



**Grande Prairie  
Public School  
Division**

**AGENDA**  
**Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees of the**  
**Grande Prairie Public School Division**  
**Tuesday, May, 13, 2025 6:00PM**

<b>1. CALL TO ORDER and INTRODUCTIONS</b>		
a.	National Anthem, Territorial Land Recognition, and Board Universal Guiding Principles	Board Chair Nellis
b.	Adoption of the Agenda	Board Chair Nellis
c.	Trustee Self-Declaration of Conflict of Interest	Trustees
d.	Approval of the Minutes <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Regular Board Meeting Minutes 2025 04 22</li> </ul>	Board Chair Nellis
e.	Business Arising from Previous Minutes	
<b>2. DELEGATIONS, PRESENTATIONS and SYSTEM LEADERSHIP REPORTS</b>		
a.	Career Pathways Framework Report	Director Frykas Principal Vobeyda
<b>3. COMMITTEES AND REPORTS</b>		
a.	Board Chair Report <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>2025 04 23 Trustees Engagement Session - TEBA/ATA Mediator's Recommendations</li> <li>2025 04 23 ASBA: Protection of Privacy Act and Access to Information Act session</li> </ul>	Board Chair Nellis
b.	Public School Boards' Association of Alberta Update <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>2025 04 23 Jordan's Principle Discussion</li> <li>2025 04 25 PSBAA Polling Survey Briefing/Webinar</li> </ul>	Vice Chair Koch
c.	Teacher Trustee Liaison Committee <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>2025 05 06 TTLC Meeting</li> </ul>	Trustee Martin Trustee Johnston
d.	Board Spring Governance Retreat <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>2025 05 01 Board Retreat</li> </ul>	Board Chair Nellis
e.	Advocacy and Engagement Committee <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>2025 05 13 Advocacy and Engagement Meeting</li> </ul>	Trustee Martin
f.	GPPSD Education Foundation Committee <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>2025 05 08 Education Foundation Meeting</li> </ul>	Trustee Martin
g.	Council of School Councils Update and Reports <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>2025 05 08 Council of School Councils Meeting</li> </ul>	Board Chair Nellis
h.	Individual Trustee Reports (round table)	Trustees

i.	<p><b>Superintendent's Report</b></p> <p>Items for Information</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• College of Alberta School Superintendents (CASS) Zone 1 Meeting – May 2</li> <li>• 3D Children's Charity Tournament – May 9</li> <li>• Elementary Social Studies Report Card Working Group</li> <li>• Administrators Professional Learning &amp; May Principals Meeting – May 14</li> <li>• 2024 – 2025 Division Assurance Survey Results</li> <li>• Education Amendment Act, 2024</li> </ul> <p>Items for Discussion or Action</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 2025 – 2026 Board Social Planning</li> </ul>	Superintendent McDonald
j.	<p><b>Associate Superintendent of Business Services Report</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 2024/2025 School Fees Impact</li> <li>• <b>Policy 16 - Student Fees 2025-2026</b></li> <li>• Non-Instructional Staff Benefits</li> </ul>	Associate Superintendent Oladele
<b>4. NEW BUSINESS</b>		
a.	Trustee Professional Learning and Sharing	Trustees
b.	<p>Upcoming Dates and Events</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Board Workplan</b></li> </ul>	Trustees
c.	<p>Correspondence</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 2025 04 16 Letter from Deputy Minister of Education – re: Harry Balfour School</li> <li>• 2025 04 22 Response from Minister of Education – re: Non-instructional agreement Ratification</li> <li>• 2025 04 23 Charter School Proposal Response – GPPSD</li> <li>• 2025 04 23 Harry Balfour School response – GPPSD</li> <li>• 2025 04 29 Letter from Red Deer Catholic Regional Schools to Dr. Wong AMA Section of Pediatrics – re: Advocacy for Enhanced Early Intervention Supports for Students with Complex Needs</li> <li>• 2025 04 30 Charter School Response – GPCSD</li> </ul>	Board Chair Nellis
d.	In-Camera	Board Chair Nellis
e.	Actions Arising from In-Camera Discussion	Board Chair Nellis
f.	Actions Arising from Presentations or Delegations	Board Chair Nellis
g.	Next Meeting and Adjournment	Board Chair Nellis

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF  
TRUSTEES OF THE GRANDE PRAIRIE PUBLIC SCHOOL DIVISION  
HELD AT CENTRAL OFFICE ON **April 22, 2025**

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

Regrets: Superintendent McDonald

**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 land, labour, and legal update.

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

UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED 15741

**TRUSTEE SELF-  
DECLARATION  
OF CONFLICT OF  
INTEREST**

No conflicts.

**MINUTES**

Regular Board Meeting of March 25, 2025

The Board reviewed the Regular Board Meeting minutes of March 25, 2025.

**MOTION:** Trustee Martin moved to adopt the minutes of the Regular Board Meeting of March 25, 2025, as circulated.

UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED 15742

**BUSINESS ARISING  
FROM THE MINUTES**

None to report.

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF  
TRUSTEES OF THE GRANDE PRAIRIE PUBLIC SCHOOL DIVISION  
HELD AT CENTRAL OFFICE ON **April 22, 2025**

**DELEGATIONS,  
PRESENTATIONS  
and SYSTEM  
LEADERSHIP  
REPORTS**

Review 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter Budget Update

Associate Superintendent Oladele presented the second-quarter financial update for the 2024–2025 school year, covering the six-month period ending February 28, 2025. The Spring budget, revised in the Fall, reflects updated revenue and expenses related to the school startup process. As a result of these adjustments, budgeted revenue increased by \$795K, bringing the total revenue to \$115,028,052. At the same time, expenses were revised by \$1.2 million to a total of \$11,935,284. These changes resulted in a projected deficit of \$4.3 million, which ensures that the Division remains aligned with the ASO limit.

There was discussion on:

- Projected and actual revenues and expenses.
- Projected deficit and shortfall.
- Discussions occurring with Principals to identify capital projects that would offset the deficit.
- Budgets for schools with lower enrolment percentages.

The Board thanked Deputy Superintendent Robinson and Associate Superintendent Oladele for the informative report.

Annual Employee Wellness Report

Deputy Superintendent Robinson introduced the report. Director of Human Resources, Tammie Maurer, and Director of Schools - Inclusive Learning, Nancy Gorgichuk, presented the Annual Employee Wellness Report to the Board. The purpose of the report was to provide information to the Board of Trustees and provide assurance that the Division is committed to fostering a workplace that prioritizes wellness, engagement, and psychological health and safety. Highlights included an overview of the 9 elements of wellness that guide the work of the division in supporting employee wellness and a review of staff satisfaction with various wellness initiatives, including the division employee wellness day.

The Board thanked Director Gorgichuk, Director Maurer and the Human Resources Team for the informative report and for everything they are doing to further Employee Wellness at the Division.

**COMMITTEES AND  
REPORTS**

Board Chair Report

- Education Bill in Spring Legislative Session – Information Session  
Chair Nellis and Deputy Superintendent Robinson attended and commented on the Education Bill in Spring Legislative Session – Information Session on April 9, 2025 hosted by the Ministry of Education.  
Key takeaways included: replacing “Private” with “Independent” Schools in Education Act; the removal of Codes of Conduct for Boards; Recall

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF  
TRUSTEES OF THE GRANDE PRAIRIE PUBLIC SCHOOL DIVISION  
HELD AT CENTRAL OFFICE ON **April 22, 2025**

notices; fee tied to appeals for teacher complaints; and Alberta Infrastructure will own new schools builds and lease them to school divisions.

- Local Podium Event at Grande Prairie Composite High School  
Chair Nellis, Trustee Martin, Deputy Superintendent Robinson, Associate Superintendent Oladele, Principal Vobeyda, and GPPSD System Directors attended a funding announcement with MLA Nolan Dyck on April 11, 2025 for design funding for a permanent addition to Grande Prairie Composite High School which was approved in the 2025 Provincial Budget. The addition will be three stories and house 18 new classrooms.
- Alberta School Boards Association Update  
Trustee Buziak reported to the Board regarding the ASBA Zone 1 meeting held April 9, 2025 at the GPPSD Central Office. President Denis and CEO Abboud attended in-person and spoke about ASBA's 2025-2026 Budget, a proposed membership fee increase of 2.5% for next year, and Director Henkel spoke about a review of the Inclusive Education Model.
- Public School Boards' Association of Alberta Update  
Vice-Chair Koch commented on the PSBC Meeting held April 10-11, 2025 in Edmonton. Discussion topics included Charter Schools; "sharenting"; changes in transportation; polling results; 2026 Budget; and proposed membership fee increase of 5%.
- Board Professional Learning Retreat  
Chair Nellis commented on Board Professional Learning Session held on March 27, 2025. The Trustees in attendance reviewed three Board policies and developed a toolkit on how review policies from a strategic and governance lens.
- 2025 Chamber Roundtable  
As members of the Grande Prairie and District Chamber of Commerce for over 25 years, the Division was invited to participate in the 2025 Annual Chamber of Commerce Roundtable event, held on April 4, 2025. Attended by Vice-Chair Donna Koch and Deputy Superintendent Robinson, the event provided the opportunity to share information about the Division with members of the public sector and business and industry partners in the region. Opportunities to connect with the community are very important to the Board and this event highlighted the importance of community partnerships.

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF  
TRUSTEES OF THE GRANDE PRAIRIE PUBLIC SCHOOL DIVISION  
HELD AT CENTRAL OFFICE ON **April 22, 2025**

Individual Trustee Reports

Trustee Buziak commented on the proposed response letter that will be discussed during the Deputy Superintendent report.

Trustee Ouellette commented on the Avondale School Council Meeting on April 16. Through the APPLE Schools program, Avondale School was entered into a contest sponsored by the Toronto Blue Jays. Avondale received 30 baseball gloves, baseballs, baseball bats, bat bags, and a set of bases for the baseball diamond.

Deputy Superintendent's Report

**Items for Information**

Deputy Superintendent Robinson shared the Superintendent's Report to the Board as information, which included the following information:

- **High School Meeting**  
On Tuesday, March 25, system educational leadership met with principals from the Bridge Network, Charles Spencer High School, and the Grande Prairie Composite High School for their regularly scheduled high school update meeting. Topics discussed included reviewing high school first responders programming, new curriculum piloting and implementation, dual credit options for 2026-2027 (including asynchronous learning), and summer school 2025.
- **All Administrators Monthly Virtual Meeting**  
The monthly information meeting was held on March 26. Topics included clarity around staff use of school facilities, information our anticipated staffing timelines, Division Assurance Survey information, information about the Career Pathways engagement on April 22, and information on training sessions for the new interpretative services pilot described in a previous board report.
- **Career Pathways "Choose Your Own Adventure"**  
Development of the Career Pathways Framework began in the spring of 2024. The GPPSD Career Pathways Framework serves as a foundational structure that provides clarity and coherence of career education. The framework emphasizes the interconnectedness of PK-12 education, families, industry, post-secondary, and community partners. The April 22nd engagement, taking place at Grande Prairie Composite High School Theatre and available virtually, was open to all parents, students, community and industry members. The evening consisted of a one-hour session for parents, students, community, and industry, presented by our Careers School Engagement Coordinator, to

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF  
TRUSTEES OF THE GRANDE PRAIRIE PUBLIC SCHOOL DIVISION  
HELD AT CENTRAL OFFICE ON **April 22, 2025**

learn more about: High School Completion Requirements, CTS – Career and Technology Studies Programming, Work Experience Programming, Registered Apprenticeship Programming, and Dual Credit Programming. Director Kim Frykas and Principal Dennis Vobeyda will present the division's work in this area at the May 13 Board Meeting.

- **Changes To Alberta's Access to Information and Privacy Legislation**  
On April 9, members of the System Administration team attended an ASBOA webinar presented by Brownlee LLP on Bill 33 and Bill 34, two recent pieces of legislation intended to replace existing FOIP legislation.
- **Peace Collaborative Services (PCS) Governance Meeting**  
The annual meeting of the senior administration from the partner school divisions in PCS occurred on April 10. Each division identified priorities and affirmed their continued partnership. The 2025-2026 year has been successful to date with professional services being offered to our students by a blend of PCS employees and contractors.
- **Division Assurance Surveys**  
Grande Prairie Public School Division's Annual Assurance Survey results inform our annual Division and School Education Plans and helps improve the quality of education for all community members. The online survey was distributed to all parents on April 7th, and they have until April 25th to provide feedback. Schools are also supporting all staff and students in grades 4-12 to complete the survey.
- **Teacher Bursary Update**  
The 2025 Teacher Bursary Program attracted strong interest, with 60 applications received from students and graduates in their first through final years of the Bachelor of Education program. Four applicants in their final year of the program were awarded employment contracts and a \$5000 bursary. The successful candidates brought strengths in areas such as French Immersion, Secondary Education, Indigenous Studies, and demonstrated flexibility in their teaching interests. Additionally, 3 more bursaries will be made available to year 3 teachers.

