

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE GRANDE PRAIRIE PUBLIC SCHOOL DIVISION HELD AT CENTRAL OFFICE ON **October 8, 2024**

Board Chair 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 Johnston, Koch, Martin, Nellis, Ouellette, Superintendent McDonald, Deputy Superintendent Robinson, Associate Superintendent Business Services Oladele, Director of System Planning Frykas, Executive Assistant Business Services Crichton, (recorder), and Secretary to the Board Fredland (minutes).

Regrets: Trustee Buziak

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Adoption of Board Agenda

The Board reviewed the Regular Meeting agenda.

The Board agreed to the following addition to the agenda:

- *Superintendent Evaluation Ad Hoc Committee Meeting Update*, under Board Chair Report.

MOTION: Trustee Johnston moved that the Board adopt the Regular Meeting agenda as amended.

UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED 15671

TRUSTEE SELF-DECLARATION OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST

No conflicts.

MINUTES

Committee of the Whole Meeting of September 24, 2024

The Board reviewed the Committee of the Whole Meeting minutes of September 24, 2024.

MOTION: Trustee Martin moved to adopt the minutes of the Committee of the Whole Meeting of September 24, 2024, as circulated.

UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED 15672

Regular Board Meeting of September 24, 2024

The Board reviewed the Regular Board Meeting minutes of September 24, 2024.

MOTION: Trustee Ouellette moved to adopt the minutes of the Regular Board Meeting of September 24, 2024, as circulated.

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UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED 15673

BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

None.

DELEGATIONS AND PRESENTATIONS

No presentation.

PRESENTATION AND DISCUSSION OF REPORTS

Board Chair Report

- Meeting with Minister of Education
Board Chair Nellis reported to the Board that she and Superintendent McDonald attended an Engagement Session with the Minister of Education and staff on September 25, 2024, held in Calgary, Alberta with Board Chairs and Superintendents from across the province. The meeting was reported as being very beneficial and informative.
- Invest GP Mixer – Children’s Health and Education
Board Chair Nellis and Superintendent McDonald attended a Children’s Health and Education mixer hosted by the City of Grande Prairie on October 8, 2024.
- Superintendent Evaluation Ad Hoc Committee
Trustee Koch reported to the Board that the Superintendent Evaluation Ad Hoc Committee met on October 7, 2024. Following discussion, the Committee recommended that the Ad Hoc Superintendent Evaluation Committee be moved to a Standing Committee, under Board Policy 8, Appendix J. This will be brought to the Board Policy Committee for further review.

MOTION: Trustee Koch moved that the Ad Hoc Superintendent Evaluation Committee be moved to a Standing Committee Under Board Policy 8 – Committees of the Board, Appendix J, with the addition of a third member of the Board in addition to the Chair and Vice Chair, with the Committee developing Terms of Reference.

UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED 15674

Deputy Superintendent Robinson entered the meeting at 6:12 pm.

Audit Committee

- Board Chair Nellis and Vice Chair Koch reported to the Board regarding the Audit Committee meeting held just prior to the Regular Board meeting.

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Appreciation was extended to the Audit Committee public members, representatives from Fletcher Mudryk LLP and Associate Superintendent Oladele and his team for providing the year in review information.

Professional Development Fund Committee

- Trustee Ouellette reported to the Board regarding the Professional Development Fund Committee meeting that was held October 8, 2024.

Board Policy Committee

- Trustee Koch reported to the Board regarding the Board Policy Committee meeting that was held October 8, 2024. Policies reviewed were:
 - Board Policy 7 – Board Operations, Section 11
 - Board Policy 8 – Committees of the Board, Appendix H
 - Board Policy 17 – GPPSD School Closure

The Committee is also working on a Board Policy Review workplan. The recommended revisions to the above policies will be brought to the Board for approval at the next Regular Board meeting.

Advocacy and Engagement Committee

- The minutes for the September 24 Advocacy and Engagement Committee meeting were submitted to the Board as information, along with the draft October 1, 2024, Advocacy and Engagement Committee meeting minutes.

Trustee Martin reported to the Board regarding the October 1, 2024, Advocacy and Engagement Committee meeting. Of note:

- Belief statements and key speaking points for the 2024 – 2026 Board Advocacy Priorities were discussed. Once the belief statements and priorities have been approved, a brochure will be created for Trustees' use when meeting with stakeholders.

Individual Trustee Reports

Trustee Martin is regrettably unable to attend the Teacher/Trustee Liaison Committee meeting scheduled for October 29, 2025. Board Chair Nellis will attend in his stead.

Trustee Nellis reported to the Board that an invitation was sent to the Board to attend the 3D Charity Ryan Wagner Award presentation, being held in Beaverlodge November 8, 2024. Following discussion, Trustee Koch will attend as the Board representative.

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Trustee Nellis requested an update regarding the Naming Rights Ad Hoc Committee. Administration reported that last year, the Division received two requests from an individual to name parts of a school. This request will be addressed sometime before Christmas and a report will be brought to the Board at that time.

