

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE GRANDE PRAIRIE PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT #2357 HELD AT CENTRAL OFFICE ON **April 9, 2019**

Board Chair John Lehnrs called the Regular Meeting to order at 6:03 p.m. with the following present:

PRESENT

Trustees Lesley Craig, Lynn Driedger, Paulette Kurylo, John Lehnrs, Joan Nellis, Andre Ouellette, Superintendent Sandy McDonald, Secretary-Treasurer Norm Guindon, Deputy Superintendent James Robinson and Secretary to the Board Sandy Fredland (minutes).

Rob Martin entered the meeting at: 6:07 p.m.

PRESENTATION

No presentation.

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Adoption of Board Agenda

The Board reviewed the Regular Meeting agenda.

The Board agreed to the following additions to the agenda:

- Under Board Chair Report, *Request from Grande Prairie and District Catholic Schools to Meet*;
- Under Superintendent's Report, delete *Non-Certificated Supervisors Update*;
- Under Alberta Education, discuss *Teacher/Employer Bargaining Association (TEBA) Meeting* in-camera; and
- The addition of an item under Business Arising.

MOTION: Lesley Craig moved that the Board adopt the Regular Meeting agenda as amended.

CARRIED 15083

MINUTES

Committee of the Whole Meeting of March 12, 2019

The Board reviewed the Committee of the Whole Meeting minutes of March 12, 2019.

MOTION: Joan Nellis moved that the Board adopt the Committee of the Whole Meeting minutes of March 12, 2019 as circulated.

CARRIED 15084

Regular Board Meeting of March 12, 2019

The Board reviewed the Regular Board Meeting minutes of March 12, 2019.

MOTION: Paulette Kurylo moved to adopt the minutes of the Regular Meeting of March 12, 2019, as circulated.

CARRIED 15085

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BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

National School Boards' Association (NSBA) Conference Expense Report Request

Trustee Kurylo withdrew her request for a detailed expense and value report for the NSBA Conference. Expenses from the conference will be included in the Trustee expense report that is provided by Business Services annually.

BOARD CHAIR/SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Board Chair Report

- National School Boards' Association (NSBA) Conference Board Chair John Lehnert and Trustee Lynn Driedger reported to the Board regarding the NSBA Conference held in Philadelphia, PA March 29 to April 1, 2019.

Of interest to Trustee Lynn Driedger:

- Discovery Education, discoveryeducation.com
- Nepris, Bridging Industry to Classrooms
- Restraint Free program for violent students

Lynn Driedger will discuss Pre-Kindergarten measures and District engagement at the next Board meeting.

John Lehnert discussed 5 competencies for successful Boards:

- Board Governance
- Accountability
- High Expectations
- Ensuring Conditions are in place
- Community Engagement

John Lehnert suggested the Board examine a tool that was presented at the Conference that measures Board efficacy. This will be an item for the Board fall retreat.

John Lehnert and Sandy McDonald met to discuss the Continuous Improvement Index. This item will be discussed at the Board Issues Retreat. The retreat was rescheduled from May 2, 2019 to May 6, 2019.

Superintendent's Report

Items for Information

Sandy McDonald provided to the Board information regarding the following:

- Indigenous Presentation to Teachers and Leadership for Tomorrow – First Nations, Metis and Inuit Programming
Etienna Moostoos-Lafferty, Indigenous Education Coach from Edmonton, worked with the Leadership for Tomorrow members on March 7, 2019, with teachers from several schools the morning of March 8, 2019 and with the staff of Charles Spencer High School in the afternoon.

