

K-12 Public Education in The Pas

The 1940s

Noticeably absent from discussions in the minutes of The Pas School District School Board of the 1940s were significant references to the Second World War. There were occasions, however, when this major world conflict was alluded to via decisions made by the Board on specific topics.

The War Years and War Efforts

On September 9, 1940, the Board directed the school district secretary “to obtain from every member of the school staff production of their National Registration Certificate before the next school board meeting.” And on December 9 the Board Chair noted that the teachers’ convention would not be held that year and recommended that the funds saved be donated to the Red Cross.

A payroll deduction system for War Savings Certificates was set up in February 1941. On April 18, 1941, the Minister of Education sent a “letter of recommendation” to the Board, noting the splendid response to the School War Savings Plan. The high school students had at this time an established army cadet corps and on June 6 a letter of commendation was sent to Grade 9 teacher E. Frank Hughes in connection with the cadet corps. At the October 26 Board meeting it was noted that Mr. Hughes had joined the RCAF and another teacher was needed to replace him. A report at the November 10 Board meeting noted that The Pas Cadet Corps had won a silver cup, the Strathcona Trust Challenge Cup, in a shooting competition. As well, Canadian Westinghouse had requested that burnt out light bulb bases be collected for recycling, and it would pay \$2.50 per one thousand bases collected by the school children.

On January 7, 1942, the Secretary-Treasurer was directed to produce a list of “staff and all pupils of age regarding National Registration.” On August 14 that year the opening of high school was set back by the Department of Education to September 14, possibly to allow students to aid in harvesting. By October 9 it was reported that a Girl Cadet Corps was now in operation in the school. In November, Principal B. Scott Bateman noted that a salvage drive had been very successful.

By April 9, 1943, the war effort had resulted in some difficulty obtaining school supplies and the Secretary-Treasurer was “to communicate with the Department of Munitions and Supply Priority Branch (Ottawa) to ascertain the need for obtaining priority order relative to school supplies (lab, disinfectant, electrical, etc.)” On May 9 the Board responded to a request “from the U.S. Army Forces stationed adjacent to The Pas, for the use of the school grounds for baseball on Sunday afternoons only...” The Board granted permission “provided that such games are not played during church service hours.”

On July 6, 1943, a special Board meeting was held with Squadron Leader Banfield about the establishment of Air Cadets in The Pas High School. The Board agreed with the idea “for boys between the ages of fifteen to eighteen in addition to the Army Cadets which are already installed in the school.” At the July 16 Board meeting a report on officers appointed in charge of the Air Cadets was made, instructors to be appointed by the officers, and the appointment of Board Chair Ed Barker and Principal B. Scott Bateman as officials of the Corps.

At the meeting of 12 November 1943, in response to a request by Captain Cummings, the Board noted it “does not encourage or favour the organizing of a Junior Army Cadet Corps and are not prepared to sponsor them but feels that the interest of the school and the boys will be best served by enlarging the Air Cadet Squadron now formed and functioning successfully and that the formation of a Junior Air Cadet Squadron be given the support of the Board.”

For reasons not stated, on 10 March 1944 a communication was received from the Department of National Defense granting the disbandment of the High School Cadet Corps (likely the Army Cadets). Another war effort activity was noted on 13 October 1944 when P. Thompson “asked to be allowed to organize parties to canvass the Town for [the] Milk for Britain Fund” on Halloween night. At the November 17 Board meeting it was reported that \$171 had been collected for this Fund.

A last reference to war related items occurred at the 7 December 1945 School Board meeting when the Chair “outlined the history of the Air Cadet Movement here...” and it was decided to disband this project and notify the RCAF.

Board Budgets and Town Taxes

While the World War raged on elsewhere, the School Board’s responsibilities continued. In February 1940 a budget of \$31,800.54 for that school year was approved, with \$24,361.04 to come from Town of The Pas coffers. In July that year the School District requested the Town to allow an over-expenditure of the 1940 budget by one thousand dollars in order to carry out recommendations of the Provincial Health Inspector. In November, as it had been two years since a Department of Education inspector had visited The Pas, the Board put pressure on the Department to address this and by December 9 it thanked “Minister of Education Shultz’s supportive access to regular inspection of The Pas School District schools.”

