



KELSEY SCHOOL DIVISION
 322 Edwards Avenue
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 www.ksd.mb.ca

“We strive to be a respectful and enthusiastic school community,
 dedicated to quality education for all”

BOARD MEETING HIGHLIGHTS – April 27, 2020

Vaughn Wadelius,
 Chair
 623-3073

Kerri Huculak
 Vice-Chair
 623-1708

Amy Hopper
 620-2887

Edith Sexsmith
 623-1954

Sharain Jones
 623-6376

Jennifer Olinyk
 623-5365

Trevor Yahnke
 620-9680

Julia McKay,
 Superintendent

Jeannette Freese,
 Secretary Treasurer

Action/Decision

The Kelsey School Division Board of Trustees approved the reduced expenditures of \$36,195.00 in executive and managerial costs as follows:

- \$23,000.00 Professional Development
- \$13,195.00 Public Relations

Board Meetings by Google Meet

Due to the need to practice social distancing, the KSD Board has been using Google Meet technology to connect trustees and senior administration for Board meetings. While there have been some glitches in its use, things are improving. An invitation to those who wish to “attend” meetings live was sent out. Interested parties who provide an email address are able to be added to the open portion of the meeting. As usual, all Board meetings are recorded and can be located on You Tube for later viewing.

Government Mandated Cuts

All school divisions, departments and crown corporations had been directed to reduce their senior administration cost budget line by 15% for 2020-21. For small school divisions like KSD, with only two eligible employees, such a reduction is difficult to find considering that major cuts in the 2020-21 school division budget were already submitted in March. After an appeal for more flexibility, KSD was allowed to locate the required \$36,195,00 reduction in related areas and to submit this plan for government approval. As a result the Board approved the recommendation from senior administration to cut all their professional development budget (\$23,000) and public relations (\$13,195). The School Division now awaits the government’s response.

Staff Replacements

As a result of the pending retirements of the Superintendent, the KSD Board established a Selection Committee, advertised the position in January, received applications and began developing an interview list. Suddenly the government halted all replacements, stating that nothing could proceed until the K-12 Education Review and its proposed changes were released at the end of March. Then the pandemic arrived and the release was postponed, seemingly indefinitely, bringing the replacement process to a halt. In addition the Secretary-Treasurer’s retirement became known after the hiring freeze and the replacement process for KSD became even more dire. Many efforts to get permission to proceed have gone unheeded. The KSD Board is very concerned that this will leave the School Division in a precarious position by the summer.

Complements to Staff

The Board complements the school and division administration, teachers and support staff who have had to make major adjustments in their educational routines as they adjust to the Covid-19 realities. In particular, the example of the Early Years schools to adjust their breakfast programs is to be congratulated. The pressure on senior administration and others to comply with ever changing government directives has been difficult.

If you have any questions about the highlights or other business of the Division, call one of the trustees or the Division office. The numbers are posted for your convenience.