**Items for Future Action**

- **ASBA Edwin Parr Award Nominee**  
Administration is proud to submit a nomination for Miss Ailee Estrada, a Grade 5 teacher at Hillside Community School, as the Division's Zone 1 Edwin Parr Award nominee.

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF  
TRUSTEES OF THE GRANDE PRAIRIE PUBLIC SCHOOL DIVISION  
HELD AT CENTRAL OFFICE ON **April 22, 2025**

**MOTION:** Trustee Martin moved that the Board approve Ailee Estrada, Grade 5 teacher at Hillside Community School, as the Division's 2024-2025 nominee for the Zone 1 Edwin Parr Teacher Award.

UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED 15743

The Board thanked Administration for their work, and Miss Estrada for their dedication to teaching at the Division.

- **Proposed Charter School: Division Response**  
A draft response on behalf of the Division to the Minister of Education regarding the proposed Charter School was reviewed by the Board. The Board approved the letter with the addition of copies being sent to the Peace Wapiti Public School Division, the Grande Prairie Catholic School Division, MLA Nolan Dyck, and MLA Ron Wiebe. The Board thanked Administration for their development of the response letter.

Associate Superintendent of Business Services

Associate Superintendent Oladele shared the Associate Superintendent of Business Services' Report to the Board as information, which included the following information:

- **Jordan's Principle Funding Update**  
Indigenous Services Canada (ISC) recently announced changes to the Jordan's Principle (JP) program. These changes are being made to narrow the scope of eligible requests, ensuring the program better aligns with its original intent and remains sustainable long-term. JP is intended to address urgent needs and should not replace provincial or territorial responsibilities or be used for requests outside its intended scope.

For GPPSD, these changes mean a loss of \$1.86 million annual funding. This will affect 56 Educational Assistants (EAs), whose JP-funded contracts will not be renewed after June 30th. Some of these EAs may move into other positions within the division. There was discussion on exemptions.

Board recessed at 8:12pm for a short break.  
The meeting was called back to order at 8:18pm.

- **2025/2026 Division Funding Profile**  
On March 25, Alberta Education released the 2025/26 Funding Profile for school divisions, followed by the Funding Manual about a week later. GPPSD's overall funding for the next school year increased by \$3.8 million (4.1%).



MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF  
TRUSTEES OF THE GRANDE PRAIRIE PUBLIC SCHOOL DIVISION  
HELD AT CENTRAL OFFICE ON **April 22, 2025**

- Key Change: Adjusted Enrolment Method (AEM)  
Alberta Education has replaced the previous enrolment calculation method (Weighted Moving Average) with a new approach called the Adjusted Enrolment Method (AEM). The new AEM calculation uses 70% of projected enrolment for next year and 30% of current-year enrolment to determine our funding.
- Funding Breakdown:
  - Base Instruction Grants: Overall increase of \$1.76 million
  - Program Supports & Services: Overall increase of \$735K
  - School-Based Grants: Overall increase of \$1.3 million
- General Thoughts: collective agreement for non-instructional is unfunded and instructional agreement is yet to be settled; combining the SLS Severe Kindergarten and PUF into one grant; unfunded student support programs.
- Funding Adjustment (Claw back): For the current school year, GPPSD projected enrolment of 9,089 students in the spring budget. Actual enrolment was lower, at 8,940 students, a shortfall of 1.7%. Alberta Education's standard procedure is to adjust (claw back) funding based on such enrolment discrepancies. The recently released funding profile confirmed Alberta Education would retain \$578K from GPPSD due to this variance. However, this adjustment is approximately \$867K less than initially projected in the Fall budget.

**NEW BUSINESS**

Trustee Professional Learning and Sharing

Nothing to report.

Upcoming Dates and Events

- Board Workplan  
The Board reviewed the Board workplan as information. Trustees were reminded of the following upcoming events:
  - Board Spring Governance Retreat 2025 05 01
    - Review Draft 3 Year Educational Plan
    - Review Draft Division Assurance Summary
    - Review 2025-2026 Division Budget Development
  - ASBA Speakers' Corner 2025 05 05
  - TTLC Meeting (3:45 pm) 2025 05 06
  - Council of School Councils Meeting 2025 05 08
  - Advocacy & Engagement Committee (3:30 pm) 2025 05 13
  - Review Draft Division 2025-26 Budget 2025 05 13
  - ASBA Zone 1 2025 05 14
  - Grande Prairie Composite HS Graduation (11:00am) 2025 05 16
  - Non-Instructional Support Staff Committee (4:15 pm) 2025 05 21

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF  
TRUSTEES OF THE GRANDE PRAIRIE PUBLIC SCHOOL DIVISION  
HELD AT CENTRAL OFFICE ON **April 22, 2025**

Correspondence

- 2025 03 12 – Correspondence from GPCSD to Minister of Education – re: Standardized Diagnostic Testing
- 2025 04 10 – Correspondence from Superintendent to Parent – re: Follow-up from March 17 Meeting 2025
- 2025 04 15 – Correspondence from Minister of Education & Minister of Infrastructure – re: Capital Planning Approval

**IN CAMERA  
SESSION**

**MOTION:** Trustee Martin moved that the Board go in camera to discuss land, labour, and legal at 8:40 p.m.

UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED 15744

**MOTION:** Trustee Buziak moved that the Board come out of camera at 9:26 p.m.

UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED 15745

**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, May 13, 2025, to be held at Central Office in the Board Room.

Board Chair Nellis called the Regular Board Meeting closed at 9:27 p.m.

---

Chair

---

Secretary-Treasurer



**DATE:** May 13, 2025

**TO:** Board of Trustees

**FROM:** Kimberly Frykas, Director of System Planning

**SUBJECT:** Career Pathways Framework

**REFERENCE:** Board Policy 1, Education Ministry Business Plan Outcome 3, Premier's Mandate Letter Regarding Education (09/25/23), Alberta Career Education Task Force

---

## **PURPOSE**

The purpose of the Career Pathways Framework is to provide students with a coordinated approach supporting kindergarten to grade twelve career education to develop their understanding of career planning and the world of work.

Aligned with the Education Ministry Business Plan, the Premier's Mandate Letter Regarding Education, and the recommendations from the Alberta Career Education Task Force, the framework outlines the implementation of Priority 1, Outcome 2 of the Division Education Plan that identifies "students are supported to succeed from early learning to high school completion and beyond".

The key strategies outlined in the Division Education Plan are:

- Multiple pathways and a continuum of supports respond to student needs to prepare them to complete high school
- Students are taught to self-reflect, set goals, and persevere to increase their readiness to transition through their schooling
- Students and families are provided opportunities to learn about career pathways and develop their readiness to transition to life beyond high school

Understanding the framework provides the Board of Trustees with background information to continue to advocate for flexible funding to support curriculum and programming, such as Dual Credit and Off Campus Programming, to develop student knowledge and skills to be successful in life after high school.

## **DEVELOPMENT and ENGAGEMENT**

The framework was developed by Kim Frykas and Dennis Vobeyda, Principal of the Grande Prairie Composite High School and supported by a committee of principals. Teacher feedback was provided by teachers currently piloting a career exploration and planning software program, myBlueprint. Feedback sessions were organized for all administrators, Leadership Academy Teachers and an evening session for students, parents, industry, and community was hosted at the Grande Prairie Composite High School.

Feedback from the Board of Trustees on May 13 will be followed by a second session with teachers piloting myBlueprint and the Student Advisory Committee.

## **SUMMARY**

After final stakeholder feedback has been collected, the committee will finalize the Career Pathways Framework. The focus for the 2025 – 2026 school year is implementing the framework, collating curricular resources to support teachers and expanding opportunities for high school students in the areas of Dual Credit, Work Experience, and Registered Apprenticeship Programming.



## Grande Prairie Public School Division **Career Pathways Framework**

*Draft Updated March 2025*

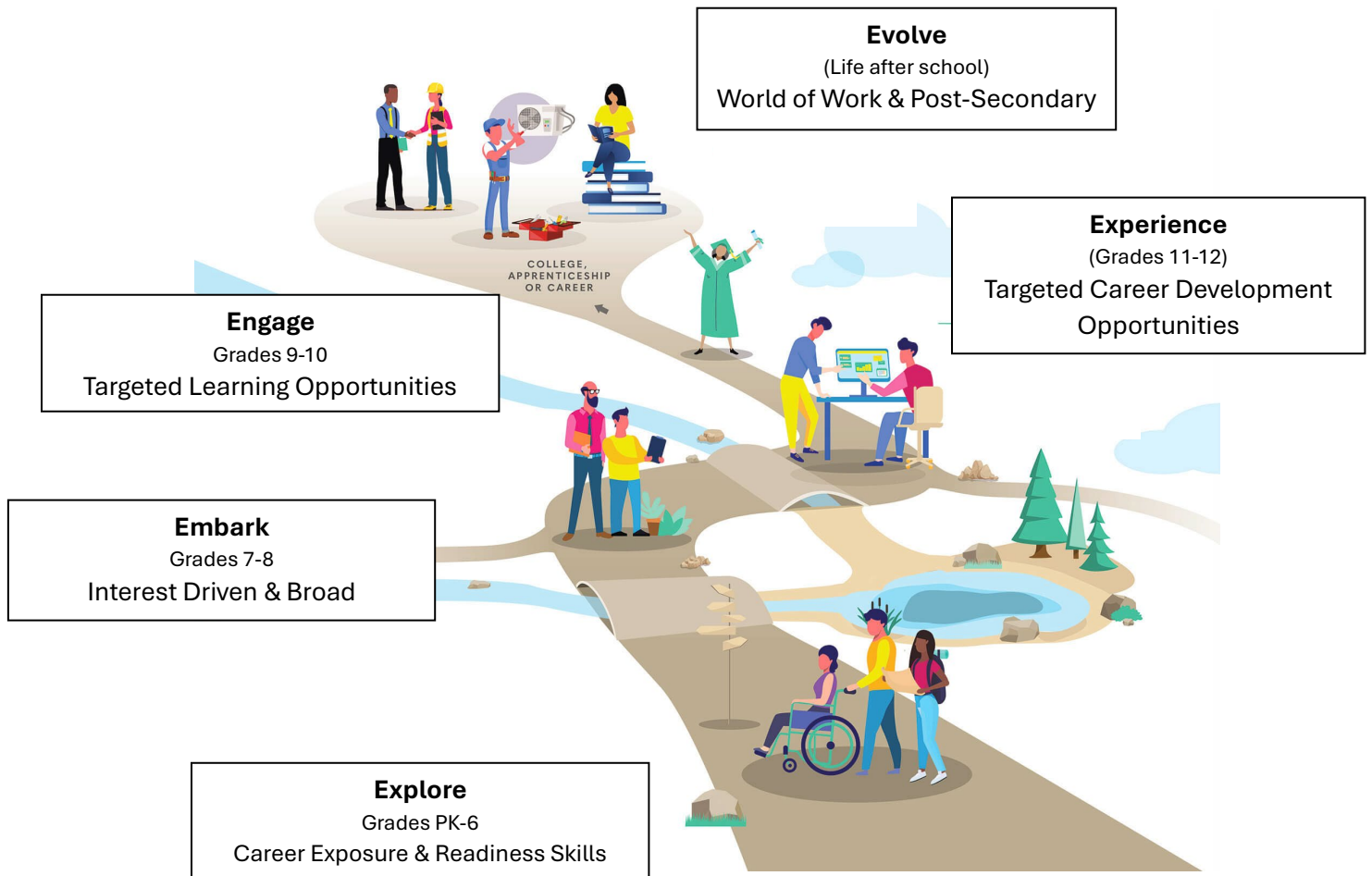


**Grande Prairie  
Public School  
Division**

# Grande Prairie Public School Division

## Career Pathways

### *Choose your own Adventure*



The Career Pathway Framework supports students to succeed from early learning to high school completion and beyond. **Multiple pathways and a continuum of support** teaches students to self-reflect, set goals, and persevere.