School fees from Grade 12 students continued to be a revenue source and at the February 10, 1941 Board meeting one student was threatened with expulsion if the school fees owed since October were not paid in full by February 20. The new school inspector, Mr. Hatcher, was welcomed to this Board meeting and presented his report to them after the two principals present were told to leave the room.

The 1941 budget had been set at \$32,509.38, with the Town’s portion at \$25,502.65. In

May that year the Board directed that Grade 12 school fees must be paid by June or students in arrears could not write the June exams. In October 1941 it was discovered that the Town had deducted \$1000 from the levy in order to recoup its earlier advance. The School Board had thought that it might come out of the 1942 budget.

In October 1941 the Board was concerned with “properties in Unorganized Territory now in arrears.” In January 1942 Town Secretary-Treasurer Williamson noted that he would no longer collect taxes in Unorganized Territory, prompting the Board to set up a special committee to meet with him and it was “authorized to take whatever action deemed necessary to adjust this matter.” Subsequently Mr. Williamson “agreed to continue to collect said taxes in the future as in the past.” A related tax issue arose in July 1942 concerning River Lot 6 of the Unorganized Territory. The Town was requested to take the necessary action to acquire title for The Pas School District to the property...”and by February 1943 the Town was in possession of the title.

In August 1943 regarding tax arrears in the Unorganized Territory, the School Board would “try to enlist services of J. A. Campbell to go into the detail and merits and demerits of each property arrear and get his opinion as to whether to apply for Tax Sale certificate or not.” By October 8, the Board was prepared to arrange to acquire title to four properties for a tax sale.

In October 1944 the Flin Flon School District asked The Pas School District to discuss the appointment of a permanent inspector, but it was decided to defer this until an anticipated visit by the Minister of Education. At the December 8, 1944 Board meeting, the Board Chair reported that C. A. Williams, Town Superintendent of Utilities, had asked if the School Board was interested in Lots 7, 8, 9, 10 Block 17 (The Pas Plan 587) for school purposes. The Board agreed to look over these properties.

A special meeting of the School Board held 6 February 6 1945 discussed the cost of electricity charged to the Board for 1944. That month the Secretary-Treasurer was instructed to acquire title of lots 1-6 Block 23 in The Pas Plan 426.

An auditor’s report received at the April 15, 1945 Board meeting made several significant suggestions. It recommended that any “surplus” for a school year not be carried forward to reduce the next year’s budget (thus giving the Town the benefit) but “be deposited to the credit of a sinking fund” for the School District’s use. In addition, the report suggested setting up seven accounts:

- “1. All lands owned by the School District be appraised
2. Brick School appraised
3. Furnishings, Brick School
4. Annex 1, valuation of building
5. Valuation of furnishings
6. Annex 2, value of building
7. Value of furnishings”

In May 1945 Principal B. Scott Bateman was offered the position of school inspector. At the 13 July 1945 Board meeting the School District decided to apply for title of the Umpherville lots.

At a special Board meeting on October 5, 1945, the question as to the right of Indian children attending the Public School was raised. The Board Chair had taken this matter up with the Department of Education and submitted a reply from Mr. Brisbain, Chief Administrative Officer. No details were noted in the Board minutes.

It was reported on 14 March 1947 that "on account of the revision upwards in the schedule of grants received from the Provincial Government effective with the year 1947, the Budget (of The Pas School District #1635) be revised to show the additional revenue in grants of \$7500 [a reduction of the sum required from the Town], now be \$31,329.49." This was not in keeping with the auditor's suggestion of April 1945.

