

AGENDA

April 23, 2024

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9. CULTURE AND ENGAGEMENT		
10. BUSINESS SERVICES	Business Services Report <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Alberta Summer Special Olympics• 24/25 Provincial Funding Update• 2nd Quarter Budget Update	Norm
11. ASBA /PSBAA	Public School Boards' Council (PSBC) <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Meeting April 11 – 12, 2024 Alberta School Boards Association (ASBA) <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Zone 1 Meeting• Speaker's Corner 2024 04 15	Donna Ray Trustees
12. ALBERTA EDUCATION		
13. COMMITTEE REPORTS	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Professional Development Committee• Education Foundation Committee Meeting	Andre Norm
14. PRESENTATION OR DELEGATION BUSINESS		
15. CORRESPONDENCE		
16. NEW IDEAS/NEW ISSUES		Trustees
17. IN CAMERA SESSION		Trustees
18. ADJOURNMENT		Joan

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Board of Trustees Regular Board Meeting

Tuesday, April 23, 2024

Prepared by Sandy McDonald, Superintendent of Schools



Grande Prairie
Public School
Division

ITEMS FOR INFORMATION

EDUCATION RESEARCH, DESIGN, AND INNOVATION (ERDI)

The spring ERDI conference was in Montreal from April 3-6. The Superintendent's attendance was at no cost to the division, and participation included 6 learning panels with the other 49 superintendents from across Canada who participate. The panels were guided conversations exploring specific topics to support the ongoing research and development of new learning resources and products for K-12 education. Key takeaways from the event included affirmation that while the provincial education structure and context may vary from province to province, the core and context of the work of school divisions across Canada remains generally the same. Topics such as the importance of wellness to support staff, the need to continue to focus on literacy and numeracy development, and the growing complexity of student needs, interests, and division infrastructure are themes from across Canada.

GRADE 6 PROVINCIAL ACHIEVEMENT TESTS (PATs)

Alberta Education has announced that Grade 6 PATs in English language arts and literature and mathematics will not be administered in May and June 2024. Grade 6 PATs in all other subjects will continue as planned. Alberta Education will be field testing newly developed assessments in these subjects. Field testing will take place between April and June 2024.

School authorities are highly encouraged to participate in field testing. This opportunity will provide Alberta Education much-needed data to inform the design of future PATs and will help ensure that students receive a fair and reliable assessment to support their success in the future. The process of field testing determines the validity and reliability of questions that are in the development phase. For this reason, field testing results are not reported publicly; however, teachers will have the opportunity to score their field tests locally so they can gain some insight into student growth and achievement. Public multiyear reporting of PAT results for Grade 6 for the 2023/24 school year will only include subjects for which PATs were administered. Since the Grade 6 ELAL and math PATs will not be offered this year, no public reporting of results will be available.

Schools participating in the optional implementation of the new Grade 6 science, French first language arts and literature and French immersion language arts and literature curriculums will not be required to administer PATs for these subjects in May and June 2024, and can choose to participate in field testing for these subjects.

ANNUAL DIVISION WELLNESS UPDATE

The annual Division Wellness Update Report, originally scheduled for the February 27 Board meeting is being deferred until next year, to allow more time for the work to occur to review and develop a structured Wellness Framework next year.

In lieu of the full report, a summary of staff feedback from the February 10 Wellness Day follows:

- Approximately 850 staff participated in the Wellness Day this year, which included semester 2 student teachers from University Teacher Education Programs working in the division.

- Approximately 47% of all staff, and 40% of those who participated in the day, completed the follow-up survey sent to division staff. 99% of staff who participated expressed satisfaction with the day.
- Staff who elected not to participate utilized sick leave, personal leave, or other leave entitlements.
- The survey generated explicit feedback to identify strengths, challenges, and opportunities for improvement should the Wellness Day be repeated in the future. The highest interest was in sessions relating to the creative and physical elements of wellness, with an increase in the elements focused on the social domain.
- 75% of staff who attended reported learning at least one new wellness strategy from the day.

