

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE GRANDE PRAIRIE PUBLIC SCHOOL DIVISION HELD AT CENTRAL OFFICE ON **January 28, 2025**

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 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).

Attending virtually: Vice Chair 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:

- An in-camera session at the end of the meeting to discuss property.

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

UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED 15711

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

No conflicts.

Chair Nellis discussed a professional development session that she attended regarding Board conflict of interest, stating that Trustees should feel comfortable declaring a conflict should there be one, and removing themselves from the conversation if required.

**MINUTES**

Committee of the Whole Meeting of January 14, 2025

The Board reviewed the Committee of the Whole Meeting minutes of January 14, 2025.

**MOTION:** Trustee Ouellette moved to adopt the minutes of the Committee of the Whole meeting of January 14, 2025, as circulated.

UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED 15712

Regular Board Meeting of January 14, 2025

The Board reviewed the Regular Board Meeting minutes of January 14, 2025.

**MOTION:** Trustee Johnston moved to adopt the minutes of the Regular Board Meeting of January 14, 2025, as circulated.

UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED 15713

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**BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES**

No report.

**DELEGATIONS, PRESENTATIONS and SYSTEM LEADERSHIP REPORTS**

Annual Student Intervention Programming Report

James introduced Director of Teaching and Learning Kruse and provided a brief summary of the Annual Student Intervention Programming report.

Director of Teaching and Learning Kruse presented to the Board the Annual Student Intervention Programming report as information and thanked the Board for the opportunity to speak to intervention.

Trustee Martin entered the meeting at 6:06 p.m.

The Board thanked Director Kruse for the informative report.

**COMMITTEES AND REPORTS**

Board Chair Report

- Meeting with the Mayor and City Council 2025 01 22  
Chair Nellis reported to the Board regarding the meeting between the Board of Trustees and Administration with the Mayor and City Council that was held January 22, 2025. The meeting was reported as being positive and productive.
- Ad Hoc Superintendent Recruitment Process  
Chair Nellis reported to the Board regarding the ad hoc Superintendent Recruitment process committee. Requests for proposals have been sent out to three possible recruitment candidates with a deadline for submission by February 3, 2025. The Committee will meet again on February 4 and will bring a recommendation to the Board at the February 11, 2025 Board meeting.
- *An Evening with Grande Prairie* Event – Edmonton 2025 02 27  
Chair Nellis reported to the Board that the City of Grande Prairie is once again hosting the *Evening with Grande Prairie* event in Edmonton to be held on February 27, 2025. This event provides attendees with an opportunity to speak with Alberta Members of the Legislative Assembly, community members and other government officials regarding topics and issues related to Grande Prairie.

Alberta School Boards Association of Alberta (ASBA) Update

- Speaker's Corner – Board Dynamics 2025 01 20  
Those Trustees who attended the ASBA Speaker's Corner, Board Dynamics, reported to the Board regarding the session held virtually on January 20, 2025.

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Board Policy Committee

- Trustee Johnston reported to the Board regarding the Board Policy Committee meeting held January 28, 2025. The Committee reviewed Board Policy 2 and Board Policy 2 Appendix A – GPPSD Board Self Evaluation Performance Assessment Guide. Board Policy 11, Policy Making will be reviewed at the next Board Policy Committee meeting, and Board Policy 2, Role of the Board, will be brought to the February 11, 2025, Board meeting for approval with recommended changes.

Advocacy and Engagement Committee

- The minutes to the Advocacy and Engagement committee meeting held January 14, 2025, were submitted to the Board as information.

School Council Update and Reports

- Alberta School Councils of Alberta Workshop – Chair Basics  
Chair Nellis reported to the Board regarding the workshop that was held for School Council Chairs on January 23, 2025. The workshop entitled, “*Chair Basics, Not Just for Chairs*” was very well attended with great feedback from those who participated.

Individual Trustee Reports

- Trustee Buziak discussed a conversation he had with a fellow Trustee from another Board regarding the Alberta School Boards Association staffing levels.

Superintendent’s Report

**Items for Information**

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

- Welcome to Kindergarten  
To support the onboarding of the new Kindergarten class of 2025, division leadership are implementing a new strategy to help welcome new students and their families. In addition to our division kindergarten mail out, posters, and promotional videos on social media, the division is distributing *Come Join Us* learning bags throughout daycares, preschools and other childcare providers in the city.
- Elementary Mathematics Intervention Research  
Arising from our ongoing partnership with Carleton University, the Division’s elementary math intervention model and data collection tool has recently been featured in a research summary published by the Carleton Undergraduate Journal of Science. Appreciation is extended to our curriculum department, including Corinne Kruse, Director of

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Teaching and Learning, Numeracy Coordinator Tracie Anthony, and Intervention Leads Kaitlyn Lukoni and Jennifer Rochon, for their work to develop and implement the numeracy screening tool.