Trustee Thomson, at the September 19, 1947 Board meeting "reported that a half-breed pupil was desirous of attending school here also two Treaty Indians to attend grades 5 and 6." Also noted at this meeting, the School Board's authority to discount taxes in Unorganized Territory was challenged by Mr. L. Williamson, Secretary-Treasurer of the Town and the Board would seek a ruling from the Department. At the November 12 meeting it was noted "a request be made to L. Williamson to place on 1947 tax sale the lots in the Unorganized Territory, known as the Umpherville River Lots." And at the December 16 meeting Inspector Scott Bateman reported the Attorney-General ruling that it was within The Pas School District jurisdiction to grant discounts for payment of taxes within Unorganized Territory.

In January 1948 the Board approved a By-Law "...allowing discounts for prepayment of current taxes in Unorganized Territory." A decision was also made at the March 15, 1948 meeting to rent property along The Pas River to The Pas Woodwork and Machine Shop for \$30 per year.

On October 15, 1948, correspondence was received from E. Law of the Indian Office in The Pas stating "as long as accommodation could be obtained for Indian children they would be received on the same basis as other children, that is, no charge would be made for their tuition, if, however, the Indian Department are [sic] willing to submit payment for their tuition the same would be received and acknowledged."

The 1949 school district budget draft was tabled on February 11. It was \$64,870.43 (less the \$1,413,74 surplus, \$20,070 in grants from the Department, \$720 in Grade 12 fees and the \$2,500 advance from the Town) leaving \$40,164.19 to be paid by the Town. On February 18 because of a lowered revision to the Department of Education grant to \$19,138.00, the Town's allotment was raised to \$41,099.19. The Town's share was changed again at a special meeting on February 28 to \$37,649.19. Also at this meeting Sherridon resident Mr. Curry's request for a rebate of Grade 12 fees he paid for his daughter's tuition was addressed. He made the claim that this "was a charge against the Provincial Government." A ruling from the Department of Education would be sought.

At the July 22, 1949, Board meeting Inspector Bateman spoke on the Grade 12 fees, grants obtained from the Department regarding nonresident pupils, all other Grade 12 pupils being entitled to free tuition, and additional grants available for technical courses. In September that year the Board set a monthly \$5 fee to be charged to Grade 12 students, and parents were to be informed. The Secretary-Treasurer would advise Mr. Carter (Child Welfare Division) on the question of nonresident pupils being placed in the various homes in the town.

Teachers and Teacher Issues

A major part of school Board decision-making entailed staffing, The hiring process continued to be a Board directed one as the decade of the 1940s proceeded. In March 1940 the Board reappointed B. Scott Bateman as principal of The Pas High School (at a salary of \$2,300.00 a year) and Charles Logie as the principal of The Pas Public School (at \$1,450 per year). Individual teacher salaries were set by the Board and ranged from \$820 to \$1560 a year, while the school janitor was paid \$1,575 per year. In July 1940 the Board adopted a policy of engagement of teachers for a probationary period of one year. It also considered holding a memorial for the late Mary Duncan.

In August 1940 a male teacher was among the applicants for a primary grade teaching position. The Secretary-Treasurer was "instructed to communicate with Mr. Dingwall an applicant for the position on the public school staff advising him that it was not the policy of the Board to engage a male teacher for the lower grades in the public school but should a vacancy arise in the higher grades he would receive consideration of the board..."

At the School Board meeting of 9 September 1940 a social for trustees and teachers was set for September 20 at 8:30 p.m. in Trustee Solstad's apartment, thus continuing an annual event started some years earlier.

In March 1941 there was a request from a teacher which prompted the Secretary-Treasurer to ask "for a ruling from the Board as to whether any individual teacher would be allowed to peruse the Inspector's report relative to said teacher. It was decided that as the Inspector's report was a confidential communication between the Inspector and the Board the privilege of perusing said report by an individual teacher would not be allowed, however would be considered by the Board." Quite a double sided political position to be taken!

A 16 December 1941 special Board meeting discussed teacher Victor Bonin's request to be released from his contract to be able to accept an offer for teaching in Selkirk. The Board was unwilling to allow this unless a replacement could be found. At another special meeting on April 9, 1943 teacher J. White was "let go as work and services during the last two years have not been satisfactory." As a result of a response from the teacher, at the following May 9 1942 meeting the Board "reaffirmed its action to J. White's lack of cooperation with the Principal and staff and her general conduct around the school."

