

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF
TRUSTEES OF THE GRANDE PRAIRIE PUBLIC SCHOOL DIVISION
HELD AT CENTRAL OFFICE ON **June 11, 2024**

Board Chair Joan Nellis called the Regular Meeting to order at 6:03 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, Associate Superintendent Business Services Ola Oladele (new), 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.

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

UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED 15646

MINUTES

Committee of the Whole Meeting of May 28, 2024

The Board reviewed the minutes of the Committee of the Whole meeting held May 28, 2024.

MOTION: Ray Buziak moved to adopt the minutes of the Committee of the Whole Meeting of May 28, 2024.

UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED 15647

Regular Board Meeting of May 28, 2024

The Board reviewed the Regular Board Meeting minutes of May 28, 2024.

MOTION: Donna Koch moved to adopt the minutes of the Regular Board Meeting of May 28, 2024, as circulated.

UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED 15648

PRESENTATION

Honouring Spirit Award Presentation – Paige Aubichon

The Board was pleased to witness the presentation of the Alberta School Boards Association Honouring Spirit Award Star Blanket to recipient Paige Aubichon, a grade 9 student from the Grande Prairie Composite High School. Krista Umble, Indigenous Program Coordinator and Elder Joey Lane led the ceremony that included smudging, prayers and wrapping Paige in the Star Blanket. The Board thanked the presenters for leading the celebration and wished Paige all the very best in her future endeavors.

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The presenters exited the meeting at 6:25 p.m.

Sandy McDonald introduced and welcomed Mr. Ola Oladele, Associate Superintendent Business Services, to the Board meeting. Mr. Oladele is replacing Norm Guindon who will be leaving the Division at the end of June.

**BUSINESS ARISING
FROM THE MINUTES**

**BOARD CHAIR/
SUPERINTENDENT'S
REPORT**

Board Chair Report

- 2024 Lieutenant Governor of Alberta Student Award Ceremonies
Joan Nellis attended the Alberta School Boards Association (ASBA) Lieutenant Governor Award Ceremonies on June 10, 2024, in Edmonton. Kairoh Winiandy, a Grade 6 student from Hillside Community School, was one of 9 students selected to receive the award.

Superintendent's Report

Items for Information

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

- Alberta School Boards Association Indigenous Student Awards
Several students from the division have been recognized by the Alberta School Boards Association for their leadership, effort and commitment, and the manner in which they honour their Indigenous heritage and serve as role models for other students in their school.

Paige Aubichon, a grade 9 student at the Grande Prairie Composite High School was selected as a winner of the Honouring Spirit Indigenous Student Award, and the following students received honourable mention:

- Isabelle Surowaniec, grade 2, Parkside Montessori
- Mariah Hudson, grade 3, Aspen Grove School
- Kairoh Winiandy, grade 6, Hillside Community School
- Mairyn Broderson, grade 8, Derek Taylor Public School
- Blayze Willard, grade 11, Grande Prairie Composite High School
- Chloe Hedges, grade 12, Charles Spencer High School

In addition, Kairoh Winiandy was also recognized as one of 9 provincial recipients of the Lieutenant Governor's Award, for his determination,

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initiative and independence, and success both academically and personally. Sandy McDonald extended appreciation to the ASBA Executive and Board for the work they do in supporting our Indigenous students.

- **Memorandum of Understanding**
Continuing the work to support increasing high school completion rates and to prepare students for their transition to life after high school, administration has entered into a Memorandum of Understanding with the Northwestern Polytechnic (NWP), the Peace Wapiti Public School Division and the Grande Prairie and District Catholic School Division to explore the potential of shared development of a regional Collegiate School.
- **2024 – 2025 Wellness Planning**
To support staff wellness, establish clarity about practice, and ultimately to improve communication practices, system leadership is exploring development of standard guidelines about internal and external communication. Feedback received this year illustrated the importance of clear and consistent communication practices. More information will be shared within the Division and school community at the start of the new school year.
- **Alberta School Councils' Association Membership Fees**
Payment has been made for Division School Councils to maintain their membership in the Alberta School Councils' Association for the 2024-2025 school year. Membership fees have increased by \$25 this year, from \$100/school to \$125/school, raising the total from \$1700 to \$2125.
- **Administrative Professional Learning and Principals Meeting**
The focused team learning time at the June 5 Administrator professional learning time was again on the deliberate planning for each school's 2024-2025 professional learning plan and the ongoing team review of division staff, student, and parent assurance survey results. The focus of the principals' business meeting in the afternoon was to review the latest updates from Alberta Education re: curriculum implementation and provincial testing and to receive updates from each of the Educational Directors.
- **Student Registration Videos**
Appreciation is extended to Communications Officer Shannon Stambaugh and the staff and students who were part of the team to prepare the 2024-2025 Kindergarten Student Registration Videos. Three videos, featuring current GPPSD students and staff, are available on the division's YouTube channel:

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<https://youtu.be/unlBtuqV9Sq>
<https://youtu.be/AIOKJdNn-M>
<https://youtu.be/aX7rSBjrQD0>

- Board Workplan Review
The updated version of the Board's Workplan was provided to the Board as information.

Items for Future Action

- Request for Information Regarding Board Social Planning
In response to the request at the May 28 meeting, an updated plan that estimates the cost of extending an invitation to the event for casual staff was presented to the Board for consideration.

Discussion was held and the following motion was made:

MOTION: Donna Koch moved that casual staff and an invited guest be included by invitation to the 2024 Board Social.

