

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE GRANDE PRAIRIE PUBLIC SCHOOL DIVISION HELD AT CENTRAL OFFICE ON **February 13, 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, 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.

MOTION: Rob Martin moved that the Board adopt the Regular Meeting agenda as presented.

UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED 15612

MINUTES

Regular Board Meeting of January 23, 2024

The Board reviewed the Regular Board Meeting minutes of January 23, 2024.

MOTION: Donna Koch moved to adopt the minutes of the Regular Board Meeting of January 23, 2024, as circulated.

UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED 15613

PRESENTATION

Teri Millar and Joanne Cousins - Big Brothers Big Sisters

Joanne Cousins, Executive Director and Teri Millar, Program Coordinator for Big Brothers Big Sisters presented to the Board information regarding a new school program created by Big Brothers Big Sisters called, *Go Girls and Game On*. The organization is looking to run the program after school at some division schools.

The Board thanked the presenters for the information and advised that the presentation would be discussed later in the Board meeting agenda. The presenters exited the meeting at 6:17 p.m.

Dustin Archibald, Community Member

Dustin Archibald presented to the Board regarding the recently announced policy by Premier Danielle Smith regarding transgender youth.

The Board thanked the presenter for being involved and taking the time to address the Board. The presenter stayed for the remainder of the Board meeting.

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BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

Charles Spencer High School International Travel

On March 28, 2023, the Board approved international travel for Charles Spencer to travel to Spain over the spring break from March 28 to April 6, 2024. Recently the federal government changed the travel advisory for Spain from Green, representing to no concerns, to Yellow, which advises caution due to an increased risk of terrorism. Based on updates and information available, Administration supports the trip to continue. Should the travel advisory be escalated, contingency plans exist to cancel at that time.

**BOARD CHAIR/
SUPERINTENDENT'S
REPORT**

Board Chair Report

- Virtual Meeting with Minister of Education – Supporting Alberta's Students

Joan Nellis reported to the Board regarding a virtual meeting with the Minister of Education that she attended on February 5, 2024, along with the Education Executive of the Division. The Minister discussed the policies that the Provincial government is introducing regarding transgender youth and described the process for finalizing and implementing next fall.

Superintendent's Report

Items for Information

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

- Literacy Week
Schools across the division celebrated literacy week from January 22 to 26, by making reading visible across our school communities. Appreciation is extended to trustees, system staff, and the many V.I.P. guests from our community who took the time to visit our schools and share their favorite books with our students, and to school staff for the significant extra work they put in to plan and organize Literacy Week.
- Education Stakeholders Meeting – Social Studies Curriculum
On January 23 division staff were invited to participate in a meeting organized by Alberta Education to review the draft Scope and Sequence for the new K-6 Social Studies curriculum. The feedback collected at the meeting will be used by Alberta Education to continue to refine the curriculum in preparation for a public release of the scope and sequence and continued engagement with school staff and the public later this spring.

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- Alberta Education Review of Annual Education Results Report
On Wednesday, January 31, the system educational leadership team met with the division's field services manager from Alberta Education to review and discuss the content included in the Annual Education Results Report submitted to Alberta Education at the end of November. All required division results were acknowledged as being in the plan and the meeting was used to engage in conversation about the local measures, and strategies, used to support continuous improvement of outcomes for students in the division. The AERR is available online at: <https://www.gppsd.ab.ca/our-division/division-planning>.
- Incident Response Planning
On Thursday, February 1 senior leadership and Information Technology staff participated in a proactive emergency response training session intended to review and practice emergency protocols in the event of a serious technology-related issue in the division impacting operations. This activity, facilitated by a third-party consultant, supports key staff to review how communication and general operations can be effectively managed in the event of a catastrophic technology-related event. A follow up session to continue the work is planned for later in the month.
- Choice in Education: Challenges and Opportunities
The webinar to introduce the position paper on choice in education, prepared by Public School Boards Association of Alberta, is rescheduled from Friday, Feb. 2 to Friday, March 1.
- Site Staff Engagement Visits
The final visits by the system leadership team to engage with staff at each site on the topic of supporting personal wellness, connections and belonging finished on Monday, February 5. The feedback collected at each site using the Thought Exchange software platform will be provided to the administrators for each site, and the division's Wellness Committee will receive the division results. The information collected will be incorporated into updating strategies for supporting wellness next year at sites and in the new 3-Year Division Education Plan.
- 8 Tip Guide to be Ready for Kindergarten
GPPSD teaching specialists have created a resource that introduces 8 concepts to help parents prepare their child for kindergarten. The resource, initially introduced last year, is distributed as part of the registration campaign for the 2024-2025 school year and is included below. This document can be accessed online at <https://www.gppsd.ab.ca/our-learning/kindergarten> along with a detailed kindergarten fact sheet being distributed about kindergarten programming in GPPSD.