Superintendent's Report

Items for Information

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

- **Orange Shirt Day 2024**
Appreciation is extended to the division's Indigenous Program Coordinator, Krista Umble, and the division's Indigenous Liaison team for their efforts to support the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation in the division. This year, the team led division K-8 schools to support students to build a Reconciliation Tree in each school. The concept of the Reconciliation Tree is to make visible that individuals in our communities are part of a bigger picture; with relationships to the land, to our community, and to each other. The Trustees were presented with a brief video prepared by Mrs. Umble that showcased the work of division students and school communities in building their Reconciliation Trees.
- **Elementary Report Card Development**
The work to prepare a new K-6 report card, to align with the new provincial curriculum, is in the final stages of collecting feedback from schools in preparation for use during the first reporting period. Director of Teaching and Learning, Corinne Kruse worked with K-6/K-8 principals using survey feedback from parents, teachers, and leaders collected in March of 2024 to begin the development of new guidelines for reporting on student progress.
- **IBM Planning: Student Technology Access Review**
Director of Information Technology, Sudhesh Pillay, facilitated a recent meeting for members of the system leadership team with consultants from IBM to explore the potential of their leading an engagement to explore student access to, and use of, technology in the division. If approved, the ultimate goal of the project will be to assess the current status of student access to technology to support their learning and will also assess teacher readiness to enhance their use of technology in class.

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- College of Alberta School Superintendents (CASS) Education Workforce Study
As Human Resources staff begin the new school year, planning to support the recruitment of teachers is being informed by recent research conducted by CASS into the state of the Education Workforce in Alberta. An Executive Summary of the research is available on the [CASS website](#), as is the entire research paper.
- 2025 – 2026 Calendar Development Process
The development of draft calendars for the 2025-2026 school year are being finalized following meetings with neighbouring school divisions, for the purpose of aligning key dates and breaks to support the community. A calendar recommendation will be brought forward to the Board for consideration as per the dates included in the Board workplan. Engagement opportunities with parents/guardians and staff are being planned to review the process used to develop the calendar and deepen understanding of the factors that influence calendar structure.
- Dual Credit Startup Funding
On September 25th the division learned the grant application for \$50,000 to fund the creation of new dual credit opportunities was approved. The approval of this grant will initiate the conversations with Northwestern Polytechnic regarding the development of health, medical or STEM dual credit opportunities, and may also support the work to explore development of a regional Collegiate school with a STEM focus.
- October 2 Virtual All Administrators Meeting
This year, to support effective communication with school administrators, a monthly one-hour virtual meeting has been scheduled for the purpose of sharing information. The new meeting structure was adopted for two reasons: (1) to supplement the sharing of information that could be shared by email, and (2) to support in-person meeting time to be used for collaborative professional learning. The bulk of the October 2 agenda was dedicated to sharing information about changes to processes related to the application for and use of federal Jordan's Principle funding.
- Student Enrollment Summary
Director Frykas presented to the Board as information, a report summarizing the final enrollment details submitted to Alberta Education at the end of September.

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- Updated Board Workplan
The updated Board workplan was submitted to the Board as information.

Items for Action

- Board Social Attendance and Award Presentation Assignments

Trustee attendance and participation in the recognition of long-service award recipients, exemplary staff, and retirees was requested for the upcoming Board Social being held October 26, 2024 at Evergreen Park. Those Trustees attending the Board Social will present the following:

Emcee: Sandy McDonald

Presentation to Retirees:

10 Year Long Service:

15 Year Long Service:

20 Year Long Service:

25 Year Long Service:

30 Year Long Service:

35 Year Long Service:

40 Year Long Service

Exemplary Staff:

Following discussion, the Board requested Administration to appoint Trustees to the required assignments for the Board Social.

- Board Workshop Planning for 2024 - 2025
The Board's Planning Retreat is scheduled for December 5, 2024, and will include a detailed review of the Education Director's workplans. Trustees were asked to consider any other topics they might wish to bring to the December 5, 2024 Retreat. Following some discussion, Trustees considered Election Readiness as a topic for the retreat. Retreat topics will be brought to the next Board meeting for further discussion.
- Zero Based Budgeting Exercise
As discussed during the spring budget development process last school year, division administration will be engaging in a zero-based budgeting exercise to explore expense allocations across all aspects of the division for the purpose of reviewing the overall alignment of expenses with the priorities that exist in the division's 3-Year Education Plan. The process will begin following completion of the annual audit and will be targeted for completion early in the new year. As part of this activity, Trustees will be invited to participate in the exercise by reviewing the historical and current allocations related to Board Governance that fall under the System Administration and Governance area of division operations.

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BUSINESS SERVICES

No report.

TRUSTEE PROFESSIONAL LEARNING & SHARING

- Alberta School Boards Association (ASBA) – Municipal Affairs Statutes Amendment Act – Virtual Session
Trustee Koch and Associate Superintendent Oladele reported to the Board regarding the ASBA *Municipal Affairs Statutes Amendment Act, 2024* session that was held virtually October 4, 2024. The legislation makes a number of amendments to the *Local Authorities Election Act* that might affect Trustees. Further information regarding the Act will be brought to the next Regular Board meeting.

UPCOMING DATES AND EVENTS

- Alberta School Boards Association (ASBA) Zone 1 Meeting
The ASBA Zone 1 meeting is scheduled for October 9, 2024 and will be held in Peace River, AB.

CORRESPONDENCE

- Letter of Congratulations, Laura Noel, 2024 09 24
- Letter of Thanks from the Special Olympics Organizing Committee, September 2024

Director Human Resources Maurer entered the meeting at 7:30 p.m.
Director System Planning Frykas exited the meeting at 7:34 p.m.

IN CAMERA SESSION

MOTION: Trustee Martin moved that the Board go in camera at 7:35 pm to discuss Human Resources.

UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED 15675

MOTION: Trustee Koch moved that the Board come out of camera at 7:58 p.m.

UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED 15676

ACTIONS ARISING FROM IN CAMERA DISCUSSION

No actions arising.

NEXT BOARD MEETING

The next meeting of the Board of Trustees is scheduled for Tuesday, October 22, 2024, to be held at Central Office in the Board Room.

ADJOURNMENT

Board Chair Nellis called the Regular Board Meeting closed at 7:59 p.m.

Chair

Secretary-Treasurer