

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE GRANDE PRAIRIE PUBLIC SCHOOL DIVISION HELD AT CENTRAL OFFICE ON **February 11, 2025**

Board Chair 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 Buziak, Johnston, Koch, Martin, Nellis, Ouellette, Superintendent McDonald, Deputy Superintendent Robinson, Associate Superintendent Business Services Oladele, Executive Assistant Business Services Crichton, (recorder), and Secretary to the Board Fredland (minutes).

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Adoption of Board Agenda

The Board reviewed the Regular Meeting agenda. The Board agreed to the following additions to the agenda:

- An in-camera session at the end of the meeting to discuss Superintendent recruitment process.
Removal of Professional Development Committee meeting.

MOTION: Vice Chair Koch moved that the Board adopt the Regular Meeting agenda as amended.

UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED 15718

TRUSTEE SELF-DECLARATION OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST

No conflicts.

MINUTES

Regular Board Meeting of January 28, 2025

The Board reviewed the Regular Board Meeting minutes of January 28, 2025.

MOTION: Trustee Martin moved to adopt the minutes of the Regular Board Meeting of January 28, 2025, as circulated.

UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED 15719

BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

No report.

DELEGATIONS, PRESENTATIONS and SYSTEM LEADERSHIP REPORTS

Reading University Presentation

Rhonda and Linda Side from Reading University, along with Director of Teaching and Learning and Reading University Principal Corinne Kruse, presented to the Board regarding the Reading University session that was held July 2 – 19, 2024.

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The Board expressed their appreciation to the presenters and the staff who make Reading University a huge success.

Optimum Learning Framework Implementation and Planning Companion
Director of Teaching and Learning Kruse and Director of Inclusive Learning Gorgichuk presented to the Board an update on the implementation of the division's Optimum Learning Framework (OLF) for the 2024 – 2025 School Year. The Board thanked the presenters for the informative presentation.

COMMITTEES AND REPORTS

Board Chair Report

• School Assurance Meetings

The Board held the following School Assurance Meetings and thanked the School Administrators for the time to present to the Board:

School Assurance Meetings 2025 01 30

- Derek Taylor Public School
- GP Christian School
- I.V. Macklin School
- Riverstone Public School
- Alexander Forbes/The Academy
- Crystal Park School

School Assurance Meetings 2025 02 04

- Aspen Grove Public School
- Parkside Montessori
- Swanavon School
- Roy Bickell Public School
- Hillside Community School
- Avondale School

The Board is thankful to School Administration for the time commitment given to presenting their school strategies with the Board, and shared that the meetings help Trustees in their understanding of how students are supported in the Division.

Public School Boards' Council

- Vice Chair Koch reported to the Board regarding the Public School Boards Council meeting and professional development that was held February 6 – 7, 2025.

Professional Development Committee

- The Professional Development meeting was rescheduled to February 13, 2025.

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Board Policy Committee

- Vice Chair Koch presented to the Board revision recommendations from the Board Policy Committee to Board Policy 2, The Role of the Board.

Discussion was held.

MOTION: Vice Chair Koch moved that the Board approve recommended revisions to Board Policy 2, The Role of Board, as presented and discussed.

UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED 15720

Advocacy and Engagement Committee

- Trustee Martin reported to the Board regarding the Advocacy and Engagement committee meeting held February 11, 2025. The minutes will be included in the next meeting agenda package as information.

Trustee Student Advisory Committee

- Vice Chair Koch reported to the Board regarding the Student Advisory Committee meeting held on January 31, 2025. The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday March 6, 2025.

Individual Trustee Reports

Trustee Buziak discussed Alberta Education's assurance survey process and suggested the Board consider writing a letter discussing the anomalies with the Alberta Education Results Report. Suggestion was made to bring the topic to the next Alberta School Boards Association Zone 1 meeting.

The Trustees thanked Secretary to the Board Fredland for her support over the years and wished her well in her retirement.

Superintendent's Report

Items for Information

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

- AERR (Alberta Education Results Report) Review Meeting
On Monday, January 27, the system educational leadership team met with the division's Alberta Education Field Services manager. These annual meetings are part of Alberta Education's approach to supporting public assurance. Field Services managers meet with school authorities to review their education plans and AERRs, and to support their improvement process.