2024-2025 PLANNING UPDATE

Planning for next year continues at pace across the division. Kindergarten enrollments are at approximately 80% of projections and enrollment in KinderPAL programming exceeds last year.

The Academy Dance program will not be offered next year. The Dance instructor has recently resigned her position at the end of the school year for personal reasons and with only 9 students currently in the program from grades 4-12, enrollment is not sustainable. Parents will be contacted shortly to be notified that given the declining enrollment of new interest over the last several years, and after significant review and planning, the decision has been made to close the program.

High School Summer School is a new addition to next year's planning. Division High School Principals and system leadership are finalizing plans to offer a limited number of high school courses in July, at no cost, to students currently enrolled in the division. More info will be shared later, but the intent is to offer courses required for high school completion and that align with current student need in our schools. Additionally, plans are being developed to proceed with exploring the potential addition of Collegiate programming and the enhancement of Dual Credit opportunities for implementation in September of 2025.

Finally, the hiring of teachers for the 2024-2025 school year is nearing completion, and the process has been a highly successful one. Appreciation is due to Directors Tammie Maurer and Kim Frykas, HR staff, and to school principals who participated in processes that supported the timely completion of spring hiring. An additional 18.8 Full Time Equivalent teachers, over and above the number of teachers who began the current school year, are being hired to begin next year.

UNIVERSITY OF ALBERTA – NORTHERN MASTER OF EDUCATION COHORT

10 teachers in the division have been participating in northern cohort as part of a Master of Educational Leadership program offered by the University of Alberta, with 12 teacher colleagues from 4 other divisions in Zone 1. Superintendent McDonald and Director of System Planning Kim Frykas will be helping instruct the final course of the school year with system leaders from other divisions in May and June. The course will focus on helping the students to developing school plans and a theory of action to support mastery of Competency 3 in the Teaching Quality Standard – Embodying Visionary Leadership. Other parts of the course led by system leaders from the other divisions will focus on LQS competencies related to instruction and assessment, inclusive learning environments, and responding to the larger societal context.

COGNITIVE COACHING TRAINING

On April 9 and 10 approximately 30 division leaders met to continue their Cognitive Coaching training. The voluntary program began with two days in August, and following the most recent training days, will conclude with 3 more days of training in July.

This training is an excellent resource for school and system leaders to support the inquiry-based professional learning model and school inquiry process that exists in the division. For more information, the [program's website](#) identifies that "Research indicates that teaching is a complex intellectual activity and that teachers who think at higher levels produce students who are higher achieving, more cooperative, and better problem solvers. It is the invisible skills of teaching, the thinking processes that underlie instructional decisions, which produce superior instruction. Cognitive Coaching is a research-based model that capitalizes upon and enhances teachers' cognitive processes."

ALL ADMINISTRATOR PROFESSIONAL LEARNING AND PRINCIPALS MEETING

The April 17 meeting focused on providing school leadership teams guided opportunities to provide feedback on the division's draft updates to the 3-Year Education Plan and to work on their school-based assessment strategies and school-based education plan. The afternoon's business session for principals included a presentation on preparedness for wildfire season, including strategies to support managing air quality and activity levels in schools when the air quality index is high and strategies for supporting the work of the division's Indigenous Liaisons and Social Workers. Elementary principals also reviewed the Coordinated Classroom Assessment Schedule while High School Principals continued the development of plans to implement summer school programming in July.

ADMINISTRATOR ANNOUNCEMENTS

Division leadership are pleased to announce the following school administrator appointments for the 2024-2025 School Year:

- Krista Sterr will be returning to the Grande Prairie Christian School and assuming Vice Principal duties, with an increase in the VP allocation due to school enrollment growth.
- Brian Mayea will be relocating from Isabel Campbell to assume the role of VP at Riverstone Public School.
- The VP position at Isabel Campbell Public School is currently open and will be determined shortly.