In October 1943 it was noted that some teachers had not filed their medical certificates. Mr. and Mrs. Doern (of The Pas Lumber Company) were thanked for their hospitality in hosting the trustee/teacher social gathering on October 1.

On January 5, 1944, a delegation of three teachers (Catherine Campbell, Isabel McCrindle, George Goodwin) attended the Board meeting to request "on behalf of staff, that the question of teachers salaries receive serious consideration by the board." The Board agreed to do so. At a special meeting on January 16, a schedule with revised salaries was drawn up. At the April 16 Board meeting the Chair reported that he had met with the teachers and explained various points, and that this seemed "quite acceptable to the teachers." At the June 9 Board meeting Regulation No. 2 to the teachers schedule was amended to read "Teachers transferring from one schedule to another will be allowed one year on the higher rated schedule for each two years service on the lower schedule. Where, in individual cases, this would result in the payment of a salary lower than the salary they are receiving, teachers will be placed on the new schedule at the salary point corresponding to the salary they had been receiving but in no case will the salary be lower."

In March 1945 salaries of teachers were set "subject to approval of the school budget by the Town Council and the Municipal Provincial Utility Board." The salary range had improved to \$1,200 to \$2,900 for the teachers. On April 15, 1945, the Board departed from its usual position and agreed to pay Miss Gamey's salary while out [of school] owing to her Father's illness, including sub costs. And on May 25 another special meeting decided to offer George Goodwin the principalship of The Pas Collegiate at a salary of \$2,500.

In January 1946 the Board received a request by teacher Patricia Cowie to be released but again the Board was reluctant due to the difficulty of hiring a replacement, so she was asked to reconsider. Her request for release on February 19 was again denied by the Board on February 8, and the Board directed that if she didn't resume her duties the Department of Education would be notified. At a followup meeting on February 11, Inspector Scott Bateman attended to discuss Patricia Cowie's situation and the Board action. It appears the issue related to a lack of suitable accommodation for the teacher, but it was the Board's position that no emergency existed to justify her leaving. Finally, in May, the Board accepted her resignation for the end of June 1946.

On May 10, 1946 the Board agreed to advertise "in the Northern mail and the Lido Theatre advising the public that registration of children who will be attending the Public School for the first time in September 1946 will be held in the Principal's office on June 4th and June 6th between two and four p.m." The Board also authorized advertising for teachers, noting a standing salary for men (\$1,600 - \$1,825) that was higher than that for female teachers \$1,400 - \$1,625. And in a new move, principals were directed to deal with the teacher applications. Over that summer, another teacher issue arose when Miss Alice Belton accepted a teaching position in The Pas and then decided not to honour it. The Board referred this matter to the Department of Education.

In September 1946 a Mrs. Wold who had been hired for a Grade two class quit her position. The reason provided to the Board was "she refused to move her boy from her

grade to another grade.” And when teacher Mary Walker arrived several days late for the school opening, she had her salary deducted. The Board also decided then that “all substitutes in the future be paid by the Board.”

On 3 January 1947 the Board denied reimbursement for a railway fare for a teacher who had left for Winnipeg after her contract was completed, and in another case when a teacher who had resigned was discovered to have been overpaid for two days, the Secretary-Treasurer was to ask for the \$15 to be paid back. At this organizational meeting the Board added a Housing committee to the other three (Finance, Buildings & Grounds, and Supplies).

The teacher shortage caused high school teachers to complain that they “ were being saddled with extra work in various rooms due to the fact that an inadequate number of teachers were on the staff at present...” On March 14, 1947 the Secretary-Treasurer was instructed to return an unsigned contract to a Mrs. Lacey and “request that she reconsider signing said contract.” It seems she never did sign. On the other hand, and in contrast to handling of an earlier request from another teacher, Mary Walker was granted leave to be absent, but deducted for sixteen days at \$4.00 per day. In addition the Board also decided to revert the payment of teachers’ salaries to a ten-month basis.