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- **Crystal Park School Value Scoping Process**
The final report summarizing the two days of work earlier this year has been prepared and will be reviewed by the committee, which includes representatives from Alberta Education and Alberta Infrastructure, in a meeting later this month facilitated by the consultants. The recommendations from the report will be incorporated into the process to develop the updated 3-Year Capital Plan for submission later this spring.
- **GPPSD Optimum Learning Framework Update**
A report prepared by Director of Teaching and Learning Corinne Kruse, explaining the development and plans for implementation of the Division Optimum Learning Framework, was provided to the Board as information.
- **Annual Programs of Choice Report**
Preparation of the annual report summarizing student participation in division programs of choice is delayed and will be shared with the Board at a later date.
- **Board Workplan Review**
The updated Board workplan was provided to the Board as information.

Items for Action

- **Liaison Meeting Planning**
The Board discussion questions for the upcoming Teacher Trustee Liaison Committee (TTLC) and Employee Association Liaison Committee meetings will be focused on employee wellness. School TTLC reps have been asked to come prepared to discuss which of the Division strategies has been most valuable/impactful and what other supports for wellness should be considered in the future. To support engagement with staff on the topic of wellness, the Division Wellness portal site is a good resource.

BOARD POLICY COMMITTEE

ADVOCACY AND ENGAGEMENT COMMITTEE

Advocacy and Engagement Committee Meeting – February 13, 2024

Chris Johnston reported to the Board regarding the Advocacy and Engagement Committee meeting held earlier in the day. Of note:

- The Committee has chosen a consultant to facilitate the Board's Strategic Plan Development Workshop scheduled for March 25, 2024.
- The Committee discussed the process to draft an ASBA Position Statement regarding party affiliation in Municipal elections. The

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Committee prepared a belief statement and if the Board is in agreement, this will be taken to the ASBA Zone 1 meeting being held virtually February 14, 2024.

Following discussion, the Board was in agreement with taking the belief statement to the upcoming ASBA Zone 1 meeting.

- The Committee discussed the use of cell phones in schools and following discussion, the Committee will actively solicit feedback from all liaison groups and will bring it back as a committee agenda item once feedback has been collected.
- A draft agenda for the Council of School Councils Meeting scheduled for February 29, 2024, was reviewed.

The minutes of the Advocacy and Engagement Committee meeting will be brought to the next Board meeting as information.

CULTURE AND ENGAGEMENT

School Assurance Meetings

The following School Assurance meetings were held and attended by Trustees:

- Derek Taylor Public School
- Ecole Montrose
- Roy Bickell Public School
- GP Christian School
- Alexander Forbes The Academy
- Crystal Park School
- Aspen Grove Public School
- I.V. Macklin Public School
- Riverstone Public School
- Hillside Community School
- Avondale School
- Maude Clifford Public School

Trustees expressed appreciation to School and Division Administration for the work that goes into the School Assurance meetings. The final School Assurance meetings are scheduled for February 22, 2024.

BUSINESS SERVICES

Business Services Report

- Transportation Report
Associate Superintendent Norm Guindon discussed with the Board Alberta Education's changes in school bus rider eligibility that was announced in the 2023 Alberta Education budget. The original deadline for implementing the changes was September 2024. However, the

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Minister announced earlier this year that the mandatory implementation date of the Student Transportation revision has been changed to September 2025. After extensive planning with our transportation partner and contractor, the decision has been made to delay implementation until 2025.

ASBA / PSBAA

Public School Boards' Council (PSBC) Meeting

- Donna Koch reported to the Board regarding the PSBC Meeting held February 8 to 9, 2024 in Edmonton.

ALBERTA EDUCATION

COMMITTEE REPORTS

- Student Advisory Committee Meeting
Rob Martin, Donna Koch and Joan Nellis reported to the Board regarding the Student Advisory Committee meeting held January 29, 2024, at the Composite High School Theatre.
- Professional Development Committee
Andre Ouellette reported to the Board regarding the Professional Development Committee meeting held February 8, 2024.

PRESENTATION OR DELEGATION BUSINESS

Big Brothers Big Sisters

- Central Office Administration will be in touch with the presenters to get additional information.

Dustin Archibald

- Following discussion, the Board Chair reiterated that the foundations of the Board's vision for supporting students is captured in Board Policy 20, Welcoming, Caring, Respectful and Safe Working and Learning Environments.

CORRESPONDENCE

- Letter from the Minister of Education, Re: Digital Assessment Platform 2024 01 29
- Letter of Condolence

NEW IDEAS / NEW ISSUES

Andre Ouellette requested clarity regarding the City of Grande Prairie stormwater utility consultations and if the City may be reconsidering the utility. Opinion at the Board table was that the consultations were regarding the model the city will use to implement the utility.

Ray Buziak expressed appreciation to Division schools for the work being done to prepare students for high school completion and citizenship.

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Joan Nellis will be representing the Board at the Chamber Roundtable on March 22, 2024, and will report back to the Board, and will also be attending the “An Evening with Grande Prairie” event in Edmonton February 29, 2024.

Joan Nellis also shared with the Board that she has been appointed to the Alberta School Boards Association Innovation and AI Committee.

NEXT BOARD MEETING

The next meeting of the Board of Trustees is scheduled for Tuesday, February 27, 2024, to be held at Central Office in the Board Room.

ADJOURNMENT

Board Chair Joan Nellis called the Regular Board Meeting closed at 7:56 p.m.

Chair

Secretary-Treasurer