

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE GRANDE PRAIRIE PUBLIC SCHOOL DIVISION HELD AT CENTRAL OFFICE ON **November 12, 2019**

Board Chair John Lehnert called the Regular Meeting to order at 6:01 p.m. with the following present:

**PRESENT**

Trustees Lynn Driedger, Paulette Kurylo, John Lehnert, Rob Martin, Joan Nellis, Superintendent Sandy McDonald, Deputy Superintendent James Robinson, Secretary-Treasurer Norm Guindon and Secretary to the Board Sandy Fredland (minutes).

Regrets: Trustees Lesley Craig, Andre Ouellette

**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 Correspondence, *Email from Clyde Blackburn Regarding Education Voucher System*
- Under Business Arising from the Minutes,
  - *Upcoming Greece Trip*
  - *Christmas Cards Being Sent*
- Under Alberta Education, *Choice in Education Survey*

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

CARRIED 15136

**MINUTES**

Committee of the Whole Meeting of October 22, 2019

The Board reviewed the Committee of the Whole Meeting minutes of October 22, 2019.

**MOTION:** Paulette Kurylo moved to adopt the minutes of the Committee of the Whole Meeting of October 22, 2019, as circulated.

CARRIED 15137

Regular Board Meeting of October 22, 2019

The Board reviewed the Regular Board Meeting minutes of October 8, 2019.

**MOTION:** Joan Nellis moved to adopt the minutes of the Regular Board Meeting of October 8, 2019 as circulated.

CARRIED 15138

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**BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES**

- Upcoming Greece Trip (Paulette)  
Paulette Kurylo asked if the Composite High School Greece Trip requires another approval from the Board. Administration replied that the trip has the required approvals.
- Christmas Cards Being Sent  
Paulette Kurylo requested a list of who the Board/Division sends Christmas cards to. A list will be included with the next minutes review.

**BOARD CHAIR/  
SUPERINTENDENT'S  
REPORT**

Board Chair Report

Budget Update

John Lehnert updated the Board on government advocacy regarding the funding shortfall to the Division. A call will be made to the Minister of Education in the next few days.

Superintendent's Report

**Items for Information**

Sandy McDonald provided to the Board information regarding the following:

- Copyright Litigation Update  
The Grande Prairie Public School Division is not one of the 12 Boards in Alberta that has been asked to participate in full discovery related to this lawsuit. The Division is expected, however, to provide 7 years of copying usage along with instruction to staff regarding appropriate usage and other information related to the lawsuit. This is currently underway.
- Hillside Community School – International Paper Grant  
Congratulations are due to Hillside Principal Cindy Clarkson who submitted a grant request to International Paper for support of the Hillside literacy intervention program. Hillside has been awarded \$10,000 USD which will be used to support their program.
- Timeout, Seclusion and Restraint Update  
A new Ministerial order and new guidelines for the use of timeout, seclusion and restraint were issued on October 23, 2019. Upon review, the Division remains compliant with Alberta Education's expectations, and there was no usage of this strategy in the Division for the month of November.
- Nutrition Funding  
The Minister of Education formally announced in the October 24, 2019 Budget that nutrition funding will again be provided this year. The Division's nutrition program is up and running and is being promoted through social media to alert parents of the availability of the program.

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- Registered Apprenticeship Program (RAP) Student Scholarships  
38 students from the Division's three high schools were awarded \$1000 scholarships through the RAP with support of Careers: The Next Generation. Students no longer need to apply for the scholarships, as the government uses course marks to identify eligible students.
- Student Voice Expenses  
A report was submitted as information to the Board regarding costs incurred by the attendance of two Division students to the PSBAA Student Voice event held in October. The Board will consider funding students to attend Student Voice in Edmonton if the event is held again.
- High School Student Engagement  
Suggested dates for the High School Student Engagement sessions over the lunch hour with the Board are as follows:  
Grande Prairie Composite High School – December 17, 2019  
Charles Spencer High School - February 6, 2019  
The Board agreed with the dates.
- Alberta Education 2019 – 2023 Four-Year Business Plan Priorities  
For Trustees' information, the new four-year Alberta Education business plan was released and includes the following four priority outcomes:
  - Alberta Students are Successful
  - First Nations, Metis and Inuit Students are Successful
  - Alberta has excellent teachers, school leaders, and school authority leaders
  - Alberta's K – 12 Education System is well Governed and ManagedThe plan is available online at <https://www.alberta.ca/government-and-ministry-business-plans.aspx#toc-1>
- Intermunicipal Development Plan Meeting  
Norm Guindon and Sandy McDonald attended an Intermunicipal Development Plan planning session on October 31, 2019. The development plan is up for renewal and the meeting provided an opportunity to discuss challenges to school divisions and municipalities regarding equitably allocating school sites for local divisions across the City and County of Grande Prairie.
- District Attendance Program Report  
A report summarizing the work of the Division Attendance Committee over the past year and to this date was submitted to the Board as information. The primary desired outcome of the work of the Committee is to incorporate solid processes and supports to help those students who are having chronic absences.

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- Draft Three-Year Plan and Annual Education Results Report  
Alberta Education has not released the template for the Division's Three-Year Plan and Annual Education Results report therefore the draft plan has not yet been prepared. It is anticipated this will be brought to the November 26 Board Meeting.