Additionally, as the Banker Board for Peace Collaborative Services (PCS), Tammie Maurer and Nicole Chappel from Human Resources are working with Superintendent McDonald, Director of Inclusive Learning Nancy Gorgichuk, and system leaders from the other 4 divisions to hire a new Regional Manager for the PCS team. Interviews are scheduled for the end of the month, and it is expected the process will be completed by mid-May.

Finally, the interview process has concluded to hire a new Associate Superintendent of Business Services. A public announcement to our school community will be forthcoming soon. Appreciation is extended to Board Chair Nellis who was able to participate in the second round of interviews.

PARENT WORKSHOP and ALBERTA EDUCATION CELLPHONE SURVEY

The parent workshop on the topic of supporting children in their use of social media was held on the evening of Tuesday, April 16 in the theatre of the Grande Prairie Composite High School. The session was well attended and very well-received based on anecdotal feedback from parents in attendance.

On the topic of cellphone and device use, the Minister of Education announced on April 16th that Alberta Education is conducting a survey of school division staff and parents to learn more about beliefs regarding the use of cellphones and personal devices in class. Input from this targeted engagement will help inform potential future government direction.

The Minister's announcement identified student cellphone use is increasing and that while they can be positive teaching aids, they also can pose dangers and serve as a disruption to learning in class. Staff and parents are invited to share views about the future of student cellphone use in schools. The survey is open until May 3rd and is available online at https://your.alberta.ca/cellphones-in-schools/survey_tools/en.

BOARD WORKPLAN REVIEW

The Board workplan is submitted to the Board for information.

ITEMS FOR FUTURE ACTION

HONOURING SPIRIT INDIGENOUS STUDENT AWARDS

Division Leadership are thrilled to share that Paige Aubichon, grade 9, from the Grande Prairie Composite High School, was recently recognized as one of the Honouring Spirit award recipients by the Alberta School Boards Association.

Paige was unable to attend the session in Edmonton, held April 16. Paige's award items and certificate will be sent to the Division Office, and a ceremony to appropriately acknowledge Paige will need to be planned. Past recipients have been honoured at a meeting of the Board, but another consideration might be to organize an event at the school. Feedback from the Board to support planning an appropriate event is requested.

Along with Paige, 6 other students from across the division were nominated and the Board is asked to consider how they would like to acknowledge their nominations, as well. Gratitude is expressed to Indigenous Programming Coordinator Krista Umble, and Director of Student Supports Paul Therrien for their efforts to support student nominations and to collect information from school staff about who was nominated.

06.2 Board Workplan

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2024 03 26 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Board Professional Learning Retreat 2024 03 25 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Strategic Plan Development Workshop Board Policy Committee (11:00 am) 2024 03 26 Approve Annual Division 3-Year Capital Plan 2024 03 26 Approve Edwin Parr Nomination Approve Friends of Education Nomination Bi-Annual Division Risk Management Update <i>In Camera</i> 2024 03 26 Bi-Annual Human Resources Update <i>In Camera</i> 2024 03 26 	<p>2024 03 13</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ASBA Zone 1 High Prairie <p>2024 03 18</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ASBA Speaker's Corner – Putting Data to Work
APRIL	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2024 04 23 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Advocacy & Engagement Committee (11:00 am) 2024 04 23 Review 2nd Quarter Budget Update 2024 04 23 Review Annual Division Wellness Report 2024 04 23 Review Annual Division Compensation Report <i>In Camera</i> 2024 04 23 	<p>2024 04 06 – 08</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> NSBA New Orleans, LA <p>2024 04 10</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ASBA Zone 1 GP Catholic <p>2024 04 11 – 12</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> PSBC <p>2024 04 15</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ASBA Speaker's Corner TBA
MAY	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2024 05 14 Committee of the Whole 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Board Spring Governance Retreat 2024 05 01 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review Draft 3 Year Educational Plan Review Draft Division Assurance Summary Review 2024-2025 Division Budget Development Process Council of School Councils Meeting 2024 05 02 TTLIC Meeting (3:45 pm) 2024 05 07 Advocacy & Engagement Committee (11:00 am) 2024 05 14 Approve 2024 – 2025 School Fees – deferred from April Meeting Review draft Division 2024-25 Budget 2024 05 14 Non-Instructional Support Staff Committee (4:15 pm) 2024 05 22 GP Composite High School Graduation - 2024 05 17 	<p>2024 05 08</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ASBA Zone 1 Fort Vermilion <p>2024 05 13</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ASBA Speaker's Corner TBA <p>2024 05 30-06 01</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> PSBAA SGM Calgary, AB

