

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE GRANDE PRAIRIE PUBLIC SCHOOL DIVISION HELD AT CENTRAL OFFICE ON **May 14, 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, Associate Superintendent Business Services Norm Guindon, Executive Assistant Business Services SheraLea Crichton, (recorder), and Secretary to the Board Sandy Fredland (minutes).

Regrets: Deputy Superintendent James Robinson

**ADOPTION OF AGENDA**

Adoption of Board Agenda

The Board reviewed the Regular Meeting agenda.

The Board agreed to the following additions to the agenda:

- Under Committees, *Education Foundation Committee Meeting*

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

UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED 15635

**MINUTES**

Committee of the Whole Meeting Minutes of April 23, 2024

The Board reviewed the Committee of the Whole Meeting minutes of April 23, 2024.

**MOTION:** Andre Ouellette moved to adopt the minutes of the Committee of the Whole Meeting of April 23, 2024, as circulated.

UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED 15636

Regular Board Meeting of April 23, 2024

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

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

UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED 15637

**PRESENTATION**

Bamfield Marine Station Field Trip – Derek Taylor Public School Students  
Shelly Bracko, Principal of Derek Taylor Public School, along with three Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) students shared their field trip experience with 39 other students to Bamfield Marine Science Centre on Vancouver Island.

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The Board thanked the students for their excellent presentation as well as school administration, teachers, parents and students for all of the work that goes into planning a field trip.

The presenters exited the meeting at 6:13 p.m.

Board Chair Joan Nellis recognized the passing of Bernardo Bautista, a longtime employee of the Division. The Board sends their condolences to Bernardo's wife and family.

**BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES**

**BOARD CHAIR/  
SUPERINTENDENT'S  
REPORT**

Board Chair Report

Joan Nellis reported to the Board regarding the Board Planning Retreat held May 1, 2024. The Board was provided with an update from the Directors on their workplans, as well as a first look at the 2024 – 2025 Budget and the 2025 – 2028 Three Year Education Plan development.

Superintendent's Report

**Items for Information**

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

- **Division Mentorship**  
The final two scheduled days for the Mentor Teachers and Protegees in this year's Division Mentorship program occurred on April 24 and 25. In addition to system leadership staff and support from the provincial Alberta Teachers Association, appreciation is due to Rhonda Schneider, from Trumpeter Local 26, for assisting in facilitating the program.
- **Leadership for Tomorrow**  
The final session of the two-year Leadership for Tomorrow program for the 16 participants in the current cohort was held on Thursday, April 25. A new cohort will begin their leadership learning journey in the fall of the 2024-2025 school year.
- **Draft K – 6 Social Studies Curriculum Update**  
The Minister of Education provided an update on the K-6 Social Studies curriculum on Friday, April 26. The Minister shared the draft Kindergarten to Grade 6 Social Studies curriculum has been updated by considering feedback from all engagement activities between August 2023 and April 2024 and the content has been adjusted. School

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principals are currently working with GPPSD teachers to identify anyone interested in volunteering to pilot the draft next year.

- **Ministerial Order on Student Learning**  
On April 25, the Minister of Education signed a new Ministerial Order on Student Learning. The Ministerial Order on Student Learning is updated by each new Minister of Education and describes the vision for student learning and identifies key outcomes for students in key areas, such as communication, critical thinking, knowledge development, personal health, and character development.
- **2023 Terry Fox Run**  
The national Terry Fox Foundation notified the division recently that Isabel Campbell Public School was ranked third highest of all K-6/K-8 schools in the province for raising over \$10 000 for the 2023 Terry Fox Run. Appreciation is extended to principal Matt Pepper and the staff at Isabel Campbell for their support of students to participate and raise funds to support the research, diagnosis, treatment, and prevention of cancer in Alberta.
- **Administrator Announcements**  
The system leadership team and the staff at Isabel Campbell public school are pleased to welcome Kim Caron as Vice Principal for the 2024-2025 school year. Kim is currently serving as a school principal with the Northern Gateway School Division and is looking forward to joining the GPPSD team next year.  
  
The hiring committee of system leaders has recently concluded the process to hire a new Regional Manager for Peace Collaborative Services (PCS). Elizabeth Linfield, who is currently a principal with the Peace Wapiti Public School Division, will be moving into the role of Regional Manager.
- **Spring Kindergarten Intervention Planning**  
Director of Teaching and Learning Corinne Kruse has worked with the division Intervention Leads to develop a program to provide targeted intervention for kindergarten students to run until the end of the year. Selected schools have been identified for the program based on early spring kindergarten literacy assessments administered across the division and interventionists are currently beginning their work to help prepare students for grade 1 next fall.
- **Elementary Report Card Update**  
The work of teachers and administrators to develop a draft new report card over the past several months was recently finalized following the

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collection of feedback from a survey of teachers, administrators, and parents. The last step in the development will be a review by system and school administrators of the final draft to be ready for implementation next year.

