department

Question 1:

To start, please tell us a bit about yourself. This information will not be used to identify you. Are you responding in an official capacity on behalf of a stakeholder organization? [Required question] Respondents must select one of the following options:

Yes: Go to Question 2

Question 2:

Please enter the name of the organization you represent. [Optional question].

Respondents are presented with a text box, which they can leave blank if they choose.

Text Box: **Wolf Creek School Division No.72**

Question 3 - 7: Responses if you are answering as a parent or individual.

Question 8:

How well do you understand how student transportation works where you live? Please use a scale from one to seven, where one means you don't understand it at all, four means understand it somewhat, and seven means you understand it very well. [Required question]

Respondents are presented with a grid, and must select a number between one and seven to self-rate their understanding.

Rating : 7

Commentary: This does depend on who may be responding but it was felt that the Transportation Department was pretty well versed in understanding.

Question 9:

What do you think is the most important issue currently facing student transportation in the school system? [Required question, open-ended]

Respondents are presented with a text box with a character limit of 2000, and they must enter a response to continue.

Text Box:

- Adequate funding to transport students
- Funding calculation can result in large decreases in funding for small changes in student numbers i.e density rate student numbers can cause quite a change if maximums hit.
- Some Boards are utilizing other funding or reserves to transport ineligible students when other Boards do not have funding to do this.

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Question 10:

There are a number of ways the school transportation system can serve students, parents and caregivers. Please rank the following five options from most to least desirable. Rank the most desirable option as "one" and the least desirable option as "five." [Required Question] Respondents are presented with a list of the following options. Next to each option, they must enter a rank for each. They must rank each option to continue, and cannot rank two items the same. These options are randomized.

3 A transportation system that is available to all, regardless of circumstances, with no user fees or eligibility criteria. All students would have access to student transportation services no matter where they live, how old they are, or what school they attend. Transportation would be paid for by taxpayers and no additional fees would be charged.

Commentary:

- Transportation thought this might make things easier in respect of everyone rides. This means it is just the logistics and costs of setting up transportation for all students.
- Trouble finding drivers
- Additional busses needed

2 A transportation system that is available to some students based entirely on the distance they live from their designated school. Students who don't meet the eligibility criteria may need to find alternative means to get to school or pay additional fees.

Commentary:

- Current scenario
- Flaws are that Boards are setting their own rules for transport, there are a number of disputes on eligibility, there are different treatments between communities

1 A transportation system that is available to some students based on eligibility criteria such as how far the student lives from their designated school, the age of the student, student safety, whether they live in an urban or rural area. Students who don't meet the eligibility criteria may need to find alternative means to get to school or pay additional fees.

Commentary:

- Safety decisions are something we are already doing and this would provide the authority for the rulings. This need to be same set rules for all boards.
- The age of the student should be a factor in walking distance
- Allows for additional fees if students are in-eligible

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4 A transportation system with eligibility criteria determined entirely by local school authorities. Students who don't meet the eligibility criteria of their local board may need to find alternative means to get to school or pay additional fees.

Commentary:

- Would like everyone to have the same rules for transportation to ensure equality between boards.

5 No student transportation system at all. Parents or caregivers would be responsible for getting students to school, at their own cost .

Question 11:

Who should be the most responsible for arranging student transportation services, and covering the costs of that transportation? [Required question]

Respondents must select one of the following options. These options are randomized:

- Parents and caregivers
 Local school authorities
 The provincial government

Commentary:

Local school authorities to arrange the transportation with adequate provincial funding is the best option as they have the best idea of the local needs.

Preamble and background information

Preamble: Currently, most students who live 2.4 km or more from their designated school for regular or special education programming receive student transportation services without additional fees. Students who live closer than 2.4 kilometres (roughly a 30 minute walk), or attend a school of choice such as Spanish bilingual programming, may be required to pay additional fees for transportation, or may need to find a different way to get to school. The distance a student lives from their designated school determines whether they receive student transportation services.