In March 1947 the resignation of George Goodwin as principal of the high school, effective June 30, was met with an offer to engage him as a chemistry and mathematics teacher. The Board then advertised for a high school/junior high principal at \$3,000 per year, with teaching responsibilities for Physics and Senior Mathematics. In April Thomas Whitley was appointed. In June the Board deducted three days salary (at \$4.00 per day) for Barbara Petheram’s absence attending to the illness of her mother.

In November, when high school Principal Ray was appointed a member of the provincial Advisory Board of Education, his absence from school two or three times a year was approved by the Board.

At a special meeting held 6 May 1949 the Board Chair stated that “Miss Pyziak had intimated to him that it was her intention to be married this summer and was willing to return as a member of the teaching staff here, providing there is no objection to her remaining on staff, though married.” She returned on staff as Annie Burns in the Fall. This Board meeting also decided to take no action with a request by teachers for a cost of living bonus.

Accommodation Woes

One difficulty in getting teachers to come to The Pas was because of a lack of suitable accommodation, especially for female teachers. The Board did make efforts to rectify this situation from time to time. In January 1943 it was decided to rent Dr. Jacobs house at a cost of \$35 per month for use as a teacherage for the Collegiate principal.

At the 9 June 1944 Board meeting an offer was received from local store owners Keddie

& Fowler to make suites for two teachers above their Fischer Avenue store. At the July 14, 1945, meeting it was agreed to insert in six editions of the local Northern Mail newspaper, adverts "asking housekeepers who have accommodation available for lady teachers" from September 1 to notify the School District as soon as possible.

In July 1945 the local Royal Bank manager recommended that a teacherage be erected to take care of teachers unable to obtain accommodation. The next month, on August 3, trustees discussed the "possible purchase of the Sherritt Gordon building for the purpose of housing teachers..." and a delegation of the Board was struck to meet with the Town Finance Committee. By October, when the Board was informed that for buying this building a "Bylaw would have to be passed and a vote of the ratepayers" needed, the Board decided to take no action.

The lack of suitable accommodation initiated a disagreement, noted earlier, between the Board and teacher Pat Cowie in February 1946. At the 13 September 1946 Board meeting teachers brought to the Board's attention the "additional cost to teachers temporarily residing in the Avenue Hotel and eating in restaurants" and suggested the Board pay part of the hotel costs. No Board action seems to have been taken.

On June 13, 1947, the Board authorized renting a room in the Herald Block to accommodate a teacher. In addition, teachers "Miss Gamey and Miss Mitchell interviewed the Board with respect to accommodation for themselves." By July 11 it was reported that all teachers had been provided accommodation with the exception of a principal, and in August that year the Board agreed to rent suites to hold for teacher accommodation.

By June 1949 the high school principalship was again open. On July 22 the Board hired Mr. J. N. Clark as principal of the Collegiate and Junior High school, and in August it rented a house (owned by M. S. Harvey) for his accommodation.

The accommodation of students in school was also under pressure in the 1940s. With the increase in secondary students during this period, efforts had to be made to alleviate overcrowding (even by the standards of the day) by arranging to continue renting two classrooms in the Separate (Sacred Heart) School for 1941-42 and again in 1942-43.

In July 1945 Royal Bank manager Pilling submitted a brief reiterating a recommendation of the Rehabilitation Board that a Collegiate building be erected (as well as a teacherage) and also raising "the question of housing pupils from outside points desirous of acquiring High School and Collegiate Education."

By 1946-47 only one classroom at Sacred Heart School was available for rent. School functions such as student dances, were accommodated in the Winton Club Room about three times a year. In a report to the Board in June 1944 Inspector Stevenson "suggested some consideration may be given to a building used as a hall or auditorium for physical education, etc. as a post-war measure."

By March 1948 the school accommodation issue was getting worse and the Board began

to look at temporary school accommodation in other community buildings such as the Lutheran Hall, the Presbyterian Church, and the National Hall. In May 1948 the Board learned that the National Hall was not available, and the Presbyterian Church building may be occupied by the Lutheran Church. Two other classroom locations were considered - the use of the Masonic Hall and the United Church Annex.

