



"Every Student Succeeds"

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TUESDAY MARCH 8, 2016

BOARD HIGHLIGHTS



Lauren MacDonald at the 2016 Spirit Seekers Conference

GRANDE PRAIRIE PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

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GPPSD STUDENTS HONOURED AT THE 2016 SPIRIT SEEKERS CONFERENCE

On March 11, two of our students were honoured at the 2016 Spirit Seekers Aboriginal Youth Conference that was held at the Grande Prairie Regional College. Lauren MacDonald, from Composite High School, was chosen as this year's recipient for the Academic Excellence Aboriginal Youth Role Model Award. The Junior Culture and Heritage Award was presented to 11-year-old, Colby Bateman, a student at Alexander Forbes. Colby started Cree at his school when his family moved to Grande Prairie from Horse Lake First Nation in Northwestern Alberta. Lauren and Colby were amongst the 20 students honoured at the conference. The Board would like to congratulate both students and would like to thank them for their continuous commitment to education.

UPCOMING DISTRICT DATES

- MAR 16-17 KINDERGARTEN AND PRESCHOOL REGISTRATION BEGINS
- MAR 18 STAFF MEETING/PLC PM
- MAR 22 REGULAR BOARD MEETING AT 7:00 P.M.
CENTRAL OFFICE BOARD ROOM
- MAR 25 GOOD FRIDAY
- MAR 26 SPRING BREAK UNTIL APRIL 3



ROTARY ADVENTURES IN CITIZENSHIP NOMINATION

The Board is very proud to congratulate Spencer Wiseman from Charles Spencer High School for being chosen as the local representative of the Rotary Adventures in Citizenship. Sponsored by the Canadian Rotary Clubs, the Rotary Adventures in Citizenship selects High School students between the ages of 16 and 18 to represent their region and have the opportunity to attend a four day trip to Canada's capital, Ottawa. This year marks the 66th year of the Rotary Adventure in Citizenship program and Spencer will have the opportunity to join other young Canadians from across the nation to explore Canada's diversity and meet government representatives.

BOARD AGREES TO MAKE CHANGES AND SEND DRAFTS TO MINISTER

After reviewing Board Policy 20 and Administrative Procedures 359.1 over multiple meetings and requesting feedback from the public through discussions and online surveys, the Board has provided its final changes to be made before both documents get sent to the Minister. Before the Board Meeting on March 8, Board Chair John Lehnert and Vice-Chair JoAnn Cazakoff provided a draft of both documents to local community groups and individuals who were on opposite ends of the spectrum to get a wide range of feedback. Some of the recommended changes made to Board Policy 20 included adding a clause to the term "Harassment" and ensuring that the Board is also committed to creating an "inclusive" environment for all students. The encouragement of parent involvement was an addition made to AP359.1 which also mentioned that changes to name, sex or gender would not be made to official documents unless legally authorized by the Province.

STEPPING STONES STEPS IN TO PROVIDE BEFORE AND AFTER SCHOOL CARE AND KINDERCARE AT ISABEL CAMPBELL

The District is pleased to announce that Stepping Stones Society will be providing Kinder Care and Before and After School Care at Isabel Campbell Public School. Stepping Stones Society has been operating in the City of Grande Prairie since September 1975. It originally started as a day care centre but over the years it has grown in the programs and services it provides to our community. The Before and After School Care program will operate from 7:30 a.m. to 6 p.m., Monday to Friday, and will serve students from ages 6 to 12. Registration will begin May 1, 2016. More information to be followed.

PROPOSED MOTION FOR EDUCATION COACHING TAX CREDIT

The Board reviewed a Proposal for Motion, *Education Coaching Tax Credit* they submitted to the Agenda of the Zone 1 March 9, 2016 ASBA Zone 1 Meeting to be presented by Trustee Brenda Howard. The Board is championing for the tax credit and believes it's an important initiative to recognize the efforts of our teachers for continuously going above and beyond the District's expectations. The Alberta Education Coaching and Extra-Curricular Tax Credit is a non-refundable tax credit for school staff who carry out at least 20 unpaid hours of extracurricular coaching or supervision activity in the tax year. The credit amount is \$1,000, providing a tax benefit of under \$200.00.
