

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE GRANDE PRAIRIE PUBLIC SCHOOL DIVISION HELD AT CENTRAL OFFICE ON **April 23, 2024**

**COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE**

Board Chair Joan Nellis reported that a Committee of the Whole meeting was held prior to the April 23, 2024, Regular Board Meeting for discussion of the Board Strategic Plan Development workshop held on March 25, 2024.

Board Chair Joan Nellis called the Regular Meeting to order at 6:01 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, Donna Koch, Rob Martin, Joan Nellis, Andre Ouellette, Superintendent Sandy McDonald, Deputy Superintendent James Robinson Associate Superintendent Business Services Norm Guindon, Executive Assistant Business Services SheraLea Crichton, (recorder), and Secretary to the Board Sandy Fredland (minutes).

Attending Virtually: Trustee Donna Koch

**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 *Superintendent's Report, Items for Action*, Division's Alberta School Boards Association Edwin Parr nominee.
- Under *ASBA/PSBAA*, ASBA Zone 1 Position Statement on Vaping.

**MOTION:** Chris Johnston moved that the Board adopt the Regular Meeting agenda as amended.

UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED 15629

**MINUTES**

Regular Board Meeting of March 26, 2024

The Board reviewed the Regular Board Meeting minutes of March 26, 2024.

**MOTION:** Andre Ouellette moved to adopt the minutes of the Regular Board Meeting of March 26, 2024, as circulated.

UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED 15630

Abstained, not at the meeting: Donna Koch

**PRESENTATION**

**BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES**

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**BOARD CHAIR/  
SUPERINTENDENT'S  
REPORT**

Board Chair Report

Board Chair Joan Nellis reported to the Board regarding the Alberta School Boards Association Innovation and AI Committee meeting that she attended virtually. The committee will be meeting once a month, and the work was reported as being very interesting.

Superintendent's Report

**Items for Information**

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

- Education Research, Design, and Innovation (ERDI)  
Superintendent McDonald attended the spring ERDI conference in Montreal from April 3 – 6, at no cost to the Division. The conference included 6 learning panels with 49 other Superintendents from across Canada participating.
- 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.
- 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.
- 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. Of note:
  - The Academy Dance program will not be offered next year due to low enrolment and the resignation of the Dance Instructor.
  - High School Summer School is a new addition to next year's planning and plans are being finalized to offer a limited number of high school courses at no cost to the students, who are currently enrolled in the Grande Prairie Public School Division.
  - Teacher hiring for the 2024 – 2025 school year is near completion with the addition of 18.8 Full Time Equivalent teachers, over and

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above the number of teachers who began the current school year, starting in September.

- University of Alberta – Northern Master of Education Cohort  
10 teachers in the division have been participating in a 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.
- 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.
- 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 and ways to support managing air quality and activity levels in schools when the air quality index is high.
- Administrator Announcements  
Division leadership is 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.
  - Interviews will begin for a new Regional Manager for the Peace Collaborative Services team.
  - The interview process has concluded to hire a new Associate Superintendent of Business Services and an announcement will be sent next week.

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- 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 and was well attended and very well-received.

The Minister of Education announced on April 16<sup>th</sup> 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 survey is open until May 3<sup>rd</sup> and is available online at [https://your.alberta.ca/cellphones-in-schools/survey\\_tools/en](https://your.alberta.ca/cellphones-in-schools/survey_tools/en).

- Board Workplan Review  
The updated Board workplan was provided to the Board as information.

#### **Items for Future Action**

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

As Paige was unable to attend the awards session in Edmonton, 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. Following discussion, the Board will send cards of congratulations to the 6 other Division students who were nominated and the Board supported attending a presentation for Paige Aubichon at the Composite High School.

- Edwin Parr Award Nominee  
Administration is proud to submit a nomination for Miss Rayanne Beby, a first-year Grade 5/6 teacher at Riverstone Public School, as the Division's Zone 1 Edwin Parr Award nominee.

**MOTION:** Andre Ouellette moved that the Board approve Rayanne Beby, Grade 5/6 teacher at Riverstone Public School, as the Division's 2023 – 2024 nominee for the Zone 1 Edwin Parr Award.

UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED

15631

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**BOARD POLICY COMMITTEE**

**ADVOCACY AND ENGAGEMENT COMMITTEE**

Advocacy and Engagement Committee Meeting

Chris Johnston reported to the Board regarding the Advocacy and Engagement Committee meeting held April 23, 2024. Of note:

- The Committee discussed a process to review the current priorities with stakeholders, and feedback will be sought from the Teacher Trustee Liaison Committee, the Non-Instructional Support Staff Committee, and the Council of School Councils by the end of the current school year, for the development of revised priorities for some time in early September.
- Discussion was held regarding the use of cell phones in schools and reframing it more to centre on a distraction free learning environment.
- The Council of School Councils agenda for the May 2, 2024, meeting was also discussed.
- The minutes for the meeting will be brought to a future Board meeting.

**CULTURE AND ENGAGEMENT**

**BUSINESS SERVICES**

Business Services Report

- **Alberta Summer Special Olympics**  
Norm Guindon reported to the Board that the City of Grande Prairie will be hosting the 2025 Special Olympics Alberta Summer Games scheduled to take place July 11 – 13, 2025. The City of Grande Prairie has requested a gift in kind support from the division for the use of the two Maude Clifford School gymnasiums for the Games, and Administration is recommending that this request be supported.
- **2024 – 2025 Funding Profile and Manual**  
Norm Guindon reported to the Board regarding the provincial government's release of the 2024 - 2025 school year funding manual and the detailed funding profile for the Division. Absent in the funding for next year from the provincial government was any grant rate increases to address the inflationary increases the division is experiencing across all operating expenses.
- **2024 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter Financial Update**  
The 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter financial update for the division was provided to the Board as information.

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**ASBA / PSBAA**

Public School Boards' Council (PSBC)

- Meeting  
Donna Koch reported to the Board regarding the PSBC Meeting held April 11 – 12, 2024 in Edmonton. Of note, the PSBAA is considering a 5% increase in fees, and this will be discussed at the Spring General Meeting being held in Calgary May 30 to June 1, 2024.

Alberta School Boards Association (ASBA)

- Zone 1 Meeting  
Ray Buziak reported to the Board regarding the ASBA Zone 1 Meeting held in Grande Prairie, Alberta on April 10, 2024. Of note, the provincial ASBA is proposing a 4% increase in fees, and this will be discussed at the ASBA Spring General Meeting in Calgary June 2 to 4, 2024.
- Vaping Position Statement  
The ASBA Zone 1 Healthy Coalitions Committee submitted a Position Statement for Boards to consider regarding vaping. Following discussion, the Board agrees with the statement in principle, but believes it may be too prescriptive.
- Speaker's Corner – Career Education with CAREERS  
Those Trustees who attended reported regarding the ASBA Speaker's Corner, Career Education with CAREERS held virtually on April 15, 2024.

**ALBERTA  
EDUCATION**

**COMMITTEE  
REPORTS**

- Professional Development Committee Meeting  
Andre Ouellette reported to the Board regarding the Professional Development Committee meeting held April 10, 2024. The Committee is proposing a 2-year term for the Trustee representative. This will be discussed at the next Organizational meeting in August.
- Education Foundation Committee Meeting  
Norm Guindon reported to the Board regarding the Education Foundation Committee meeting held April 11, 2024, as Rob Martin was unable to attend.

**PRESENTATION OR  
DELEGATION  
BUSINESS**

**CORRESPONDENCE**

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**NEW IDEAS / NEW ISSUES**

Donna Koch provided an update for the Public School Board's Council meeting being held in Grande Prairie August 7 to 9, 2024.

Ray Buziak commended Trustee Koch for attending the Board meeting virtually, where the local time was 3:50 a.m.

**MOTION:** Rob Martin moved that the Board go in camera at 7:51 p.m. to discuss the Division Annual Compensation report.

UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED 15632

**IN CAMERA SESSION**

**MOTION:** Chris Johnston moved that the Board come out of camera at 8:35 p.m.

UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED 15633

**MOTION:** Donna Koch moved that the Board direct the Advocacy and Engagement Committee to explore options for the funding model to support recruitment and retention.

UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED 15634

**NEXT BOARD MEETING**

The next meeting of the Board of Trustees is scheduled for Tuesday, May 14, 2024, to be held at Central Office in the Board Room.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Board Chair Joan Nellis called the Regular Board Meeting closed at 8:37 p.m.

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Chair

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Secretary-Treasurer