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- Grande Prairie Regional College (GPRC) Education Degree Feedback Session
Sandy McDonald as well as Directors Angela DesBarres and Nancy Gorgichuk attended a meeting at GPRC and provided specific feedback on the Bachelor of Education program being developed at the College. Key points included suggesting the program be a 5-year degree with both elementary and secondary options; designing the program to provide students extended time in classrooms; and increasing the number of student seats from the current 40 student cap to 60 or more.
- College of Alberta School Superintendents (CASS) Learning Conference
The Central Office Education Executive Team attended the CASS Learning Conference March 20 – 22, 2019 in Edmonton, Alberta. The focus of the conference was on providing attendees certification opportunities for the Leadership Quality Standard (LQS) and the Superintendent Leadership Quality Standard (SLQS). Sandy McDonald facilitated the training for approximately 90 participants for one of the two-day sessions.
- Substitute Teachers' Appreciation Week
The Human Resources Department recognized substitute teachers during the week of March 11 – 15, 2019, through daily draws for SUBway gift cards and social media recognition. As well, the Superintendent sent letters of appreciation to all substitute teachers.
- YMCA Before and After School Care
Chris Farquharson and Angela DesBarres have been working with the YMCA with the purpose of adding additional before and after school care programs within the District. From this work, an additional program will be added at Alexander Forbes School for the 2019 – 2020 school year. Construction is also underway at Avondale School in anticipation of the program being offered by Bright Beginnings Child Care for the 2019 – 2020 school year.
- Academy Programming Update
Following a recent meeting with executive members of the Grande Peace Athletic Club (GPAC), plans are being finalized to add an additional Midget hockey team to the high school Hockey Academy Program. As well, James Robinson is working with three school principals in developing a multi-sport pilot for next year. Further details will be brought to the Board when available.
- Destination Imagination and Coding Contest
Another successful Destination Imagination tournament was held on March 16, 2019. The top team consisted of members from the Grande

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Prairie Public School District who has earned the opportunity to advance to the Global Championships being held in Kansas City in May.

- Kindergarten Registration
Kindergarten Registration opened at 8:30 am on March 19, 2019 and represented the first use of the District's new online registration software, *School Engage*. Kindergarten registration numbers to date are on par with last year's numbers and with projections.
- 45-Credit Cap
The Deputy Minister announced on March 19, 2019 that the 45-credit cap for high school students has been rescinded for the current year as well as the 2019 – 2020 school year.
- Provincial Occupational Health and Safety (OH&S) Complaint
The Department of Labour has received a complaint from a District staff member stating that the District is not in compliance with the OH&S requirement of having a unique OH&S committee at each school site. The District, however, has submitted a request to the Ministry for a variance to have two OH&S committees in the District rather than 18. The complaint is formally being held in abeyance until the Minister adjudicates the request for variance.

Items Requiring Further Action

- International Field Trip Request – Charles Spencer High School Musical Theatre, New York City, New York, Spring Break 2020.
The Board reviewed the International Field Trip request from the Charles Spencer Musical Theatre program to travel to New York City, New York for 6 days during the April 11 – 19, 2020 Spring Break.

MOTION: Joan Nellis moved that the Board supports the request for International Travel submitted by the Charles Spencer High School Musical Theatre Club, subject to continued compliance with all expectations identified in the relevant Administrative Procedures.

CARRIED 15086

- Board Issues Retreat Planning
Trustees discussed the Board Issues Retreat scheduled for May 2, 2019 in the Norbord Room at the Coca Cola Centre. A change in date to May 6 was accepted to accommodate a conflict for the Superintendent and the Board Room.
- Locally Developed High School Courses Renewal
The Board reviewed a report identifying a large list of Locally Developed Courses for high school students recommended by principals for renewal and approval by the Board. The course outline for each course

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has been posted to the Board Meeting portal page for review. Administration is requesting approval by the Board for the course renewals.

OMNIBUS MOTION: Rob Martin moved that the Board of Trustees approves the renewal of courses submitted by Administration as Locally Developed Courses acquired from other school boards in Alberta, as presented.

CARRIED 15087

Locally Developed Course Request Summary is attached to and forms part of these minutes.

BOARD POLICY REVIEW

Board Policy 2 – Role of the Board

The Board reviewed Board Policy 2 – Role of the Board as well as Board Policy 2 – Appendix A.

The Board formed an Ad Hoc Committee comprised of Joan Nellis, Rob Martin and Andre Ouellette with the purpose of reviewing Board Policies. The committee will identify terms of reference and feedback on Board Policy 2 and will bring it back to the Board on April 23, 2019.

CULTURE AND ENGAGEMENT

2018 – 2019 School Assurance Meetings

The Board and Central Office Staff met with School Administrators from the following schools to review the schools' profile, annual results and school plans:

- Grande Prairie Composite High School
- Charles Spencer High School
- Bridge Network

Trustees discussed the time of the year that the Assurance meetings are held and agreed that early spring is a good time to have the meetings.

