

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE GRANDE PRAIRIE PUBLIC SCHOOL DIVISION HELD AT CENTRAL OFFICE ON **August 20, 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 Ola Oladele, 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 at the end of the Regular meeting to discuss personnel.

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

UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED 15656

MINUTES

Regular Board Meeting of June 11, 2024

The Board reviewed the Regular Board Meeting minutes of June 11, 2024.

MOTION: Andre Ouellette moved to adopt the minutes of the Regular Board Meeting of June 11, 2024, as circulated.

UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED 15657

PRESENTATION

No presentation.

BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

BOARD CHAIR/ SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Board Chair Report

- Board Evaluation Review
Joan Nellis reported that the Board held the annual Board Evaluation Review prior to the Regular Board meeting.
- Superintendent's Evaluation Review
Joan Nellis reported that the Board held the annual Superintendent's Evaluation review prior to the Regular Board meeting.

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Superintendent's Report

Items for Information

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

- **Superintendent's Address and Division Keynote Speaker**
Trustees were reminded of their invitation to attend the keynote presentation to division staff. The presentation by Kevin Lamoreux will be preceded by a short welcome from the Superintendent at the Grande Prairie Composite High School, on August 28th.
- **Cognitive Coaching Training**
The final 3 days of the voluntary 7-day Cognitive Coaching training session for approximately 30 school and system administrators finished in July. Cognitive Coaching is a research-based program that trains leaders to work with staff to help them increase their capacity to solve complex challenges on their own and to apply their professional learning.
- **Enhanced Early Years Assessments**
On July 5, the Minister of Education announced a new provincial K-6 assessment framework for the mandatory literacy and numeracy screening requirements that will take effect from September 2024 to September 2026. The work to communicate and support implementation of the new framework will be ongoing throughout the year and will be communicated to staff, parents, and the Board as it is made available.
- **Alberta Assurance Framework May Results Overview**
A visual summary of the spring 2024 Alberta Education Assurance Measures was provided to the Board, providing an overview of the division's progress from the previous year.
- **Personal Device Use in Schools**
On June 17 the Minister of Education issued a [Ministerial Order #014/2024](#), providing direction to all school divisions in the province which established the standards and limits for the use of personal devices and social media by students in Alberta schools. Director of Student Supports, Paul Therrien, is leading the development of procedures for schools to use to comply with the Order and will be working with school administrators to ensure consistent application of the Order in division schools.

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- **School Administrator Placement Updates**
Late administration staffing assignments were made at the end of the school year in response to an unexpected resignation. In addition to previously shared changes in assignments, the following changes have been made for the 2024-2025 school year:
 - Principal of Crystal Park School: Josh Hartman is reassigned from Hillside Community School
 - Principal of Hillside Community School: Mike Humbke is reassigned from Aspen Grove School
 - Aspen Grove School: Colin Murphy is reassigned from Avondale School
 - Principal of Avondale School: Tracey Thiemann has been appointed Acting Principal for the 2024-2025 school year.

- **Alberta Education Additional Funding**
On July 24 the Minister announced an increase in funding in the province of \$125 million, with approximately \$1.2 million allocated to the division. The announcement includes two types of funding; some reflects grant rate increases that can be expected to maintain into the future, and some is in the form of one-time funding to help offset operational and inflationary cost increases for the current year.

- **Mental Health in School Pilot Funding Extension**
On August 13 the Minister of Education announced funding of \$6.7 million provincially to support existing Mental Health in Schools pilot projects. This funding will extend existing projects to the end of the current school year. The extended funding will support the pilot project that exists between our division, Grande Prairie and District Catholic Schools, and Alberta Health Services to provide 4 school-based addictions counsellors in Grande Prairie high schools.

Items for Action

- **Prime Minister's Award for Teaching Excellence**
On June 11, Parkside Montessori teacher Laura Noel was awarded the prestigious 2024 Prime Minister's Certificate of Teaching Excellence.

The Board discussed recognizing Laura Noel at a future Regular Board meeting and presenting her with a letter of congratulations and directed Administration to contact Laura to schedule an appropriate time.

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- **Northwestern Polytechnic (NWP) Proposed Bachelor of Education Program**
The Superintendent met with a committee from the Campus Alberta Quality Council on Wednesday, July 31, as part of the final stage of the process for approval of NWP's application to offer their own Bachelor of Education degree in both the elementary and secondary focus areas. NWP is seeking approval for 80 seats per year at each of the elementary and secondary levels. The next step will be a review of the program structure by the Minister of Advanced Education.

