MINUTES OF THE **REGULAR MEETING** OF THE MEDICINE HAT PUBLIC BOARD OF TRUSTEES HELD IN THE **BOARD ROOM** IN THE **SCHOOL DIVISION ADMINISTRATION OFFICE** ON **TUESDAY, October 27, 2026** AT 4:05 p.m.

TRUSTEES PRESENT: Catherine Wilson, Pat Grisonich, Gwendoline Dirk, Megan Hilgendorf, Quinn Skelton

OFFICIALS PRESENT: Cody Edwards, Acting Superintendent of Schools
Leanne Dulle, Secretary Treasurer
Carla Carrier, Acting Associate Superintendent: Learning and Student Supports
Jason Peters, Associate Superintendent: Human Resources

OTHERS PRESENT: Lee Krasilowez, Communications Manager
Jordyn Nikiel, Crescent Heights High School Student Delegate
Sofie Plattner Smale, Crescent Heights High School Student Delegate
Jarred Fuentes, Medicine Hat High School Student Delegate
Tim Bloomfield, Principal, Coulee Collegiate
Dean Brown, Director of Learning & Partnerships
Jacqui Pederson, Human Resources Manager

CHAIR: Catherine Wilson

RECORDING SECRETARY: Debbie Terlson

I. CALL MEETING TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 4:05 p.m.

II. TREATY 7 LAND ACKNOWLEDGMENT

We acknowledge that we are on the traditional territory of the Blackfoot Confederacy and the people of Treaty 7 Region in Southern Alberta. We honour and acknowledge the homeland of the Métis people. We are grateful for the traditional Knowledge Keepers and Elders who are still with us today and those who have gone before us.

A Land Acknowledgment video was presented by Alexandra Middle School.

III. INTRODUCTION OF STUDENT DELEGATES

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The Board welcomed student delegates, Jordyn Nikiel, Sofie Plattner Smale from Crescent Heights High School, and Jarred Fuentes from Medicine Hat High School.

IV. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

THAT the agenda be approved as presented.

G. Dirk **CARRIED**

V. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

Presentation and adoption of the Minutes of the Regular and the Committee of the Whole meetings held on **Tuesday, September 22, 2026** and **Tuesday, October 13, 2026**.

THAT the Regular and Committee of the Whole minutes from **Tuesday, September 22, 2026** and **Tuesday, October 13, 2026** be approved.

M. Hilgendorf **CARRIED**

VI. RECOGNITION/ACCOMPLISHMENTS

1. World Teacher Day, Orange Shirt Day, The National Day of Truth and Reconciliation Day and Mental Health Awareness Day

Medicine Hat Public School Division (MHPSD) recognized important awareness and celebration days throughout September and October. Orange Shirt Day and the National Day of Truth and Reconciliation were recognized in classrooms and through group assemblies and activities where education and teaching honoured the experiences of Indigenous Peoples; promoting understanding and reflection of the impacts of residential schools. These meaningful learning experiences were led by schools and supported by resources and guidance from MHPSD's First Nations, Métis and Inuit education team. World Teacher Day on October 5 provided an opportunity to celebrate the lasting impact teachers have on students, families, and the broader community. Trustees recognized educators across the division by delivering fruit baskets to schools while sharing messages of appreciation that acknowledged the learning, growth, confidence, and sense of belonging teachers help foster every day. In support of Mental Health Awareness Day, students and staff wore bright colours and engaged in conversations that promoted wellbeing, kindness, and a culture of care within our schools.

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VII. PRESENTATIONS

1. Coulee Collegiate

Tim Bloomfield, Principal at Coulee Collegiate, provided the Board with an update on Coulee Collegiate and its partnership between MHPSD, Prairie Rose Public Schools (PRPS) and Medicine Hat College (MHC). The presentation highlighted current enrolment, the partnership and financial structure, and the range of learning opportunities and student supports offered through Coulee Collegiate.

Individualized academic advising helps students identify pathways that suit their future education and career plans. Students also have access to MHC facilities and supports and can earn industry certifications alongside high school credits.

Leanne Dulle, Secretary Treasurer, shared that the three partners have an equal voice in decisions and that governance documents outline how each partner fits within the program. The K-12 partners, MHPSD and PRPS, share everything equally. As a post-secondary institution, MHC receives eligible funding applicable to its operations. Expenses are shared proportionately between the K-12 partners (split equally between MHPSD and PRPS) and MHC.

T. Bloomfield left the meeting at 4:32 p.m.

2. Human Resources Staffing Update

Jason Peters, Associate Superintendent for Human Resources, and Jacqui Pederson, Human Resources Manager shared an update on staffing data for the past year, along with early trends for the 2026-2027 school year.

The 2025-2026 Human Resources staffing report covered recruitment, workforce demographics, professional learning and labour relations. Recruitment competitions increased, particularly for teaching positions, and the number of substitute teachers grew to 158. Employee staffing rose, including a small increase in total teacher FTE. Employees over the age of 50 continue to represent a significant portion of the workforce, particularly among support staff, which underscores the importance of ongoing recruitment and workforce planning. The half-day format of the Play and Learn programs make it challenging to fill positions; however, the Division continues to receive strong applications for these positions and for substitutes.

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Educational Assistants in the Play and Learn programs must hold a certificate.

Bargaining with CUPE and the ATA is expected to begin in the 2027-2028 school year.

J. Pederson left the meeting at 4:52 p.m.

VIII. CORRESPONDENCE

1. Letter to the Minister of Education and Childcare

As Board Chair, Catherine Wilson sent the enclosed letter on behalf of the Board.

IX. ITEMS FOR ACTION

1. Authorization of Locally Developed Courses

Dean Brown, Director of Learning & Partnerships, requested that the Board authorize the following locally developed courses.

