

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE GRANDE PRAIRIE PUBLIC SCHOOL DIVISION HELD AT CENTRAL OFFICE ON **September 24, 2024**

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

Board Chair Joan Nellis reported that a Committee of the Whole meeting was held prior to the Regular Board meeting with the purpose of discussing the Board Self Evaluation review, the proposed Governance Framework, the proposed new agenda concept and Board Meeting practices across the province.

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, 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).

Attending Virtually: Trustee Chris Johnston

Regrets: Trustee Donna Koch

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Adoption of Board Agenda

The Board reviewed the Regular Meeting agenda.

The Board agreed to the following additions to the agenda:

- *Board of Trustees Annual Christmas Card*, under Superintendent's Report, Items for Action;
- *Public School Boards' Association of Alberta Meeting with the Executive, and Fall General Meeting*, under PSBAA;
- *In-camera Session*, to discuss personnel; and
- *Board Evaluation Report Summary*, under Board Chair Report.

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

UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED 15666

MINUTES

Regular Board Meeting of September 10, 2024

The Board reviewed the Regular Board Meeting minutes of September 10, 2024.

MOTION: Rob Martin moved to adopt the minutes of the Regular Board Meeting of September 10, 2024, as circulated.

UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED 15667

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PRESENTATION

- Laura Noel, Prime Minister’s Award for Teaching Excellence Recipient Presentation
Sandy McDonald welcomed Ms. Shmyruk, Principal of Parkside, and Mrs. Noel, teacher at Parkside Montessori who was honoured by Prime Minister Justin Trudeau in June of this past year as one of 9 teachers across Canada to be honoured with the Prime Minister’s Award for Teaching Excellence.

Board Chair Joan Nellis congratulated Laura Noel and presented her with a card and letter of congratulations for winning a Prime Minister’s Award for Teaching Excellence.

BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

Impact of Comprehensive School Health Programming

- As requested by the Board at the previous Board meeting, Administration provided additional information about the expected outcomes of the division’s upcoming implementation of APPLE Schools, and how the success of comprehensive school health programs would be measured.

BOARD CHAIR/ SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT

Board Chair Report

- Premier and Minister of Education Announcement Re: Capital Accelerator Project
Joan Nellis discussed with the Board the Premier and Minister of Education announcement regarding the School Construction Accelerator Program that was announced September 17, 2024.
- 2022 – 2023 Board Self Evaluation Report Summary
The Board reviewed the 2022– 2023 Board Self-Evaluation summary report earlier in the Committee of the Whole meeting.

Following further discussion, the Board approved the 2022 – 2023 Board Self Evaluation summary report as presented and discussed.

MOTION: Andre Ouellette moved that the Board approve the 2022 – 2023 Board Self-Evaluation summary report as discussed and presented.

UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED 15668

Superintendent’s Report

Items for Information

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

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- **School Council Year Planning**
School Councils are currently conducting their Organizational meetings, holding elections and determining dates. Once this information has been collected it will be shared with Trustees. A draft year plan for School Councils, developed by Kim Frykas, Director of System Planning was presented to the Trustees. The distribution of the document is intended to support new principals and new School Council chairs in the organization of their work and to provide consistency of practice and two-way information sharing across all schools in the division.
- **Enrollment Update**
The registration of new students has stabilized, and system and school leadership are working to finalize student information across the division in preparation for the submission of student enrollments to Alberta Education at the end of September. The final student enrollment summary will be presented at the October 8 Board meeting.
- **September 11 Principals Meeting**
Time was allocated to support administrators in planning the professional learning in their schools and for principals to collaborate and explore school leadership development and mentorship practices to support succession planning at the school level.
- **Northwestern Polytechnic (NWP) Academic Showcase**
On Monday, September 16 Northwestern Polytechnic hosted high school academic counsellors, off-campus programming support staff, school administrators and system leaders to provide an update on the programming and support available to students that are currently offered at NWP.
- **Summer School Summary**
July saw the successful return of high school summer school programming for division students. 53 students, supported by 5 staff, had the opportunity to enroll in 11 in-person courses and 10 online courses. Students also had the opportunity to participate in work experience and RAP programming. In total, students earned 1101 total credits earned over the summer (168 summer school, 818 work experience, and 115 RAP).
- **Careers Pathways Planning**
The Division's 3-year education plan includes Outcome 2: Students are supported to succeed from early learning to high school completion and beyond. System leadership is working with school administration to develop and implement a Career Pathways Framework to support this outcome, which will provide clarity for students, parents, and staff about

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the opportunities for students. The Framework will also support division administration to enhance existing programming and develop new opportunities for students.

