

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE GRANDE PRAIRIE PUBLIC SCHOOL DIVISION HELD AT CENTRAL OFFICE ON **November 26, 2024**

Board Chair Nellis called the Regular Meeting to order at 6:01 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 System Planning Frykas, Director of Finance Greentree, 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.

MOTION: Trustee Martin moved that the Board adopt the Regular Meeting agenda as circulated.

UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED 15687

TRUSTEE SELF-DECLARATION OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST

No conflicts.

MINUTES

Committee of the Whole Meeting of November 12, 2024

The Board reviewed the Committee of the Whole Meeting minutes of November 12, 2024.

MOTION: Trustee Koch moved to adopt the minutes of the Committee of the Whole Meeting of November 12, 2024, as circulated.

UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED 15688

Regular Board Meeting of November 12, 2024

The Board reviewed the Regular Board Meeting minutes of November 12, 2024.

MOTION: Trustee Ouellette moved to adopt the minutes of the Regular Board Meeting of November 12, 2024, as circulated.

UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED 15689

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BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

Meeting with Mayor and Council

Following the November 12 meeting, the Mayor's office was asked to identify possible dates for the Board to meet with Mayor and Council. To support setting a date and time for the meeting, Trustees were asked to come prepared to share dates that do not work for them to meet at City Hall for 90 minutes. Following discussion, the Board advised Administration to seek some dates with the Mayor and City Council in the New Year.

School Board Trustee Election Bylaw Development Update

As requested at the November 12, 2024, Regular Board meeting, Administration provided a draft Criminal Record Check Bylaw and draft Nomination Deposit Bylaw for consideration. Discussion was held.

The Grande Prairie Public School Division Bylaw 2024-1 Criminal Record Check Bylaw, or "Criminal Record Check Bylaw" was presented to the Board for first reading.

MOTION: Trustee Ouellette moved that Bylaw 2024-1 be given first reading.

CARRIED 15690

For: Trustees Nellis, Martin, Ouellette, Koch, Johnston

Opposed: Trustee Buziak

Bylaw 2024-1, Criminal Record Check Bylaw, passed first reading. No amendments were suggested from discussion and Bylaw 2024-1 will be brought in the same format for the 2nd and 3rd readings at the December 10, 2024, Board meeting.

The Grande Prairie Public School Division Bylaw 2024-2 Nomination Deposit Bylaw was presented to the Board for first reading.

MOTION: Trustee Koch moved that Bylaw 2024-2 be given first reading.

DEFEATED

For: Trustees Nellis, Koch, Ouellette

Opposed: Trustees Buziak, Martin, Johnston

Nomination Deposit Bylaw 2024-2 did not pass first reading as the motion was defeated.

DELEGATIONS AND PRESENTATIONS

No presentation.

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COMMITTEES AND REPORTS

Board Chair Report

- Grande Prairie Chamber of Commerce, *Your Region, Your Voice* Event Chair Nellis reported to the Board regarding the Chamber's *Your Region, Your Voice* event that was held November 14, 2024. Municipal, provincial and federal representatives were present at the event.

Alberta School Boards Association of Alberta (ASBA)

- Zone 1 Meeting
Trustee Buziak reported to the Board regarding the November 13, 2024, Zone 1 Meeting.
- Fall General Meeting
Trustee Nellis reported to the Board regarding the ASBA Fall General Meeting held in Edmonton November 17 – 19, 2024.

Public School Boards' Association of Alberta (PSBAA)

- Public School Boards' Council (PSBC) Meeting
Vice Chair Koch reported to the Board regarding the PSBC meeting held in Edmonton November 15 – 16, 2024.
1st day is focused on education, speakers from Edmonton Public,

Audit Committee Meeting

- Vice Chair Koch reported to the Board that the Audit Committee met just prior to the Regular Board meeting and thanked the Finance Department and the two public members on the Audit Committee for their work. Trustee Koch also thanked Fletcher/Mudryk for being the Division's auditor for the past five years.

Teacher Trustee Liaison Committee Meeting

- The minutes from the October 29, 2024, Teacher Trustee Liaison Committee meeting were submitted to the Board as information.

Non-Instructional Employees Association Committee

- Trustee Buziak and Vice Chair Koch reported to the Board regarding the Non-Instructional Employees Association Committee meeting that was held November 13, 2024. The minutes will be brought to the Board as information at the next Board meeting.

Board Policy Committee Meeting

- Trustee Koch reported to the Board regarding the Board Policy Committee meeting that was held November 26, 2024. The Committee is recommending approval of revisions to the following policy:

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Board Policy 13 – Appeals Regarding Teacher Transfers

The Board reviewed the recommended revisions to Board Policy 13, Appeals Regarding Teacher Transfers.

MOTION: Trustee Koch moved that the Board approve the revisions to Board Policy 13, Appeals Regarding Teacher Transfers, as presented and discussed.

UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED 15691

Advocacy and Engagement Committee Meeting

- The draft minutes for the November 12, 2024, Advocacy and Engagement Committee meeting were submitted to the Board as information.

Grande Prairie Public School Division Education Foundation Committee

- Trustee Martin reported to the Board regarding the GPPSD Education Foundation Committee meeting held November 14, 2024. Shannon Gill has taken the Executive Director position for the Foundation.

