Marshall Radke from the Grande Prairie Music Parents Association presented to the Board on the organization, their support role for our District Music program, and shared their belief in the significant value of music instruction for students. He was joined by Tim Burnham and Ken Shinn, parents, and Lyndsay Mitchell, Music Teacher and Craig McLauchlan, District Music Coordinator. Board Chair John Lehners expressed appreciation to the parents for their work and affirmed the Board's pride in, and support for, our staff and school administration who schedule and provide our students the opportunities to learn and perform at the highest levels.
Avondale North Neighbourhood Association Request
Superintendent McDonald updated the Board on a meeting held with the principal of Avondale School and representatives from the Avondale North Neighbourhood Association. The Neighbourhood Association and Avondale School work closely together, and invited Mr. McDonald to discuss for improvements to the Avondale site to support the school and the neighbourhood community. Superintendent McDonald will follow up with the Maintenance and Operations department and the city to discuss the potential of supporting the requests.

Destination Imagination
The Destination Imagination tournament was held on March 17th and was organized by Susan Picard, District Gifted Education teacher and a volunteer Board of District and Community supporters. This year 20 teams competed in the tournament and 16 students from GPPSD also participated in a coding challenge that was assessed by staff from the Grande Prairie Regional College. Student participation from GPPSD remains high and Superintendent McDonald expressed appreciation to Mrs. Picard and the many staff and volunteers who supported our students. A team from GPPSD was selected to represent the area at the Global Finals in Knoxville, Tennessee and the District will once again provide support for the flights.

BUSINESS SERVICES
Update for the 2nd quarter
Norm Guindon, Associate Superintendent/Secretary-Treasurer of Business Services presented an update for the 2nd quarter. He highlighted that GPPSD is currently running about 50.5% of the budget at the half-way point and is on track as per the District budget finalized in the fall.

2018 Provincial Budget Summary
Secretary-Treasurer Guindon also provided the Board a summary of the impact of the March 22, 2018 budget on GPPSD. The government continues to fund enrolment growth and increased funding was announced by the Province to be targeted to support nutrition programs. Unfortunately, no increases to base grant rates were announced this year to offset the cumulative cost of inflation, which does provide some challenges to the District expenses. Budget development meetings have been scheduled and will take place over the next month in order to allow the Board to submit a budget to the Minister of Education by the end of May.

CONTACT INFORMATION
MOHAMMAD HAIDAR
Communications & Design Specialist
780-532-4491 Ext. 1013
mohammad.haidar@gppsd.ab.ca

Let’s Connect: GPPSD2357
www.gppsd.ab.ca
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