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2024 05 28 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Board Policy Committee (11:00 am) 2024 05 28 • Approve Division 3-Year Education Plan 2024 05 28 • Approve Division 2024-25 Budget 2024 05 28 • Approve Locally Developed Course Requests 2024 05 28 • Presentation: Student Advisory Committee 	
JUNE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2024 06 11 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Advocacy & Engagement Committee (11:00 am) 2024 06 11 • Review 3rd Quarter Budget Update 2024 06 11 • Review Annual Summer Operations and Maintenance Report 2024 06 11 • Indigenous Graduation Ceremony 2024 06 06 • Bridge Network Graduation – Solo Format – 2024 06 14 • Charles Spencer Commencement - 2024 06 26 	<p>2024 06 02 – 04</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ASBA SGM Calgary, AB <p>2024 06 12</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ASBA Zone 1 CSNO
JULY			<p>2024 07 02 - 05</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CSBA Congress Toronto, ON
AUGUST			<p>2024 08 07 – 09</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PSBC Meeting Grande Prairie, AB
SEPTEMBER			<p>2024 09 18</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ASBA Zone 1 Meeting and Awards – GPPSD Hosts

**Grande Prairie Public School Division
2023 – 2024 Board Work Plan**



	PUBLIC MEETING DATES	MONTHLY GOVERNANCE ACTIONS	PROFESSIONAL LEARNING
AUGUST	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2023 08 22 Organizational Meeting • Regular Meeting 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Board Self-Evaluation 2023 08 22 • Board Evaluation of Superintendent 2023 08 22 • <i>Summary reports for each due September 30 for review October 10 in Camera</i> 	2023 08 09 – 11 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PSBC
SEPTEMBER	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2023 09 12 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Advocacy & Engagement Committee (11:00 am) 2023 09 12 	2023 09 18 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ASBA – ASEBP Webinar
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2023 09 26 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Board Evaluation Committee (10:00 am) 2023 09 18 • Trustee Student Advisory Members Meeting (1:00 pm) 2023 09 21 • Board Policy Committee (11:00 am) 2023 09 26 • Review Board Workplan 2023 09 26 	2023 09 20 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ASBA Zone 1 • Awards Luncheon 2023 09 27 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ASBA – Matt Solberg, Virtual 2023 09 29 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PSBAA Franklin Covey, Virtual
OCTOBER	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2023 10 10 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Advocacy & Engagement Committee (11:00 am) 2023 10 10 • Audit Committee (4:30 pm) 2023 10 10 • Review Annual Student Enrollment Summary 2023 10 10 • Review Annual Exit Survey Report <i>In Camera</i> 2023 10 10 • PD Committee Meeting 2023 10 11 • Board Social 2023 10 14 • TTLC Meeting (3:45 pm) 2023 10 17 	2023 10 23 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • St. Patrick Catholic Re-Opening 1:00 • Minister’s Tour of GPCHS 2:15 • Meeting with Minister of Ed – PWSD 4:30
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2023 10 24 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Board Policy Committee (11:00 am) 2023 10 24 • Non-Instructional Support Staff Committee (4:15 pm) 2023 10 25 • Review Board Workplan 2023 10 24 	2023 10 19 – 20 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PSBAA FGM

