



"Every Student Succeeds"

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TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 9, 2016

BOARD HIGHLIGHTS



Derek Taylor students performing with Johnny Reid at Revolution Place

Derek Taylor students perform alongside country singer, Johnny Reid

A group of 16 students from the Derek Taylor Public School joined country singer Johnny Reid on stage at his Grande Prairie show on February 6 at the Revolution Place. After rehearsing for weeks, the kids had the opportunity to take part in the backstage experience of dress rehearsals and meet and greets. The grade five to grade eight students walked away with unforgettable memories as they joined Reid for his song "Today I'm Gonna Try and Change the World".

Several years ago, GPPSD benefited from a MusiCounts grant in which musical instruments were donated to Derek Taylor. A couple of weeks before the concert, Johnny Reid's team approached the Derek Taylor music program to participate in the concert. The Board would like to express their appreciation and thank Genna Putt, Choir Director at Derek Taylor, Johnny Reid, MusiCounts ambassador and country singer, and the rest of the staff and students who helped to share this priceless experience with the Derek Taylor community. Check out our Facebook page for pictures and videos by clicking the "M".



GRANDE PRAIRIE PUBLIC
SCHOOL DISTRICT

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UPCOMING DISTRICT DATES

- FEB 15 FAMILY DAY
- FEB 19 PLC PM (Students have afternoon off)
- FEB 23 REGULAR BOARD MEETING AT 7:00 P.M.
CENTRAL OFFICE BOARD ROOM
- FEB 26 SIP (Students have afternoon off)



THE BOARD FINALIZES NEW SCHOOL NAME

The Board members reviewed and discussed the “New School Name Survey Results” for the new public school set to open in the Royal Oaks area in September 2017. Board Chair John Lehnrs explained that he would like to continue the tradition of naming GPPSD schools after a physical feature surrounding the school area or an influential member of the community. The Board considered naming the school after the community in which it is in, however ultimately voted in favour of honouring the late Roy Bickell and have received approval from the family to name it Roy Bickell Public School. Roy Bickell was an influential leader in the Grande Prairie community and as Janine Larsen and Heather Joyce explained in their nomination, “Roy Bickell is an icon of what GPPSD values: progressive ideas, success oriented, community minded, hardworking and very curious about all kinds of learning.”

Click on the “M” to learn about Roy Bickell’s achievements and contributions to Grande Prairie.



LATE ENTRY FRENCH IMMERSION SUCCESS

On January 27, GPPSD hosted a parent information night for the grade 5 Late Entry French Immersion program at École Montrose School. It was a full house as students and parents were very excited and 23 parents have enrolled their children in the program. There is now a wait list and the Board will work diligently with the administrative staff to investigate the potential of a second Late Entry French Immersion class.

SURVEY FEEDBACK TO BE REVIEWED FOR DRAFT POLICIES

The Board of Trustees created an opportunity for parents and community members to give feedback on the most recent drafts of Board Policy 20, Respectful Working and Learning Environments, and the draft of Administrative Procedures (AP) Policy 359.1, Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity, through an online survey. The survey was made available to the public from January 29 to February 8. An information package which addressed commonly asked questions about the provincial guidelines and included drafts of the two policies was made available on the District website and shared on Facebook and Twitter.

As of the closing date, there were a total of 523 respondents. The Board will review the feedback from the surveys along with the feedback provided by parents at the Board meeting in order to find a balance in the draft policies.

PREPARATIONS UNDERWAY FOR NEW CENTRAL OFFICE

All conditions have been released and the Board is excited to announce that approval has been received from the Minister of Education to purchase a new administration office for the District. The possession date has been confirmed as February 29 and the plans for renovations to accommodate Board office staff are underway. Trustees, Karen Prokopowich and Paulette Kurylo will be working closely with Central Office staff on the design development process with Workun Garrick Partnership Architecture and Interior Design.



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