

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE GRANDE PRAIRIE PUBLIC SCHOOL DIVISION HELD AT CENTRAL OFFICE ON **March 26, 2024**

Board Chair Joan Nellis called the Regular Meeting to order at 6:00 p.m., acknowledged that the Board is on Treaty 8 Land, and reviewed the Division's Universal Guiding Principles, with the following present:

**PRESENT**

Trustees Ray Buziak, Chris Johnston, Rob Martin, Joan Nellis, Andre Ouellette, Superintendent Sandy McDonald, Associate Superintendent Business Services Norm Guindon, Executive Assistant Business Services SheraLea Crichton, (recorder), and Secretary to the Board Sandy Fredland (minutes).

Virtual Attendance: Rob Martin who joined the meeting at 6:15 pm.

Regrets: Trustee Donna Koch, Deputy Superintendent James Robinson

**ADOPTION OF AGENDA**

Adoption of Board Agenda

The Board reviewed the Regular Meeting agenda.

**MOTION:** Ray Buziak moved that the Board adopt the Regular Meeting agenda as presented.

UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED 15622

**MINUTES**

Committee of the Whole Meeting of March 12, 2024

The Board reviewed the Committee of the Whole Meeting minutes of March 12, 2024.

**MOTION:** Ray Buziak moved to adopt the minutes of the Committee of the Whole Meeting of March 12, 2024, as circulated.

UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED 15623

Abstained, not at the meeting: Andre Ouellette, Chris Johnston

Regular Board Meeting of March 12, 2024

The Board reviewed the Regular Board Meeting minutes of March 12, 2024.

**MOTION:** Ray Buziak moved to adopt the minutes of the Regular Board Meeting of March 12, 2024, as circulated.

UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED 15624

Abstained, not at the meeting: Andre Ouellette, Chris Johnston

**PRESENTATION**

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**BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES**

**BOARD CHAIR/  
SUPERINTENDENT'S  
REPORT**

Board Chair Report

- Working Session with the Minister of Education  
Joan Nellis reported to the Board that she and Superintendent McDonald participated in an in-confidence working session with the Minister of Education on March 18, 2024, that was offered in person and virtually.
- Chamber Roundtable  
Joan Nellis reported to the Board regarding the Grande Prairie Chamber of Commerce *Chamber Roundtable* that was held March 22, 2024.
- Board Strategic Plan Development Workshop  
Joan Nellis discussed the Board Strategic Plan Development workshop that was held March 25, 2024 at Central Office.
- State of the City: A Grander Conversation  
Board Chair Nellis reported to the Board regarding the City of Grande Prairie's State of the City event held March 26, 2024.

Superintendent's Report

**Items for Information**

Sandy McDonald presented the Superintendent's Report provided to the Board as information regarding the following:

- Elementary Report Card and Curriculum Working Groups Update  
The Elementary report card working group has met 3 times to review the elementary report card outcomes and format to align with the new curriculum. At the next meeting in late April, the committee will be reviewing feedback collected at the school level from Kindergarten to Grade 6 teachers, school leaders, and from the community. The division Literacy and Numeracy Working Groups have met for 3 half-days and one full day each. The goal of each working group is to complete a draft framework for each curricular area to be used as a common resource for guiding instruction in each area, and across all grades and curricula, by the end of June. Next year the frameworks will be introduced for pilot use at all schools.
- Nutrition Programming Update  
Growing enrollment at Roy Bickell Public School is impacting the schools' ability to continue to host the GPPSD nutrition program. It is

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expected the nutrition program will transition to a modified part of the division's new Maintenance Building as its permanent home by the end of June.

- **Kindergarten and KinderPAL Registration Update**  
Kindergarten registration is proceeding and as of March 19, 2024, Kindergarten registration is at 68% of projections, the same as it has been at this time for the past 3 years. KinderPAL programming for 2024 – 2025 will remain as it currently is with programming planned to be available in all schools, subject to appropriate enrollment levels.
- **All Administration Professional Learning and March Principals Meeting**  
There were two focus areas during the morning allocated to professional learning for school leadership teams: Psychological Health and Safety, and Instructional Leadership to Support Effective Assessment Practices. The business portion of the meeting in the afternoon was used to share a variety of important updates with principals and included the identification and discussion of current procedures across division schools related to the use of smartphone technology.
- **Annual College of Alberta School Superintendents (CASS) Learning Conference**  
The system educational leadership team attended the annual CASS Learning Conference in Edmonton from March 20-22. The team attended two full-day sessions on the topics of Collegiate Schools and considerations for the development of policies and procedures related to the use of Artificial Intelligence software in schools. The conference was focused on planning and implementing system structures and processes to support equitable learning for all students.
- **School Administration Update**  
Administration is pleased to announce the appointment of James Hudyma as the Principal for Maude Clifford Public School, and Katherine Greniers on the appointment of Vice Principal at the Grande Prairie Composite High School. Congratulations to both as they begin their new roles effective the start of the 2024 – 2025 school year.
- **Board Workplan Review**  
The updated Board workplan was provided to the Board as information.