			<p>2023 10 30</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ASBA Webinar AB and Rural Municipalities
NOVEMBER	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2023 11 14 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Advocacy & Engagement Committee (11:00 am) 2023 11 14 Review Annual Student Attendance Report 2023 11 14 Bi-Annual Division Risk Management Update <i>In Camera</i> 2023 11 14 Bi-Annual Human Resources Update <i>In Camera</i> 2023 11 14 	<p>2023 11 08</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ASBA Zone 1
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2023 11 28 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Board Assurance Retreat 2023 11 23 (Moved from Nov 30 - Trustees to review the Results Report prior to approval on 2023 11 28) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review draft Annual Education Results Report Presentation of Educational Director Work Plans Board Policy Committee (11:00 am) 2023 11 28 Audit Committee (4:30 pm) 2023 11 28 Approve Annual Education Results Report 2023 11 28 Approve Audited Financial Statements 2023 11 28 Fall Budget Update 2023 11 28 Council of School Councils (7:00 pm) 2023 11 30 	<p>2023 11 09</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> PSBAA Franklin Covey, Leader in Me - Virtual <p>2023 11 17</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> PSBC <p>2023 11 19 – 21</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ASBA FGM
DECEMBER	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2023 12 12 Committee of the Whole 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> TTLIC Meeting (3:45 pm) 2023 12 05 TEBA Engagement Session 2023 12 08 Advocacy & Engagement Committee (11:00 am) 2023 12 12 Review Annual Class Size Report 2023 12 12 Review draft 2024-25 School Year Calendar 2023 12 12 Review Annual Finance Department Workplan 	<p>2023 12 11</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ASBA Speaker's Corner <p>2023 12 13</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ASBA Zone 1 Virtual
JANUARY	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2024 01 09 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Advocacy & Engagement Committee (11:00 am) 2023 01 09 Review Annual Student Profile and Specialized Learning Services Report 2024 01 09 Review Annual Student Transportation Update 2024 01 09 Council of School Councils – Workshop – 2024 01 18 	<p>2024 01 10</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ASBA Zone 1 Virtual

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2024 01 23 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Board Policy Committee (11:00 am) 2024 01 23 Approve 2024 – 2025 School Year Calendar 2024 01 23 Review Annual Information Technology Workplan and Report 2024 01 23 Review Annual Student Intervention Programming Report 2024 01 23 Review 1st Quarter Budget Update 2024 01 23 School Assurance <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2024 01 25 2024 01 30 2023 02 22 PD Committee Meeting 2024 01 31 	<p>2024 01 22</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ASBA Speaker's Corner Education Commission of the States <p>2024 01 23</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> AB Ed Stakeholder Session – Social Studies Curr.
FEBRUARY	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2024 02 13 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Advocacy & Engagement Committee (11:00 am) 2024 02 13 Review GPPSD Optimum Learning Framework 2024 02 13 Review Annual Programs of Choice Report 2024 02 13 TTLIC Meeting (3:45 pm) 2024 02 20 Non-Instructional Support Staff Committee (4:15 pm) 2024 02 21 	<p>2024 02 08 - 09</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> PSBC <p>2024 02 14</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ASBA Zone 1 Virtual <p>2024 02 21</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ASBA Virtual Session – Enterprise Canada <p>2024 02 26</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ASBA Speakers' Corner Advancing Education for Reconciliation
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2024 02 27 Committee of the Whole 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Board Policy Committee (11:00 am) 2024 02 27 Develop Budget Process and Budget Development Principles 2024 02 27 Review Annual Division Occupational Health and Safety Report 2024 02 27 Review Annual Division Operations & Maintenance Workplan and Report 2024 02 27 Review Annual Leadership Staff Demographics Succession Planning Report <i>In Camera</i> 2024 02 27 Council of School Councils Meeting 2024 02 29 	
MARCH	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2024 03 12 Committee of the Whole 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Board Advocacy & Engagement Committee (11:00 am) 2024 03 12 Review draft 3-Year Capital Plan 2024 03 12 Review Annual Indigenous Programming Report 2024 03 12 	<p>2024 03 02</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> PSBAA – Choice in AB Ed – virtual