

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE GRANDE PRAIRIE PUBLIC SCHOOL DIVISION HELD AT CENTRAL OFFICE ON **December 10, 2024**

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

Board Chair Nellis reported that the Board met for a Committee of the Whole meeting prior to the Regular Board meeting to discuss the Annual Human Resources report, calendar development and capital planning.

Board Chair Nellis called the Regular Meeting to order at 6:14 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 Johnston, Koch, Martin, Nellis, Ouellette, Superintendent McDonald, Deputy Superintendent Robinson, Executive Assistant Business Services Crichton, (recorder), and Secretary to the Board Fredland (minutes).

Regrets: Trustee Buziak, Associate Superintendent Business Services Oladele

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 Business Arising from the Minutes, *Meeting Planning with Mayor and Council*; and
- An in-camera session at the end of the Regular meeting to discuss collective bargaining and a personnel issue.

MOTION: Trustee Martin moved that the Board adopt the Regular Meeting agenda as amended.

UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED 15697

TRUSTEE SELF-DECLARATION OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST

No conflicts.

MINUTES

Regular Board Meeting of November 26, 2024

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

MOTION: Vice Chair Koch moved to adopt the minutes of the Regular Board Meeting of November 26, 2024, as circulated.

UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED 15698

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BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

Board Bylaw 2024-1 Second and Third Reading

The Board reviewed Board Bylaw 2024-1, Criminal Record Check Bylaw, following first reading at the November 26, 2024 Board meeting. An amendment was added to Bylaw 2024-1 for the Board's consideration that included content supporting the reimbursement to candidates for the Criminal Record Check fee. Discussion was held.

MOTION: Trustee Ouellette moved that Bylaw 2024-1, Criminal Record Check bylaw, as read in total at the previous Board meeting, be given second reading.

UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED 15699

MOTION: Trustee Martin moved that Bylaw 2024-1, Criminal Record Check bylaw, be given third reading.

UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED 15700

Meeting Planning

The Board agreed to a meeting date of January 13, 2025 to meet with the Board of the Grande Prairie and District Catholic Division. Several dates were provided to meet with City Council, and it was decided that a Google Poll will be sent out for Trustees to indicate dates that are agreeable to them.

DELEGATIONS AND PRESENTATIONS

No presentation.

COMMITTEES AND REPORTS

Board Chair Report

- Board Assurance Retreat – 2024 12 05
Chair Nellis reported to the Board regarding the Board's Assurance Retreat that was held at Central Office on December 5, 2024. At the retreat, Trustees dove deeper into the Director's workplans. Chair Nellis expressed appreciation to the Directors for the time and planning that went into the presentations, as they provide the Board with assurance.

The Continuous Improvement Index was discussed, along with the Board meeting agenda. A few adjustments were made to the layout of the agenda and will be incorporated for the next Board meeting.

The Board thank Administration for the successful and informative retreat.

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- GPPSD Education Foundation Striving for Excellence Awards 2024 12 03
Vice Chair Koch reported to the Board regarding the Annual Striving for Excellence Awards that was held at the Northwestern Polytechnic Douglas Cardinal Theatre on December 3, 2024. The event was reported as being a success with many students and families attending.

Teacher Trustee Liaison Committee Meeting

- Chair Nellis and Trustee Johnston reported to the Board regarding the Teacher Trustee Liaison Committee meeting that was held December 2, 2024. The minutes were presented to the Board as information.

Non-Instructional Support Staff Liaison Committee Meeting

- The minutes for the November 13, 2024, Non-Instructional Support Staff Liaison Committee meeting were provided to the Trustees as information.

Professional Development Fund

- Trustee Ouellette reported to the Board that the Professional Development Fund Committee met on December 5, 2024. The Committee will meet again on February 6, 2025.

Board Policy Committee Meeting

- Board Policy 1, GPPSD Mission and Guiding Principles
The Board reviewed the recommended revisions to Board Policy 1, GPPSD Mission and Guiding Principles.

MOTION: Vice Chair Koch moved that the Board approve the revisions to Board Policy 1, GPPSD Mission and Guiding Principles, as presented and discussed.

UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED 15701

Advocacy and Engagement Committee Meeting

- The Advocacy and Engagement Committee meeting scheduled for December 10, 2024, was cancelled. The next meeting is scheduled for January 14, 2025

School Council Update and Reports

- Council of School Councils Meeting – November 28, 2024
Chair Nellis reported to the Board regarding the Council of School Councils meeting that was held November 28, 2024. Most of the Trustees were in attendance and there was a good turnout from the School Council Chairs.

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Individual Trustee Reports

Trustee Martin thanked those Trustees who attended events on his behalf.

Superintendent's Report

Items for Information

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

- **Division Christmas Card Art Contest**
The Board was pleased to hear the winners for the 2024 Holiday Card Art contest:
 - Malia Quevillon - first place - \$200
 - Lauren Dunbar - second place - \$150
 - Tanu Namsot and Brynn Wilson – third place tie - \$100Thank you to the judges, Trustees Martin, Johnston and Vice Chair Koch, and all students who submitted their excellent artwork. Due to the postal strike, plans have been made to distribute the card electronically.