**Partnerships** with industry, family, post-secondary and community broadens student exploration and experiences.

**Opportunities** for students and families to learn about career pathways and develop readiness skills prepares them for life after school

### Competencies & Skills

Critical thinking  
Problem solving  
Digital  
Research & managing information

Citizenship  
Adaptability  
Reading

Communication  
Creativity & Innovation  
Writing

Collaboration  
Personal Growth & Well Being  
Numeracy

# GPPSD Career Pathways

## *“Choose Your Own Adventure”*

### Mission

**Career Pathways “*Choose your own Adventure*” – inspiring hope and curiosity while supporting students to succeed from early learning to high school completion and beyond.**

### Vision

**Multiple pathways and a continuum of support allow students to self-reflect, set goals, and persevere. Providing opportunities, through partnerships with industry, post-secondary and community, supports students and families to learn about career pathways and develop readiness skills for life after school.**

### Foundational Understanding - Career Pathways Framework

The Board of Trustees of the Grande Prairie Public School Division has developed the Division’s vision, mission, and guiding principles through Board Policy 1. The GPPSD Career Pathways Framework serves as a foundational structure that provides clarity and coherence. The framework emphasizes the interconnectedness of PK-12 education, families, industry, post-secondary, community partners.

The framework allows students to learn about themselves, examine interests, explore and engage in opportunities to identify their strengths, set goals and develop a plan for life after high school. Programming supports the development of confident, well-rounded citizens.

Creating opportunities for families to learn about career pathways and strategies to support student readiness to transition to life beyond high school are integrated into the plan.

An increased focus on Dual Credit and Registered Apprenticeship programming will support increased transition rates from high school to post-secondary.

Strengthening partnerships with industry to support work experience and registered apprenticeship programming is a key strategy as “more than 1 in 6 Albertans work in a trades, transport or related occupation”. (Statistics Canada, Labour Force Survey, 2014 to 2023 Annual Average). Partnerships with the community and industry are essential in supporting student learning.



## Connection to the Division Education Plan

The Grande Prairie Public School Division Education Plan 2024 – 2027 guides the Career Pathways Framework.

### **Priority: Teaching and Learning**

Outcome 1: Student success is ensured through quality teaching in optimum learning environments.

Outcome 2: Students are supported to succeed from early learning to high school completion and beyond.

- Multiple pathways and a continuum of supports respond to student needs to prepare them to complete high school
- Students are taught to self-reflect, set goals, and persevere to increase their readiness to transition through their schooling
- Students and families are provided opportunities to learn about career pathways and develop their readiness to transition to life beyond high school

## Connection to the Education Ministry Business Plan

Grande Prairie Public School Division's Career Pathways Framework supports the Education Ministry Business Plan 2025-2028 and the Premier's Mandate Letter Regarding Education (09/25/23). Additionally, Career Pathways works towards the desired outcomes outlined in final report from the Alberta Career Education Task Force that engaged Albertans and education stakeholders across Alberta to gather feedback on grades 7-12 career education programming.

### **Education Ministry Business Plan**

Outcome 3: Alberta's students have access to a variety of learning opportunities to enhance competitiveness in the modern economy

The ministry provides innovative learning opportunities to ensure a variety of career pathways for students to enter post-secondary education or their chosen fields in the workforce.

#### **Key Objectives**

3.1. Enhance the availability and sustainability of career education programming opportunities that enable students to explore and experience various occupations throughout grades 7 to 12.

3.2. Collaborate with other ministries, education and industry partners to improve the preparedness of students transitioning from high school into a broad range of careers and post-secondary training.

3.3. Continue to support collegiate school opportunities to create more pathways for students to post-secondary education and the workforce

## Alberta Career Education Task Force Outcomes

- Expose students to a greater breadth of possible careers
- Create opportunities for hands-on, experiential learning in a field(s) of interest
- Increase access to career-related courses and subject matter experts in one's area(s) of career interest
- Increase access to effective and appropriate career planning, support and advice
- Create connections between schools, students, post-secondary institutions and employers
- Ensure equitable and sustainable funding for programming

## GPPSD Career Pathway Phases

There are five phases to the Career Pathways Framework:

- **EXPLORE:** Career Readiness Skills (Pre-Kindergarten to Grade 6)
- **EMBARK:** Interest Driven and Broad (Grades 7-8)
- **ENGAGE:** Targeted Learning Opportunities (Grades 9-10)
- **EXPERIENCE:** Targeted Career Development Opportunities (Grades 11–12)
- **EVOLVE:** Life After School, World of Work and Post Secondary

## Career Pathways Investment

- Off Campus Coordinator(s) (10-12)
- Academic/Career Counsellors (9-12)
- School Engagement Coordinator in Partnership with Careers
- myBlueprint (grades 7-12)
- Course content creation CTR, CALM, Physical Education and Wellness
- Grade level curation of resources to meet curricular outcomes



**CAREER PATHWAYS**  
*Choose your own Adventure*

Phases	EXPLORE PK-6 Career readiness skills	EMBARK 7-8 Interest Driven and Broad	ENGAGE 9-10 Targeted Learning Opportunities	EXPERIENCE 11-12 Targeted Career Development Opportunities	EVOLVE Life after school	
PK-12	Physical Education & Wellness	Health Career and Technology Foundations		Career and Life Management (CALM) Career and Technology Studies		
	Programs of Choice (STEM, Music)			Program of Choice Option courses		
				TYKTW	Work Experience	
				Academic and career counselling Internships, mentorship, SKILLS Canada		
				Registered Apprenticeship Program (RAP) Skilled Trades Yr 1		
	Targeted student and parent sessions and communication School Engagement Coordinator					
	CERIC Grades 4-6	myBlueprint (TBD) Career and Post-Secondary Fairs				
Post Secondary	Understanding post-secondary pathways Post Secondary Fairs					
				Intro to STEM/Trades	Dual Credit & Collegiate	Post-Secondary & Skilled Trades
Community & Industry	Presentations and Field Trips			Work Experience		Self Employed Industry
			RAP			
	Events: Destination Imagination, Science Olympics Parent and student sessions					
		CAREERS Career Fairs				
Family Support	Engage with child to discuss/support pathways, skills and opportunities myBlueprint (7-12) Parent Account (TBD) Access school supports					
		Careers School Engagement Coordinator				

## ACADEMIC PATHWAYS

Grande Prairie Public School Division programming offers multiple pathways for students to explore and gain experience in areas of interest while developing readiness skills for life after school.

### Arts Pathway

Languages, fine arts and the social science areas of study are offered through Alberta Education curriculum, Programs of Choice and Dual Credit.

ARTS			
K-6	7-8	9-10	11-12
Humanities			
Language Arts and Social Studies			
Fine Arts			
Division Music, Art, Drama		Art, Band, Orchestra, Choir, Drama, Art, Musical Theatre	
Languages			
French Immersion and French as a Second Language			
		Dual Credit Cree	
		Spanish	
Other			
		Dual Credit – Psychology, English, History, Political Science	

## Career and Technology Pathways

Career and Technology Studies (CTS) is designed for high school students and Career and Technology Foundations (CTF) is designed for grades 5-9 students. These programs of study allow students to explore their interests and career options.

These courses offer students opportunities to develop skills that can be applied in their daily lives and improve their employability following high school. Students can explore five career and technology clusters:

- Business, Administration, Finance & Information Technology (BIT)
- Health, Recreation & Human Services (HRH)
- Media, Design & Communication Arts (MDC)
- Natural Resources (NAT)
- Trades, Manufacturing & Transportation (TMT)

Career and Technology Pathways			
K-6	7-8	9-10	11-12
CTF (5-9)		CTS (10-12)	
Physical Education and Wellness (K-6)	Physical Education and Health (7-9)		CALM
		Work Experience, Registered Apprenticeship Program, Green Certificate	
		Credentials	
			Skilled Trades - 1 <sup>st</sup> period Apprenticeship
		Dual Credit Intro to Trades	Dual Credit – Surveying, Power Engineering
			Collegiate Pathways (TBD)
			SKILLS Competitions
Science / Math			
Industry Partner Presentations			
Exploratory Days			

## STEM Pathway

STEM Learning is a GPPSD Program of Choice offering Kindergarten to Grade 8 students an opportunity to develop a passion in the areas of "Science, Technology, Engineering and Math." This program of choice is offered at Crystal Park School, Derek Taylor School, and Hillside Community School. STEM learning opportunities in grades 9-12 are available through high school courses and programming.

Throughout the Kindergarten to Grade 8 programming, students investigate and explore innovative and creative solutions to real world problems. Connecting with experts, collaborating with community partners, and integrating Indigenous perspectives enhances opportunities for students to engage with the world around them and prepare for future careers.

STEM			
K-6	7-8	9-10	11-12
CTF (5-9)		CTS (10-12)	
STEM Program of Choice			Dual Credit – Health Pathways
		Pre-IB	IB
			WISEST (U of A)
Science / Math			
Industry Partner Presentations			
Exploratory Days			

## Dual Credit Pathways

Dual Credit programming allows Grade 11 or 12 students to earn both high school credits and credits that count towards a post-secondary certificate, diploma, or degree, and or a journeyman certificate.

Dual Credit helps students to:

- get a start on their post-secondary education while still in high school.
- complete high school while engaging in meaningful curriculum.
- transition to post-secondary studies or move into the world of work.
- potentially complete post-secondary with less financial debt.

Dual Credit	
11-12	
STEM Collegiate (TBD)	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Health</li> <li>• Engineering</li> <li>• Computer Sciences</li> <li>• Visual Arts &amp; Design</li> </ul>	
Dual Credit	
Northwest Polytech	Northern Lakes College
<b>Business</b> Business Communications Principles of Business <b>Education</b> Human Development Supporting Inclusion in Early Learning <b>Health</b> Health Care Aide Role & Responsibility Human Body Communications in Health Care Person-Centered Care <b>Humanities</b> Basic Psychological Processes Introduction to Sociology Introduction to Social Work Canadian History 1867 to Present <b>Trades (grade 10)</b> Introduction to the Trades	<b>Education</b> Educational Assistant <b>Trades</b> Introduction to Surveying Power Engineering 4 <sup>th</sup> Class <b>University Transfer</b> Introduction to English Communications for the Helping Profession Health Education: Personal Health and Wellness Canadian Politics: Institutions and Issues Introduction to Statistics

## Measurement and Accountability

### Provincial and Division Survey Results

- High School Completion Rates
- Work Preparation
- Transition Rates
- Access to programs
- Lifelong learning
- Prepared to complete high school
- Prepared for life after high school

### Yearly Average Student Attendance

### Engagement with staff, students, parents, industry, post-secondary institutions and community

- topic specific
- survey (ThoughtExchange)
- in person

## Legislation and Initiatives

The Career Pathways Framework is supported by legislation and several key initiatives:

- [Ministerial Order on Student Learning #005/2024](#)
- [Education Ministry Business Plan 2024 - 2027](#)
- [Premier's mandate letter regarding education in Alberta released on July 25, 2023](#)
- [Career Education in Alberta: Career Education Task Force Final Report](#)
- [The guiding framework for the design and development of kindergarten to Grade 12 curriculum](#)
- [Career and Life Management \(CALM\)](#)
- [Physical Education and Wellness Grades K-6](#)
- [Health and Life Skills Grades 7-9](#)
- [Career and Technology Foundations \(CTF\) Grades 5-9](#)
- [Career and Technology Studies \(CTS\) Grades 10-12](#)
- [1<sup>st</sup> Period Apprenticeship \(on campus\)](#)
- [Alberta Off-Campus Education](#)
- [Alberta Dual Credit](#)
- [Alberta Collegiate Schools](#)
- [Locally Developed Courses](#)
- [International Baccalaureate Programme](#)
- [Division STEM Program of Choice](#)
- [GPPSD Optimum Learning Framework](#)

## Appendix A:

### SURVEY MEASURE RESULTS

Multiple Pathways to High School Completion	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Work Experience (% of credits)	4.5%	2.4%	5.8%	6.9%	5.8%
RAP & CTS (% of credits)	14%	16.9%	18.7%	20.8%	18.5%
Online Programming (# students registered in at least one course)	0	438	141	226	287
Bridge Network (credit attain.)	1816	1369	1646	1891	2382

Division Assurance Survey – Percentage of parents, students and staff agree that	Parents				Students				Staff			
	2021	2022	2023	2024	2021	2022	2023	2024	2021	2022	2023	2024
Students are prepared academically to complete high school	91	93	90	88	84	82	82	82	95	93	95	94
Students are prepared for life after high school	89	90	87	86	82	81	82	80	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Students are prepared socially and emotionally to complete high school	94	95	92	91	89	87	87	87	92	88	87	86

Percentage of teachers and parents who agree that students are taught attitudes and behaviours that will make them successful at work when they finish high school.										
	Division					Province				
	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Overall	84.0	87.3	81.5	82.8	78.2	84.1	85.7	84.9	83.1	82.8
Parent	74.3	79.3	72.0	73.1	67.8	76.0	77.8	77.3	75.0	74.8
Teacher	93.8	95.4	91.0	92.6	88.6	92.2	93.7	92.5	93.1	90.7

Percentage of teacher and parent satisfaction that students demonstrate the knowledge, skills, and attitudes necessary for lifelong learning.										
	Division					Province				
	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Overall	71.8	82.3	77.5	77.0	74.6	72.3	82.1	81.0	80.4	79.9
Parent	64.4	76.1	71.6	67.8	65.6	64.6	75.3	74.6	73.4	73.3
Teacher	79.2	88.5	83.4	86.2	83.7	80.6	88.9	87.4	87.3	86.6



**Grande Prairie  
Public School  
Division**

**DATE:** May 13, 2025

**TO:** Board of Trustees

**FROM:** Sandy McDonald, Superintendent of Schools

**SUBJECT:** Superintendent's Report

**REFERENCE:** Board Policy 2 – The Role of the Board, Board Policy 18 – Superintendent of Schools/CEO Roles and Responsibilities. Superintendent Leadership Quality Standard.