Course Name	Version	Code	Start Date
Introduction to Esports 15	5 Credits (2025-29)	LDC1085	Jan. 30, 2027
Understanding Video Games 15	5 Credits (2025-29)	LDC1008	Jan. 30, 2027
Understanding Video Games 15	5 Credits (2025-29)	LDC2024	Jan. 30, 2027

If approved, courses would be offered for 2027-2028 and 2028-2029.

It was recommended that the Board approve the locally developed courses as presented.

THAT the Board approve the above listed locally developed courses as presented.

P. Grisonich **CARRIED**

D. Brown left the meeting at 5:15 p.m.

X. REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

1. Public School Boards' Association of Alberta Fall Conference

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The Public School Boards' Association of Alberta Fall Conference was held in Edmonton on October 14 to 16, 2026.

Trustee Grisonich reported that the keynote speaker, Dr. Greg Wells, a motivational speaker on wellness, spoke about the importance of having a sense of purpose, staying connected with friends, and strategies for managing burnout. As part of the election, one of the two Vice-President positions was removed, as two were not required, and a director position was added. Trustee Grisonich will serve a second-year term. A budget with no increase in fees was approved. Delegates also provided feedback on future presenters and discussed the role of governance.

2. Coordinating Committee

The Coordinating Committee held their meeting on Monday, October 5, 2026. The meeting minutes are enclosed for information.

3. Division Council of School Councils

The Division Council of School Councils held a meeting on Wednesday, October 7, 2026. The meeting minutes are enclosed for information.

Dr. Edwards, Chair Wilson, and Trustee Dirk attended on behalf of the Board.

XI. ITEMS FOR INFORMATION

1. Enrolment Update

Leanne Dulle, Secretary Treasurer, reported that overall enrolment declined by 298 students from September 2025, very close to the expected decline of 300. Of those students, 152 (more than half) moved out of Medicine Hat.

Cody Edwards, Acting Superintendent, advised that MHPSD will continue to engage with families to better understand their values and the factors that shape their educational choices. Insights from this engagement will guide programming, planning and future decision-making, ensuring learning opportunities and experiences respond to student and family needs. The Division will also continue to showcase learning across its schools and pursue partnerships and collaborative opportunities that support future-ready learners.

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2. Exhibit: Schedule of Reimbursements

The Division's travel mileage reimbursement rate was updated and additional details included for International Student Program recruitment trips.

410 E 001: Schedule of Expense Reimbursements

3. Administrative Procedures: Discrimination, Harassment, Violence and Bullying

Administrative procedure 528 AP 001 was updated, and 528 AP 002 was created to align with the Alberta Occupational Health and Safety Regulation.

528 AP 001: Discrimination, Harassment, Violence and Bullying Reporting

528 AP 002: Discrimination, Harassment, Violence and Bullying Prevention

4. Administrative Procedures and Exhibits: Off-Site Activities

The following Administrative Procedures and Exhibits for off-site activities have been updated.

720 AP 001: Off Site Activities

720 AP 002: Off-Site Activities: Local

720 AP 003: Off-Site Activities: Non-Local or Overnight

720 AP 004: Off-Site Activities: National

720 AP 005: Off-Site Activities: International

720 AP 006: Volunteers

720 AP 007: Community Coaches-Leaders

720 E 001: Consent for Off-Site Activities

720 E 002: Consent for Recurring Curricular Off-Site Activities

720 E 003: Consent for National-International Trips

720 E 004: Health Certification and Consent (Extracurricular)

720 E 005: Swimming Ability Form

720 E 006: Alpine Skiing and Snowboarding Ability Form

720 E 007: Off-Site Activity Risk Assessment Template

720 E 011: Volunteer Acknowledgement of Risk and Consent Form

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5. Superintendent Report

Cody Edwards, Acting Superintendent, highlighted the opportunities to recognize important days and continue supporting staff learning throughout the Division. Schools participated in the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation through a variety of activities, including visits from the First Nations, Métis & Inuit Team and performances by the Iskwew Singers at five schools. The Division also recognized World Teachers' Day, including the delivery of appreciation baskets.

Carla Carrier, Acting Associate Superintendent, Learning & Student Supports, reported on the professional learning offered throughout October, focused on supporting complex classroom needs and strengthening teaching and learning. Administrators received training to support Complexity Teams and intervention planning, and additional sessions addressed behavioural needs and neuroscience. Mentorship sessions brought teachers together to explore engaged learning, executive functioning, curriculum, learning intentions, success criteria and meaningful feedback.

6. School Visits for Trustees

The Superintendent provided an overview of the Division's engagement over the past month.

Trustees attended School Council meetings at Ross Glen, Crestwood, River Heights, Vincent Massey, Medicine Hat Christian School, and Medicine Hat High School. Trustees also attended Alexandra Middle School, Dr. Roy Wilson Learning Centre, Herald, the HUB, and Elm Street.

Suspend 5:25 p.m.

Resume: 5:34 p.m.

XII. MOVE TO IN-CAMERA

It is recommended that the Board move to in-camera to discuss certain confidential matters,

G. Dirk **CARRIED**

The Board moved to Committee of the Whole at 5:34 p.m.

XIII. RECONVENE TO OPEN BOARD MEETING

The Board reconvened to the open Board meeting at 6:05 p.m.

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XIV. ACTIONS ARISING OUT OF THE IN-CAMERA MEETING

THAT the Board approve **LAND 001** as presented.

P. Grisonich **CARRIED**

XV. ADJOURNMENT

THAT the meeting be adjourned.

P. Grisonich **CARRIED**

The meeting was adjourned at 6:07 p.m.

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CHAIR

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SECRETARY TREASURER

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