

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE GRANDE PRAIRIE PUBLIC SCHOOL DIVISION HELD AT CENTRAL OFFICE ON **March 12, 2024**

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE SESSION

Board Chair Joan Nellis reported that a Committee of the Whole meeting was held prior to the February 27, 2024, Regular Board Meeting for discussion of Division planning.

Board Chair Joan Nellis called the Regular Meeting to order at 6:01 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, Donna Koch, Rob Martin, Joan Nellis, 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).

Regrets: Trustee Andre Ouellette, Trustee Chris Johnston

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Adoption of Board Agenda

The Board reviewed the Regular Meeting agenda.

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

UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED 15619

MINUTES

Committee of the Whole Meeting of February 27, 2024

The Board reviewed the Committee of the Whole Meeting minutes of February 27, 2024.

MOTION: Rob Martin moved to adopt the minutes of the Committee of the Whole Meeting of February 27, 2024, as circulated.

UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED 15620

Regular Board Meeting of February 27, 2024

The Board reviewed the Regular Board Meeting minutes of February 27, 2024.

MOTION: Ray Buziak moved to adopt the minutes of the Regular Board Meeting of February 27, 2024, as circulated.

UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED 15621

PRESENTATION

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BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

**BOARD CHAIR/
SUPERINTENDENT'S
REPORT**

Board Chair Report

- Alberta Teachers' Association Local Executive Meet and Greet
Joan Nellis discussed the Alberta Teachers' Association Local Executive meet and greet dinner attended by Trustees and Central Office Administration that was held February 28, 2024.
- An Evening with Grande Prairie Event
Joan Nellis attended "An Evening with Grande Prairie" event that was held in Edmonton on February 29, 2024. Trustee Nellis thanked the City of Grande Prairie for the invitation.
- Alberta Education Social Studies Curriculum Engagement Webinar
Joan Nellis attended the Alberta Education Social Studies Curriculum Engagement webinar held March 12, 2024.

Superintendent's Report

Items for Information

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

- Division Staff Wellness Update
A summary of the feedback provided by staff during the recent Thought Exchange is available to all staff and trustees on the division's internal portal. Anecdotal feedback received on the February 23 Staff Wellness Day suggests the day was an effective strategy to support staff wellness and results from the formal survey of staff will be reviewed to inform future planning.
- New Mobile Outreach Youth Program
The City of Grande Prairie introduced a new Youth Program initiative developed by the City's Mobile Outreach Team. The program is a comprehensive community-based initiative dedicated to providing crisis intervention, behaviour assessments, support, education, and advocacy to children and at-risk youth. Once the program begins to operate it will provide an additional level of support for youth and their families in the community.
- Alberta Education Nutrition Funding
On Monday, February 26, the Minister of Education announced an additional allocation of \$5,000,000 to support school nutrition programs. The amount the division will receive is \$77,000 and is appreciated.

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- Alberta Education International Educational Agreements Request
In response to the Minister of Education's request for information from school divisions regarding international educational agreements, the Division will report a long-standing student and staff exchange opportunity with France. The partnerships with the Nancy-Metz region of France and with a school in Lyon have been organized and coordinated by the French Language Resource Centre (FLRC) for several years and are in the process of being updated and renewed. The partnerships exist to provide students short-term homestay exchanges and to support French Language instruction in the school divisions that are part of the FLRC.
- 2024 – 2025 Staffing Process
The staffing process for the 2024-2025 school year is underway. As administration interviews continue, advertisements for specialty area subject and support teaching positions and high school positions have been posted.

Superintendent McDonald expressed congratulations to Theresa Rawlyk who has been appointed as the Principal for Isabel Campbell Public School next school year.

- 2023 – 2024 Music Parents Association School Grant Program
After a break from activities to support the music students in the Grande Prairie Public School District due to the pandemic, the Grande Prairie Music Parents' Association is again providing fundraising opportunities for students in the division. In addition to supporting High School students to travel, the Association is providing \$5 000 in grant funding, raised by music student and parent volunteers, to enhance the music opportunities for students and encourage students to continue to choose music as part of their education.
- 2023 – 2024 GPPSD Education Foundation School Grant Program
The Education Foundation Grants program has modified the process for supporting school projects to enhance opportunities for students this year. Each school will receive a grant, allocated based on school size and adjusted to provide equity of opportunities for the grants to impact all schools, to support a project or projects in the school that will enrich students' experience. A summary of the \$55,000 in grant allocations will be shared with the Education Foundation at their March meeting and will be reported to the Board at a later date.