### **ITEMS FOR INFORMATION**

#### **COLLEGE OF ALBERTA SCHOOL SUPERINTENDENTS (CASS) ZONE 1 MEETING**

The Zone 1 College of Alberta School Superintendents meeting was held the morning of Friday, May 2, at the Peace Wapiti Public School Division offices. This meeting provided the opportunity for system leaders with similar roles to meet to discuss specific topics such as recruitment, curriculum, and addressing the impact of changes to Jordan's Principle funding, receiving updates from Alberta Education and the CASS Provincial Board. Members also discussed the impact of recently passed and proposed legislative amendments, elected the zone executive for the 2025-2026 school year, and set the 2025-2026 meeting dates. Thank you to Director of System Planning, Kim Frykas, who will be providing system educational leadership to Zone 1 as the Chair of the Zone for Chair next year.

#### **3D CHARITY TOURNAMENT**

The annual 3 on 3 soccer and ball hockey tournament, organized by the [3D Children's Society](#) since 1999, occurred on Friday, May 9. The fundraising tournament supports children in our community who are facing serious illnesses and has raised well over \$1 million and supported more than 500 youth in our region. Appreciation is extended to the many sponsors of the event and to division staff, to Darren Foley from the Grande Prairie Composite High School, to Dan Bishop from Aspen Grove School, and to their colleagues on the 3D Children's Society board of the for their significant efforts to organize this event.

#### **ELEMENTARY SOCIAL STUDIES REPORT CARD WORKING GROUP**

On Tuesday, May 6, a group of 12 volunteer teachers from across the division met with Director of Teaching and Learning Corinne Kruse and Cassie Mercer, Diana Smith, and Tracie Anthony from the division's Teaching and Learning team to review the K-6 Social Studies curriculum. The work of the group is to review the learning outcomes in the new curriculum and prepare descriptors, in parent-friendly language, to be added for social studies to the new elementary report card.

#### **ADMINISTRATOR PROFESSIONAL LEARNING and MAY PRINCIPALS MEETING**

The monthly administrator meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, May 14. Topics on the agenda include providing teams time to collaborate on the development of their upcoming school-based professional learning time and a virtual presentation from a representative from the Alberta Machine Intelligence Institute (AMII). Jillian Kowalchuk will be virtually presenting an introductory presentation on Artificial Intelligence (AI), to build a shared baseline understanding of the topic among administrators. Following the presentation, administrators will begin working to develop a set of guiding principles, to be finalized early next year, to establish parameters regarding the future use of AI in the division.



During the afternoon principal’s meeting Director of Human Resources Tammie Maurer and Associate Superintendent Ola Oladele will work with principals to review several Occupational Health and Safety topics and other issues to inform planning for next year to support staff safety and wellness.

**2024-2025 DIVISION ASSURANCE SURVEY RESULTS**

The annual Division Assurance Survey was recently completed and gratitude is extended to all staff, students and parents for completing this important survey. This year’s participation rates are shown in the table below and are notable for having the highest number of parent surveys completed in the past 4 years, the highest number of student surveys completed, and the second highest number of staff surveys.

	2021-2022	2022-2023	2023-2024	2024-2025
Parents	1855	1764	1878	1979
Students	3908	3769	4165	4260
Staff	621	585	653	650

Detailed review of the results is ongoing and the annual [What We Heard](#) document, which reports publicly on satisfaction in key areas related to our 3-Year Education Plan and identifies specific areas of focus for next year will be posted on the division website soon. Trustees will also be provided with a more thorough review of the results in an upcoming committee meeting.

Early results available at this time illustrate continued high satisfaction levels among all groups in general in the following areas, and evidence of improvement in one of the priority areas identified last year:

- Overall satisfaction, calculated by aggregating the responses to all questions, continues to be high, with parent satisfaction at 92%, student satisfaction at 84% (highest in 4 years), and staff satisfaction at 94% (highest in 4 years)
- Satisfaction with the opportunity to be involved in decision making is the highest in 4 years for all groups, with parent satisfaction 89%, student satisfaction 77%, and staff satisfaction 93%.
- Parent satisfaction with learner supports, which was a focus this year based on results in last year’s survey and explored through a specific parent engagement, increased from 78% to 85%.
- The initial review of the results shows that while student satisfaction has increased in general, it is important to continue to work with students to help them develop a more active voice in their schools and increase their engagement in decision making in their school.

**EDUCATION AMENDMENT ACT, 2024**

Resources to support the Education Amendment Act, 2024, were released to system leadership on May 6. A technical briefing was held on May 8 to review the resources related to the implementation of Alberta Education’s new expectations re: instruction and supporting families and students to navigate complex conversations around gender identity, sexual orientation and human sexuality. New direction from Alberta Education was also provided to ensure continuity in student learning during a public health emergency or state of emergency. The new information aligns well with work done by the Teaching and Learning team earlier in the year, supported by draft procedures shared by the Alberta School Boards Association. More information will be shared with school staff and parents as new division Administrative Procedures and processes for next year are developed.

## ITEMS FOR FUTURE ACTION

### BOARD SOCIAL PLANNING

The Board Social Planning Committee met on May 5 to review potential changes to the event for next year. The 2025 event is scheduled for Saturday, October 4, 2025. Given the time of year the committee is not planning transformational changes. The committee will, however, work over the next few months to incorporate some of the potential changes recently discussed by the board.

Changes being explored include developing a way to extend invitations to casual staff, adding reserved seating, modifying the event name to reflect the celebratory nature of the event, and considering how the layout of the tables might be changed to encourage more interaction between the attendees during the evening.

The committee is planning to book a DJ and Photo Booth again, and is planning to continue with the same structure for the long service awards, exemplary staff awards, and the recognition of current retirees.

The committee is seeking direction from the board on the following topics:

- Extending invitations to casual staff has the potential to increase the number of attendees, which will increase the cost of the event. To help manage costs, one option is to move from the Gold Dinner package (\$57/person) to the Silver package (\$47.50/person). The primary difference between packages is that the Silver package offers two options for entrée and salad compared to the Gold package that offers 3 options.
- Earlier discussions involved increasing the cost of tickets from \$10 per person to \$15 per person. Does the board wish to extend this to invited retirees?

Implementing the changes above will allow planners to partially address feedback collected from staff this year and also manage costs.

If more substantial changes are desired in the future, the committee recommends engaging an ad hoc subcommittee of the new board following the municipal election and engaging in a comprehensive review of the event itself and the awards recognition.



**Grande Prairie  
Public School  
Division**

**DATE:** May 13, 2025

**TO:** Board of Trustees

**FROM:** Ola Oladele, Associate Superintendent, Business Services

**SUBJECT:** Associate Superintendent Update

**REFERENCE:** Board Policy 2 – Role of the Board; Board Policy 16: Student Fees

---

## **PURPOSE**

The purpose of this report is to follow up on an earlier request by the Board for information about the impact of previously increased school fees, and to provide information related to proposed school fee changes for 2025-2026. A motion is requested for Board approval for an update to Board Policy 16.

This report also includes information about a proposed change to the group health benefit provider for Non-Instructional Employees. Information is provided about the impact, and as per Board Policy 2, Section 9.5, a motion is requested for Board approval to move non-instructional staff benefits from Sunlife Canada to the Alberta School Employee's Benefit Plan, unifying all division employees, for the 2025-2026 school year

## **2024/25 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 (CHS) where fees were increased for Welding and a new fee added for International Baccalaureate (IB) courses.

For the IB program, the new fees were not implemented in the 2024/25 school year even though they were approved last spring. The decision was made to first inform the public of the new fee and to grandfather students currently enrolled in the program.

In the 2025/26 school year, the IB fee will only apply to new students entering the program. Students already enrolled will continue to be exempt until the 2026/27 school year, at which point the fee will apply to students in Grades 11 and 12. As the IB program formally begins in Grade 11, Grade 10 students are considered "pre-IB" and will not be charged a program fee.

Below are the enrollment numbers for the last 2 school years plus the current school year for the IB and welding programs:

<b>Program</b>	<b>2022/2023</b>	<b>2023/2024</b>	<b>2024/2025</b>
<b>IB</b>	113	139	142
<b>Welding</b>	95	127	100

## **2025/2026 SCHOOL FEES**

As required by Board Policy 2, the Board of Trustees must approve school fees on an annual basis. For the 2025/26 school year, several schools have submitted changes to their fee schedules. All schools followed the required process, including consultation with their school councils.

The primary rationale for increasing fees is to address the rising costs of delivering these optional programs at schools. These programs are not fully funded through base instructional grants and often require charging fees to cover the cost of running those programs. Below is a summary of changes:

**Alexander Forbes School:** Fees increased for Art, Construction and Design, Foods, Sewing, and a new fee was introduced for Visual Media. Health Science fee was removed.

**Avondale School:** Fees for Curling and Sewing/Crocheting have been removed.

**Charles Spencer High School:** Multiple fees were increased across optional courses such as Art, Automotive, Construction, Cosmetology, Foods, Fashion Design, Fabrication, and Sewing. A new \$100 fee was added for Summer School Physical Education.

**Crystal Park School:** Fees for Art and Foods increased slightly.

**Grande Prairie Composite High School:** Fee increases were applied to a range of optional courses including Art, Computer Studies, Drama, Film Media Art, Foods, Land-Based Learning, Robotics, and Visual Communications. Summer School Physical Education was added with a \$100 fee. The International Baccalaureate Science Materials fee was removed.

**Riverstone Public School:** The Film Studies activity fee was removed.

**Roy Bickell Public School:** Art fees decreased, and the Jr. High Friday Fitness fee was removed. A new \$5 fee was added for K-1 student agendas.

**Academy Fees:** The Board approved the Academy program fees earlier in February 2024. This was done before the regular fee approval process because registration for Academy programs opened in March. Approving the fees early allowed the Division to give families clear information about the new fees before registration opened.

***Recommended Motion:***

***Trustee \_\_\_\_\_ move that the Board of Trustees approve the 2025/26 school fees as submitted.***

**NON-INSTRUCTIONAL STAFF BENEFITS**

Over the past few years, the Division has been closely monitoring the rising cost of employee benefits for non-instructional staff under Sunlife Canada. While the original decision to switch to Sunlife was made with the intent of reducing costs, the outcome has been quite different since the rate guarantee period ended.

Since the change in 2022, the Division has faced significant annual premium increases, ranging from 25% to 106%. These increases have placed growing pressure on the Division's operating budget. The most recent renewal, covering part of the current year and extending into the 2025/26 school year includes an additional 20% increase, which is not sustainable.

In contrast, ASEBP, which currently serves the Division's instructional staff, has maintained stable and manageable rate adjustments. ASEBP's latest renewal shows that transitioning non-instructional staff to ASEBP could save the Division approximately \$135,000 in the 2025/26 school year. Given that the Division is already projecting a budget deficit for 2025/26, continuing with Sunlife at their increased rates would only further increase the deficit for the next school year.

Beyond the financial impact, having two separate benefit providers has made things more complicated for staff. HR and payroll currently have to manage two different systems, timelines, and plan rules. Moving all staff to one provider, ASEBP, would make things easier to manage, improve consistency, and allow the payroll team to cross-train and provide coverage more easily during staff absences. It would also help school administrators support their staff better, since everyone would be on the same benefits plan.