At the 16 July 1948 Board meeting, subject to suitable financial arrangement with the Town, a motion passed to "call for tenders for the construction of a one-room frame Annex to our present school plant, size approximately 30' by 32'." The Board was concerned about the shortage of materials available locally for building such a school annex. At an August 5 special meeting the tender of Matthews Construction Company was accepted to construct an "addition to the West Annex School at a cost of \$2,959.78 which included 1/6 drop siding outside finish and reinforcing of cement foundation..." That summer Fred Easton was awarded a painting contract for four classrooms and a tender from Wadelius Painting was accepted for the new school annex.

On November 19, 1948, the Board wrote to the "Town Council with a request that a delegation of the School Board meet with the Town Council regarding the question of school accommodation at as early a date as possible..."

By April 1949 the United Church was wanting to sell its church and annex if the School Board was interested. Its location on Ross Avenue across from The Pas School was an attractive alternative. In May the church land became Town property and the Board asked "Westminster United Church to quote their best price on the church buildings including the Annex and also Annex without the church building but including the south wall of the church." At the June 17, 1949 meeting the Board agreed "to offer United Church \$2,000 for the present Church Annex, including the south wall of the Church."

In July the Town allowed the United Church annex to remain on its present site if the School Board purchased it for school purposes. At the September 20, 1949 meeting the Secretary-Treasurer was authorized to make the necessary transfer to the School District of the church annex and to ask the Town for \$1,800 for its purchase, this amount to be considered as a prepayment of the 1950 budget.

By October 1949 a tender for \$255 had been received from the Lauze Brothers to undertake alterations to the church annex. Before the year 1949 was done, the Board began to make enquiries about the construction of a new school, and grants available.

Community Relations

The Pas School on Second Street West and its school playground was often a centre of community activity. In January 1940 Principal Scott Bateman was to arrange the use of the school as a dressing room for an outdoor skating rink built on the grounds.

In April 1940 the principals were tasked to arrange times when the school grounds could be used by various athletic organizations. And in October the Board Chair discussed with

the Chief of Police the enforcement of a town curfew. At the November 11, 1940 Board meeting the local Hockey Association was allowed to meet in the school to organize. In December, however, with the skating rink on the school grounds now in full use, a request by the Town Hockey Club to use it for practices was denied.

At the October 10, 1941 Board meeting when it was noted that there was a possibility that the Winton Club Room may close, the Board offered to financially assist to be able to use it up to three times a year for school functions

A 23 November 1941 special Board meeting reviewed the issue of liability for injuries by pupils on school grounds, concluding that unless "the injured party met with his accident through the negligence on the part of the School District" it was not liable. In March 1942 the Secretary-Treasurer was "to advise St. Anthony's Hospital regarding the responsibility of the School Board relative to accidents on school premises." In February 1943 the school rink had to be closed due to a scarcity of fuel.

On September 10, 1943 there was a growing concern about student truancy and Police Chief Coghill was contacted "in order that children referred to as absentees from school be compelled to attend, in accordance with the Public Schools Act."

The 16 April 1944 Board meeting permitted the St. John's Ambulance Association use of a basement room in the school for conducting a course in First Aid Training every Tuesday evening until the course was completed.

In May 1945 the Board responded to a resolution of the Ministerial Association (topic unknown) by agreeing to meet with the Town Council to discuss the situation and devise ways of dealing with it.

A Board motion was passed on 12 April 1946, in response to a request of The Pas Civic Association, for the publication of minutes of the School Board meetings, stating "that the School Board meetings were open to the public and to the Press, and the Board feels it would not be justified in assuming the expense of publishing the minutes."

In April 1947 the Board named a representative to the Community Club Executive. In September that year it granted a request by Capt. Gillespie of the Salvation Army for use of the school rink by the Cubs and Guides and Scouts during the winter months. It was reported to the Board that a pupil (W. Fidler) had fallen off the slide on the school grounds and had broken his arm. In December 1947 the school had eighteen curling teams, one of which was going to a Winnipeg event sponsored by The Pas Curling Club.

