



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

BOARD MEETING HIGHLIGHTS – February 8, 2021

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

Selena Mell,
Superintendent/CEO
Secretary Treasurer

Size of KSD Board

The Board reviewed the arguments for a reduction of the number of trustees and the possibility of making the number of electors per trustee more equitable. Since the establishment of the Division in 1959 under a three ward system, populations within the school division have shifted and/or declined. Any alteration of wards and the number of trustees is governed by the Manitoba Provincial Public School Act however, its provisions do not allow for the removal of or amalgamations of wards. This restricts the options available to the Board as it seeks to find ways to reduce costs. The Board is continuing its review of this issue.

Superintendent's Report

Unable to hire a resident psychologist for over two years, we have located two psychologists who will work through short term contracts to address this area of need.

Last Friday the province released a funding announcement for the upcoming 2021-22 school year. We are fortunate that the update provided a 0.7% (\$95.7K) increase for the Kelsey School Division and see any increase in educational funding as welcome news.

However, as we are aware, rural divisions can run lean in accessible programs and in locating specialized supports and personnel.

It's important to note that we previously had a -0.7% reduction to the budget and were instructed to implement a 15% reduction towards senior administration in 2020.

Additionally, we have been operating in these pandemic conditions since March 2020, so we know that there will be gaps in student learning.

Our challenge will be to support increased needs through recovery learning so any additional targeted special needs funding will assist. We will not have an accurate picture of all that will be required until the pandemic has ended and all students have returned to their classrooms.

Policy Updates

The Board approved five year review updates to two policies, including the requirement for fieldtrip coordinators to submit a risk assessment form before trips are authorized.

Budget 2021-22

Work on developing the Division's operating budget for the next school year continues. The list of proposed capital expenditures is in the process of being prioritized. A recent government announcement replaced the local special levy with a grant directly to the school division.

Building and Maintenance

The committee received a comprehensive report on maintenance work completed at the various schools. Future project work has been identified. Major areas of concern were also identified.

Contract Extensions

The Board finally received permission from the government to extend the Superintendent's contract to June 2022, and was pleased to do so. A full-time Secretary-Treasurer is still being sought with a term ending June 2022 as well.

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.