

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE GRANDE PRAIRIE PUBLIC SCHOOL DIVISION HELD AT CENTRAL OFFICE ON **November 12, 2024**

**COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE**

Board Chair Nellis reported that the Board held a Committee of the Whole meeting prior to the Regular Board meeting, for the purpose of reviewing the Division's draft 2023 – 2024 Alberta Education Results Report.

Board Chair Nellis called the Regular Meeting to order at 6:16 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 Buziak, Johnston, Koch, Martin, Nellis, Ouellette, Superintendent McDonald, Deputy Superintendent Robinson, Associate Superintendent Oladele, Director of Student Supports Therrien, Executive Assistant Business Services Crichton, (recorder), and Secretary to the Board 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:

- Under 3i., Superintendent's Report, Items for Action, 2023 – 2024 *Annual Education Results Report (AERR)*,
- Under 4d., In Camera session to discuss bargaining.

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

UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED 15682

**TRUSTEE SELF-DECLARATION OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST**

No conflicts.

**MINUTES**

Regular Board Meeting of October 22, 2024

The Board reviewed the Regular Board Meeting minutes of October 22, 2024.

**MOTION:** Trustee Koch moved to adopt the minutes of the Regular Board Meeting of October 22, 2024, as circulated.

UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED 15683

Abstained: Trustee Buziak, absent from the meeting.

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**BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES**

Municipal Affairs Statutes Amendment Act Update

As requested at the October 22, 2024, Regular Board meeting, Administration provided a report describing the process and relevant details for the potential development of Board bylaws to establish the requirement for Board Trustee candidates to provide a criminal record check with nomination papers, as well as the potential for providing a deposit with nomination papers.

Discussion was held regarding Administration proceeding with providing draft bylaws for the Board to review at the next Board meeting.

**MOTION:** Trustee Ouellette moved that the Board direct Administration to proceed with the development of draft bylaws to establish the requirement for School Board Trustee candidates to provide a criminal record check and to provide a deposit with nomination papers and bring to the November 26, 2024, Board meeting.

**AMENDMENT TO THE MOTION:** Trustee Johnston moved to amend the proposed motion to remove the requirement for the disposition of a deposit.

DEFEATED

In favour: Trustees Buziak, Johnston

Opposed: Trustees Koch, Ouellette, Nellis, Martin

The Board voted on the original motion:

**MOTION:** Trustee Ouellette moved that the Board direct Administration to proceed with the development of draft bylaws to establish the requirement for School Board Trustee candidates to provide a criminal record check and to provide a deposit with nomination papers and bring to the November 26, 2024, Board meeting.

CARRIED 15684

In favour: Trustees Koch, Nellis, Johnston, Ouellette

Opposed: Trustees Martin, Buziak

**DELEGATIONS AND PRESENTATIONS**

No presentation.

**COMMITTEES AND REPORTS**

The Board agreed to move the Division Attendance Summary Report from the Superintendent's Report to occur earlier in the agenda.

Annual Student Attendance Report

Paul Therrien, Director of Student Supports, presented to the Board the Annual Student Attendance Report. The Board was pleased to hear that attendance has been increasing, as attendance does have a positive impact on students. The Board thanked Director Therrien for the report.

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Director Therrien exited the meeting at 7:04 p.m.

Board Chair Report

- 55<sup>th</sup> Annual Board Social – 2024 10 26  
Chair Nellis reported to the Board regarding the 55<sup>th</sup> Annual Board Social that was held on October 26, 2024, and thanked the Organizing Committee for a great event.

Alberta School Boards Association of Alberta (ASBA)

- Fall General Meeting 2024 Policies Bulletin and Updates  
Trustee Nellis reported that the Board will be meeting on November 15, 2024, to discuss the ASBA FGM Proposed Position Statements.

Public School Boards' Association of Alberta (PSBAA)

- Recruitment and Retention of Teachers and Professional Staff Webinar  
Chair Nellis reported to the Board regarding the PSBAA Recruitment of Teachers and Professional Staff webinar that was held October 25, 2024, and recommended that Trustees visit the PSBAA website to view the session, as it was very informative.
- Board Meeting with PSBAA Executive  
Chair Nellis discussed the meeting that was held with PSBAA Executive Director/CEO Troy Tait and PSBAA President Dennis MacNeil, on October 29, 2024. This was an informal meeting organized by the PSBAA to provide an opportunity for the association and the Board to share information and ideas regarding public education in Alberta.

Teacher Trustee Liaison Committee Meeting

- Trustee Johnston reported to the Board regarding the Teacher Trustee Liaison Committee meeting that was held October 29, 2024. The minutes of the meeting will be included in the next Board meeting agenda package.

Advocacy and Engagement Committee Meeting

- Trustee Koch reported to the Board regarding the Advocacy and Engagement Committee meeting that was held November 12, 2024. Items discussed included the agenda for the upcoming Council of School Councils meeting scheduled for November 28, 2024, the expectations for the roll out of the 2024 2026 Board Advocacy Priorities brochure and possible future engagement meetings with City Council and the Grande Prairie and District Catholic School Division Board.

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Trustee Student Advisory Committee

- Trustee Martin reported to the Board regarding the Trustee Student Advisory Committee meeting held October 10, 2024, at Charles Spencer High School.

School Council Update and Reports

- Year End Reports  
The Board was presented with the year end report for the 2023 – 2024 school year from the following School Council, as information:
  - Grande Prairie Composite High School

Individual Trustee Reports

Trustee Koch attended the Remembrance Day Ceremony at Jubilee Park on behalf of the Board.

