

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE GRANDE PRAIRIE PUBLIC SCHOOL DIVISION HELD AT CENTRAL OFFICE ON **February 25, 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, Director of Operations Geoff Barron, Director of Finance Riley Greentree, Executive Assistant Business Services Crichton, (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:

- Add Indoor Turf Facility to 3.q Superintendent's Report
- The Annual Finance Department Update be moved from 3.r.1 to 2.a.3
- An in-camera session at the end of the meeting to discuss a Human Resources topic and a student-specific topic.

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

UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED 15724

TRUSTEE SELF-DECLARATION OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST

No conflicts.

MINUTES

Regular Board Meeting of February 11, 2025

The Board reviewed the Regular Board Meeting minutes of February 11, 2025.

MOTION: Trustee Johnston moved to adopt the minutes of the Regular Board Meeting of February 11, 2025, as circulated.

UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED 15725

BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

No report.

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DELEGATIONS, PRESENTATIONS and SYSTEM LEADERSHIP REPORTS

Annual Occupational Health and Safety Report

Associate Superintendent Oladele presented to the Board the Annual Occupational Health and Safety report prepared by Beverly Alcock, Safety Coordinator. The Board asked for the summarized incident data from the Health and Safety report be included in the next Annual Occupational Health and Safety report. The Board thanked Associate Superintendent Oladele for the informative report.

Annual Divisions Operations and Maintenance Report

Director of Operations, Geoff Barron presented to the Board the Annual Division Operations and Maintenance report. The Board thanked the Maintenance department for the care and work they show the schools, making visiting the schools a very enjoyable experience.

Annual Finance Update

Director of Finance, Riley Greentree presented to the Board the Annual Finance Department Update. The report provided information related to financial processes, budget planning and projects in the Finance Department. The Board expressed appreciation to Director Greentree and the Finance department for the work they do and for the informative report.

COMMITTEES AND REPORTS

Board Chair Report

- Superintendent Recruitment Update
The Superintendent recruitment process has begun. The Board has enlisted consultant Terry Gunderson from Alberta School Boards Association to assist in the recruitment process.
- School Assurance Meetings
The Board held the following School Assurance Meetings and thanked the School Administrators for the time to present to the Board:
School Assurance Meetings 2025 02 21
 - GP Composite High School
 - Charles Spencer High School
 - Bridge Network
 - Isabel Campbell Public School
 - École Montrose
 - Maude Clifford Public School

The function of the Assurance meetings is to provide confidence in the operations of the Division. The Board is thankful to School Administration for the time commitment given to presenting their school strategies with the Board, and shared that the meetings help Trustees in their understanding of how students are supported in the Division.

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Alberta School Boards Association Update

- Trustee Buziak reported to the Board regarding the Alberta School Boards Association Zone 1 meeting that was held February 12, 2025.

Public School Boards' Association of Alberta Update

- Vice Chair Koch will be circulating information from Public School Boards' Association of Alberta to the Board.

Teacher Trustee Liaison Committee

- Trustee Martin reported to the Board regarding the Teacher Trustee Liaison Committee meeting that was held on February 18, 2025.

Non-Instructional Employee Association Committee

- Trustee Buziak reported to the Board regarding the Non-Instructional Employee Association Committee meeting that was held on February 19, 2025. The minutes of the meeting will be included in the next Board meeting agenda package.

Board Policy Committee

- The Board Policy Committee was canceled. The next meeting will be held on March 25, 2025.

Advocacy and Engagement Committee

- The minutes from the meeting held February 11, 2025, were included in the Board package as information.

GPPSD Educational Foundation Committee

- Trustee Martin reported to the Board regarding the Education Foundation Committee meeting held February 13, 2025.

Individual Trustee Reports

- Vice Chair Koch shared for information that she has been appointed as the role of Observer for the Alberta School Employee Benefits Plan.
- Trustee Buziak commended the Curriculum Coordinators for the contribution they make to the broader community.
- Chair Nellis shared the Minister of Education sent an invite to a post budget webinar and is unable to attend. Vice Chair Koch will attend the webinar on February 27, 2025.
- Trustee Ouellette will not be able to attend the Council of School Councils meeting on February 27, 2025.

