

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE GRANDE PRAIRIE PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT #2357 HELD AT CENTRAL OFFICE ON **May 14, 2019**

Board Chair John Lehnrs called the Regular Meeting to order at 6:02 p.m. with the following present:

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

**PRESENTATION** University of Lethbridge  
Presentation to the Board began at 7:10 p.m.

Sandy McDonald introduced Dr. Sharron Allan, Dr. Pam Adams and Dr. Carmen Mombourquette from the University of Lethbridge (U of L), who have been working with the District during the past three school years to support Teacher and Administrator growth. This week is the last session for District leaders to work with the U of L, however District Administration has committed to continuing next year and into the future.

The Board thanked the presenters for their work in making a difference to the Grande Prairie Public School District.

Presentation was completed at 8:05 p.m.  
Board Chair John Lehnrs called for a short recess.  
Regular Board meeting resumed at 8:15 p.m.

**ADOPTION OF AGENDA** Adoption of Board Agenda  
The Board reviewed the Regular Meeting agenda.

**MOTION:** Rob Martin moved that the Board adopt the Regular Meeting agenda as circulated.

CARRIED 15095

**MINUTES** Regular Board Meeting of April 23, 2019  
The Board reviewed the Regular Board Meeting minutes of April 23, 2019.

**MOTION:** Lesley Craig moved to adopt the minutes of the Regular Meeting of April 23, 2019, as circulated.

CARRIED 15096

**BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES**

**BOARD CHAIR/ SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT** Board Chair Report  
• Meeting with Grande Prairie and District Catholic Schools Board of Trustees

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John Lehnert reported that the Board met with the Grande Prairie Catholic Schools' Board of Trustees on April 25, 2019. Items for discussion were:

- Transportation Contract Renewal or Tender
  - Working Together
  - Joint Site and/or School
  - Purpose of Upcoming Meeting with City/County
- Board Issues Retreat  
John Lehnert reported that the Board held an Issues Retreat on May 6, 2019. Items discussed included:
    - Budget Preparation Update
    - Board Engagement and Communication
    - Enrolment and Relationship to Programming, Budget, Capital
    - Continuous Improvement Index Update Discussion

Superintendent's Report

**Items for Information**

Sandy McDonald provided to the Board information regarding the following:

- Vice Principal Hiring  
Three Vice Principals have been chosen to fill positions available at GP Christian, Swanavon and Roy Bickell schools.
- Occupational Health and Safety (OH&S) Update  
An anonymous complaint was received by the District regarding compliance with OH&S legislation and the District's Safety Committee meeting structure. A request for variance from the requirement has also been submitted and a response from the government has not been received. It is anticipated these 2 issues will be finalized prior to the end of June.
- High School Graduation Ceremony Updates  
At the request of the High School Principals, there will be no school for students at the GP Composite or Charles Spencer High Schools on the dates of their graduation ceremonies. The purpose is to provide all students and teachers the opportunity to attend their school's graduation ceremony. Both schools have confirmed that the number of required instructional hours will be met. Sandy McDonald will bring a summary report to the Board regarding numbers of teachers and students who attended the ceremonies to a future Board meeting.
- Before and After School Care Program Update  
Submitted for the Board's information was a Before and After School Care Program Update report submitted by Chris Farquharson, Assistant Superintendent Student Services and Angela Des Barres, Director of Instruction K – 6.

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- **Coding in the Classroom Grant Application**  
A joint application with Northern Gateway and Aspen View school districts has been submitted for a two-year grant focused on providing teacher training, materials and instruction to support a focus on embedding coding, computational thinking and robotics into District classrooms.
- **Academy Multi-Sport Update**  
A formal announcement was made that the Academy: Athletics will be piloted at Alexander Forbes, Ecole Montrose and Aspen Grove for the 2019 – 2020 School Year. Two formats will be offered: A Grade 4-6 program and a Grade 7-8 program. An information night is planned for May 16, 2019 at 6:30 p.m. at Ecole Montrose. Boundary exemptions are not planned for this pilot program.
- **City of Grande Prairie Transit Meeting**  
Superintendent Sandy McDonald and Secretary Treasurer Norm Guindon met with the City of Grande Prairie Transit Manager on May 3, 2019. The purpose was to explore the idea of utilizing more of public transportation for busing high school students. Further meetings will be held in this regard prior to the December 1, 2019 deadline for the current transportation contract renewal.
- **District Wellness Report**  
The Board work plan identified a Wellness Report to be submitted for this Board meeting. However, there is no new information to report on this topic at this time.
- **Teacher Staffing Update**  
Advertising for teacher temporary positions began May 13, 2019. Continuous positions are unknown as the Provincial budget will not be announced until sometime in the Fall. Once information is known about probationary/continuous openings, the opportunity will be provided for District teachers to apply for those positions.