In January 1948 principals asked the Board "to discuss the question of allowing the pupils time off from school during the Trappers' Festival, in order that the school grant would not be affected." In June that year, the Rotary Club was allowed use of the school's music room to show an apiarist film.

In March 1949 permission was granted to the Music Festival Association to have choral

reading classes included in the competition for the School Board Shield. In May the use of the school grounds by The Pas Baseball Association was given four nights (Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday). The Pas Ladies Softball team was allowed to use it on Wednesday and Saturday evenings. In June, in reply to another request, The Pas Baseball Association was asked to surrender the use of the school grounds on one night for Midget Baseball Players.

Board Organization and Decisions

As had occurred in the previous decade, school board responsibilities often involved decisions about building maintenance and school operations. In March 1940 Reverend Sterzen was advised that the “board would ensure that Religious Exercises as set out in the Act will be operative forthwith” and agreed to purchase a set of the Religious Exercises regulations. Before the year ended, the principal explained the “opening exercises used at the school: a Scripture reading, the Lord’s Prayer, O Canada. The National Anthem was sung at the day’s closing.” In May 1940 sanitary inspector Mark Flattery suggested additional sanitary plumbing should be installed in the school buildings. The Town engineer was asked to submit a plan for this upgrade, and the Town was asked for a budget over expenditure to pay for this project.

Typically, The Pas District School Board’s committee structure consisted of Finance, Property, Supply and Library. In August 1941 the Board approved the purchase of one 45 gallon drum of floor dressing (i.e. oil), used in the classrooms to keep the dust down. In October 1941 radiators were added to two classrooms (Miss Barbour and Miss Gamey) and two other classrooms were to be insulated as they were very cold.

The heating problem was addressed again at the 12 February 1943 Board meeting when it was decided that plans were to be drawn up for iron stokers to be installed in the school basement. And on February 21 it was agreed that two Vulcan Draws 300 pound Conical Grate Lignite Stokers would be purchased at a cost of \$1,875. The January 1944 minutes noted that since it “takes the same labour to keep the stoker functioning satisfactorily as it formally did to take care of the furnaces when burning wood,” the assistant janitor’s salary was increased until March 31st.

The issue of toilet odour in the basement of the school continued to return to the Board’s attention from time to time. In October 1944 Principal Bateman “recommended that by placing two doors at the foot of the [basement] stairs this nuisance could be eliminated.”

In January 1947 the purchase of a 16mm film projector at a cost of \$588.45 was approved. At the September 19 meeting, Board authorization was given for: a larger blackboard in the nurse’s room; plywood or Masonite required in the music room; records for teaching French; library filing cards for Margaret Barbour; a rubber stamp for George Goodwin; and an extra flag for hallway display. In October it was noted that additional electrical plugs were needed in the classrooms. In November a request by teacher Arthur Davis for a punching bag and two sets of boxing gloves was also authorized. A radio with battery was to be purchased for the principal.

In January 1948 the theft of Red Cross monies, three rolls of tape, a fountain pen, etc. was referred to Police Chief Ingram.

The long service of several trustees during the 1940s is noteworthy. Trustee Ed Barker was regularly elected Board Chair, sometimes reluctantly accepting the position. Likewise Secretary-Treasurer J. Ridyard was regularly appointed to this position. The death of Mrs. Wanless on 1 December 1944, she having served as a trustee from 1932 to 1940, prompted comments in the Board minutes on December 8, noting her "fine qualities of mind and heart, her own long teaching experience, her abilities as an organizer, ...her tireless devotion to the educational and cultural interests of the children of this community, enabled her to make a most worthwhile contribution to the work of the Board." The Board then recorded its sincere regret by a standing vote and directed this testimonial to be placed in the permanent records of the Board, with a copy sent to her husband.

In September 1949 the trustee position of Mrs. Smart was declared vacant as she was no longer a resident of The Pas. The remaining one year term would be dealt with in the forthcoming election, with the Board Chair and a trustee directed to "go through the voters' list for filling said vacancy."

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Information Sources:

The Pas School District #1635: School Board minutes: 1940-1949