***Recommended Motion:***

***Trustee \_\_\_\_\_ move that hat the Board of Trustees approve the transfer of the Division's non-instructional staff benefits from Sunlife Canada to the Alberta School Employee Benefit Plan (ASEBP), effective for the 2025/26 school year.***

**Appendix A**  
**Grande Prairie Public School Division**  
**School and Transportation Fees Changes**  
**2025 - 2026 School Year**

	<u>Previous</u>	<u>Changed To</u>
<b>Alexander Forbes</b>		
<b><u>Fees for Optional Courses</u></b>		
Art	20.00	30.00
Construction and Design	35.00	50.00
Foods	40.00	50.00
Health Science	5.00	0.00
Sewing	40.00	50.00
Visual Media	0.00	20.00
<b>Avondale</b>		
<b><u>Extracurricular Fees</u></b>		
Curling	35.00	0.00
<b><u>Activity Fees</u></b>		
Sewing/Crocheting	20.00	0.00
<b>Charles Spencer High School</b>		
<b><u>Fees for Optional Courses</u></b>		
Art 10/20/30	20.00	30.00
Basic Automotive 9	20.00	30.00
Construction 10	25.00	40.00
Construction 9	25.00	30.00
Construction Senior	40.00	50.00
Cosmetology 10	45.00	60.00
CTS Jr Auto	20.00	40.00
Fashion Design	20.00	40.00
Foods Studies 10	40.00	60.00
Foods Studies 20	50.00	60.00
Foods Studies 9	20.00	40.00
Junior Fabrication	40.00	80.00
Senior Fabrication	40.00	80.00
Sewing	20.00	40.00
Summer School Physical Education Summer Fee	0.00	100.00
<b>Crystal Park School</b>		
<b><u>Fees for Optional Courses</u></b>		
Art	20.00	25.00
Foods	20.00	30.00
<b>Grande Prairie Composite High School</b>		
<b><u>Fees for Optional Courses</u></b>		
Art 9/10/20/30	40.00	45.00
Computer Studies 10,20,30	20.00	50.00

**Appendix A**  
**Grande Prairie Public School Division**  
**School and Transportation Fees Changes**  
**2025 - 2026 School Year**

	<b><u>Previous</u></b>	<b><u>Changed To</u></b>
Computer Studies 9	0.00	20.00
Drama	0.00	40.00
Film Media Art	0.00	20.00
Food 10/20/30	60.00	70.00
International Baccalaureate Science Materials	30.00	0.00
Land Based Learning 25,35	0.00	60.00
Land Based Learning 9	0.00	40.00
Robotics 9	0.00	45.00
Summer School Physical Education Summer Fee	0.00	100.00
Visual Communications 10	20.00	25.00
<hr/> <b>Riverstone Public School</b> <hr/>		
<b><u>Activity Fees</u></b>		
Film Studies	5.00	0.00
<hr/> <b>Roy Bickell Public School</b> <hr/>		
<b><u>Fees for Optional Courses</u></b>		
Art	30.00	20.00
Jr High Friday Fitness	50.00	0.00
<b><u>Non-curricular Goods and Services</u></b>		
Agendas K-1	0.00	5.00
<hr/> <b>The Academy</b> <hr/>		
<b><u>Alternative Program Fees</u></b>		
Academy Athletics 4-8	1,400.00	1,550.00
Academy Golf 9-12	1,600.00	1,750.00
Hockey Academy 4-10	2,800.00	3,000.00

**Appendix A**  
**Grande Prairie Public School Division**  
**School and Transportation Fees Schedule**  
**2025 - 2026 School Year**

**Alexander Forbes School**

---

<b><u>Early Childhood Services</u></b>	
Kinderpal Program - Monthly	350.00
<b><u>Fees for Optional Courses</u></b>	
Art	30.00
Construction and Design	50.00
Foods	50.00
Robotics	10.00
Sewing	50.00
Sports Performance	10.00
Visual Media	20.00
<b><u>Extracurricular Fees</u></b>	
Badminton	10.00
Basketball	40.00
Curling	35.00
Track & Field	15.00
Volleyball	40.00
<b><u>Activity Fees</u></b>	
Field Trips	60.00
School Dances	10.00
Ski Trip - Nitehawk Local Ski Hill	50.00
Special Activities	5.00
<b><u>Non-curricular Goods and Services</u></b>	
Locks	5.00



**Appendix A**  
**Grande Prairie Public School Division**  
**School and Transportation Fees Schedule**  
**2025 - 2026 School Year**

**The Academy**  
**(Alexander Forbes, Aspen Grove, Derek Taylor Public School, Ecole Montrose, Grande Prairie**  
**Christian School, Isabel Campbell Public School, Parkside School, Charles Spencer High**  
**School)**

---

**Alternative Program Fees**

Academy Hockey 4-10	3,000.00
Academy Golf/Dance Hybrid 7-8	3,200.00
Academy Golf/Hockey Hybrid 7-8	3,200.00
Academy Golf/Soccer Hybrid 7-8	3,200.00
Academy Golf/Dance Hybrid 9-10	3,400.00
Academy Golf/Hockey Hybrid 9-10	3,000.00
Academy Golf/Soccer Hybrid 9-10	3,200.00
Academy Athletics 4-8 and 9 GP Christian School	1,550.00
Academy Athletics 9	750.00
Academy Athletics 10-12	300.00
Academy Dance 4-8 and 9 GP Christian School	2,800.00
Academy Dance 9-12	3,700.00
Academy Soccer 4-9	2,700.00
Academy Soccer Winter Training Team 10-12	1,600.00
Academy Golf 9-12	1,750.00

**Non-Curricular Travel**

Academy Hockey Trip	4,000.00
Academy Dance Trip	3,000.00
Academy Soccer Trip	4,000.00
Academy Golf Trip	4,000.00

**Appendix A**  
**Grande Prairie Public School Division**  
**School and Transportation Fees Schedule**  
**2025 - 2026 School Year**

**Aspen Grove School**

---

**Early Childhood Services**

Kinderpal Program - Monthly	350.00
-----------------------------	--------

**Fees for Optional Courses**

Art	30.00
Construction Design	30.00
Food Studies	30.00
Inclusive Education Skills	30.00
Leadership	30.00
Maker space	30.00
Outdoor Education	30.00
Technology	30.00
Total Body Fitness	30.00

**Extracurricular Fees**

Badminton	20.00
Basketball	40.00
Curling	40.00
Lego Club	10.00
Mountain Biking	30.00
Track & Field	20.00
Volleyball	40.00

**Activity Fees**

Field Trips	20.00
Gator Blocks	30.00
Ice Fishing	20.00
Music Trip	300.00
School Dances	15.00
Ski Trip - Nitehawk Local Ski Hill	60.00
Ski Trip - Outside of Grande Prairie	150.00
Swimming - Lessons at Eastlink	75.00

**Non-curricular Goods and Services**

Agenda Books	15.00
Year Book	40.00

**Appendix A**  
**Grande Prairie Public School Division**  
**School and Transportation Fees Schedule**  
**2025 - 2026 School Year**

**Avondale School**

---

**Early Childhood Services**

Kinderpal Program - Monthly	350.00
-----------------------------	--------

**Activity Fees**

Ski Trip - Nitehawk Local Ski Hill	50.00
------------------------------------	-------

**Non-curricular Goods and Services**

Recorders for Grade 3 Students	10.00
--------------------------------	-------

**Bridge Network**

---

**Adult Education Fees**

Adult Fees	500.00
------------	--------

Adult Textbook	175.00
----------------	--------

Adult Registration Fee	50.00
------------------------	-------

Adult Course Extension Fee	100.00
----------------------------	--------

Adult Course Challenge Fee	125.00
----------------------------	--------

**Non-curricular Goods and Services**

Caution Fees - Dual Credit	300.00
----------------------------	--------

Refundable Deposits/Damage Fees	100.00
---------------------------------	--------

**Appendix A**  
**Grande Prairie Public School Division**  
**School and Transportation Fees Schedule**  
**2025 - 2026 School Year**

**Charles Spencer High School**

**Fees for Optional Courses**

Art 10/20/30	30.00
Basic Automotive 9	30.00
Business Ed	20.00
Construction 10	40.00
Construction 9	40.00
Construction Senior	50.00
Cosmetology 10	60.00
Cosmetology 20/30	60.00
Cosmetology 9	40.00
Cosmetology Esthetics	60.00
Cosmetology Nails	70.00
CTS Jr Auto	40.00
CTS Sr Auto	40.00
Fabrication Jr	80.00
Fabrication Sr	80.00
Fashion Design	40.00
First Aid	60.00
Food Safety	30.00
Foods Studies 10	60.00
Foods Studies 20	60.00
Foods Studies 30	60.00
Foods Studies 9	40.00
Grade 9 Options	20.00
Guitar	20.00
Outdoor Ed 10/20/30	60.00
Outdoor Ed 9	20.00
Physical Education 20/30	60.00
Sewing	40.00
Summer School Physical Education Summer Fee	100.00
Vis Com Tech	20.00

**Extracurricular Fees**

Badminton - Jr	250.00
Badminton - Sr	500.00
Basketball - JR boys/girls	350.00
Basketball - JR Zones	50.00
Basketball - SR boys/girls	1,300.00
Basketball - SR Provincials	400.00
Curling	35.00
Food safety certification	30.00
Food skills club	100.00

**Appendix A**  
**Grande Prairie Public School Division**  
**School and Transportation Fees Schedule**  
**2025 - 2026 School Year**

**Extracurricular Fees (continued)**

Football	800.00
Golf	50.00
Golf Zones	50.00
Grad	135.00
Grad Fashion Show	20.00
Rugby	750.00
Rugby Provincials	400.00
Soccer	60.00
Track and Field	50.00
Tri District Hockey	50.00
Volleyball - Jr	350.00
Volleyball - JV/Sr	1,700.00
volleyball Provincials	650.00
XC running	500.00
Yoga	20.00

**Activity Fees**

Model United Nations	180.00
Music Trip	3,500.00
Outdoor Ed Trip	200.00
Skills - Grade 9 Exploration	200.00
Skills - Boat Race	200.00
Skills - Regionals	100.00
Skills - Team fee	215.00
Skills - GETT	60.00
Skills - Trade Camp	20.00

**Non-curricular Goods and Services**

Caution Fees/Refundable Deposits/Damage Fees	300.00
Yearbook	60.00

**Appendix A**  
**Grande Prairie Public School Division**  
**School and Transportation Fees Schedule**  
**2025 - 2026 School Year**

**Grande Prairie Composite High School**

**Fees for Optional Courses**

Academy Athletics 10/20/30	250.00
Academy Athletics 9	150.00
Art 9/10/20/30	45.00
Commercial Art 20	40.00
Communication 10	20.00
Computer Science	40.00
Computer Studies 10/20/30	50.00
Computer Studies 9	20.00
Computer TIA A+	140.00
Computer TIA IT Fundamentals	20.00
Cosmetology 10	60.00
Cosmetology 20/30	80.00
Cosmetology 40 - Apprenticeship	100.00
Cosmetology 9	40.00
Cosmetology Nail Tech	60.00
Cosmetology Skin Care	60.00
Cosmetology Theatrical Makeup	60.00
Digital Design 9/10/20/30	20.00
Drama	40.00
Fashion 10/20/30	80.00
Fashion 9	80.00
Film Media Art	20.00
Film Studies 9	20.00
Fitness 10/20/30	20.00
Fitness Powerlifting 10/20/30	20.00
Food 10/20/30	70.00
Foods 9	70.00
Grade 9 Auto	20.00
Grade 9 Building Construction	20.00
International Baccalaureate Annual Fee	300.00
International Baccalaureate Exam Fee	25.00
Jr. Auto	60.00
Jr. Building Construction	60.00
Jr. Welding	80.00
Land Based Learning 25,35	60.00
Land Based Learning 9	40.00

**Appendix A**  
**Grande Prairie Public School Division**  
**School and Transportation Fees Schedule**  
**2025 - 2026 School Year**

**Fees for Optional Courses (continued)**

Outdoor Pursuite 10/20/30	80.00
Outdoor Pursuits 9	40.00
Photo 20/30	20.00
Physical Education 20 & 30	60.00
Robotics 9	45.00
Sr. Auto Apprenticeship A	80.00
Sr. Auto Apprenticeship B	60.00
Sr. Auto	60.00
Sr. Building Construction	60.00
Sr. Welding	80.00
Summer School Physical Education Summer Fee	100.00
Total Body Fitness 9	20.00
Video 20/30	20.00
Visual Communications 10	25.00

