

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE GRANDE PRAIRIE PUBLIC SCHOOL DIVISION HELD AT CENTRAL OFFICE ON **January 23, 2024**

Board Chair Joan Nellis called the Regular Meeting to order at 6:00 p.m., acknowledged that the Board is on Treaty 8 Land, and reviewed the Division's Universal Guiding Principles, with the following present:

PRESENT

Trustees Ray Buziak, Chris Johnston, Donna Koch, Rob Martin, Joan Nellis, Andre Ouellette, Superintendent Sandy McDonald, Deputy Superintendent James Robinson, Associate Superintendent Business Services Norm Guindon, Director of Teaching and Learning Corinne Kruse, Director of Information Technology Sudheshan Pillay, Executive Assistant Business Services SheraLea Crichton, (recorder), and Secretary to the Board Sandy Fredland (minutes).

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Adoption of Board Agenda

The Board reviewed the Regular Meeting agenda.

The Board agreed to the following additions to the agenda:

- An In Camera Session following the Regular Board meeting to discuss legal and contract matters;
- Under Superintendent's Report, *RCMP Collaborative Planning*;
- Under Business Arising, *Division Wellness Day*; and
- Under Public School Boards' Council, *Environmental Scan Question at PSBC Meeting*.

MOTION: Donna Koch moved that the Board adopt the Regular Meeting agenda as amended.

UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED 15607

MINUTES

Regular Board Meeting of January 9, 2024

The Board reviewed the Regular Board Meeting minutes of January 9, 2024.

MOTION: Andre Ouellette moved to adopt the minutes of the Regular Board Meeting of January 9, 2024, as circulated.

UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED 15608

Abstained Trustee Martin, absent from the meeting.

PRESENTATION

BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

Board Strategic Plan Development Workshop

As directed by the Board, the Advocacy and Engagement Committee will begin the process of requesting proposals from three educational consultants to lead a one-day workshop for the development of a Board of Trustees strategic governance plan. The deadline for proposals will be January 31, and the Advocacy and Engagement Committee will make their

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE GRANDE PRAIRIE PUBLIC SCHOOL DIVISION HELD AT CENTRAL OFFICE ON **January 23, 2024**

recommendation to the Board on February 13, 2024. The date of the workshop has been set for March 25, 2024.

Division Wellness Day

The Division Wellness Day is scheduled for February 23, 2024. Trustees are invited to attend the keynote address taking place at the Composite High School at 8:30 a.m.

**BOARD CHAIR/
SUPERINTENDENT'S
REPORT**

Board Chair Report

- Meeting with the Northwestern Polytechnic (NWP) Board of Governors
The Board met with the Board and Administration of NWP on January 11, 2024. The meeting was reported as being informative and a positive step towards establishing a working relationship. Joan Nellis will reach out to the Alberta School Boards Association (ASBA) Zone 1 Chair to suggest a presentation by NWP at a Zone 1 meeting to share all that NWP has to offer students in the northwest region.
- Alberta Education Stakeholder Meeting – K to 6 Social Studies Curriculum
Joan Nellis reported to the Board regarding a virtual session held January 23, 2024, presented by Alberta Education continuing the conversation and discussing the feedback received regarding the scope and sequence for the draft social studies curriculum.

Superintendent's Report

Items for Information

Sandy McDonald presented the Superintendent's Report provided to the Board as information regarding the following:

- All Administrator Professional Learning and Principals Meeting
The Administrator Professional Learning and Principals' Meeting was held January 10, 2024. The morning with all Administrators was focused on student attendance. The Principals received a fall budget update, reviewed occupational health and safety, transportation and Alberta Education registration compliance in the afternoon.
- January Diploma Exams – Part A
Most students who wrote Part A diploma exams on the new Digital Assessment Platform experienced no issues, however, some students did experience an issue on the English Language Arts (LA) 30-1 and 30-2 written exam. The issue was an inconsistency between a question in the printed booklet and what was provided in the digital platform. The issue was addressed quickly by Alberta Education, however.

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE GRANDE PRAIRIE PUBLIC SCHOOL DIVISION HELD AT CENTRAL OFFICE ON **January 23, 2024**

- **Division Curriculum Working Groups**
Three working groups have been assembled by Director of Teaching and Learning, Corinne Kruse, to support the development of K – 12 Literacy and Numeracy frameworks and as well as an updated K – 6 report card. The groups of volunteer teachers and administrators began their work on January 18, 2024.
- **Registration and Staffing Timeline**
Two teams from Human Resources and Education staff will be attending recruitment fairs in Edmonton, Calgary, Lethbridge and Grande Prairie in preparation for the 2024 – 2025 staffing that will begin mid-February.

Advertising for the 2024 – 2025 School Year registration will begin February 4, 2024. Parents with students new to the Division can pre-populate their registration information online on February 28, and on-line registration will begin March 11, 2024.

- **CAREERS School Engagement Coordinator**
The Division has pooled a small grant, provided by the CAREERS organization, with the other two local divisions to hire a full-time School Engagement Coordinator. The coordinator will work in each division to support raising student and parent awareness of the pathways available for students through high school into trades.
- **Municipal Government Curriculum Development**
Staff from the City of Grande Prairie are developing a curriculum to support Councillors in sharing a consistent message when they are visiting schools to discuss municipal government. Director of Teaching and Learning Corinne Kruse and the division's lead science teacher, Krista Sterr, are supporting the City's work. The curriculum will also be used to support and develop a similar resource for Trustees to use when they speak about their governance work in classrooms.
- **Alberta Education Annual Assurance Surveys**
Information has been sent out to school communities regarding the annual surveys distributed by Alberta Education to all teachers, parents and students in Grades 4, 7 and 10. The surveys open on January 22 and will remain open until March 1, 2024.
- **Alberta Health Services Community Presentations**
Alberta Health Services is resuming community presentations for parents regarding ADHD and Anxiety. Two presentations on each topic are planned for parents from all schools in the division and will be hosted at I.V. Macklin Public School and Alexander Forbes The

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE GRANDE PRAIRIE PUBLIC SCHOOL DIVISION HELD AT CENTRAL OFFICE ON **January 23, 2024**

Academy School. Information about the sessions have been shared with administrators to distribute to parents and staff.