Trustee/School Engagement Review – Grande Prairie Composite High School

The Board met with students from the Grande Prairie Composite High School on February 28, 2019. A report summarizing the three topics, *45 Credit Cap, Mental Health, Weather/Other Topics* was reviewed by the Trustees.

Trustee Meetings with Local Electoral Candidates

Members of the Board met with the local electoral candidates from the United Conservative Party (UCP), New Democratic Party (NDP) and the Alberta Party prior to the Provincial election. A summary report prepared by Joan Nellis was provided to the Trustees.

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BUSINESS SERVICES

- 2018 – 2019 2nd Quarter Budget Update
Norm Guindon presented to the Board as information the 2nd Quarter Budget update for the 2018 – 2019 District Budget.
- Grande Prairie Composite High School Replacement Project Update
Norm Guindon provided an update on the Grande Prairie Composite High School Replacement project. The project will be delayed due to the Provincial Election being called prior to the project going to tender.

ASBA / PSBAA

Alberta School Boards' Association (ASBA)

- Zone 1 Meeting
Andre Ouellette reported to the Board regarding the ASBA Zone 1 meeting held March 13, 2019 in Grande Prairie.
- ASBA Zone 1 Operations Manual – Working Copy
The Board discussed the ASBA Zone 1 Operations Manual working copy that was distributed to Trustees for review by the Zone 1 Secretary. Any additional changes are to be forwarded to the ASBA Zone 1 Secretary.

Public School Boards' Association of Alberta (PSBAA)

- Survey Question – Federal Government Elimination of One-Third Tax Exemption
The PSBAA requested a response from Boards to the following question: What action did your Board take in response to the federal government's elimination of the one-third tax exemption? Lesley Craig will respond on behalf of the Board, explaining that the Board's honorarium rate has been increased to compensate for the tax exemption loss.

Sandy McDonald reported to the Board that students from the Charles Spencer High School Maverick Movement will be presenting at the PSBAA Student Voice session in Red Deer during the PSBAA Spring General Meeting.

ALBERTA EDUCATION

Teacher/Employee Bargaining Association (TEBA) Meeting

This item was moved to the in-camera session.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

- Grande Prairie Education Foundation Committee Meeting
Lesley Craig reported to the Board regarding the Education Foundation Committee meeting that was held March 21, 2019. Tara Energy Services has agreed to sponsor the "Strive and Strut" fundraiser June 6, 2019. The event will be held at the Tara Centre at Evergreen Park rather than the Pomeroy Inn.

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- School Council Chair/Trustee Meeting Agenda Discussion
The Board discussed the agenda for the School Council Chair/Trustee Liaison Committee meeting scheduled for April 25, 2019.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Upcoming Professional Development/Meetings

The Board of Trustees reviewed the upcoming professional development meeting bulletin for Trustees.

Board Calendar

The next Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees is Tuesday, April 23, 2019 to be held in the Central Office Board Room.

CORRESPONDENCE

- Invitation – Bridge Network Graduation, June 6, 2019
- ASBA – Class Size and Classroom Pressures Executive Summary

NEW IDEAS / NEW ISSUES

Paulette Kurylo put forward a proposal that the District install feminine hygiene dispensers in all District female student and universal washrooms, providing free tampons and pads. This will be an agenda item on the next Board meeting agenda.

Lynn Driedger discussed the Board advocating the government for an education system review to look for inefficiencies rather than taking money out of the classrooms.

Andre Ouellette was contacted by a member from the Suicide Prevention Centre with information regarding the Applied Suicide Intervention Skill Training (ASSIST) that is provided by the Centre and is available to District staff. Sandy McDonald will share this out to staff.

Andre Ouellette discussed the Board Highlights format. This will be an agenda item at the Board Retreat.

John Lehnert requested First Nations, Metis and Inuit acronym use as an agenda item for the next Board meeting.

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

- Effects of social media on children
- District Nutrition Administrative Procedure
- Student Mental Health
- District Kindergarten Programming

IN-CAMERA SESSION

MOTION: Rob Martin moved that the Board move in-camera at 9:08 p.m. to discuss legal and personnel.

CARRIED 15088

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MOTION: Andre Ouellette moved that the Board come out of in-camera at
9:30 p.m.

CARRIED 15089

ADJOURNMENT

John Lehnars called the meeting closed at 9:31 p.m.

Chair

Secretary-Treasurer