**Extracurricular Fees**

Badminton	70.00
Basketball - Gr. 9 Girls	410.00
Basketball - Gr. 9 Boys	410.00
Basketball - Sr. Boys	1,400.00
Basketball - Sr. Girls	1,400.00
Basketball Pow Wow Tournament	350.00
Cross Country Running	250.00
Envirothon	100.00
Football	800.00
Football Spring Training	135.00
Golf	150.00
Grad	175.00
Grad Tickets	5.00
Grade 9 Boys Basketball	410.00
Grade 9 Girls Basketball	180.00
Rugby - Boys	400.00
Rugby - girls	400.00
Soccer	30.00
Track & field	100.00
Volleyball - Boys Grade 9	120.00
Volleyball - Girls Grade 9	120.00
Volleyball - Pow Wow Tournament	350.00
Volleyball - Sr Girls	800.00
Volleyball - Sr. Boys	800.00
XC running	150.00

**Appendix A**  
**Grande Prairie Public School Division**  
**School and Transportation Fees Schedule**  
**2025 - 2026 School Year**

**Activity Fees**

Model UN	160.00
Music Trip	3,500.00
Skills	150.00
Skills Nationals	850.00

**Non-Curricular Travel**

Travel Club	5,000.00
-------------	----------

**Non-curricular Goods and Services**

Caution Fees/Refundable Deposits/Damage Fees	300.00
Comp Clothing	65.00
Music Instrument Rental	50.00
Student Council	20.00
Yearbook	50.00



**Appendix A**  
**Grande Prairie Public School Division**  
**School and Transportation Fees Schedule**  
**2025 - 2026 School Year**

**Crystal Park School**

---

**Early Childhood Services**

Preschool Integration Program - Monthly	265.00
Kinderpal Program - Monthly	350.00

**Fees for Optional Courses**

Art	25.00
Food Studies/Home Ec	30.00
Industrial Arts	30.00
Outdoor Ed	20.00
Robotics	10.00
STEM	20.00
Theater Arts	10.00

**Extracurricular Fees**

Basketball	40.00
Bowling	4.00
Curling	35.00
Eastlink	10.00
Volleyball	20.00

**Activity Fees**

Field Trips	5.00
Ski Trip - Nitehawk Local Ski Hill	50.00

**Appendix A**  
**Grande Prairie Public School Division**  
**School and Transportation Fees Schedule**  
**2025 - 2026 School Year**

**Derek Taylor Public School**

---

**Early Childhood Services**

Kinderpal Program - Monthly	350.00
Preschool Integration Program - Monthly	265.00

**Fees for Optional Courses**

Art	20.00
CTS - Total Body Fitness	20.00
Drama/Theatre	20.00
French	20.00
Food Studies/Home Ec	20.00
Industrial Arts/Construction	20.00
Music	20.00
STEM	20.00

**Extracurricular Fees**

Badminton	20.00
Basketball	40.00
Curling	35.00
Movie	10.00
Track and Field	20.00
Volleyball	40.00

**Activity Fees**

Field Trips	5.00
Historic Dunvegan	10.00
Music Trip	300.00
Ski Trip - Mountains	150.00
Ski Trip - Nitehawk Local Ski Hill	50.00

**Non-curricular Goods and Services**

Recorders	10.00
-----------	-------

**Appendix A**  
**Grande Prairie Public School Division**  
**School and Transportation Fees Schedule**  
**2025 - 2026 School Year**

**Ecole Montrose School**

---

**Early Childhood Services**

Kinderpal Program - Monthly	350.00
-----------------------------	--------

**Fees for Optional Courses**

Art	20.00
-----	-------

Construction Technology	20.00
-------------------------	-------

Fashion	20.00
---------	-------

Foods	20.00
-------	-------

**Extracurricular Fees**

Badminton	20.00
-----------	-------

Basketball	35.00
------------	-------

Curling	35.00
---------	-------

Track and Field	35.00
-----------------	-------

Volleyball	35.00
------------	-------

**Activity Fees**

Field trip fee	10.00
----------------	-------

Grade 2 and 4 Swimming Lessons	70.00
--------------------------------	-------

Grade 6 Trip	95.00
--------------	-------

Music Trip	300.00
------------	--------

Ski Trip - Nitehawk Local Ski Hill	60.00
------------------------------------	-------

**Alternative Program Fees**

French Immersion Preschool	200.00
----------------------------	--------

**Non-curricular Goods and Services**

Agenda Books	8.00
--------------	------

**Appendix A**  
**Grande Prairie Public School Division**  
**School and Transportation Fees Schedule**  
**2025 - 2026 School Year**

**Grande Prairie Christian School**

---

**Fees for Optional Courses**

Art	25.00
Fitness	25.00
Foods	35.00
Outdoor Ed	25.00

**Hillside Community School**

---

**Early Childhood Services**

Kinderpal Program - Monthly	350.00
-----------------------------	--------

**Fees for Optional Courses**

STEM	20.00
------	-------

**Activity Fees**

Music Trip	300.00
Passion Block	10.00
Recorders	10.00
Ski Trip - Nitehawk Local Ski Hill	50.00

**Appendix A**  
**Grande Prairie Public School Division**  
**School and Transportation Fees Schedule**  
**2025 - 2026 School Year**

**Isabel Campbell Public School**

---

**Early Childhood Services**

Kinderpal Program - Monthly	350.00
-----------------------------	--------

**Fees for Optional Courses**

Art	25.00
-----	-------

Food Studies/Home Ec	25.00
----------------------	-------

Industrial Arts	25.00
-----------------	-------

Recorders	10.00
-----------	-------

**Extracurricular Fees**

3D Hockey/Soccer	25.00
------------------	-------

Badminton	10.00
-----------	-------

Basketball	20.00
------------	-------

Cross Country Running	10.00
-----------------------	-------

Curling	35.00
---------	-------

Volleyball	20.00
------------	-------

**Activity Fees**

Arts and Craft Club	10.00
---------------------	-------

French Movie	7.00
--------------	------

Grade 7/8 Special activity fee	5.00
--------------------------------	------

Kindergarten Snack Fee	5.00
------------------------	------

Mindful Movement	5.00
------------------	------

Orange Shirt Day	13.00
------------------	-------

Pink Shirt Day	13.00
----------------	-------

Ski Trip - Nitehawk Local Ski Hill	50.00
------------------------------------	-------

Special Activity Fee	10.00
----------------------	-------

**Non-curricular Goods and Services**

Agenda Books	7.00
--------------	------

Locks	5.00
-------	------

Student Council	10.00
-----------------	-------

Yearbook	35.00
----------	-------

**Appendix A**  
**Grande Prairie Public School Division**  
**School and Transportation Fees Schedule**  
**2025 - 2026 School Year**

**I. V. Macklin Public School**

---

<b><u>Early Childhood Services</u></b>	
Kinderpal Program - Monthly	350.00
<b><u>Fees for Optional Courses</u></b>	
Art	30.00
CTF	40.00
Drama/Theatre	20.00
Food Studies/Home Ec	50.00
Industrial Arts	50.00
Robotics	20.00
Second Languages	20.00
STEM	20.00
Total Body Fitness	20.00
<b><u>Extracurricular Fees</u></b>	
Badminton	20.00
Basketball	25.00
Cross Country Running	10.00
Curling	45.00
Soccer	20.00
Swimming	15.00
Track and Field	20.00
Volleyball	25.00
<b><u>Activity Fees</u></b>	
Arts and Crafts Club	20.00
Clubs	20.00
Field Trips	15.00
Maker space	20.00
Movies	20.00
Music Trip	300.00
School Dances	10.00
Ski Trip - Nitehawk Local Ski Hill	60.00
Special Activities	5.00
<b><u>Non-curricular Goods and Services</u></b>	
Lock Rental	5.00
Music - Recorders	15.00
Student Council	5.00

**Appendix A**  
**Grande Prairie Public School Division**  
**School and Transportation Fees Schedule**  
**2025 - 2026 School Year**

**Maude Clifford Public School**

<b><u>Fees for Optional Courses</u></b>	
Art	30.00
CTF Option - Biking	60.00
CTF Option - Foods	20.00
CTF Option - Golf	60.00
CTF Option - Sewing	20.00
Robotics	20.00
<b><u>Extracurricular Fees</u></b>	
Curling	35.00
<b><u>Activity Fees</u></b>	
CTF Option - Art Factory	8.00
Field Trips	20.00
Games	10.00
Ski Trip - Nitehawk Local Ski Hill	50.00
Special Activities	5.00
Ukulele	10.00
<b><u>Non-curricular Goods and Services</u></b>	
Agenda Books grades 2 - 6	10.00
Agenda Books grades K - 1	5.00

**Parkside Montessori School**

<b><u>Alternative Program Fees</u></b>	
Montessori Preschool - per session	34.00
Montessori Kindergarten	250.00
Montessori Gr 1-6	450.00
<b><u>Activity Fees</u></b>	
Choir Provincials	50.00
Curling	35.00
Field Trips	20.00
School Clubs	30.00
Ski Trip	50.00
Swimming Lessons	60.00
<b><u>Non-curricular Goods and Services</u></b>	
Library Book Replacement	25.00
Milk Cards	10.00
Music - Recorders	15.00
Replacement Green Pouch	10.00
Yearbook	40.00

**Appendix A**  
**Grande Prairie Public School Division**  
**School and Transportation Fees Schedule**  
**2025 - 2026 School Year**

**Riverstone Public School**

---

**Early Childhood Services**

Kinderpal Program - Monthly	350.00
-----------------------------	--------

**Fees for Optional Courses**

Art	20.00
-----	-------

CTS Construction	25.00
------------------	-------

Food Studies	25.00
--------------	-------

**Extracurricular Fees**

Badminton	10.00
-----------	-------

Basketball	20.00
------------	-------

Cross Country Running	10.00
-----------------------	-------

Curling	35.00
---------	-------

Soccer	10.00
--------	-------

Track and Field	15.00
-----------------	-------

Volleyball	20.00
------------	-------

**Activity Fees**

Field Trips	10.00
-------------	-------

Grade 8 Activity	10.00
------------------	-------

School Dance	10.00
--------------	-------

Ski Trip - Nitehawk Local Ski Hill	50.00
------------------------------------	-------

**Non-curricular Goods and Services**

Agenda Books	5.00
--------------	------

Yearbook	25.00
----------	-------



**Appendix A**  
**Grande Prairie Public School Division**  
**School and Transportation Fees Schedule**  
**2025 - 2026 School Year**

**Roy Bickell Public School**

---

**Early Childhood Services**

Kinderpal Program - Monthly	350.00
-----------------------------	--------

**Fees for Optional Courses**

Art	20.00
Computers	20.00
Construction	40.00
CTS Options	20.00
Drama	10.00
Fitness	20.00
Food Studies	40.00
Second languages	10.00

**Extracurricular Fees**

Badminton	10.00
Basketball	40.00
Cross Country Running	40.00
Curling	35.00
Soccer	20.00
Track & Field	15.00
Volleyball	40.00

**Activity Fees**

Field Trips	20.00
Music Trip	300.00
Recorders	15.00
Ski Trip - Nitehawk Local Ski Hill	50.00

**Non-curricular Goods and Services**

Agendas K-1	5.00
Agendas 2-6	10.00

**Appendix A**  
**Grande Prairie Public School Division**  
**School and Transportation Fees Schedule**  
**2025 - 2026 School Year**

**Swanavon School**

---

**Early Childhood Services**

Kinderpal Program - Monthly	350.00
Preschool Integration Program - Monthly	265.00

**Extracurricular Fees**

Badminton	7.00
Cross Country Running	10.00
Curling	35.00

**Activity Fees**

Arts and Crafts Club	10.00
Music - Recorders	15.00
Movies	14.25
Field Trips	15.00
Ski Trip - Nitehawk Local Ski Hill	50.00
Tri-District Choir Concert	5.00

**Non-curricular Goods and Services**

Agenda Books	8.00
Swanavon clothing	60.00

---

**Division Transportation Fees**

Ineligible students K-6 < 1.6 km to designated school - monthly	32.00
Ineligible students 7-12 < 2.0 km to designated school - monthly	32.00
Ineligible Students: to school of choice - monthly	32.00
Ineligible 1/2 day ECS students < 2.4 km - monthly	58.00

