

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF
TRUSTEES OF THE GRANDE PRAIRIE PUBLIC SCHOOL DIVISION
HELD AT CENTRAL OFFICE ON **August 24, 2021**

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

PRESENT

Trustees Lesley Craig, Paulette Kurylo, John Lehnors, Rob Martin, Joan Nellis, Andre Ouellette, Superintendent Sandy McDonald, Secretary-Treasurer Norm Guindon, Director of System Supports Kimberly Frykas and Secretary to the Board Sandy Fredland (minutes).

Attending Virtually: John Lehnors, Lesley Craig, Paulette Kurylo

Attending Later: James Robinson, Deputy-Superintendent

PRESENTATION
(Begins at 7:00 p.m.)

No presentation.

**ADOPTION OF
AGENDA**

Adoption of Board Agenda

The Board reviewed the Regular Meeting agenda and amended the agenda to reflect that the Special meeting was held July 29, 2021 and not July 30, 2021.

The Board agreed to the following additions to the agenda:

- *In-camera session* to discuss land, legal and personnel, just prior to adjournment; and
- *Request to Alberta Education to Change School Code 1241 Name* under Superintendent's Report.

MOTION: Andre Ouellette moved that the Board adopt the Regular Meeting agenda as amended.

CARRIED 15306

MINUTES

Regular Board Meeting of June 15, 2021

The Board reviewed the Regular Board Meeting minutes of June 15, 2021.

MOTION: Paulette Kurylo moved to adopt the minutes of the Regular Board Meeting of June 15, 2021, as circulated.

CARRIED 15307

Special Board Meeting of July 29, 2021

The Board reviewed the Special Board Meeting minutes of July 29, 2021.

MOTION: Joan Nellis moved to adopt the minutes of the Special Board Meeting of July 29, 2021, as circulated.

CARRIED 15308

**BUSINESS ARISING
FROM THE MINUTES**

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**BOARD CHAIR/
SUPERINTENDENT'S
REPORT**

Board Chair Report

- John Lehnerts reported to the Board that he attended Alberta School Boards' Association Advocacy meetings in August and had the pleasure of sitting on the Child and Youth Well-Being Review panel with MLA Tracy Allard and local social agency groups, discussing the effects of the Covid-19 Pandemic on children.
- Paulette Kurylo brought to the Board's attention information on the World Health Organization website regarding children and masks.

Superintendent's Report

Items for Information

Sandy McDonald provided to the Board information regarding the following:

- COVID 19 Guidelines Update
Administration released the Division's 2021 – 2022 Back to School Plan to Division staff and the public on August 19, 2021. The Back to School guidelines document was shared with the Board for discussion and review.

MOTION: Joan Nellis moved that the Board accept the Back to School 2021 – 2022 Plan and guidelines as presented by Administration.

CARRIED 15309

- Staff Welcome Back
A virtual all-staff welcome back address by the Superintendent will be held on August 30, 2021, in the morning. Later in the day, Dr. Greg Wells will address all staff virtually with a wellness focused presentation. The first day of school is September 1, 2021, for all students except for the High Schools, who use the first day of school to provide orientation to Grade 9 students and those students who are new to the school.
- All Administrators' Meeting
The start-up meeting for Administrators was held in person on August 23, 2021, at the Grande Prairie Composite cafeteria. The focus of the meeting was to review key information, provide orientation, and to support school start-up.
- Curriculum Update
No new information has been released by Alberta Education regarding preparations for the refinement and implementation of the draft K – 6 curriculum released last year. The Division's plan for engaging teachers to submit feedback to Alberta Education will be shared with Trustees at a September Board meeting.

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- Early Literacy/Numeracy Intervention
No new information on this Alberta Education initiative has been released this year, however Administration will bring a progress report to the Board in September.
- Norm Guindon Certified School Business Official
Norm Guindon, Associate Superintendent, received notice from the Alberta School Business Officials (ASBO) Accreditation Committee confirming his Certified School Business Official designation.
- September 30 – National Day for Truth and Reconciliation
Bill C-5 received royal assent in the Canadian Senate on June 5, making September 30 a new statutory holiday for federal employees. It is the recommendation of Administration that the Division maintains the current 2021 – 2022 school year calendar and consider adjusting future calendars during the normal calendar development process.

James Robinson entered the meeting at 6:36 p.m.

MOTION: Joan Nellis moved to have Administration explore the 2022 – 2023 school year calendar with options that include September 30th as a non-operational day to recognize Truth and Reconciliation and an option of September 30th as an operational day.

CARRIED 15310

- Registration Update
The number of new registrations received over the summer is more than in past years, however more information will be shared as it becomes available. Sandy McDonald shared with the Board that the registration numbers for on-line learning are approximately 50 students from Grades 1 – 9. This will be monitored closely.

Items for Further Action

- School Code 1241 Name Change
Administration presented to the Board the name *The Link* for those students who are registered in the Division's on-line program. Alberta Education requires a Board motion prior to officially approving the name request.

MOTION: Rob Martin moved to approve Administration's request to Alberta Education to apply the name, *The Link*, to School Code 1241 as discussed.

CARRIED 15311

**BOARD POLICY
COMMITTEE**

No report.