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Superintendent's Report

Items for Information

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

- **Concordia University Recruiting Fair**
On Thursday, February 6, Director of Human Resources Tammie Maurer and Director of Inclusive Learning Nancy Gorgichuk attended the Concordia University recruiting fair in Edmonton. The students in attendance showed a high level of interest in the north. Other themes of interest included the local and Northern Alberta development bursaries, interest in Division supports offered for Indigenous learners, recognition of the employment opportunities for non-teaching partners and recognition of the opportunities to purchase a home.
- **School Naming Conventions and Sponsorships**
Director of System Planning, Kim Frykas, is currently working with Principal Vobeyda from the Grande Prairie Composite High School to engage with the school community on the topic of naming a part of the school, in response to a request received by the Board. The engagement is seeking to learn staff, student and parent perspectives on the topic, as per Administrative Procedure 542 – Naming of Facilities.
- **All Administration Professional Learning and Principals Meeting**
On Wednesday, February 12, all administrators met to review a variety of updates and to focus on their professional learning planning. Included in the meeting was an exploration of draft content Indigenous Learning Companion Document to the Optimum Learning Framework (OLF), being developed by Director of Student Supports, Paul Therrien and Division Indigenous Coordinator Krista Umble.
- **High School Principals Meeting**
The High School Principals met with the system leadership team on Friday, February 7 to review high school-specific practices, including curriculum implementation in Grade 9, staffing processes for the 2025-2026 school year, summer school registration for July 2025, and building understanding of career pathways for students and parents.

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- **CASA Classroom Update**
Staffing for the CASA House program that begins next year has begun. The program is a collaboration between the division and the Peace Wapiti Public School Division and will support 24 Grade 5-8 students from the two divisions per year, 12 per semester.
- **Learner Support Thought Exchange Update**
Director of Inclusive Learning, Nancy Gorgichuk, is currently leading a system and school review of the results from the Learner Support Thought Exchange. When the review is completed, a summary of the results at the Division level will be prepared to share the dominant themes in the parent responses and identify actions that will be taken.
- **GPPSD Teacher Mentorship Program**
26 mentor and protégée partnerships were supported by the Division and the local chapter of the Alberta Teachers Association to meet on February 18. The mentorship pairs used their time to engage in collaborative planning, collaborative assessment practices, and other issues relevant to their assignments and to support their first year of teaching.
- **GPPSD Leadership Academy**
On Thursday, February 20, the Division's Leadership Academy met to provide the 19 teacher participants with an opportunity to explore the priority area of *belonging* from the Division's 3-Year Education Plan.
- **Alberta Education Provincial Assurance Surveys**
The Alberta Education Assurance survey information has been distributed to school divisions and is scheduled to run from February 18, 2025, to March 21, 2025. Information will be delivered to parents the week of February 24.
- **Annual Division Wellness Report**
The Annual Division Wellness Report, scheduled for this meeting, is being tabled to the April 22 meeting to allow a summary of the February 28 Wellness Day to be captured in the report.
- **Programme for International Student Assessment (PISA)**
The Grande Prairie Composite High School and Charles Spencer High School have been selected to participate in the PISA 2025 assessments, between April 21 and May 30. Canada is one of approximately 90 countries participating in PISA, an important international assessment of the competencies of 15-year-olds in the domains of science, mathematics, and reading. PISA provides valuable

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international indicators that describe the standards being achieved by students in various countries.

- **Indoor Turf Facility**
The Grande Prairie City Council approved the Trader Ridge location for the Indoor Turf Facility at the City Council meeting held on February 24, 2025. The Division sends their congratulations to the City of Grande Prairie for approving and moving forward with the project.

Associate Superintendent of Business Services

The reports were presented in the Delegations, Presentations and System Leadership Reports portion of the agenda.

NEW BUSINESS

Trustee Professional Learning and Sharing

- **ASBA Speaker's Corner – Trustee Code of Conduct.**
Chair Nellis reported to the Board regarding the Trustee Code of Conduct session on February 24, 2025.

Upcoming Dates and Events

- **Board Workplan**
The Board reviewed the Board workplan as information. Trustees were reminded of the following upcoming events:
 - Council of School Council meeting February 27, 2025
 - Board Policy Committee meeting Marh 25, 2025
 - Session with Chris Meaton March 27, 2025

Correspondence

- 2025 02 07 Reply from Minister of Education Regarding Request for Reserve Exemption Request.
- 2025 02 12 Ministerial Order #009-2025: Extension of the Deadline for Joint Use and Planning Agreements.
- 2025 02 13 Letter from Wolf Creek Public Schools Board Chair: 13 Bill 27 Ministerial Approval Process for Resources.
- Letter to Minister Education Regarding Non-Instructional Employee Association Agreement has been sent but was not included in the Board agenda package.

IN CAMERA SESSION

MOTION: Trustee Ouellette moved that the Board go in camera to discuss personnel at 7:26 p.m.

UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED 15726

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MOTION: Vice Chair Koch moved that the Board come out of camera at 7:39 p.m.

UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED 15727

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, March 11, 2025, to be held at Central Office in the Board Room.

Board Chair Nellis called the Regular Board Meeting closed at 7:40 p.m.

Chair

Secretary-Treasurer