- **Community Centred Food Security Strategy Development**
Trustees were advised that the Grande Prairie City Council is initiating plans to develop a community-centred strategy to address food insecurity. The plan will involve supporting a community agency to engage all relevant stakeholders in the community and develop a coordinated plan to improve food security in the program. Administration has recently learned more about the plan from City staff and followed up with a letter to City Council indicating a commitment to collaborate for the purpose of benefitting our students and their families.

- **School Inquiry Meetings**
The most recent round of school inquiry meetings occurred from Tuesday November 26 to Thursday, November 28. The educational directors met with all school administration teams in their schools to review each school leadership team's instructional leadership priority for the school year and to discuss their progress towards obtaining their desired outcome.

- **Zone 1 College of Alberta School Superintendents (CASS) Meeting**
The Zone 1 CASS Meeting was held virtually on November 29, 2024.

- **All Administration Virtual Meeting**
All school administrators met for the monthly information sharing session on Wednesday, December 4. Director of Information Technology, Sudhesh Pillay, provided an update on planned changes to

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the wireless networks to support ongoing implementation of the Ministerial Order on Personal Devices and social media.

- **Grade 1 – 3 Literacy and Numeracy Grant**
On November 29 the division received notification that the application for literacy and numeracy grant funding was approved for \$38,000. This grant represents a significant decrease in the annual funding over time to support early literacy and numeracy.
- **Collegiate School Planning Webinar**
Alberta Education hosted an online webinar to share details of the new process to initiate development of a collegiate school on December 2, 2024. Director of System Planning Frykas along with colleagues from Peace Wapiti School Division and the Grande Prairie and District Catholic Division participated in the webinar.
- **Draft School Calendar 2025 – 2026**
A draft calendar for the 2025 – 2026 School Year was provided to the Board for consideration. The 2025 – 2026 School Year calendar will be brought back to the Board in January for approval, following attaining feedback from staff and parents/ guardians.
- **Annual Class Size Report**
Deputy Superintendent Robinson provided a brief presentation to Trustees regarding the Annual Class Size Report submitted to the Board by Director of System Planning Frykas. Trustees discussed possible ways that Administration could seek strategies for reporting on classroom complexity, however, the Board will be reviewing the Annual Student Profile and Specialized Learning Services Report on January 14, 2025, and Trustees will have the opportunity to further discuss the issue at that time.
- **International Field Trip Request**
At the February 27, 2024, Board meeting the Board approved a request for international travel from Charles Spencer High School for students enrolled in French as a Second Language and French Immersion to travel to Martinique, France. Trustees are advised the trip has been cancelled due to low student interest.
- **Board Workplan Review**
The Board Workplan was presented to the Board as information. The Board was advised that the Annual Program of Choice report has been removed from the workplan as much of the content historically is included in other reports and/or in the school-specific assurance meetings.

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Associate Superintendent of Business Services

- Transportation Update
Superintendent McDonald provided the Board with an update from Associate Superintendent Oladele on the Transportation Committee's efforts to implement the changes to school transportation by Alberta Education for the 2024 – 2026 school year.

NEW BUSINESS

Trustee Professional Learning and Sharing

- ASBA Professional Learning Session – AI and Elections 2024 11 27
Those Trustees who attended the ASBA Professional Learning Session on AI and Elections reported to the Board regarding the session.
- ASBA Professional Learning Session – Municipal Affairs Statues Amendment Act Follow Up 2024 12 -2
Those Trustees who attended the ASBA Professional Learning Session on Municipal Affairs Statues Amendment Act Follow up reported to the Board regarding the session.
- ASBA Speaker's Corner – The Role of Trustees in Fostering Safe & Healthy Work Environments 2024 12 09
Those Trustees who attended the ASBA Speaker's Corner, The Role of Trustees in Fostering Safe & Healthy Work Environments reported to the Board regarding the session.

Upcoming Dates and Events

Correspondence

- Letter of Congratulations to Krista Umble, Division Indigenous Programming Coordinator 2024 11 27
- Letter from PSBAA to Minister Guilbeault, Re: National Parks 2024 11 25
- Letter from PSBAA to Minister Nicolaides, Re: Public Education 2024 11 25
- Letter from Wolf Creek Public Schools to Premier and Minister Horner, Re: Funding Manual & Budget Release 2024 11 29
- Letter from Wolf Creak Public Schools to Minister Re: Provincial Data 2024 11 29
Letter from Wolf Creek Public Schools to Minister Re: Large Capital Costs 2024 12 06

IN CAMERA SESSION

MOTION: Trustee Ouellette moved that the Board go in camera to discuss Human Resources at 7:36 p.m.

UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED 15702

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MOTION: Trustee Martin moved that the Board come out of camera at 8:08 p.m.

UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED 15703

ACTIONS ARISING FROM IN CAMERA

MOTION: Trustee Koch moved that the Board receive the Superintendent's letter of resignation effective Dec 31, 2025, and the transition plan discussed in-camera.

UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED 15704

Chair Nellis shared that as a Board and a Division, both have benefitted from Superintendent McDonald's leadership, and he will be missed. The Board wished Superintendent McDonald congratulations on his retirement and expressed appreciation for all his work.

NEXT MEETING AND ADJOURNMENT

Next Board Meeting and Adjournment

The next meeting of the Board of Trustees is scheduled for Tuesday, January 14, 2025, to be held at Central Office in the Board Room.

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

Chair

Secretary-Treasurer