- **Parkside Montessori School Council Update**  
Superintendent McDonald attended the Parkside Montessori School Council meeting on Monday, May 6, to provide an update on the division's 2024-2027 three-year capital plan. No commitments were made to parents at the meeting regarding the potential expansion of Montessori programming, other than to continue to learn more about the potential.
- **College of Alberta School Superintendents (CASS) Zone 1 Meeting**  
The final Zone 1 CASS meeting of the year was held in the offices of the Holy Family Catholic Regional Division in Peace River on Friday, May 9<sup>th</sup>.
- **Rotary Excellence in Education Awards**  
Congratulations were extended to staff and parents who were recognized by the Swan City Rotary Club as someone who has gone above and beyond to make a difference for the students of the Division.
- **Board Workplan Review**  
The updated version of the Board's Workplan was provided to the Board as information.

**Items for Future Action**

- **Draft 2024 – 2027 Three Year Education Plan**  
Trustees were provided with the draft 2024 – 2027 Three Year Education plan and were asked to review the draft and identify any questions or comments. The final version of the plan will be brought forward to the May 28 meeting of the Board for approval by Board motion, as per Board Policy 2.

**BOARD POLICY COMMITTEE**

**ADVOCACY AND ENGAGEMENT COMMITTEE**

Advocacy and Engagement Committee Meeting

Chris Johnston reported to the Board regarding the Advocacy and Engagement Committee meeting held May 14, 2024. Of note:

- The focus currently is an update to the Board's advocacy priorities to be ready for the fall of 2024.

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- A Thoughtexchange survey will be sent out to staff, parents, and students in Grades 6 to 12, looking for feedback on what the Board's current priorities should be.
- Suggestions from the Board Strategic Plan Development workshop was discussed. Administration will bring a draft Board meeting agenda to the Committee for discussion and any recommendations from the Committee will be brought to the Board for discussion.
- The concept of a Board Governance Framework was discussed.
- The Committee is recommending an in-camera meeting session for May 28, 2024, to discuss the Alberta School Boards Association budget as well as the Public School Boards' Association of Alberta resolutions and budget.
- Following the approval of the Division's budget, the Committee is suggesting the Board meets with the local MLAs to discuss funding pressures.

**CULTURE AND ENGAGEMENT**

**BUSINESS SERVICES**

Business Services Report

- Draft Division 2024 – 2025 Budget  
Norm Guindon presented to the Board the draft 2024 – 2025 Division Budget. The total budgeted revenue for the next school year is \$114.2 million, reflecting an increase of \$3.8 million or 3.4% increase from the current year's expected revenues. The increase is attributed to an enrollment projection increase of 3% and \$1.1 million of Federal Government funding for Jordan's Principle support. The funding for the Division does not include any new grants and does not include any inflationary increases to the grants rates from the current year. The draft budget is a deficit budget addressed through the planned use of reserves. The final budget will be approved by the Board at the May 28, 2024, Board meeting.
- Board Policy 16 Appendix A – Student Fees  
Norm Guindon presented to the Board the updated Board Policy 16 Appendix A, listing the adjusted student fees for the 2024 – 2025 school year. Following discussion, the Board requested additional information regarding the International Baccalaureate fees. This will be brought to the Board at the May 28, 2024, Board meeting.

**ASBA / PSBAA**

Alberta School Boards Association (ASBA)

- Zone 1 Meeting  
Donna Koch reported to the Board regarding the ASBA Zone 1 Meeting held in Fort Vermilion, Alberta on May 8, 2024.

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- Spring General Meeting – Budget Bulletin  
This topic was discussed during the Advocacy and Engagement Committee update.
- Professional Development Event – Preserving Choice for Parents  
Those Trustees who attended reported to the Board regarding the ASBA Preserving Choice for Parents session that was held virtually on May 13, 2024.
- Speaker’s Corner  
The scheduled Speaker’s Corner session planned for May 13, 2024, did not occur.

**ALBERTA  
EDUCATION**

**COMMITTEE  
REPORTS**

- Council of School Councils Meeting  
Joan Nellis discussed the Council of School Councils meeting that was held May 2, 2024, in the Central Office Board Room. The Board appreciates those School Council Chairs who attend the meetings.
- Student Advisory Committee Meeting  
Rob Martin and Donna Koch reported to the Board regarding the Student Advisory Committee meeting held May 7, 2024.
- Teacher/Trustee Liaison Committee Meeting  
Rob Martin reported to the Board regarding the Teacher/Trustee Liaison Committee meeting held May 7, 2024.
- Education Foundation Committee Meeting  
Rob Marting reported to the Board regarding the Education Foundation Committee meeting held May 9, 2024.

**PRESENTATION OR  
DELEGATION  
BUSINESS**

**CORRESPONDENCE**

- Letter of Condolence

**NEW IDEAS / NEW  
ISSUES**

Donna Koch reported to the Board that the High Prairie Youth Treatment Centre experienced a fire in November. An announcement was released stating that rather than rebuilding, the government has opted to close the Centre.

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**NEXT BOARD MEETING**

The next meeting of the Board of Trustees is scheduled for Tuesday, May 28, 2024, to be held at Central Office in the Board Room.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Board Chair Joan Nellis called the Regular Board Meeting closed at 8:31 p.m.

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Chair

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Secretary-Treasurer