- **School Messenger Communication Platform**
As communication between home and school continues to be identified as important in annual division surveys, a new strategy is being implemented this school year. *School Messenger* was deployed to parents in September 2024 and is a comprehensive engagement platform that supports effective communication between school and home in a variety of ways. *School Messenger* has been used at the high school level for several years and is being deployed division wide for all parents.
- **System Leadership Reports to the Board for 2024 – 2025**
A new structure for information reports to the Board prepared by system leadership staff was presented to Trustees. The schedule for administrative reports to the Board has been developed, and continues to evolve, over time to support the Board’s governance actions. The purpose of the new template is to make visible each report’s connection to legislation, policy and procedure and to connect each report to the Board’s core governance responsibilities: fiduciary (oversight), strategic (foresight), generative (insight).

The reports by Administration provide an opportunity to enhance Trustees’ understanding of system leadership staff and the ways in which operations, in each of their portfolio areas, supports Board governance.

Items for Action

- **Board Work Plan**
The draft Board Work Plan for the 2024 – 2025 School Year was presented to the Trustees for review and information.
- **Board of Trustees Annual Christmas Card**
The Board discussed the annual Christmas Card art contest, and following discussion, will proceed with the contest and will open it up to Division high school students.

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ADVOCACY AND ENGAGEMENT COMMITTEE

- 2024 09 10 Draft Meeting Minutes as Information
Rob Martin reported to the Board that the draft Advocacy and Engagement Committee meeting minutes for the September 10, 2024, meeting that were circulated to the Board as information were adopted at the September 24, 2024, Advocacy and Engagement Committee meeting.
- 2024 09 24 Meeting Update
Rob Martin reported to the Board regarding the meeting that was held earlier in the day. Of note, the Committee discussed the communication bulletins that are sent out by the Public School Boards' Association of Alberta PEP (Promote, Elevate and Protect) initiative. Any communications will be shared out directly to Trustees who will be free to share out any of the information on their socials as they see fit. Advocacy priorities for the next two years were discussed, and the Committee is considering as advocacy priorities Funding, Staffing, and Student Outcomes. More information will be brought to the Board at the next Board meeting.

CULTURE AND ENGAGEMENT

BUSINESS SERVICES

Business Services Report

- 2025 – 2026 Municipal Election
Ola Oladele discussed with the Board that in preparation for the upcoming municipal elections in 2025, the Legislative department from the City of Grande Prairie (City) reached out to administration to discuss the division's election plans.

In previous elections, the City has effectively managed the process for local school divisions, ensuring compliance with electoral regulations. Following discussion, the Board agreed to continuing the current election cost sharing agreement with the City of Grande Prairie

- Transportation Update
Ola Oladele reported to the Board that in follow up to the discontinuation of the free Zonar System parent app, discussions are currently underway to explore next steps. Zonar can offer a paid app for parents, with the cost of the app covered between First Student, the Grande Prairie and District Catholic Division and the Grande Prairie Public School Division. A demonstration of the new app is scheduled for next week, and if successful, implementation of the app will be within 2 to 3 weeks.

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ASBA / PSBAA

Alberta School Boards Association (ASBA)

- Zone 1 Meeting and Awards Luncheon
Ray Buziak reported to the Board regarding the ASBA Zone 1 Meeting, Edwin Parr and Friends of Education Awards Luncheon that was held on September 18, 2024, hosted by the Grande Prairie Public School Division.
- Implementing Responsible AI in K – 12 Presentation
Those Trustees who attended reported to the Board regarding the ASBA Implementing Responsible AI in K – 12 session that was held virtually September 16, 2024.

Public School Boards' Association of Alberta (PSBAA)

- Meeting with Member Boards
PSBAA Executive Directory Troy Tait and members of the Council will be meeting with the Board of Trustees on Tuesday, October 29, 2024 at 10:00 am at Central Office.
- Joan Nellis reported that there will be no Board representation at the PSBAA Fall General Meeting.

**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:
 - Aspen Grove School Council
 - Swanavon School Council
 - Parkside Montessori School Council
 - IV Macklin School Council

**PRESENTATION OR
DELEGATION
BUSINESS**

CORRESPONDENCE

- Letter to Minister of Affordability and Utilities Re: The Impact of Electrical Distribution Charges 2024 09 17
Following discussion, the Board agree to sharing out the letter to the City of Grande Prairie and the Chamber of Commerce.

**NEW IDEAS / NEW
ISSUES**

Joan Nellis reported to the Board regarding a physician resident's summer camp that was held by Northwestern Polytechnic.

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IN CAMERA SESSION

MOTION: Andre Ouellette moved that the Board go in camera at 7:24 pm to discuss human resources.

UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED 15669

James Robinson, Ola Oladele, Sandy McDonald, SheraLea Crichton and Sandy Fredland exited the meeting at 7:25 p.m.

MOTION: Rob Martin moved that the Board come out of camera at 7:29 p.m.

UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED 15670

NEXT BOARD MEETING

The next meeting of the Board of Trustees is scheduled for Tuesday, October 8, 2024, to be held at Central Office in the Board Room.

ADJOURNMENT

Board Chair Joan Nellis called the Regular Board Meeting closed at 7:30 p.m.

Chair

Secretary-Treasurer