**Items Requiring Further Action or Discussion**

- Standing Committee on Recreational and Educational Services (SCORES) Update  
SCORES stakeholders are working to review and update the agreement. The Board was asked if there is support in seeking participation of the Peace Wapiti School Division (PWSD) and the County of Grande Prairie in the SCORES agreement. The Board agreed and a letter will be sent to the PWSD and County extending an invitation to be part of SCORES.
- Budget Update  
Principals and Directors attended a meeting at Central Office on November 4, 2019 to provide them with an understanding of the impact the provincial budget had on the GPPSD and to share actions being taken to develop a plan to address the current deficit that exists. Further discussion will be held during the Business Services portion of the Board Meeting.
- Board Evaluation Survey and Superintendent Evaluation Survey  
The Board was advised that two links will be sent for Trustees to complete the Board's self-evaluation survey and a new survey for the purpose of the Superintendent's Annual Evaluation.

**BOARD POLICY REVIEW**

**CULTURE AND ENGAGEMENT**

52<sup>nd</sup> Annual Board Social

The Board discussed the Annual Board Social that was held October 26, 2019. Expenses were submitted to the Board as information. The Board agreed to a 3-year contract with Evergreen Park with the provision of being able to cancel. Administration will find out the details from Evergreen Park and will report back to the Board.

Composite High School Replacement Project Sod Turning Ceremony

The Board discussed the Composite High School Replacement Sod Turning Ceremony that was held November 1, 2019.

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Education Foundation Strut and Strive Fashion Show

Trustees that attended reported to the Board regarding the First Annual Education Foundation Strut and Strive Fashion Show fundraiser that was held at the Pomeroy Hotel November 7, 2019. The fundraiser was reported as being a successful evening.

Remembrance Day Ceremonies

Those Trustees who attended School and Community Remembrance Day Ceremonies reported to the Board regarding the events.

**BUSINESS SERVICES**

Composite High School Replacement Project Kick Off Meeting

Norm Guindon reported to the Board that the Composite High School Kick Off Meeting was held in Edmonton on October 30, 2019. Construction should begin in the next few weeks.

Telephone Discussion with Brad Smith, Acting Assistant Deputy Minister, Strategic Services and Governance Division, Education – Budget Update

Norm Guindon reported to the Board that he, Sandy McDonald and Wade Webb, Director of Finance held a teleconference with Brad Smith of Alberta Education on November 12, 2019 with the purpose of discussing the impact of the Alberta Budget on the Division.

The Board agreed to Administration sending a letter to parents/caregivers as well as a media release, explaining the funding shortfall for the Division by Friday November 15, 2019.

The Board was invited to attend a meeting with the local Members of the Legislative Assembly (MLAs), including the Minister of Finance Travis Toews along with the three neighbouring school jurisdictions on November 22, 2019. The Board agreed to attending the meeting.

Grande Prairie Public School Division Modular Submission

Norm Guindon discussed with the Board the Division's modular classroom submission to the government. The Division made a request for modular classrooms at École Montrose and Isabel Campbell as both are over 95% capacity.

Testing Water for Lead Concentration

In follow up to the recent media coverage regarding lead concentration in tap water, Norm Guindon reported to the Board that testing will be done at the Division's oldest schools which are Avondale, Hillside and the Composite.

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Insurance Market and Renewal Impact

Norm Guindon reported to the Board regarding insurance rates. The Division is part of the Urban School Insurance Consortium (USIC) that is formed with 14 member boards. Property insurance is expected to rise as all insurance markets are hardening on environmental weather events. Norm will be attending a USIC meeting on November 20, 2019 and will receive further details on the expected rise in rates.

**ASBA / PSBAA**

Public School Boards' Association of Alberta (PSBAA)

- Budget Impact to School District Funding  
Brian Callaghan, Executive Director of PSBAA has requested a statement from the Division on the impact of the recently announced provincial budget to funding. A copy of the media release will be sent to Brian Callaghan.

**ALBERTA  
EDUCATION**

Alberta Government Choice in Education Act Survey

Sandy McDonald reported to the Board regarding a survey that the Alberta Government has sent out to all Albertans regarding choice in education. This will topic will be added to the School Council Trustee Liaison Committee meeting agenda.

**COMMITTEE  
REPORTS**

Avondale School Site Area Regional Planning Meeting

Board Chair John Lehnert, Trustees Lynn Driedger and Andre Ouellette reported to the Board regarding the Avondale School Site Area Regional Planning meeting held November 1, 2019.

Education Foundation Committee Meeting

Rob Martin reported to the Board regarding the Education Foundation Committee meeting held October 31, 2019.

Teacher/Employer Bargaining Association (TEBA) Annual General Meeting

TEBA's Annual General Meeting will be held in Edmonton November 20, 2019. John Lehnert will attend and represent the Board.

**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, November 26, 2019 to be held in the Central Office Board Room.

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Sandy McDonald reported to the Board that the United Conservative Party (UCP) and Conservatives are hosting a constituent's meeting on Friday, November 15, 2019 at the Pomeroy.

- CORRESPONDENCE**
- Letter to the Minister of Finance, Regarding Budget Issues, October 30, 2019
  - Letter from K. Germann, Grande Prairie Catholic Division Superintendent, Regarding Joint Meeting with MLAs, November 6, 2019.
  - Emailed letter from Clyde Blackburn to Tracy Allard, Regarding Education Voucher System, November 12, 2019

**NEW IDEAS / NEW ISSUES**

**ADJOURNMENT** John Lehnert called the Regular Board Meeting closed at 8:23 p.m.

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Chair

Secretary-Treasurer