To help you understand this better, here are some examples:

Example Transportation Fees

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<i>Example</i>	<i>Transportation</i>	<i>Fees</i>
Mona lives 2.4 kilometres or more from her designated school, which she attends	Mona takes the school bus every day	Mona or her parent/caregiver do not pay fees because Mona meets the eligibility criteria for student transportation services
Jean lives less than 2.4 kilometres from his designated school, which he attends	Jean walks to school every day	Jean or his parent/caregiver do not pay fees because Jean does not use student transportation services
Amin attends a Spanish bilingual program, and not his designated school	Amin takes the school bus every day	Amin or his parent/caregiver pay a fee because Amin attends a Spanish bilingual program, which is a "school of choice"
Sophia lives less than 2.4 kilometres away from the school she attends	Sophia takes the school bus every day	Sophia or her parent/caregiver pay a fee because Sophia does not meet the student transportation services eligibility requirement, but she chooses to use student transportation services offered by her local school authority

Respondents proceed to the next page of questions.

Question 12:

Thinking about the issues facing student transportation, please rank the following six options from most important to least important. Rank the most important option as "one" and the least important option as "six." [Required question]

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Respondents are presented with a list of the following priorities. Next to each priority, they must enter a rank for each. They must rank each priority to continue, and cannot rank two items the same. These priorities are randomized.

- 4 Minimizing the cost of school transportation paid for by Alberta taxpayers
- 1 Introducing additional eligibility criteria for student transportation services to address safety hazards, like crossing railway tracks, walking on rural roads or crossing busy highways
- 5 Introducing additional eligibility criteria for student transportation services to include students who attend a program of choice (such as French immersion, a bilingual language program or sports academy) or a charter school
- 6 Maximizing parent or caregiver choice by allowing those who wish to pay more for better student transportation services to do so
- 3 Offering everyone the same level of student transportation services, regardless of circumstances or cost
- 2 Leaving student transportation services, the way they are

Commentary:

- No. 1 choice is made with the proviso that the rules must be enforced for all boards with Boards not able to provide enhanced service for ineligible students by utilizing other funds or reserves.

Question 13:

Please indicate whether you agree or disagree with each of the following ten statements. [Required question].

Respondents are presented with the following table and statements. They must rate each statement on the degree with which they agree or disagree with it. These statements are randomized:

Statement Rating

	Strongly disagree	Somewhat disagree	Neither agree nor disagree	Somewhat agree	Strongly agree
<p>It is important to change the current criteria so more students can be transported to school, even if it costs Alberta taxpayers more.</p> <p>Commentary:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This shouldn't be the aim of the changes it should be equality and safer transportation options. 		X			

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	Strongly disagree	Somewhat disagree	Neither agree nor disagree	Somewhat agree	Strongly agree
<p>Eligibility for student transportation services should be determined by local school boards, not by the provincial government.</p> <p>Commentary:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Equality among boards is important and this does not allow for that. 		X			
<p>Parents or caregivers should be allowed to pay additional fees to get improved student transportation services such as shorter bus times or a bus stop closer to their home</p> <p>Commentary:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> It shouldn't be who can pay the most gets the best services. 	X				
<p>Older students can get themselves to and from school – if we are going to provide additional student transportation services, they should be for students in Kindergarten to Grade 6.</p> <p>Commentary:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lowering the walking distance for younger students would be the priority 				X	
<p>Transportation to school is a public service that parents or caregivers should be able to access without paying any additional fees, regardless of where they live or how close they live to their child's school</p> <p>Commentary:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Logistics of transporting would be difficult Potential small school closures 	X				
<p>The eligibility criteria for student transportation is fine the way it is, and does not need to be changed.</p> <p>Commentary:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> There at least needs to be some tweaking for such things as safety concerns. 		X			
<p>Parents and caregivers are the ones responsible for making sure their children get to and from school each day. Student transportation services are nice to have but not necessary.</p> <p>Commentary:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Needed for rural students Ineligible students do not all ride so that would indicate it is not necessary. 				X	