**Items Requiring Further Action**

- **College of Alberta School Superintendents' (CASS) Zone 1 Meeting – Fort Vermillion**  
Due to low attendance, the CASS Zone 1 meeting was cancelled and will be rescheduled to a date in September at the same location. At this meeting, elections will be held for a new Executive. Sandy McDonald is requesting approval from the Board to allow his name to stand for another two-year term as Zone CASS Director. The Board expressed their support.

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**BOARD POLICY REVIEW**

Board Policy 2 – Role of the Board  
Tabled to May 28, 2019 Board Meeting.

**CULTURE AND ENGAGEMENT**

No report.

**BUSINESS SERVICES**

- Financial Auditor Request for Proposal (RFP) Update  
Norm Guindon updated the Board regarding the District's Financial Auditor RFP. The Audit Committee will review applications using a requirements list and once this is complete, a further report will be brought to the Board.
- Budget Process Update  
Norm Guindon reported to the Board regarding the 2019 – 2020 District Budget process to date. A Committee of the Whole meeting will be held on May 28, 2019 to discuss District budget in-depth.

A letter will be sent to the Grande Prairie Member of the Legislative Assembly (MLA), Tracy Allard, and Honourable Travis Toews, Minister of Finance and Grande Prairie-Wapiti MLA, requesting a meeting with the Board to discuss the District's budget.

The Board went to the Presentation portion of the agenda at 7:05 p.m. The Board resumed the Regular Board Meeting Agenda at 8:15 p.m.

- Group Health Plan Request for Proposal (RFP) Update  
Norm Guindon discussed with the Board an RFP for Group Health Plan benefits. A discussion was held regarding the need to find an insurance broker who can work with both the non-instructional and instructional employer groups. An updated report will be brought to the June 11, 2019 Board meeting.

**ASBA / PSBAA**

Alberta School Boards' Association (ASBA)

- Canadian School Boards' Association (CSBA) Strategic Plan Survey  
The ASBA sent out a survey to all Boards from the CSBA, requesting feedback regarding their Strategic Plan. The Boards' responses will be submitted to the ASBA.
- Friends of Education Award Nomination Considerations  
The Board was provided some suggestions for consideration of the District ASBA Friends of Education Award:
  - CAREERS: The Next Generation
  - RCMP School Resource Officers
  - YMCA
  - GP Firefighters Charitable Foundation

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The Board discussed the suggested nominees and suggested the addition of:

- United Way – donations to the Foundation
- Image Design – Food Truck Fundraiser
- Tanya Sedore – Young at Art Contest
- Coach Volunteers at District Schools

District ASBA Friends of Education nominations will be brought to the next Board meeting for further discussion.

**ALBERTA EDUCATION**

Cabinet Announcements

- Minister of Education – Adriana LaGrange
- Deputy Minister of Education – Dr. Curtis Clarke
- Minister of Finance and Treasury – Travis Toews, MLA GP-Wapiti
- Education Critic - Sarah Hoffman

**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

Education Foundation Committee

Rob Martin reported to the Board regarding the Education Foundation Committee meeting held April 18, 2019.

School Council/Trustee Liaison Committee Meeting

The Board discussed the School Council/Trustee Liaison Committee meeting that was held 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, May 28, 2019 to be held in the Central Office Board Room.

**CORRESPONDENCE**

- Letters of Congratulations and Thanks from the Board – 2019 Election Candidates

**NEW IDEAS / NEW ISSUES**

Andre Ouellette requested a report on the ASBA Zone 1 meeting that was held May 8, 2019. Trustee in attendance at the Zone meeting provided an update.

Lesley Craig may not be able to attend the Public School Boards' Council meeting in St. Albert in August. Andre Ouellette is alternate representative and is able to attend in the event that Trustee Craig is unable to. Joan Nellis asked the Board if there were items they would like to add to the Teacher/Trustee Liaison Committee (TTLC) meeting agenda to be held

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May 21, 2019. The Board agreed to adding the University of Lethbridge presentation report to the TTLC agenda. The Board will send a thank you letter to each of the University of Lethbridge team members for the work they have done with the District the past three years.

**ADJOURNMENT**

John Lehnars called the meeting closed at 8:48 p.m.

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Chair

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Secretary-Treasurer