**Appendix B**  
**Grande Prairie Public School Division**  
**International Student Fees 2025 – 2026 School Year**

**International Student Fees**

Non-Refundable Administration Fee	250.00
International Student Tuition – Per Year	12,500.00
Student Insurance – Per Year	500.00

**Short Term Fees**

Non-Refundable Administration Fee	250.00
Short Term Tuition – Per Semester	6,000.00
Student Insurance – Per Semester	250.00
Students Living on Reserve/Bands who are Status, First Nation or Treaty – Per Year	8,500.00
Out of Province Canadian Residence Student – Per Year	8,450.00

## Grande Prairie Public School Division

## DRAFT 2024 – 2025 Board Work Plan



	PUBLIC MEETING DATES	MONTHLY GOVERNANCE ACTIONS	PROFESSIONAL LEARNING
AUGUST	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>2024 08 20 Organizational Meeting</li> <li>Regular Meeting</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Board Self-Evaluation 2024 08 20</li> <li>Board Evaluation of Superintendent 2024 08 20</li> <li>Meeting with Local MLAs 2024 08 27</li> </ul>	2024 08 07 – 09 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>PSBC</li> </ul>
SEPTEMBER	2024 09 10	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>TEAMS Meeting (1:00 pm) with Minister of Education 2024 09 05</li> <li>Advocacy &amp; Engagement Committee (11:00 am) 2024 09 10</li> </ul>	2024 09 18 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>ASBA Zone 1</li> </ul>
	2024 09 24	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Advocacy and Engagement Committee (3:30 pm) 2024 09 24</li> <li>Review Board Self-Evaluation (Committee of the Whole)</li> </ul>	
OCTOBER	2024 10 08	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Board Policy Committee (3:30 pm) 2024 10 08</li> <li>Audit Committee (4:30 pm) 2024 10 08</li> <li>PD Committee Meeting 2024 10 08</li> <li>Review Annual Student Enrollment Summary 2024 10 08</li> <li>Review Annual Exit Survey Report <i>In Camera</i> 2024 10 08</li> </ul>	2024 10 09 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>ASBA Zone 1</li> </ul> 2024 10 16 – 18 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>PSBAA FGM</li> </ul>
	2024 10 22	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Board Policy Committee (3:30 pm) 2024 10 22</li> <li>Board Social 2024 10 26</li> <li>TTLIC Meeting (3:45 pm) 2024 10 29</li> </ul>	
NOVEMBER	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>2024 11 12</li> <li>Committee of the Whole</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Advocacy &amp; Engagement Committee (3:30 pm) 2024 11 12</li> <li>Review Annual Student Attendance Report 2024 11 12</li> <li>Draft Annual Education Results Report 2024 11 12 (Committee of the Whole)</li> <li>Non-Instructional Support Staff Committee Meeting 2024 11 13</li> </ul>	2024 11 13 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>ASBA Zone 1</li> </ul> 2024 11 15 - 16 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>PSBC</li> </ul>
	2024 11 26	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Board Policy Committee (3:30 pm) 2024 11 26</li> <li>Audit Committee (4:30 pm) 2024 11 26</li> <li>Approve Annual Education Results Report 2024 11 26</li> </ul>	2024 11 17 – 19 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>ASBA FGM</li> </ul>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Approve Audited Financial Statements 2024 11 26</li> <li>• Fall Budget Update 2024 11 26</li> <li>• Review Bi-Annual Legal and Insurance Issues Update 2024 11 26 <i>In Camera</i></li> <li>• Council of School Councils (7:00 pm) 2024 11 28</li> </ul>	2024 11 26 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• ASBA PL</li> </ul>
DECEMBER	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 2024 12 10</li> <li>• Committee of the Whole</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Board Planning Retreat 2024 12 05 (Thursday) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Presentation of Educational Director Work Plans</li> </ul> </li> <li>• TTLC Meeting (3:45 pm) 2024 12 03</li> <li>• Advocacy &amp; Engagement Committee (3:30 pm) 2024 12 10</li> <li>• Review Annual Class Size Report 2024 12 10</li> <li>• Review draft 2025-26 School Year Calendar (Committee of the Whole) 2024 12 10</li> <li>• Annual HR Report (Committee of the Whole) 2024 12 10</li> <li>• Student Advisory Committee (9:00 am) 2024 12 13</li> </ul>	2024 12 09 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• ASBA Speaker's Corner – Role of Trustee Fostering Safe &amp; Healthy...</li> </ul> 2024 12 11 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• ASBA Zone 1</li> </ul>
JANUARY	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 2025 01 14</li> <li>• Committee of the Whole</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Advocacy &amp; Engagement Committee (3:30 pm) 2025 01 14</li> <li>• Review Annual Student Profile and Specialized Learning Services Report 2025 01 14 (Committee of the Whole)</li> <li>• Review Annual Student Transportation Update 2025 01 14</li> <li>• Council of School Councils – Workshop – 2025 01 23</li> </ul>	2025 01 08 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• ASBA Zone 1</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 2025 01 28</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Board Policy Committee (3:30 pm) 2025 01 28</li> <li>• Approve 2025 – 2026 School Year Calendar 2025 01 28</li> <li>• Review Annual Information Technology Report 2025 01 28</li> <li>• Review Annual Student Intervention Programming Report 2025 01 28</li> <li>• Review 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter Budget Update 2025 01 28</li> <li>• Student Advisory Committee (9:00 am) 2025 01 31</li> <li>• School Assurance <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ 2025 01 30</li> <li>○ 2025 02 04</li> <li>○ 2025 02 21</li> </ul> </li> <li>• PD Committee Meeting 2025 02 06</li> </ul>	2025 01 13 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• ASBA Virtual Session ASEBP</li> </ul> 2025 01 20 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• ASBA Speakers' Corner</li> </ul>

FEBRUARY	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>2025 02 11</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Advocacy &amp; Engagement Committee (3:30 pm) 2025 02 11</li> <li>Review OLF Framework Implementation and Planning Companion 2025 02 11</li> <li>TTLIC Meeting (3:45 pm) 2025 02 18</li> <li>Non-Instructional Support Staff Committee (4:15 pm) 2025 02 19</li> </ul>	2025 02 6 - 7 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>PSBC</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>2025 02 25</li> <li>Committee of the Whole</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Board Policy Committee (3:30 pm) 2025 02 25</li> <li>Develop Budget Process and Budget Development Principles 2025 02 25 (Committee of the Whole)</li> <li>Review Annual Division Occupational Health and Safety Report 2025 02 25</li> <li>Review Annual Division Operations and Maintenance Report 2025 02 25</li> <li>Review Annual Division Wellness Report 2025 02 25</li> <li>Council of School Councils Meeting 2025 02 27</li> </ul>	2025 02 12 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>ASBA Zone 1</li> </ul> 2025 02 24 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>ASBA Speakers' Corner</li> </ul>
MARCH	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>2025 03 11</li> <li>Committee of the Whole</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Student Advisory Committee Meeting (9:00 am) 2025 03 06</li> <li>Board Advocacy &amp; Engagement Committee (3:30 pm) 2025 03 11</li> <li>Review draft 3-Year Capital Plan 2025 03 11 (Committee of the Whole)</li> <li>Review Annual Indigenous Programming Report 2025 03 11</li> </ul>	2025 03 10 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>ASBA Speakers' Corner</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>2025 03 25</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Board Policy Committee (3:30 pm) 2025 03 25</li> <li>Approve Annual Division 3-Year Capital Plan 2025 03 25</li> <li>Board Professional Learning Retreat 2025 03 27               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Learning Focus TBD</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	2025 03 12 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>ASBA Zone 1</li> </ul>

APRIL	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>2025 04 22</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Board Policy Review Committee (3:30 pm) 2025 04 22</li> <li>Review 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter Budget Update 2025 04 22</li> <li>Review Annual Leadership Succession Planning Report <i>In Camera</i> 2025 04 22</li> <li>Review Annual Division Compensation Report <i>In Camera</i> 2025 04 22</li> <li>Review Bi-Annual Legal and Insurance Issues Update 2025 04 22 <i>In Camera</i></li> </ul>	<p>2025 04 04 – 05</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>NSBA (Atlanta)</li> </ul> <p>2025 04 07</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>ASBA Speakers' Corner</li> </ul> <p>2025 04 09</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>ASBA Zone 1</li> </ul> <p>2025 04 10 – 11</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>PSBC</li> </ul> <p>2025 04 23</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>TEBA/ATA Engagement Session</li> </ul> <p>2025 04 23</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>ASBA Protection of Privacy Act and Access to Information Act session</li> </ul>
MAY	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>2025 05 13</li> <li>Committee of the Whole</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Board Spring Governance Retreat 2025 05 01 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Review Draft 3 Year Educational Plan</li> <li>Review Draft Division Assurance Summary</li> <li>Review 2025-2026 Division Budget Development</li> </ul> </li> <li>TTLIC Meeting (3:45 pm) 2025 05 06</li> <li>Council of School Councils Meeting 2025 05 08</li> <li>Advocacy &amp; Engagement Committee (3:30 pm) 2025 05 13</li> <li>Review draft Division 2025-26 Budget 2025 05 13</li> <li>Grande Prairie Composite HS Graduation (11:00am) 2025 05 16</li> </ul>	<p>2025 05 05</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>ASBA Speakers' Corner</li> </ul> <p>2025 05 14</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>ASBA Zone 1</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 2025 05 27</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Board Policy Committee (3:30 pm) 2025 05 27</li> <li>• Approve Division 3-Year Education Plan 2025 05 27</li> <li>• Approve Division 2025-26 Budget 2025 05 27</li> <li>• Approve Locally Developed Courses 2025 05 27</li> <li>• Non-Instructional Support Staff Committee (4:15 pm) 2025 05 29</li> <li>• High School Graduation Celebrations 2025 TBD</li> </ul>	
JUNE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 2025 06 10</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Indigenous Cultural Celebration Evening (6:30 pm) 2025 06 04</li> <li>• Student Advisory Committee Meeting (9:00 am) 2025 06 06</li> <li>• Advocacy &amp; Engagement Committee (11:00 am) 2025 06 10</li> <li>• Review 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter Budget Update 2025 06 10</li> <li>• Review Annual Summer Operations and Maintenance Report 2025 06 10</li> <li>• Charles Spencer High School Graduation (10:00am) 2025 06 25</li> </ul>	<p>2025 06 01 – 03</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• ASBA SGM</li> </ul> <p>2025 06 03 - 05</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• PSBAA SGM</li> </ul> <p>2025 06 11</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• ASBA Zone 1</li> </ul>
JULY			<p>2025 07 02 - 05</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• CSBA Congress (Winnipeg)</li> </ul>
AUGUST			<p>2025 08 6 – 8</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• PSBC Meeting</li> </ul>





**Deputy Minister**  
7<sup>th</sup> Floor, Commerce Place  
10155 - 102 Street  
Edmonton Alberta T5J 4L5  
Canada  
Telephone 780-427-3659  
[www.alberta.ca](http://www.alberta.ca)

AR128833

April 16, 2025

Alexander (Sandy) McDonald  
Superintendent  
Grande Prairie Public School Division  
10127- 120 Avenue,  
Grande Prairie, AB T8V 8H8

Dear Mr. McDonald:

In November 2019, a project to replace Harry Balfour School was approved for Peace Wapiti School Division. The approval was contingent on Peace Wapiti transferring the property to the Grande Prairie Public School Division upon completion of the project.

Peace Wapiti School Division has recently indicated their intent to dispose of the Harry Balfour School and Site (2.94 Hectares) located at 10815 – 104 St. Grande Prairie (Plan 66KS, Lot A). Further to the November 2019 approval, Grande Prairie Public School Division maintains the first right of refusal for the Harry Balfour School and site.

I am requesting formal confirmation on whether Grande Prairie Public School Division has an interest in acquiring Harry Balfour School.

Should Grande Prairie Public School Division choose to acquire the school and site, Education staff will work with your staff on the next steps to execute the transfer. If your jurisdiction does not wish to exercise this right of refusal, the property will proceed for disposition, under the relevant sections of the *Real Property Governance Act*, and the *Education Act*. Please kindly inform us by April 30, 2025.

If you have any questions, please contact Peter Burgess, Capital Planning Manager, at [Peter.Burgess@gov.ab.ca](mailto:Peter.Burgess@gov.ab.ca) or 780-427-2083 (toll-free by first dialing 310-000).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Lora Pillipow".