The Board discussed supporting the program with a letter of support for the proposal, emphasizing the importance of the secondary program.

The Board will send a letter of support for the Northwestern Polytechnic Bachelor of Education degree application.

BOARD POLICY COMMITTEE

ADVOCACY AND ENGAGEMENT COMMITTEE

- 2024 06 11 Draft Meeting Minutes as Information
Chris Johnston reported to the Board that the draft Advocacy and Engagement Committee meeting minutes for the June 11, 2024, meeting that were circulated to the Board as information were adopted at the August 20, 2024, Advocacy and Engagement Committee meeting.
- 2024 08 20 Meeting Update
Chris Johnston reported to the Board regarding the Advocacy and Engagement Committee meeting that was held earlier in the day. Of note, agenda topics were discussed for the upcoming scheduled meetings with local MLAs on August 27, and the meeting with the Minister of Education on September 5, 2024.

CULTURE AND ENGAGEMENT

Charles Spencer High School Graduation

Those Trustees who attended reported to the Board regarding the Charles Spencer High School Graduation ceremony that was held June 26, 2024.

Reading University Graduation Event

Those Trustees who attended reported to the Board regarding the Reading University Graduation that was held July 19, 2024, at Northwestern Polytechnic.

BUSINESS SERVICES

No report.

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ASBA / PSBAA

Alberta School Boards Association (ASBA)

- Zone 1 Meeting
Joan Nellis reported to the Board regarding the ASBA Zone 1 meeting that was held June 12, 2024, in St. Isidore, Alberta.

Public School Boards' Council (PSBC)

- Professional Development and Meeting
Donna Koch reported to the Board regarding the PSBC Meeting that was held in Grande Prairie August 7 – 9, 2024.

Canadian School Boards' Association (CSBA)

- Annual Congress
Donna Koch reported to the Board regarding the CSBA Annual Congress meeting that was held July 3 – 5, 2024, in Toronto, Ontario.

**ALBERTA
EDUCATION**

**COMMITTEE
REPORTS**

- School Council Year End Reports
The Board received the 2023 – 2024 Year End Report from the following School Councils as information:
 - Charles Spencer High School
 - Hillside Community School
 - Alexander Forbes The Academy School
 - École Montrose
- Board Evaluation Committee
This item was discussed earlier in the agenda.
- Education Foundation Committee Meeting
Rob Martin reported to the Board regarding the Education Foundation Committee meeting that was held June 12, 2024.

**PRESENTATION OR
DELEGATION
BUSINESS**

CORRESPONDENCE

- Letter from NLSD - To Ministers of Education & Transportation - Transportation Concerns 2024 06 17
- Reply - Avondale School Council Transportation Request 2024 06 20
- Minister's Letter to Parents - Cell Phone Restrictions 2024 06 20
- Letter to Minister of Education, Re: Meeting Division Board of Trustees 2024 06 26
- Minister's Letter for Parents - Great Year 2024 06 26

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- Letter to local MLAs Re: Meeting with Board of Trustees 2024 06 26
- Letter of Condolence - Trustee Thomas Auger Northland School Division 2024 07 03
- Letter from HPSD - To Minister of Education re Advocacy Plan 2024 07 04
- Letter from NLSD - To Minister of Education re Indigenous Spaces 2024 07 04
- Letter from PSBAA President to Federal Environment Minister re Carbon Tax 2024 08 08
- Letter from HPSD - To Ministers of Transportation & Education - Transportation Concerns 2024 08 14

NEW IDEAS / NEW ISSUES

Andre Ouellette congratulated Chair Joan Nellis for being re-elected as Chair for 2024 2025, and shared it was a privilege to nominate Trustee Koch as Vice Chair.

IN CAMERA SESSION

MOTION: Rob Martin moved that the Board go in camera at 6:52 pm to discuss personnel.

UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED 15658

MOTION: Donna Koch moved that the Board come out of camera at 7:00 p.m. with no actions arising.

UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED 15659

NEXT BOARD MEETING

The next meeting of the Board of Trustees is scheduled for Tuesday, September 10, 2024, to be held at Central Office in the Board Room.

ADJOURNMENT

Board Chair Joan Nellis called the Regular Board Meeting closed at 7:00 p.m.

Chair

Secretary-Treasurer