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	Strongly disagree	Somewhat disagree	Neither agree nor disagree	Somewhat agree	Strongly agree
<p>A fee-based system for all students is the fairest way to ensure parents have choice when it comes to getting their kids to school.</p> <p>Commentary:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Eligible students i.e rural students, should not have to pay a fee. 	X				
<p>Eligibility for student transportation services should be determined primarily on ensuring students can get safely to school</p> <p>Commentary:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Should not be the primary consideration but is a factor. Important that safety be a consideration such as crossing a highway or railroad. 				X	
<p>Expanding the system to allow more students access to student transportation services is too expensive.</p> <p>Commentary:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> What is too expensive? Expansion will cause issues with purchasing busses and finding drivers. Expansion must include funding to support expansion. 			X		

Question 14:

Some people say that we should change the current eligibility requirement to account for the age of the student, while other people say we should not take age into account. Which is closer to your point of view? [Required question]

Respondents must select one of the following options:

We should change it to account for the age of the student: Go to question 15

We should not take age into account: Go to question 16

Question 15:

You indicated we should take age into account. Using the table below, indicate your preferred eligibility distance for each grade group. [Required question]

Respondents are presented with the following table and options. They must select an option for each:

Eligibility distance criteria for students

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	More than 1.2 km/15 minutes	More than 1.6 km/20 minutes	More than 2.0 km/25 minutes	More than 2.4 km/30 minutes	More than 3.0 km/36 minutes
Kindergarten to Grade 3		X			
Grade 4 to Grade 6				X	
Grade 7 to Grade 9				X	
Grade 10 to Grade 12				X	

Commentary:

- Multiple walking distances will cause issues with the following:
 - Administering will be difficult as you will have students in the same family that have different walking distances
 - Setting up bussing and fees will be difficult
 - The two rates will allow for safety of the youngest students but maintaining a clear distance for all the rest.
 - If the walking distances are set lower than 2.4 then is there the need for the urban bussing any longer.

Question 16:

A number of factors can contribute to whether students are eligible for student transportation services.

Please rank the following six factors from most to least important in terms of determining whether or not a student is eligible for student transportation services. Please rate the most important factor "one" and the least important factor "six." [Required question]

Respondents are presented with a list of the following factors. Next to each factor, they must enter a rank for each. They must rank each factor to continue, and cannot rank two factors the same. These factors are randomized.

 2 The age of the student

 1 Safety concerns along the route to school, such railway crossings or crossing busy roads

 4 The geographic location of the school (urban, rural, etc.)

 6 The cost of student transportation services to Alberta taxpayer

 5 The availability of other modes of transportation, like public transit

 3 The distance the student lives from the school attend

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Commentary:

- Safety, age, distance and location are all important considerations.
- Public transportation is an important factor for urban boards

Questions 17-27:

Please indicate whether or not you believe the following types of students should be eligible for student transportation services. [Required questions].

Respondents are presented with the following table and options. They must select an option for column two; if they select "yes," they are presented with column three. If not, they proceed to the next question.

Student types (question 17, 19, 21, 23, 25, 27) Should they be Eligible?

17. Students who attend their designated school

Yes

No

19. Students who attend charter schools

Yes

No

21. Students who attend private schools

Yes

No

23. Students who attend French immersion

Yes

No



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25. **Students who attend bilingual programs (such as Spanish or mandarin)**

Yes

No

27. **Students who attend other programs of choice, like programs with a specific focus on art, science or sports**

Yes

No

Notes for letter from Transportation:

- Funding must support the changes that the government implements
- Administration should be kept at a minimum - multiple walking distances might cause huge administration as well as concerns within families.
- SAME rules for all - no deviations if reserves available
- **Clear** explanations and communications about the changes and the reasoning
- Will there be an impact on attendance based on new rules for walking distances or eligibility