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- College of Alberta School Superintendents (CASS) Zone 1 Meeting
The March Zone 1 CASS meeting was held online on Friday, March 1. The agenda included updates from Alberta Education, including an update from the Assistant Deputy Minister of Program and System supports, Kindy Joseph. Also on the agenda was a presentation from the Alberta Mentorship Project, which supports schools to partner students with peer and adult mentors and an update on the progress of development for the Kindergarten to Grade 6 Fine Arts Curriculum.
- New Program Partnership with YMCA and TD Bank
Administration is pleased to announce a new program with the YMCA and the TD Bank to support students in grade 5 and 6 at Hillside Community School, Maude Clifford Public School, and Crystal Park School to support their transition to junior high. The generous donation of \$50,000 from the TD Bank will provide opportunities for students in all three schools to help them experience success as they come together for grade 7 at Crystal Park to prepare for their next step towards high school graduation. Administration expressed gratitude to the TD Bank for the generous donation and the YMCA for partnering in the program.
- Board Workplan Review
The updated Board workplan was provided to the Board as information.

BOARD POLICY COMMITTEE

ADVOCACY AND ENGAGEMENT COMMITTEE

Advocacy and Engagement Committee Meeting – March 13, 2024

The March 12, 2024, Advocacy and Engagement Committee meeting was cancelled in lieu of the upcoming Strategic Plan Workshop planned for March 25, 2024.

CULTURE AND ENGAGEMENT

BUSINESS SERVICES

Business Services Report

- Provincial Budget
Norm Guindon presented a 2024 Provincial Budget Summary to the Board. Available provincial figures indicate the increase in the provincial funding will be primarily utilized by enrolment growth and Administration is not anticipating any significant increase in existing grant rates or the introduction of any new grants from the existing funding envelopes. Further information will be available when the Funding Manual is released by Alberta Education. Sandy McDonald thanked Norm Guindon for the very informative report and analysis.

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- **Photocopier Contract Tender Process Update**
The Division has concluded the public competition for the renewal of the photocopier and print services. The current contract expires on August 31, 2024. An evaluation committee composed of central office personnel and school leaders reviewed the vendor proposals and awarded the contract to Hi-Tech Business Services, a local business. The process is currently in the contract negotiation phase and will be followed by the implementation and rollout phase later in the school year.
- **Operational Reserves Ministerial Approval**
Norm Guindon reported to the Board that the Division received approval on March 5 of the multiyear draw down plan for the accumulated surplus from operations submitted at the end of November following the completion of the 2022/23 financial statements.

ASBA / PSBAA

Public School Boards' Association of Alberta (PSBAA)

- **Choice in Alberta Education Webinar**
Rob Martin reported to the Board regarding the Choice in Education webinar that was held March 1, 2024.

**ALBERTA
EDUCATION**

**COMMITTEE
REPORTS**

- Education Foundation Committee Meeting
Rob Martin reported to the Board regarding the Education Foundation Committee meeting held February 21, 2024.
- Council of School Councils Meeting
Rob Martin and Ray Buziak reported to the Board regarding the Council of School Councils meeting held February 29, 2024.
- Student Advisory Committee
Rob Martin reported to the Board regarding the Student Advisory Committee meeting held March 7, 2024. Students from the Student Advisory Committee will be presenting to the Board at the May 28, 2024, Board meeting.
- Teacher/Trustee Liaison Committee Meeting
The minutes for the February 20, 2024, Teacher/Trustee Liaison Committee meeting were provided to the Board as information.
- Non-Instructional Support Staff Committee Meeting
The minutes for the February 21, 2024, Non-Instructional Liaison Committee meeting were provided to the Board as information.

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PRESENTATION OR DELEGATION BUSINESS

CORRESPONDENCE

NEW IDEAS / NEW ISSUES

Joan Nellis reported to the Board that she and Superintendent McDonald have been invited to participate in a working session with the Minister of Education on March 18, 2024. Chair Nellis will report to the Board regarding the session at the next Board meeting.

NEXT BOARD MEETING

The next meeting of the Board of Trustees is scheduled for Tuesday, March 26, 2024, to be held at Central Office in the Board Room.

ADJOURNMENT

Board Chair Joan Nellis called the Regular Board Meeting closed at 6:56 p.m.

Chair

Secretary-Treasurer