



Approved

**Golden Hills School Division No. 75
MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL BOARD MEETING
OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

August 23, 2011

Minutes Minutes of the Special Board Meeting of the Board of Trustees held in the Boardroom of the Golden Hills School Division No. 75 office in Strathmore, Alberta on Tuesday, August 23, 2011

Present

Dave Price	Chair
Larry Tucker	Vice-Chair
Janet Bolinger	Trustee
Karen Harries	Trustee
Larry Maerz	Trustee
Bob McKay	Trustee
Bevan Daverne	Superintendent
Kandace Jordan	Deputy Superintendent
Ed Holt	Associate Superintendent
Tahra Sabir	Secretary-Treasurer
Brenda Scott	Recording Secretary

I CALL TO ORDER

Chair Price called the meeting to order at 11:15 a.m.

Agenda Item

Town and County Council planned meetings.

Adjournment
2011-08-23-015

Moved by Trustee McKay that the Board of Trustees adjourns the meeting at 11:50 a.m.

Carried

Chair

Secretary-Treasurer



Factors for Evaluating Capital Investment for East Wheatland

Necessary action in East Wheatland will:

1. **Reduce operating costs** for caretaking, utilities, maintenance, equipment, staffing
Rationale: By achieving efficiencies and bringing costs in line with funding, more resources will be available to support educational programming in an on-going way. Costs per pupil are significantly higher than average for the division.
2. **Attract and retain students** residing in the designated attendance area and draw others as a niche program of choice.
Rationale: Currently, many area students do not attend their designated schools. The exodus of students to other schools and jurisdictions (Catholic, Grasslands) is not in the best interests of Golden Hills' students. As a result, enrolment will stabilize to provide predictable funding and programming. The School Act provides parents with the right of choice which means parents must be satisfied with the opportunities available for their children or they will make other choices.
3. **Provide reasonable ride times** for students who attend their designated schools and qualify for transportation services. Ride times for students will meet or be under the current guidelines.
Rationale: Ride time is a more significant indicator of service than distance from a student's home to the designated school.
4. **Enhance programming** and improve educational opportunities in a number of ways including teacher-taught core courses as a minimum indicator, appropriate access to CTS, and an array of desired options such as fine and performing arts.
Rationale: Student needs and interests across the full spectrum of diversity will be met so those with special learning needs will have appropriate intervention provided without a long bus ride out of the area. Programming delivery and opportunities will meet the needs of area students.
5. **Attract and retain staff**, especially for programming that requires high levels of specialization and expertise. Enrolment will support the number of teachers needed to appropriately differentiate duties and instructional assignments.
Rationale: While multi graded classrooms have many benefits, cross grade and subject discipline groupings will occur through deliberate planning rather than default resulting from low enrolment. Teaching assignment will match competency gained from training and experience.
6. Provide students with a **variety of extracurricular opportunities**. Sufficient staff, a calculation which is enrolment dependent, will share responsibilities within reasonable workloads and also provide support, as needed, to community. Extracurricular will include sports as well as other interests. Scheduling will be flexible to include opportunities within the bus drop off and pick up times.
Rationale: Many students leave the area to participate in extracurricular activities which include not only sports, but fine arts and other opportunities. There is a considerable talent pool within the area that has potential to enrich the lives of all students. Coordinating this volunteer talent pool depends on sufficient staff to assume this responsibility.



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7. **Reduce and/or eliminate excessive deferred maintenance and surplus capacity.** More than 50% of the division's deferred maintenance is in an area which serves less than 10% of the student population. Expenditures to maintain surplus space negatively impact resources available to invest in all other schools.
Rationale: Surplus space is costly to maintain and impedes the jurisdiction's ability to attract infrastructure /capital investment dollars. A consideration in achieving project approval from the funders is that space to be added or improved is necessary.
8. **Gain provincial support for capital investment** that significantly reduces deferred maintenance and ongoing operating costs (one time and annual savings), achieves the desired capacity/ utilization while also creating new and improved learning opportunities and environments for students.
Rationale: School boards compete for capital investment and therefore a convincing business case for reducing deferred maintenance as well as on-going operating costs is more likely to gain approval for capital funding.
9. **Create a flexible design** having a permanent core with modular classrooms for ease of adjusting space in response to various contextual factors – e.g., changing enrolment, educational delivery models, and community use.
Rationale: Design features which respond to the changing context allow for adding/deleting space as necessary for long term durability of the infrastructure plan.
10. **Achieve multiple short and long term benefits,** financial and educational, and in ongoing ways, positively impacts Golden Hills for 20+ years.
Rationale: Significant change which results in long term, ongoing benefits, rather than short term gains, achieves "long term gain for short term pain."
11. **Move forward in a timely way** because it is achievable and represents wise investment for a long term solution. Achieving a solution depends on meeting Alberta Education's and Alberta Infrastructure's priorities and constraints while also gaining broad stakeholder support especially among parents but also from the 75%.
Rationale: The decision-making and action which spans several years is frustrating, divisive, and negatively impacts overall planning for the future of Golden Hills. Parents and communities are anxious to have the matter settled and to feel that a decision and plan is moving forward. There is general understanding that it is not possible to please everyone.