- **United Way of Northwestern Alberta Fundraiser**  
Appreciation is extended to the United Way for organizing an *80's Retro Night Fundraiser* to support community and school nutrition programs and food security on April 26 at Jackpot Grill. The event will raise money for the community, and the Grande Prairie Public School Division Education Foundation will be the sole school division beneficiary, receiving a donation after the event to support division nutrition programs. Tickets officially go on sale February 1, 2025.
- **Staffing Recruitment for 2025 – 2026**  
Division attendance at provincial recruiting fairs began the week of January 20, with Director of Human Resources Tammie Maurer and Director of System Planning Kim Frykas attending the University of Alberta and University of Calgary Recruiting Fairs. There was also significant interest in the education student bursaries being offered by the division this year and it is expected the list of recipients will be finalized soon.
- **School Administration Hiring**  
The administrative positions currently filled by staff in an acting role or by staff who are retiring have been advertised for next year. Interviews will begin soon for the Principal of Avondale School, the Vice Principal of Avondale School, and the Vice Principal of Swanavon School. Interviews will be completed by the start of February.
- **Student Registration**  
New student registration for next year begins soon as well, according to the following schedule:
  - Monday, Feb 3: Community advertising, general communications, and open houses begin.
  - Monday, Feb 24 to Sunday Mar 9: Online registration forms open for parents to pre-populate their child's information into the online registration system.
  - Monday, March 10: Online registration opens for parents to begin submitting registration for the 2025-2026 school year.
- **Administrative Procedure Updates**  
Administrative Procedure 151 – Media Relations and Administrative Procedure 424 – Professional Learning Opportunities for Instructional Staff have been reviewed by school and system leadership and are updated and available online.

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- **GPPSD Leadership Academy**  
18 participants in the division's Leadership Academy met from 4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. on Thursday, January 23. The focus was on understanding the visionary leadership competency in Alberta's Leadership Practice Standard and looking at practical strategies for leading professional learning in a school and on managing change. Appreciation is extended to Directors Paul Therrien, Nancy Gorgichuk, and Corinne Kruse for their work planning and leading the session.
- **Curriculum Working Day**  
Approximately 40 teachers assembled in the school board office on Saturday, January 25 to work together to understand and plan for new elementary curriculum. Appreciation is extended to the Director of Teaching and Learning, Corinne Kruse, for leading this initiative and providing this second Saturday opportunity for teachers. These sessions, which pay teachers a small honorarium to attend, have been very well received by teachers as they provide them an opportunity to collaborate and learn the new curriculum more deeply than they would be able to, working in their schools.
- **Grade 7 – 10 Curriculum Development Update**  
During the 2024/25 school year, education stakeholders will provide feedback on draft curriculum for Grades 7 to 9 mathematics, Grades 7 to 9 social studies, Grades 7 to 10 physical education and wellness, and CALM. Draft curriculum for Grades 7 to 9 mathematics, Grades 7 to 9 social studies, Grades 7 to 10 physical education and wellness, and CALM will be released in the spring of 2025 to prepare for optional classroom piloting. School authorities will be invited to pilot draft curriculum in these four subject areas during the 2025/26 school year.

**Items for Future Action**

- **2025 - 2026 School Year Calendar**  
The Provincial Testing dates for the 2025 - 2026 school year have been confirmed and feedback has been collected from school principals regarding perspectives on the draft calendar shared with the board in December. Feedback from school principals illustrates an understanding of the construction of the calendar and the dates selected within it.

**MOTION:** Trustee Ouellette moved that the Board adopt the 2025 - 2026 School Year Calendar as presented.

UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED 15714

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- Trustee Student Advisory Committee – January 31  
The next meeting of the Student Advisory Committee is scheduled for Friday, January 31, from 9:00 a.m. to noon. The focus will be exploring student perspectives re: school culture and school climate and will transition into a focus on student sense of belonging for the March session.

Associate Superintendent of Business Services

- Annual Information Technology (IT) Report  
Associate Superintendent Oladele provided the Board with the annual Information Technology report, as prepared by Director of Information Technology Pillay. The Board thanked Associate Superintendent Oladele and the IT Department for their work in supporting Division staff and students.
- First Quarter Budget Update  
Associate Superintendent Oladele presented to the Board the first quarter budget update as information.

Administration is recommending that the Division, through the Board Chair, write a letter to the Minister of Education. The letter would:

1. Highlight the Division's commitment to fostering staff well-being and supporting student success through the agreement.
2. Outline the \$3 million in additional expenses over four years, emphasizing that these costs are not covered under current provincial funding.
3. Request consideration for additional funding to address this shortfall and ensure the Division's ability to maintain high standards of education and support services.

**MOTION:** Trustee Buziak moved that the Board write a letter to the Minister of Education to express its concerns about the financial impact on the Division due to unfunded expenses resulting from the ratification of the Employee Association's four-year agreement.

UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED 15715

**NEW BUSINESS**

Trustee Professional Learning and Sharing

- Alberta Machine Intelligence Institute – AI for Good and For All  
Those Trustees who attended the Alberta Machine Intelligence Institute's AI for Good and For All presentation on January 20, 2025, reported to the Board regarding the virtual session.

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Upcoming Dates and Events

- Board Workplan  
The Board reviewed the Board workplan as information and mentioned the first session of School Assurance meetings scheduled for Thursday, January 30, 2025.

Correspondence

- 2024 12 20 Letter to Minister of Education Re: Reserve Drawdown
- 2025 01 13 Letter from RVS to Minister of Ed - Charter School
- 2025 01 23 Letter from Sturgeon Public School Re: CASA Classroom Funding

**IN CAMERA SESSION**

**MOTION:** Trustee Martin moved that the Board go in camera to discuss property at 7:56 p.m.

UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED 15716

**MOTION:** Trustee Martin moved that the Board come out of camera at 8:15 p.m.

UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED 15717

**ACTIONS ARISING FROM IN CAMERA**

No actions.

**NEXT MEETING AND ADJOURNMENT**

Next Board Meeting and Adjournment

The next meeting of the Board of Trustees is scheduled for Tuesday, February 11, 2025, to be held at Central Office in the Board Room.

Board Chair Nellis called the Regular Board Meeting closed at 8:15 p.m.

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Chair

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Secretary-Treasurer