Superintendent's Report

**Items for Information**

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

- All Administrators' Professional Learning  
At the October 23 meeting for all administrators, Division Coordinator of Indigenous Programming, Krista Umble and Division Curriculum Lead, Cassie Mercer provided school leaders with an overview of opportunities for Indigenous curriculum collaboration. Administrators were also provided time to work together to support teacher planning in their schools as part of the Optimum Learning Framework implementation plan.
- Student Technology Access Model – IBM Canada  
As part of the Director of Information Technology's 2024-2025 workplan, Sudhesh Pillay has engaged IBM Canada to work with student, teacher, and leadership focus groups to review the access to technology that students currently have, and to explore the opportunities for improving student access to and use of technology to support their in-class learning.
- Peace Collaborative Services Joint Governance and Leadership Team Meeting  
On Friday, October 25, the superintendents and system leadership representatives from the 6 school divisions that are part of Peace Collaborative Services met to conduct the annual review of the terms of reference for the collaborative. Potential changes to the terms of reference were discussed, and an update on staffing and service

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delivery through the first part of the year was received from the new Regional Manager, Elizabeth Linfield.

- Association of School Business Officials of Alberta (ASBOA) – Alberta Education Business Plan Consultation  
On Friday October 25 the Division’s Director of Finance, Riley Greentree, attended a collaborative discussion organized by the Alberta School Business Officials regarding the connection between the current Funding Framework and the Alberta Education Business Plan. This meeting provided ASBOA members the opportunity to work in small groups and provide targeted feedback on the funding framework to Alberta Education.
- College of Alberta School Superintendents (CASS) Fall Leadership Conference  
The system leadership team attended the CASS Fall Leadership Conference in Calgary November 6 – 8, 2024. Sessions included courses on instructional leadership and supporting the development of system leadership capacity as part of the required CASS Continuing Education Program.
- GPPSD Teacher Leadership Academy 24 – 26  
15 teachers have submitted their interest to take part in the next round of the division’s Leadership Academy. The Academy includes 8 sessions each year, over two years, facilitated by the system leadership team and provides participants with an enhanced understanding of the leadership thinking and practices that guide our division.
- Career Pathways Thought Exchange  
System leadership distributed information to schools, school communities, and community partners regarding an online engagement using the *ThoughtExchange* platform to learn more about the beliefs in our community regarding the essential skills and student experiences students require to be successful in life after high school.
- Bill 27 (Education Amendment Act, 2024) and Bill 29 (Fairness and Safety in Sport Act)  
On October 31, the Premier of Alberta introduced Bill 27 (Education Amendment Act, 2024) and Bill 29 (Fairness and Safety in Sport Act) into the Legislature.
- Board Workplan Review  
The Board Workplan was presented to the Board as information.

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**Items for Future Action**

- December 5 Board Assurance Retreat  
A draft agenda for the December 5, 2024, Board Planning retreat was presented to the Board for discussion.
- Annual Education Results Report  
Trustees were provided with a draft GPPSD 2023 – 2024 Annual Education Results Report (AERR) for discussion in the Committee of the Whole meeting held prior to the Regular meeting. Trustees were asked to submit any questions they may have regarding the AERR to the Secretary to the Board prior to the November 26 Board meeting. The final AERR will be brought to the November 26 Board meeting for approval and will be sent to Alberta Education by the November 30, 2024, deadline.

Associate Superintendent of Business Services

- Fall Budget Update  
The Board was provided a preliminary update on the fall budget. Associate Superintendent Oladele discussed with the Board that the decline in enrollment, as reported at the October 8 Board meeting, is expected to impact the division's projected revenue for the year by approximately \$1.35 million. The detailed Fall Budget Update will be brought to the Board at the November 26, 2024, Board meeting.
- Non-Instructional Staff Bargaining Update  
The second bargaining session with the Association took place on November 4, 2024. Further negotiations with the Non-Instructional Support Staff will reconvene at a later date.
- 2025 – 2026 Modular Classroom Request Submission  
In response to student capacity, the division has submitted a request for 6 modular classrooms at the Composite High School and 2 modular classrooms for Isabel Campbell Public School.

**NEW BUSINESS**

Trustee Professional Learning and Sharing

Nothing to report.

Upcoming Dates and Events

- ASBA Zone 1 Meeting 2024
- Grande Prairie Chamber – Your Region, Your Voice Event 2024 11 14
- Public School Boards' Council Meeting 2024 11 15-16
- Alberta School Boards Association Fall General Meeting 2024 11 17-19

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Correspondence

- Reply Letter from Minister Nathan Neudorf 2024 10 23
- Letter from Doug Wylie, Alberta Auditor General 2024 10 30
- Letter from PSBAA to Minister of Education 2024 11 01
- Letter from PSBAA to Grande Prairie MLAs 2023 10 31

**IN CAMERA SESSION**

**MOTION:** Trustee Koch moved that the Board go in camera to discuss negotiations at 8:00 p.m.

UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED 15685

**MOTION:** Trustee Koch moved that the Board come out of camera at 8:13 p.m.

UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED 15686

**NEXT MEETING AND ADJOURNMENT**

Next Board Meeting and Adjournment

The next meeting of the Board of Trustees is scheduled for Tuesday, November 26, 2024, to be held at Central Office in the Board Room.

Board Chair Nellis called the Regular Board Meeting closed at 8:13 p.m.

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Chair

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Secretary-Treasurer