

Erika Lougheed, Chair

Craig Myles, Director of Education

Multi-Year Strategic Plan Committee

Monday March 4, 2024

Virtual meeting conducted over Zoom
Videoconference

Committee Members Present

Bill Steer, Committee Chair
Chantal Phillips, Trustee
Julie Bertram, Trustee
Ashley St. Pierre, Trustee
Craig Myles, Director of Education
Liana Blaskievich, Officer of Corporate Affairs

Staff Present

Maureen Egan, Executive Assistant

Committee Regrets nil

1.0 Call to Order

Committee Chair Steer called the meeting to order at 1:00 pm. Attendance was called to note the meeting has quorum.

1.1 Adoption of the Agenda

Review of the agenda contained in the meeting package. New item 4.3 Trustee Survey.

Moved by J. Bertram and seconded by L. Blaskievich that the agenda for the Multi-Year Strategic Plan Committee is approved as presented.- **CARRIED**

2.0 Approval of Minutes

2.1 MYSP Committee minutes- December 8, 2023

Review of the minutes contained in the agenda package. The floor was opened for comments or amendments, with none rose.

Moved by A. St.Pierre and seconded by J. Bertram that the Committee approves the Multi-Year Strategic Plan Committee minutes as presented for the meeting held on December 8, 2023. - **CARRIED**

3.0 Review of MYSP Mid-year Report

Chair Steer referred trustees to the draft document included in the agenda package for review and invited Liana Blaskievich to provide a brief review. She highlighted areas for the Committee to make note of including: active partnerships vs. inactive; Twitter/X removed from social media; data from staff alongside improved website and new sharepoint portal which increases staff engagement. She noted the positive changes which provides for a good opportunity to share the vision of the MYSP. She also pointed out data that remains a concern ie student attendance which will continue to be monitored.

Chair Steer thanked Liana Blaskievich for her thorough summary noting that at OPSBA student attendance was also raised as an ongoing concern across the province. Director Myles asked the Committee to be aware that the province, when reviewing student absenteeism, does not consider particularities in northern boards especially boards with a higher indigenous representation where they are absent for cultural reasons.

Trustee Phillips asked how we measure our success and what tools do we use to gather data. L. Blaskievich responded that data is drawn from multiple reports from various sources including for example the Director's Annual Report which includes data form all areas and initiatives. L. Blaskievich indicated that the data points Trustee Phillips was asking about were found in the DPA reports as had been predetermined by MYSP and DPA committees. Director Myles added that the Finance Committee provides data quarterly through meetings and reports. Chair Steer noted that when board reports are submitted by staff, one or more of the relevant pillars is identified. He also cautioned that we should not change data points now as we want to see a clear progression over time. He suggested trustees make note of data markers they would like to see in the future. The Director indicated that he would look into whether it was possible and feasible to provide data in one report.

4.0 Business Arising nil

5.0 Review of Board Communication

5.1 Community Planning and Partnerships and Climate Change

Review of motion referred from February 13, 2024 Committee of the Whole

Trustee Bertram explained what she has envisioned regarding an annual meeting with community partners with a common theme. She suggested beginning with a climate change theme and bring together partners to share information and best practices to mitigate foreseeable challenges around climate change. This knowledge will also assist with emergency responses in our community.

Chair Steer suggested a fall meeting can be pursued working with Liana Blaskievich to determine partners and next steps. Trustee Bertram confirmed it would be via zoom due to our large geographic area.

Chair Steer asked the Committee for comments. Liana Blaskievich asked for clarification to ensure this meeting does not reference or include GP-212 as noted in the original motion since surplus space would require a larger discussion due to various factors. The two meetings must be understood as separate and distinct from each other. Trustee Bertram confirmed this is an annual meeting with a focused theme to share public information only. Chair Steer echoed her statement saying there is a separate process for facility sharing and that Trustee Bertram's approach is completely separate from GP-212.

Director Myles thanked Trustee Bertram for clarifying this concept from the original two part motion and complimented the idea of a common theme each year. He was glad to see it separated out from GP-212 as that is a more complex procedure.

6.0 New Business

Chair Steer referenced in previous minutes the trustee survey whereby trustees can come to MYSB to discuss ideas. He noted the extreme workload staff is under, staff shortages and the deficit budget. As a result he asked the Committee to only raise and/or consider projects that directly impact students.

Director Myles noted our limited funding and the larger control the provincial government is exercising with boards. With the numerous challenges boards face he believes we are at a crisis in education. Staffing and recruitment challenges remain high and we are very concerned with burnout and fatigue facing all of our staff. He shared examples of how he is addressing such challenges: he has been visiting schools with our federations to show support to our staff and build morale; investigating burden reduction strategies; and reducing time out of the schools for principals. He noted the concerns recently received from our principals around staffing which is a daily challenge for them and Chair Steer agreed that the issue is more complex than funding.

Chair Steer thanked Director Myles for bringing this crisis to our attention and suggested that we send to the Agenda Setting committee for discussion at a future Committee of the Whole meeting.

Trustees asked questions surrounding advocating for a better funding model. Director Myles responded that this often is raised with the Ministry and while they may adjust the budget it is never sufficient to meet our concerns. Consensus to draft a letter to the Ministry raising funding concern; this would be a shared letter with our co-terminous boards.

7.0 Adjournment

The next meeting date will be scheduled at the call of the Chair in May.

There being no further business to discuss, on March 4, 2024, the Multi-Year Strategic Plan Committee stands adjourned at 2:13 pm moved by A. St.Pierre and seconded by Trustee Bertram.

DRAFT