



**Grande Prairie
Public School
Division**
Every Student Succeeds

September 24, 2024

Board Highlights



LAURA NOEL, RECIPIENT OF THE PRIME MINISTER'S AWARD FOR TEACHING EXCELLENCE

The Board was honoured to congratulate Laura Noel at the Board Meeting on being one of nine teachers from across Canada to receive the Prime Minister's Award for Teaching Excellence in the 2023-2024 school year.

Miss Laura teaches at Parkside Montessori and was accompanied by Principal Corrine Shmyruk, who was instrumental in putting together and submitting the nomination.



GPPSD2357



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ALBERTA SCHOOL BOARDS' ASSOCIATION (ASBA) ZONE 1 AWARDS

Trustees attended the ASBA Zone 1 Awards Luncheon held in Grande Prairie on September 18, 2024.

First Year Teacher Rayanne Beby, from Riverstone Public School, was recognized as the Division's Edwin Parr Nominee for excellence in first year teaching.

Executive Director Ken Loudon accepted the division's nomination of United Way Alberta Northwest for the ASBA Friends of Education Award, in recognition of the additional supports they provide students and families in the division. The Board extends their appreciation and congratulations to Rayanne and the United Way Northwest Alberta for their dedicated support of students. (cont.)



Image (L - R): Ray Buziak, GPPSD Board Trustee, Jill Burgess, Principal of Riverstone Public School, Ken Loudon Executive Director of UWANW, Rayanne Beby, Teacher at Riverstone Public School, Joan Nellis, GPPSD Board Chair, Rob Martin, GPPSD Board Trustee and Sandy McDonald, GPPSD Superintendent

Trustees also thanked division staff for their organization of the event and creating the celebration of educational excellence in Zone 1!



TRANSPORTATION UPDATE

During the Board Meeting on September 4, 2024, the division's administrative team provided an update on the discontinuation of the Zonar app, also known as +ZPass, prior to the start of the school year.

The division's transportation provider now offers a paid version of the app. It was decided the division will pay the cost for families of students riding the bus for the 2024-2025 school year.

A demo of the new app is scheduled for next week to assess its functionality. If successful, GPPSD expects to implement the app within two to three weeks, after which GPPSD will begin notifying families of students who ride the school bus.



GPPSD ANNUAL DIVISION ELEMENTARY FUN RUN



GPPSD's annual Fun Run was held at Legion Field on Saturday, September 21, 2024. The brisk fall weather did not deter the great turnout of students and their families who kicked off the morning with a warm-up walk and walk-a-thon, followed by student racers representing their schools.

The Board thanked the students and their families who participated, as well as the staff and junior high student volunteers who were behind the scenes organizing an outstanding event.



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Focusing on school spirit, building community, and promoting wellness—all while having fun!





FUN RUN

#GPPSDCommunity



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Summer School

July 2024



For current Grade 9-12 students

Supporting multiple pathways
for High School completion



Grande Prairie
Public School Division

GPPSD SUMMER SCHOOL SUMMARY

July saw the successful return of high school summer school programming for division students.

Grade 9-12 students from across the division had the opportunity to enroll in 11 in-person courses and 10 online courses. They could also participate in work experience and the RAP (Registered Apprenticeship Program) programming.

SUMMER SCHOOL SUCCESS

The July program was considered a successful pilot based on the number of students who participated and the ability to once again offer multiple pathways to high school completion in the GPPSD system.

As they prepare for next year, the Board was updated about reviews and planning meetings between high school principals and division leadership. Based on lessons learned and feedback, division leadership believes it can build on the program's success and increase student participation in July 2025 by:

- opening registration earlier
- modifying programming
- having students talk directly with their school counsellors regarding how summer school can support their learning.



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Grande Prairie Public School Division

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SCHOOLMESSENGER: COMMUNICATION PLATFORM

As communication between home and school continues to be identified as important in annual division surveys, SchoolMessenger was deployed to parents and legal guardians in September 2024, and is a comprehensive engagement platform that supports effective communication between school and home in a variety of ways:

1. Communicating to parents/legal guardians: Information about school events, newsletters, and other important news.
2. Attendance reporting: Streamlined reporting of student absences by parents using app, web, or phone.
3. SafeArrival feature: Reporting directly to parents/legal guardians if a student does not arrive at school.
4. Emergency communications: Efficient mass communication capabilities in the event of an emergency.

SchoolMessenger has been used in GPPSD high schools for several years and is now being used division wide for all schools. Parents/legal guardians are encouraged to set up an account, select the types of communication they would like to receive, and identify their communication preferences. [Read more.](#)

Board Meetings

6:00 p.m., Central Office Board Room,
Grande Prairie Public School Division

Future Board Meetings

October 8, 2024
 October 22, 2024
 November 12, 2024
 November 26, 2024
 December 10, 2024
 January 10, 2025
 January 28, 2025
 February 11, 2025
 February 25, 2025
 March 11, 2025
 March 25, 2025
 April 8, 2025
 April 22, 2025
 May 13, 2025
 May 25, 2025
 June 10, 2025

Individuals or groups who wish to make comment on any specific item on the agenda of a Board meeting are required to register with the Board Office by noon of the day of the Board meeting. The full Board Policy 7 can be found on our website