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- **Employee Appreciation Week**
The Human Resources department is leading the acknowledgement of appreciation for all staff and honouring the dedication and commitment of all employees to the students, by celebrating Employee Appreciation week from February 24-28th. This is the second year of the new format for Employee Appreciation Week.
- **Division Wellness Day**
The culmination of Employee Appreciation Week is the division Wellness Day, on Friday February 28th. Employee Wellness Day is to provide employees with the opportunity to develop new understandings of ways to support their personal well-being, as supporting the emotional and physical well-being and mental health of staff is a priority of our Division. The Board and Administration are grateful to the many community organizations and businesses who make this day possible.
- **Northwestern Polytechnic Teacher Recruitment**
On Thursday January 30th, Deputy Superintendent James Robinson, Director of Teaching and Learning Corinne Kruse, and Wellness Coordinator Carla McLeod attended the Northwestern Polytechnic recruitment fair, held at Center 2000 in Grande Prairie. Student interest in the division was high, with many of the students identifying a desire to work on full-time contracts locally next year.
- **Communication and Contingency Planning**
The Provincial Bargaining Coordination Office provided an update on the status of collective bargaining for non-instructional staff across the province on Friday, January 31st. In addition to the status updates from across the province, the session provided general training on effective communication contingency planning during collective bargaining.
- **Alberta School Business Officials Association (ASBOA) Training**
The Superintendent and Associate Superintendent of Business Services participated in training provided by the Alberta School Board's Association titled *So There's Been an Election, Now What?* On Thursday, February 6. The purpose of the session is to prepare for supporting the election process and onboarding of the Board to be elected in October of 2025.
- **City of Grande Prairie Election Planning**
Senior leadership met with the Director of Legislative and Executive Services for the City of Grande Prairie on Friday, February 7, 2025. Increase of 8 sites to 16 polling station sites this year; significantly increased scope of work to conduct elections under the Election Act.

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Require 8 to 12 polling staff per station per shift, to hand count the ballots, and double the cost more than likely.

Items for Future Action

- ASBA Friends of Education Award
The Board's nomination for the Alberta School Boards Association Friends of Education award is due for submission on March 28. The Friends of Education Award recognizes individuals or organizations that have shown a commitment to improving education in the community and/or made contributions to education in an ASBA member school board.

System Leadership will be meeting with school administrators to identify individuals or organizations who are currently making an impact in their schools. Trustees are asked to think of examples from their experience over the past year and come prepared to the March 11 Committee of the Whole to discuss.

- March 11 Committee of the Whole
The Board workplan includes a Committee of the Whole meeting on March 11 to discuss the draft capital plan. Additionally, trustees have earlier this year asked for a review of trustee compensation to be conducted by the public members of the Division Audit Committee, and to review the analysis of Board Meeting practices prepared by administration. March 11 seems an appropriate time to attend to those additional topics.

Associate Superintendent of Business Services

- Academy Fees Proposed Increase
Associate Superintendent Oladele provided the Board with an update on the increasing costs for administering academy programs. Administration is proposing an adjustment to the fees to ensure that the program remains self-sustaining. Should the Board approve the recommendation, a notice will be distributed to all parents/guardians affected by the fee increase, informing them of the changes and the rationale well in advance of registration opening.

Discussion was held.

MOTION: Trustee Ouellette moved that the Board approve the proposed Academy Fees for the 2025 – 2026 School Year, as discussed.

UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED 15721

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- **2025 – 2026 School Fees Impact**
As part of the 2024/25 school year, the Board approved changes to Appendix A of Board Policy 16: Student Fees. The most significant change was at the Composite High school where fees were increased for Academy Athletics and Welding and a new fee added for IB courses. Feedback indicates that there has been no noticeable decrease in student enrollment despite the fee increase. Students continue to choose these courses based primarily on the content offered and the opportunities available within each program, rather than being deterred by the fee changes.
- **Transportation Update**
The division has completed an analysis of the number of students affected by the upcoming changes to the transportation regulation:
 - 558 students are now eligible for transportation.
 - Out of these, 228 students already pay for transportation services.
 - This leaves 330 new riders who will need to be accommodated starting in the new school year.

The next steps include the internal Transportation team assessing whether the additional students can be accommodated within the current transportation system or if new buses and drivers will be required. Additionally, the division will work closely with the Grande Prairie Catholic School Division to ensure timely communication with parents regarding their children's new eligibility for transportation.

NEW BUSINESS

Trustee Professional Learning and Sharing

- **Alberta School Boards Association Virtual Presentation – AI & Career & Technical Education**
Trustee Martin reported to the Board regarding the AI and Career and Technical Education session on February 6, 2025.

Upcoming Dates and Events

- **Board Workplan**
The Board reviewed the Board workplan as information. Trustees were reminded of the following upcoming events:
 - School Assurance Meetings February 21, 2025
 - Council of School Councils Meeting February 27, 2025 – Joan not attending but Donna will do it.

Trustee Johnston inquired when the next Continuous Improvement Index Committee will meet, and Administration responded that they are awaiting the final kindergarten assessments.

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Correspondence

- 2025 02 06 Letter from NLPS to Minister Regarding Data

IN CAMERA SESSION

MOTION: Trustee Ouellette moved that the Board go in camera to discuss personnel at 8:15 p.m.

UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED 15722

MOTION: Trustee Martin moved that the Board come out of camera at 8:34 p.m.

UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED 15723

ACTIONS ARISING FROM IN CAMERA

No actions.

NEXT MEETING AND ADJOURNMENT

Next Board Meeting and Adjournment

The next meeting of the Board of Trustees is scheduled for Tuesday, February 25, 2025, to be held at Central Office in the Board Room.

Board Chair Nellis called the Regular Board Meeting closed at 8:35 p.m.

Chair

Secretary-Treasurer