- Annual Student Intervention Programming Report
A summary of the elementary intervention programs that support student learning was presented to Trustees by Director of Teaching and Learning Corinne Kruse.
- Board Workplan Review
The updated Board workplan was provided to the Board as information.
- Meeting With Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP) Superintendent Sandy McDonald and Deputy Superintendent James Robinson met with RCMP Superintendent Lee Brachmann to discuss shared communication and collaborative planning between the local RCMP and the Division.

Items for Action

- 2024 – 2025 School Year Calendar Approval
A draft calendar for the 2024 – 2025 was presented to the Board for consideration and approval.

Discussion was held.

MOTION: Rob Martin moved that the Board adopt the 2024 – 2025 operational calendar as presented.

UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED 15609

BOARD POLICY COMMITTEE

Board Policy Committee Meeting

- Andre Ouellette reported to the Board that the Board Policy Committee met earlier in the day to discuss Board Policy 9 – Board Representatives, Board Policy 10 – Board Delegation of Authority and Board Policy 11 – Policy Making. Following review, the Committee did not find any required revisions for those policies.

The Board Policy Committee will be reviewing the *Recall of a School Board Trustee* package that was distributed out by the Alberta Government and will bring a report back to the Board.

ADVOCACY AND ENGAGEMENT COMMITTEE

Advocacy and Engagement Committee Meeting – January 9, 2024

- The minutes for the Advocacy and Engagement Committee meeting held on January 9, 2024, were submitted as information.

CULTURE AND ENGAGEMENT

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE GRANDE PRAIRIE PUBLIC SCHOOL DIVISION HELD AT CENTRAL OFFICE ON **January 23, 2024**

BUSINESS SERVICES

Business Services Report

- Annual Information Technology Report
Director of Information and Technology, Sudheshan Pillay, presented to the Board the Annual Information Technology Update. The report highlighted the team and the department's responsibilities in providing technological support to Division staff and students. The Board thanked Director Pillay for the informative report and the work of his Department.
- First Quarter Budget Update
Norm Guindon presented to the Board a first quarter financial update from the period of September 1 to November 30, 2023.
- Grande Prairie Christian School Lease Support Funding
Norm Guindon reported to the Board that confirmation has been received from Alberta Education that the Division has received approval for 2023 – 2024 lease support funding for the Grande Prairie Christian School building.

ASBA / PSBAA

Alberta School Boards Association (ASBA)

- Zone 1 Meeting
Joan Nellis reported to the Board regarding the ASBA Zone 1 meeting held January 10, 2024. The Zone 1 Health Professional Recruitment Committee has sent out a survey to Zone 1 Boards and have asked Boards to have the survey completed prior to the March 13, 2024 Zone 1 meeting. The survey will be put on the next Board meeting agenda.
- Speaker's Corner – Education Commission of the States
Those Trustees who participated in the ASBA Speaker's Corner held January 22, 2024, reported to the Board.
- ASBA Draft Position Framework Survey
Trustees were provided with a survey that was sent out by ASBA regarding the Draft Position Framework. Trustees provided direction for Board Chair Joan Nellis to submit the survey on the Board's behalf.

Public School Boards' Association of Alberta (PSBAA)

- August 2024 Public School Boards' Council Meeting Planning
Donna Koch updated the Board regarding planning for the PSBC Meeting that is scheduled for August 7 – 9, 2024 in Grande Prairie.
- February Public School Boards' Council (PSBC) Meeting
Donna Koch discussed with the Board that an environmental scan will be done following the PSBC business meeting scheduled for February 9, 2024. Council representatives will be discussing the greatest

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE GRANDE PRAIRIE PUBLIC SCHOOL DIVISION HELD AT CENTRAL OFFICE ON **January 23, 2024**

challenges their school division is currently facing and possible solutions or strategies.

ALBERTA EDUCATION

COMMITTEE REPORTS

- Education Foundation Committee Meeting
Rob Martin reported to the Board regarding the Annual General Meeting for the Education Foundation that was held January 18, 2024.

PRESENTATION OR DELEGATION BUSINESS

CORRESPONDENCE

- Letter to the Local MLAs Regarding Political Party Affiliation in Municipal Elections 2024 01 18

NEW IDEAS / NEW ISSUES

Joan Nellis discussed with Trustees and Administration whether the Board should advocate for accommodations for those students who have been affected by issues with diploma examinations and the Digital Assessment Platform. Following discussion, it was decided that the response to issues during the last writing was quick and that Alberta Education is working out any issues with the new platform, and no action is required by the Board.

IN CAMERA SESSION

MOTION: Rob Martin moved that the Board go in-camera at 8:47 p.m. to discuss legal and personnel.

UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED 15610

MOTION: Andre Ouellette moved that the Board come out of camera at 9:18 p.m.

UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED 15611

NEXT BOARD MEETING

The next meeting of the Board of Trustees is scheduled for Tuesday, February 13, 2024, to be held at Central Office in the Board Room.

ADJOURNMENT

Board Chair Joan Nellis called the Regular Board Meeting closed at 9:18 p.m.

Chair

Secretary-Treasurer