

GRANDE PRAIRIE PUBLIC SCHOOL DIVISION BOARD OF TRUSTEES
Guiding Principles – Division Budget Development
2024 – 2025 School Year



The Board of Trustees for the Grande Prairie Public School Division (GPPSD) are responsible for providing direction to school division administration and ensuring that Division funds are used in a responsible and sustainable manner.

Guidelines and directions for the development of the Division Budget exist in Legislation and in Board Policy. *The Education Act* in the province of Alberta identifies in S.139(2) (a) that on or before May 31 of each year, the Board is responsible to prepare and submit a budget for the next school year to the Minister of Education. Additionally, both *Board Policy 1: GPPSD Mission and Guiding Principles* and *Board Policy 2: The Role of the Board* identify the Board's priorities with respect to financial accountability to the public and the development of the Division Budget. Specifically, Board Policy 2 states the Board shall:

8.1 *Establish budget principles, budget priorities, ensure resources are allocated to achieve desired results and adopt an annual budget.*

In a budget development planning session held in the Division office on January 31, 2020, Trustees identified the following principles to be used in the development of the Division's budget. These principles were reviewed and reaffirmed at a board meeting held on February 27, 2024:

- The 2024-2025 GPPSD Budget shall be developed consistent with the principles identified in *Board Policy 1: GPPSD Mission and Guiding Principles*.
- The Division's budget shall be developed to support the 3 priority areas identified in the Division's Strategic Plan: Teaching and Learning, Leadership, and Inclusion.
- The Division's budget shall be developed collaboratively. Principals and site supervisors will discuss the school and system priorities with staff and school councils and provide feedback from their school to inform the budget development process.
- All students deserve access to a learning environment that will meet their specific needs. Our Division's budget should support diversity and equity in our schools for the purpose of helping every student to succeed.
- The Division's budget should support the continuous improvement of our Division.
- The Division's budget must make the provision of front-line services to students a priority.
- The Board and Division administration shall continue to strive to find financial efficiencies inside and outside the Division.
- The Division's budget shall consider the need for appropriate, reasonable, and sustainable levels of reserves to support future decision-making by the Board.
- The budget planning process shall consider the long-term sustainability of optional programs offered within the Division.
- The Division should allocate resources equitably to ensure that all schools, regardless of size, allow students to have access to high quality education regardless of socioeconomic status or demographic factors.