**BOARD POLICY COMMITTEE**

Board Policy Committee Meeting

- The Board Policy Committee meeting scheduled for March 26, 2024, was cancelled. The Committee will meet again in May.

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**ADVOCACY AND ENGAGEMENT COMMITTEE**

**CULTURE AND ENGAGEMENT**

**BUSINESS SERVICES**

Business Services Report

- Annual Division 3-Year Capital Plan Submission  
Norm Guindon presented to the Board 2025 - 2028 Capital Plan.

Administration recommended the following priority ranking and projects for submission to Alberta Education:

1. Grande Prairie Composite High School permanent addition
2. Charles Spencer High School permanent addition
3. New Kensington area school K - 8
4. Replacement School – Crystal Park School K - 8

Following discussion, the following motion was made:

**MOTION:** Andre Ouellette moved that the Board approve the 2025 - 2028 Division Capital Plan as presented, with priorities as follows:

1. Grande Prairie Composite High School permanent addition
2. Charles Spencer High School permanent addition
3. Crystal Park School Modernization
4. New Kensington Area K - 8 School

DEFEATED

In Favour: Andre Ouellette

Opposed: Joan Nellis, Rob Martin, Chris Johnston, Ray Buziak

Further discussion was held.

**MOTION:** Rob Martin moved that the Board approve the 2025 - 2028 Division Capital Plan as presented, with priorities as follows:

1. Grande Prairie Composite High School permanent addition
2. Charles Spencer High School permanent addition
3. New Kensington Area K - 8 School
4. Crystal Park School Modernization

CARRIED 15625

In favour: Rob Martin, Chris Johnston, Joan Nellis, Ray Buziak

Opposed: Andre Ouellette

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**ASBA / PSBAA**

Alberta School Boards Association (ASBA)

- Zone 1 Meeting  
Ray Buziak reported to the Board regarding the ASBA Zone 1 Meeting held in High Prairie, Alberta on March 13, 2024.
- Zone 1 Friends of Education Nomination  
The Board discussed nominating the United Way Alberta Northwest for the ASBA Zone 1 Friends of Education award for 2023 – 2024. The United Way has had a long-standing partnership with the Division in various ways over the years, providing a lot of direct support for Division students.

**MOTION:** Rob Martin moved that the Board nominate the United Way Alberta Northwest as the 2023 – 2024 Zone 1 Friends of Education nominee.

UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED 15626

- Speaker's Corner – Putting Data to Work  
No Trustees attended the ASBA Speaker's Corner, Putting Data to Work session that was held virtually on March 18, 2024.

Public School Boards' Council (PSBC)

- Environmental Scan Agenda Item – Election Readiness  
Donna Koch will be attending the PSBC Meeting April 11 – 12, 2024. PSBC is asking Boards to provide feedback on the following question:

*What were the barriers to participating in the Election Readiness material for the provincial election and what can be done to overcome these barriers for the future?*

Trustees will consider the question and forward any feedback to Trustee Koch prior to the next Public School Boards' Council meeting.

**ALBERTA  
EDUCATION**

**COMMITTEE  
REPORTS**

- Education Foundation Committee Meeting  
Norm Guindon reported to the Board regarding the Education Foundation Committee meeting held March 21, 2024, as Rob Martin was unable to attend.

**PRESENTATION OR  
DELEGATION  
BUSINESS**

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**CORRESPONDENCE**

**NEW IDEAS / NEW ISSUES**

Rob Martin reported to the Board that the Charles Spencer High School Graduation will be held June 26, 2024, with the cap and gown ceremony starting at 10:00 a.m. at Bonnett's Energy Centre. The Grand March will be later that evening.

Joan Nellis asked if the funding manual has been provided to Divisions yet, and Administration responded that the funding manual has not been sent out from Alberta Education.

**MOTION:** Andre Ouellette moved that the Board go in camera at 7:21 p.m. to discuss land, legal and personnel issues.

UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED 15627

**IN CAMERA SESSION**

**MOTION:** Andre Ouellette moved that the Board come out of camera at 8:10 p.m.

UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED 15628

**NEXT BOARD MEETING**

The next meeting of the Board of Trustees is scheduled for Tuesday, April 23, 2024, to be held at Central Office in the Board Room.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Board Chair Joan Nellis called the Regular Board Meeting closed at 8:10 p.m.

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Chair

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Secretary-Treasurer