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:
 - Isabel Campbell Public School
- Council of School Councils Meeting
The agenda for the Council of School Councils meeting scheduled for November 28, 2024, was presented to the Board for discussion.

Individual Trustee Reports

No reports.

Superintendent's Report

Items for Information

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

- Indspire Guiding the Journey: Indigenous Educator Awards 2024
Indspire is a Canadian Indigenous national charity that invests in the education of First Nations, Inuit and Métis people for the long-term benefit of these individuals, their families and communities, and Canada. Each year Indspire honours Indigenous educators from across

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Canada for their contributions to community-based education and who honour the principles of Indigenous knowledge.

Krista Umble, Division Coordinator of Indigenous Programming, was one of 5 individuals from across Canada to receive recognition, and was recognized at the 2024 National Gathering held in Winnipeg Manitoba from November 20-24. The Board will send a letter of congratulations to Ms. Umble.

- **All Administrators Virtual Meeting**
The monthly one-hour meeting to share key information with all administrators on November 13 included information regarding supporting English as an Additional Language (EAL) learners, development of an EAL Resource guide to support division schools, updates on supports for the primary intervention program and distributions of information about Sparky's Secret Wish.
- **All Administrator Professional Learning**
The focus of professional learning for all principals and vice principals on November 20 was on deepening understanding of expected division practices for teacher and administrator growth, supervision, and evaluation. Time was also provided to engage in development of a companion document to the Optimum Learning Framework to support Indigenous learners in the division and for teams to update their school's Professional Learning plan for the upcoming months.
- **Apple Schools Update**
The plan to pilot comprehensive school health programming via the APPLE Schools model, first introduced to the Board at the September 9 and September 24 board meetings, is in the final stages of preparation for January 2025 implementation. Avondale Elementary, Roy Bickell Public School, Alexander Forbes the Academy School and Crystal Park School have been selected as division sites and a 0.5 full time equivalent Health Promotion Facilitator will be hired to begin at the start of January. Funding is guaranteed for two years with the potential of a third year, and more information about the details regarding the development of a comprehensive school health culture in each school community will be presented to the board at a later date.
- **Alberta Curriculum Renewal**
On Friday, November 9, the Minister of Education announced the schedule for the continued development of curriculum. Draft curriculum will be developed in four subjects over the course of the current school year:
 - Grades 7-9 mathematics

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- Grades 7-9 social studies
- Grades 7-10 physical education and wellness
- Career and Life Management (CALM)

Division school principals are currently working with teachers to identify nominees from the division to provide input and review draft curriculum. In winter 2025, feedback from teachers working on each subject area will be used to further refine draft curriculum before its public release in the spring. More specific information will be shared as it becomes available.

- **Staff Recruitment Strategy Update**
The annual recruitment plan to attract teacher graduates and other employees for the remainder of the current year and for the next year was presented to the Board as information.
- **Board Workplan Review**
The Board Workplan was presented to the Board as information.
- **Bi-Annual Division Risk Management Report**
This report was discussed in camera due to the sensitive nature of the contents.

Items for Future Action

- **Annual Board Social Report**
The report summarizing the annual Board Social was presented to the Board for consideration and discussion. The Board appreciated the information.
- **2023 – 2024 Annual Education Results Report**
The 2023 – 2024 Annual Education Results Report was presented to the Board for review and approval.

MOTION: Trustee Koch moved that the Board approve the Grande Prairie Public School Division 2023 – 2024 Annual Education Results Report as presented.

UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED 15692

The Board thanked Director Frykas for the work on the results report and for the presentation.

Associate Superintendent of Business Services

- **Audited Financial Statements and Fall Budget Update**
Associate Superintendent Oladele presented to the Board the Audited Financial Statements for the year ending August 31, 2024, for approval,

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as well as the 2023 - 2024 Financial Statements Review and Highlights as information. The Board thanked the Finance Department for their great work regarding the audit. The Board was also presented with the Fall 2024/2025 Fall Budget Update as information.

Associate Superintendent Oladele reported to the Board that the Audit Committee met prior to the Board meeting, and the committee had two recommendations for the Board.

MOTION: Trustee Ouellette moved that the Board of Trustees approve all transfers to and from the general and capital reserves as disclosed in the August 31, 2024, Audited Financial Statements.

UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED 15693

MOTION: Trustee Koch moved that the Board of Trustees adopt the August 31, 2024, Audited Financial Statements as presented and recommended by the Board of Trustees' Audit Committee.

UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED 15694

NEW BUSINESS

Trustee Professional Learning and Sharing

- ASBA Professional Learning Session – the State of Federal Politics and Connections to Provincial Education Priorities
Trustee Nellis reported to the Board regarding the ASBA Professional Learning Session that was held November 26, 2024 regarding federal politics and connections to provincial education priorities.

Upcoming Dates and Events

- Striving for Excellence Awards 2024 12 03
- Board Planning Retreat 2024 12 05

Correspondence

- No correspondence

IN CAMERA SESSION

MOTION: Trustee Martin moved that the Board go in camera to discuss Human Resources at 8:22 p.m.

UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED 15695

MOTION: Trustee Johnston moved that the Board come out of camera at 8:37 p.m.

UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED 15696

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NEXT MEETING AND ADJOURNMENT

Next Board Meeting and Adjournment

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

Board Chair Nellis called the Regular Board Meeting closed at 8:38 p.m.

Chair

Secretary-Treasurer