In Favour: Ray Buziak, Chris Johnston, Donna Koch
Opposed: Joan Nellis, Andre Ouellette, Rob Martin
Defeated

Further discussion was held.

MOTION: Andre Ouellette moved that the Board Social include casual staff, limiting the number of casual staff, retirees and permanent staff to 625 people, increasing the cost per ticket to \$15 for attendees.

In Favour: Ray Buziak, Andre Ouellette, Donna Koch
Opposed: Chris Johnston, Rob Martin, Joan Nellis
Defeated

MOTION: Donna Koch moved that casual staff and guests be included by invitation to the 2024 Board Social, ticket prices to be \$10 for staff and \$15 for guests.

In Favour: Ray Buziak, Donna Koch
Opposed: Rob Martin, Andre Ouellette, Joan Nellis, Chris Johnston
Defeated

Following further discussion, the 2024 Board Social will proceed as planned, and the item will be returned for discussion at Committee in the fall.

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- Request for Information Regarding Transportation
In response to a request at the May 28 meeting, a report in response to correspondence received from the Avondale School Council was presented to the Board for consideration. The Board will send a letter of reply to the Avondale School Council and school community.
- August 2024 Board Organizational Meeting and First Board Meeting
The first meetings of the Board for the 2024-2025 school year, to conduct the annual Organizational Meeting of the Board followed by the first regular public meeting of the Board for the year is proposed for the evening of Tuesday, August 20, 2024, beginning at 5:00 p.m. A proposed schedule for the afternoon of August 20th for the purpose of reviewing the Board Self Evaluation results as the Superintendent Evaluation results was presented to the Board for consideration.

**BOARD POLICY
COMMITTEE**

Board Policy Committee Meeting

Andre Ouellete presented to the Board revisions to the following Board policies

- Board Policy 15 – Financial Management
The Board reviewed the recommended revisions to Board Policy 15, Financial Management.

MOTION: Andre Ouellette moved that the Board approve the revisions to Board Policy 15, Financial Management, as presented and discussed.

UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED 15649

- Board Policy 17 – GPPSD School Closure
The Board reviewed the recommended revisions to Board Policy 17, GPPSD School Closure.

Policy 17, GPPSD School Closure will go back to the Policy Committee for revisions as discussed and will be brought back to the Board at a later meeting.

- Board Policy 20 – Welcoming, Caring, Respectful and Safe Working and Learning Environments
The Board reviewed the recommended revisions to Board Policy 20 – Welcoming, Caring, Respectful and Safe Working and Learning Environments.
- **MOTION:** Andre Ouellette moved that the Board approve the revisions to Board Policy 20 – Welcoming, Caring, Respectful and Safe Working and Learning Environments, as presented and discussed.

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UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED 15650

**ADVOCACY AND
ENGAGEMENT
COMMITTEE**

Advocacy and Engagement Committee Meeting

Chris Johnston reported to the Board regarding the Advocacy and Engagement Committee meeting held June 11, 2024. Discussion was held regarding setting up a meeting with the local MLAs sometime in September as well as sending a letter and/or requesting a meeting with the Minister of Education to discuss inflation challenges. The Committee discussed some proposed changes to the Board meeting agenda, and these will be brought to the Organizational meeting in August.

**CULTURE AND
ENGAGEMENT**

Indigenous Graduation Ceremony

Ray Buziak reported to the Board regarding the Indigenous Graduation Ceremony held on June 6, 2024, that the event was well attended, and expressed appreciation to all of those who were involved in organizing the ceremonies.

**BUSINESS
SERVICES**

Business Services Report

- 3rd Quarter Budget Update
Norm Guindon presented to the Board the 3rd Quarter Budget update for the nine months ended May 31, 2024.
- Summer 2024 Maintenance Update
Norm Guindon presented to the Board the Summer 2024 Maintenance Department update as information.

ASBA / PSBAA

Public School Boards' Association of Alberta (PSBAA)

- Spring General Meeting
Donna Koch reported to the Board regarding the PSBAA Spring General Meeting that was held in Calgary May 30 to June 1, 2024.

Alberta School Boards Association (ASBA)

- Spring General Meeting
Rob Martin reported to the Board regarding that he attended the ASBA Spring General Meeting held in Calgary June 2 to 4, 2024, along with Trustees Donna Koch, Joan Nellis and Superintendent Sandy McDonald.

**ALBERTA
EDUCATION**

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**COMMITTEE
REPORTS**

- Student Advisory Committee Meeting
Donna Koch reported to the Board regarding the last Student Advisory Committee meeting of the year that was held June 7, 2024. The Board thanked Sandy McDonald and Kim Frykas, Director of System Planning, for their support with the Student Advisory Committee.
- School Council Year End Report
The Board received the 2023 – 2024 Year End Report from Alexander Forbes School Council as information.
- Non-Instructional Liaison Committee Meeting
The minutes of the May 22, 2024, Non-Instructional Liaison Committee meeting were submitted to the Board as information.

**PRESENTATION OR
DELEGATION
BUSINESS**

CORRESPONDENCE

**NEW IDEAS / NEW
ISSUES**

Donna Koch is looking forward to the remaining graduation celebrations and commented on this being a great year.

Joan Nellis thanked everyone for the exceptional year and wished them all a great summer.

**NEXT BOARD
MEETING**

The next meeting of the Board of Trustees is scheduled for Tuesday, August 20, 2024, to be held at Central Office in the Board Room.

ADJOURNMENT

Board Chair Joan Nellis called the Regular Board Meeting closed at 8:32 p.m.

Chair

Secretary-Treasurer