

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE GRANDE PRAIRIE PUBLIC SCHOOL DIVISION HELD AT CENTRAL OFFICE ON **January 14, 2025**

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

Board Chair Nellis reported that the Board met for a Committee of the Whole meeting prior to the Regular Board meeting to discuss the Annual Student Profile and Specialized Learning Services Report, as well as a Cost Pressures Report.

Board Chair Nellis called the Regular Meeting to order at 6:04 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 Business Services Oladele, 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:

- An in-camera session at the end of the meeting to discuss capital planning and personnel.

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

UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED 15705

TRUSTEE SELF-DECLARATION OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST

No conflicts.

MINUTES

Committee of the Whole Meeting of December 10, 2024

The Board reviewed the Committee of the Whole Meeting minutes of December 10, 2024.

MOTION: Trustee Ouellette moved to adopt the minutes of the Committee of the Whole meeting of December 10, 2024, as circulated.

UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED 15706

Abstained: Trustee Buziak, not present at the meeting.

Regular Board Meeting of December 10, 2024

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

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MOTION: Vice Chair Koch moved to adopt the minutes of the Regular Board Meeting of December 10, 2024, as circulated.

UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED 15707
Abstained: Trustee Buziak, not at the meeting.

BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

No report.

DELEGATIONS AND PRESENTATIONS

No presentation.

COMMITTEES AND REPORTS

Board Chair Report

- Curriculum Development Engagement
Vice Chair Koch reported to the Board regarding the Career Education and Curriculum Engagement Kick-Off meeting that was held virtually and presented by Alberta Education on December 18, 2024. The session was a review of the next curriculum development for Grades 7 to 9.
- Meeting with Grande Prairie and District Catholic School Division Board of Trustees
Chair Nellis reported to the Board regarding the meeting that was held with the Board of Trustees of the Grande Prairie and District Catholic Division on January 13, 2025. The Board values the cooperative relationship they have with our neighbouring school division and appreciates the networking opportunity.

Alberta School Boards Association of Alberta Update

- Zone 1 Meeting 2024 12 11
Chair Nellis reported to the Board regarding the ASBA Zone 1 meeting that was held virtually on December 11, 2024.
- Zone 1 Meeting 2025 01 08
Trustee Buziak reported to the Board regarding the ASBA Zone 1 meeting that was held virtually January 8, 2025.

Advocacy and Engagement Committee

- Trustee Martin reported to the Board regarding the Advocacy and Engagement Committee meeting that was held virtually on January 14, 2025.

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Trustee Student Advisory Committee Meeting

- Vice Chair Koch reported to the Board regarding the Student Advisory Committee meeting that was held December 13, 2024.

GPPSD Education Foundation Committee

- Trustee Martin reported to the Board regarding the Education Foundation Committee meeting held December 12, 2024, as well as the Education Foundation Committee meeting held January 9, 2025.

School Council Update and Reports

- Workshop Proposal Discussion
Chair Nellis reported to the Board regarding the workshop that is scheduled for School Council Chairs on January 23, 2025. The Alberta School Council's Association will present the workshop entitled, "*Chair Basics, Not Just for Chairs*". The presentation will be virtual, but attendance will be in person. The workshop is open to all School Council Chairs, Vice-Chairs, Division Principals and Vice Principals.

Individual Trustee Reports

Trustee Koch discussed the Rural Education Symposium scheduled for March 2 – 4, 2025 in Edmonton.

Superintendent's Report

Items for Information

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

- The Education Amendment Act (Bill 27)
Bill 27 passed in the legislature and received Royal Assent on December 5. The bill makes several amendments to the *Education Act* including sections involving gender identity, sexual orientation and human sexuality, as well as amendments to ensure education continuity during public health and states of emergencies.
- Parent and Community Engagements
Two parent/community engagements were distributed in late December, with a mid-January end date, to learn more about parent/community interest in potential programming opportunities. One survey was distributed to Parkside Montessori parents to explore their interest in expanding Montessori programming to grade 8. The second survey was distributed to the local Islamic community to learn more about interest levels for the potential development of a fee-based Islamic language instruction and/or a fee-based Islamic program of choice.

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Administration will report back on the information learned from the survey results upon completion of the review of survey data.

- All Administration Professional Learning and Principals Meeting
The December and January professional learning-focused meetings for all administrators and the principals' meetings occurred on Wednesday, December 11, 2024 and Wednesday, January 8, 2025.
- GPPSD Leadership Academy Session 2
The second session of the division's Leadership Academy occurred on Thursday, December 12. The focus of the session was on the development of participants' knowledge of the characteristics of an adaptive school/school system and how leading an adaptive system can support student learning.
- Alberta Education Career Education and Curriculum Engagement Kick Off
The Deputy Minister of Alberta Education and curriculum staff hosted an update on new curriculum development implementation on Wednesday, December 18. The brief session reviewed the plans for grade 7-9 curriculum engagements that begin upon return from the Christmas break to support the development of next round of updated curriculum.
- Records Management Planning
On Thursday, December 18, the Directors of Human Resources, Information Technology, and the senior leadership team met for an initial meeting to review the division's practices with respect to records management and records retention.
- Artificial Intelligence (AI) To Support Evidence-Based Planning
Superintendent McDonald participated in a webinar on Thursday, December 19, focused on the role of generative artificial intelligence tools to support evidence-based decision-making processes in organizations. As the rapid pace of development of AI tools to support teaching, learning, and business operations continues, it is important to develop deep understanding of not just the benefits of the use of artificial intelligence, but also the risks associated with it.

Associate Superintendent of Business Services

- Annual Transportation Report
Associate Superintendent Oladele provided the Board with the annual Transportation Report. The Board thanked Associate Superintendent Oladele for the informative report.

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NEW BUSINESS

Trustee Professional Learning and Sharing

- ASBA Professional Learning Session – ASEBP 2025 01 13
Those Trustees who attended the ASBA Professional Learning Session on the Alberta School Employee Benefit Plan reported to the Board regarding the session.

Upcoming Dates and Events

- Board Workplan
The Board reviewed the Board workplan as information. Superintendent McDonald highlighted the meeting scheduled with the Mayor and City Council on January 22, 2025.

Correspondence

- Letter from Wolf Creek Public Schools to Minister Re: Mental Health
2024 12 09
Letter from Peace River School Division to Minister Re: Funding Model
2024 12 12

IN CAMERA SESSION

MOTION: Trustee Ouellette moved that the Board go in camera to discuss Human Resources and property at 7:02 p.m.

UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED 15708

MOTION: Trustee Johnston moved that the Board come out of camera at 7:39 p.m.

UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED 15709

ACTIONS ARISING FROM IN CAMERA

MOTION: Trustee Martin moved that the Board ratify and approve the proposed 4-year contract and Memorandum of Agreement for the Grande Prairie Public School Division Employees' Association as presented.

UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED 15710

Board Chair Nellis thanked the Association for their bargaining, and reported the process to be very positive, and expressed appreciation to Administration for leading the Board through the process.

MOTION: Trustee Martin moved that the Board strike a 3-person Ad Hoc Committee for the Superintendent Recruitment Process as discussed.

UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED 15710

Following discussion, Trustee Buziak, Board Chair Nellis and Vice Chair Koch will sit on the committee.

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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, January 28, 2025, to be held at Central Office in the Board Room.

Board Chair Nellis called the Regular Board Meeting closed at 7:41 p.m.

Chair

Secretary-Treasurer