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**ADVOCACY AND
ENGAGEMENT
COMMITTEE**

Advocacy and Engagement Committee Meeting – August 18, 2021

The minutes of the August 18, 2021, Advocacy and Engagement Committee meeting were provided to the Board. Of note, Committee Chair Joan Nellis shared the following with Trustees:

- Election 2021 – Trustee videos will be done within the next few days and will be shared with Trustees. Following that, the videos will be shared via the Division website, social media and Board Highlights. Trustees were encouraged to approach suitable candidates to run for School Trustee in the election.
- The Committee brought a draft letter addressed to premier Jason Kenney as well as the Ministers of Health, Education and Children Services, regarding the alignment of mental health services and supports for children, to the Board for review. The Committee recommended sending the letter, and the Board was in agreement.
- The Committee suggested a welcome back message to staff from the Board Chair on behalf of the Board of Trustees. Board Chair John Lehnert will send an email to all staff on behalf of the Board.
- A Celebration of Public Education event will be held on October 2, 2021 in conjunction with the Division Fun Run. Trustees will have a tent set up and will be providing hot chocolate to participants.
- The Committee brought back to the Board a recommendation to abstain from sending an emergent motion to Alberta School Boards' Association (ASBA) Zone 1 regarding the Alternate School Year. Rather, the Committee recommends the Board works with Zone 1 to first seek feedback on this topic.

**CULTURE AND
ENGAGEMENT**

**BUSINESS
SERVICES**

Boundary Review Process Update

Norm Guindon updated the Board regarding the Boundary Review process. Scenarios for school boundaries have been presented to the Education Executive as well as the Principals whose schools will be affected. The next step will be to present the scenarios to all Principals, seek feedback, and then the Boundary Review Committee will bring that feedback and information to the Board at a Committee of the Whole meeting in October.

Education Advocacy Information – State of the Alberta Economy and Path Forward

Norm Guindon discussed with the Trustees an excerpt from a report entitled, *The State of the Alberta Economy and the Path Forward*. The excerpt discusses the importance of prioritizing education, especially in the areas of Early Childhood and Post-Secondary Education.

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Aquatera Communication Towers on School Sites

Norm Guindon presented to the Board a request by Aquatera to install communication towers on 2 Division School rooftops: Maude Clifford Public School and Hillside Community School. Tower installation also includes the installation of communication towers on neighbouring schools in the Peace Wapiti School Division as well as the Sexsmith Town Hall.

MOTION: Rob Martin moved that the Board approve Aquatera's request to install communication towers on the roof of Maude Clifford Public School and the roof of Hillside Community School, and for Administration to proceed and work with Aquatera to find a satisfactory agreement as discussed.

A recorded vote was requested:

In Favour: Andre Ouellette
Joan Nellis
Lesley Craig
John Lehnars

Opposed: Paulette Kurylo

CARRIED 15312

ASBA / PSBAA

Public School Boards' Council

- Meeting
Andre Ouellette reported to the Board regarding the Public School Boards' Council meeting held August 11 – 13, 2021.

Alberta School Boards' Association (ASBA)

- Emergent Position Statement – Alternate School Year
This item was discussed during the Advocacy and Engagement report.
- Zone 1 Meeting and Awards Luncheon – September 22, 2021
The ASBA Zone 1 meeting and awards luncheon will be held on September 22, 2021 in Peace River, Alberta. The meeting and awards presentation will also be offered virtually. Trustees were asked to let the Board Secretary know who will be attending in person and who will be attending virtually.

**ALBERTA
EDUCATION**

No report.

**COMMITTEE
REPORTS**

School Council 2021 – 2022 Year End Reports

Year end reports were received as information by the Board from the following School Councils:

- Derek Taylor Public School

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- IV Macklin School
- Swanavon School

**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 September 14, 2021, to be held in the Central Office Board Room.

CORRESPONDENCE

- Reserve Spending Approval, July 20, 2021
- Letter from Deputy Minister of Education, Re: Grande Prairie Composite High School Parking Lot Funding Request, May 25, 2021
- Letter from Minister of Education, Re: Draft K – 6 Curriculum, August 5, 2021
- Letter from Alberta School Councils' Association, Re: Division Membership, August 17, 2021
- Letter to the Grande Prairie & District Catholic Schools Board Chair, Re: Transportation Meeting Request, August 17, 2021

**NEW IDEAS / NEW
ISSUES**

Andre Ouellette reported to the Board that it is the Honourable Adriana LaGrange's birthday today and wished her a happy birthday on behalf of the Trustees and Administration of the Grande Prairie Public School Division.

Joan Nellis commented on the staggered entry for the high schools which allows the Grade 9 students and those students new to the school their own entry date of September 1, 2021. Joan Nellis also reported to the Board that the Leisure Centre and soccer pitch has been approved for demolition in conjunction with the demolition of the old Grande Prairie Composite High School.

**IN CAMERA
SESSION**

MOTION: Paulette Kurylo moved that the Board go in camera at 8:21 p.m. to discuss legal matters.

CARRIED 15313

MOTION: Paulette Kurylo moved that Board come out of camera at 8:45 p.m.

CARRIED 15314

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ADJOURNMENT

John Lehnors called the Regular Board Meeting closed at 8:45 p.m.

Chair

Secretary-Treasurer