Lora Pillipow  
Deputy Minister



ALBERTA  
EDUCATION

*Office of the Minister  
MLA, Calgary - Bow*

AR 128956

April 22, 2025

Ms. Joan Nellis  
Board Chair  
Grande Prairie Public School Division  
10127 - 120 Avenue  
Grande Prairie AB T8V 8H8

Dear Joan:

Thank you for your letter regarding increased costs resulting from successful labour negotiations with non-instructional employees. I appreciate the opportunity to respond.

Alberta's education system is currently facing several challenges, as growing communities, rising enrolment, and increasing costs are putting pressure on our schools. Through Budget 2025, we are responding to these with investments that will ensure Alberta students receive the world-class education they deserve, now and in the future.

Budget 2025 is providing grant rate increases of \$389 million over the next three fiscal years. This funding is to support the rising operational costs within Education, including supporting non-certificated staff settlements and the fixed costs of operating school facilities, such as utilities, maintenance and repairs. For the 2025/26 school year, school authorities will receive \$90 million in funding rate increases.

Grants eligible for increases in the 2025/26 school year can be found in the [Funding Manual for School Authorities](#). Some of the grants receiving an increase in 2025/26 include:

- 2.32 per cent rate increase in all learning support grants;
- 3 per cent increase in Operations and Maintenance funding;
- 20 per cent increase in classroom complexity; and
- 2.32 per cent increase in transportation.

Grande Prairie School Division reported an operating reserve balance of \$10.3 million as of August 31, 2024, which was \$6.8 million above the maximum limit. On February 7, 2025, I approved your request for an \$6,838,518 operating reserve exemption. I recommend that you use some of this funding to support the non-certificated salary settlements in the 2024/25 school year.

Ms. Joan Nellis  
Page 2

Our goal is to drive as many dollars as possible to the classroom, and we give school authorities maximum flexibility in how they manage their resources as they know what is best for their students.

Your school authority has received the projected 2025/26 funding profile. The funding profile provides the projected operational funding for the 2025/26 school year, and the grant calculation sheet provides the details of the funding calculations. For further clarification or additional information, please contact our Funding Analysis and Analytics Branch at [EDC.FAAB@gov.ab.ca](mailto:EDC.FAAB@gov.ab.ca). The *Funding Manual for School Authorities 2025/26 School Year* is also available [online](#).

Thanks again for writing.

Best,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Demetrios Nicolaides", written in a cursive style.

Demetrios Nicolaides ECA PhD  
Minister of Education



**Grande Prairie  
Public School  
Division**  
Every Student Succeeds

April 23, 2025

**Delivered by email only**

The Honourable Minister Demetrios Nicolaides  
Minister of Education  
228 Legislature Building  
100800 - 97 Avenue  
Edmonton, Alberta T5K 2B6

Dear Minister Nicolaides,

This submission is provided on behalf of the Grande Prairie Public School Division (GPPSD) in response to the Grande Prairie Technical Institute's application for a K-12 charter school, in the City of Grande Prairie. The proposed charter school would be a vocational venture focused on experiential learning and based on the principles of Montessori programming. The proposed opening date of the charter school is the 2025-2026 school-year.

The purpose of this letter is to provide you with an enhanced understanding of the significant efforts the Grande Prairie Public School Division makes to ensure that both students and parents have a choice in their public education, and to demonstrate that the program focus of the proposed charter school is already provided, exceptionally well, by existing programming provided by GPPSD.

The Grande Prairie Public School Division has always been an innovative leader in ensuring student access to low-cost, high quality publicly funded learning opportunities in Grande Prairie. Choice and innovation define our division. *Board Policy 1 - GPPSD Mission and Guiding Principles* explicitly states our Board's expectation that opportunities be developed for students to explore passions, interests, and life-defining learning opportunities. This belief in ensuring choice in programming permeates our division and has contributed to GPPSD being a model for progressive student-centered programming not only in Northwestern Alberta, but in the entire province. Our success providing responsive programming for students and parents is illustrated by our High School Three Year Completion rates increasing by 8.1% over the past 5 years and our consistently high parental satisfaction with the quality of education their children receive currently being 92%.

The remainder of this submission will provide more detailed examples of how we address student and family choice in the areas of focus identified in the charter school application.

### **Parental Engagement and Choice**

GPPSD has eighteen (18) schools in the City of Grande Prairie, supporting approximately 9000 students. Of our 18 schools, three schools offer secondary programming, and three are dedicated schools of choice, offering specialized programming. Of the remaining fifteen (15) schools, ten (10) support programs of choice that provide targeted learning opportunities for students. Choice permeates our division.

We build interest and choice through authentic and meaningful engagement with our parents. Whether it is in-person opportunities to learn from our division community, or through targeted surveys, what our parents say, matters. Evidence of this can be found in our long-standing history of developing choice-focused programming. This includes the development of:

- A dedicated Pre-K-6 Montessori School
- A dedicated Pre-K-8 French Immersion School, supported by high school programming
- An innovative partnership offering K-9 education with a Christian focus.
- Sports Academy programming available in 9 of our 18 schools
- Senior trades education in high schools
- High school International Baccalaureate programming
- Science Technology Engineering and Math (STEM) programming in three schools
- Enhanced instrumental and choral music programming in eight schools

Significant choice exists in the Grande Prairie Public School Division, and it is through working closely with our parents and our entire community that we can ensure high quality learning opportunities supported by schools and programs of choice.

### **Montessori, STEM, and Trades Focused Programming**

While we were provided with limited information on the proposed charter school, the focus appears to be a Montessori-vocational-experiential venture. Each of these three focus areas are currently available at GPPSD, and in other regional partner school divisions, through dedicated schools and programs of choice.

### **Parkside Montessori School**

First developed in 2007-2008, Parkside Montessori School is recognized locally and internationally as a leader in publicly funded Montessori programming. Unique to this Pre-K to Grade 6 school, all teachers in the school are both certificated teachers and certified in Montessori education through the North American Montessori Centre. All education assistants are also certified. What makes Parkside Montessori School unique from other programs that exist throughout the province is that they are formally recognized as a Montessori school while other organizations often co-opt the name 'Montessori' for the purpose of creating the impression that experiential or hands-on learning is the same as Montessori learning, which it is not.

The division is currently working closely with the parent community at Parkside Montessori School and has included a plan in the 2026-2029 3-Year Capital Plan to extend programming to include grades 7 and 8. This expansion of programming will strengthen the school community and add enhanced publicly funded learning opportunities for our students.

It is also important to note that one of our local partner divisions, Grande Prairie and District Catholic Schools, also operates an elementary Montessori School in the City of Grande Prairie.

## Science, Technology, Engineering and Math Programming

A schoolwide focus on Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) programming exists in three dedicated schools within the division. Our STEM schools maintain a commitment to regular provincial curriculum but enrich those learning opportunities by focusing on enhanced learning through STEM programming. These schools excel at providing hands-on experiential learning and they develop opportunities for student engagement through partnerships with engineering and science focused organizations both within the city and throughout the province. This approach is further strengthened by our division partnership with Northwestern Polytechnic.

The division employs dedicated teacher-leads at each of our STEM schools with the expectation that the work of the STEM teacher not only supports STEM learning in the specific site but also extends to other schools resulting in an expansion of hands-on, experiential learning in all GPPSD schools.

## Trades Focused Programming

GPPSD offers an enhanced approach to preparing students for their careers after high school. GPPSD offers targeted programming and a robust system of support to ensure that students are ready to enter the workforce, or to further their education, upon completion of high school. We do this by:

- Ensuring a variety of program options for students, including:
  - High School Courses in 25 CTS Occupational Areas
  - Registered Apprenticeship Off Campus
  - Work Experience Off Campus
  - Dual Credit
- Supported by the CTS Bridging Program, our high schools currently deliver quality learning through instruction provided by **certificated teachers with red seal trade designations**. Our schools offer CTS apprenticeship courses in the following areas:
  - Auto Service Technician and Mechanics
  - Carpentry
  - Cooking and Baking
  - Hairstylist and Esthetician
  - Welding
- Being deliberate in developing awareness, from Pre-School to Grade 12, of career pathways and readiness skills to prepare students for life after high school.

The newly constructed Grande Prairie Composite High School is home to GPPSD's **Senior Trades Program**. This state-of-the-art hub for technology and trades innovation allows students to build on their experiences from our K-8 school's Career and Technology Foundations programs as well as the introductory trades at Charles Spencer High School. Students graduate from our schools already on the pathway to a meaningful career.

Students in high school explore careers through our well-developed 'Work Experience', 'Registered Apprenticeship' and 'Dual Credit' programming. These opportunities exist through our division's commitment to building strong and mutually beneficial relationships with other school divisions, post-secondaries, community organizations, and business and industry. Careers: The Next Generation is a key partner who supports students through facilitating internships and providing career education.

The Division is proud of our partnership with neighbouring school divisions over the past decade to support students, industry, and business. For the past 10 years we have partnered with Grande Prairie and District Catholic Schools and Peace Wapiti Public Schools to develop Off Campus opportunities and processes that support the Grande Prairie area. Having common processes allows industry partners to have a more seamless experience when they are supporting students from all three school divisions. We have developed this partnership because it is important to optimize experiences for both students and partners in business and industry.

GPPSD has also partnered with Northwestern Polytechnic and Northern Lakes College for the past nine years to provide increasing amounts of Dual Credit Programming. Currently students have access to Power Engineering 4th year, Surveying, Educational Assistant, Health Care Aide, and multiple single University Transfer Courses.

In collaboration with Northwestern Polytechnic, Grande Prairie and District Catholic Schools, and Peace Wapiti Public Schools, dual credit pathways have been developed for the 2025-2026 school year in the following areas: **Business, Education, Health, Humanities, and Trades**. The intent of the pathways model is to allow students to explore multiple areas and then focus on one that will transition them into post-secondary. We are excited for these new opportunities for students and are committed to expanding courses in these pathway areas to meet student interest. Supporting students to transition to post-secondary within our region helps build our local workforce and reduces post-secondary costs for families.

Critical to supporting this work is the development of a system-wide understanding of career awareness from Pre-School to Grade 12. The Grande Prairie Public School Division's intentional focus on 'Career Pathways' builds understanding about opportunities in the trades, post-secondary, and the world of work in a manner that supports students and their families to be best prepared for their future in our community. This coordination and alignment will have a substantial impact on students' readiness to be great citizens.

## **Summary**

The Grande Prairie Public School Division is a leader in providing student-centered choice and innovation. Engaging with parents and the community is an authentic part of GPPSD's practice because **we are the community of Grande Prairie**. We value collaboration with parents and the community because it strengthens both our division and our community when we work together to invest in our students.

Every student in the Grande Prairie Public School Division has access to hands-on, employment-focused learning opportunities that cannot be replicated by single purpose ventures. We are immensely proud of the work we have done to ensure opportunities exist for young people that not only prepare them for

their future but also strengthen our entire community. We have always done this by engaging with our parents and our community to ensure we meet the needs of our students.

While presented to us without meaningful background information, the focus of the proposed charter school in Grande Prairie does not appear to offer program choices that are unique or different from opportunities already provided to all students in the City of Grande Prairie through publicly funded school divisions. Our programming is designed to support the learning of all members of our community. Additionally, the breadth of student programming at GPPSD beyond the skilled trades area provides enhanced opportunities for students to explore multiple pathways throughout their high school experience. Students have access to Music, Performing and Visual Arts, Social Sciences, Physical Activity and Wellness in addition to CTS programming. For example, a high school student in our division can be working on the CTS apprenticeship curriculum while having access to all academic streams of curriculum and still explore the fine arts.

It is our belief that charter schools do not increase choice or cause innovation in public education and that this proposed charter school will not enhance opportunities for students in Grande Prairie. Charter schools' dilute choice and limit meaningful opportunities for students by creating a limited pathway for learning that cannot achieve the impactful learning experiences that an innovative and responsive school division, like the Grande Prairie Public School Division, is able to do.

We appreciate the opportunity to provide an overview of the choice-focused work of our division and thank you for giving earnest consideration to the information presented in this submission.

Respectfully,



Joan Nellis, Board Chair  
Board of Trustees  
Grande Prairie Public School Division



James Robinson  
Deputy Superintendent of Schools  
Grande Prairie Public School Division

CC: Grande Prairie Public School Division Board of Trustees  
Dr. Vivian Abboud, CEO of Alberta School Boards Association (ASBA)  
Troy Tait, Executive Director and CEO of Public School Boards' Association of Alberta (PSBAA)  
Grande Prairie Catholic School Division Board of Trustees  
Peace Wapiti Public School Division Board of Trustees  
MLA Nolan Dyck, Grande Prairie  
MLA Ron Wiebe, Grande Prairie-Wapiti





**Grande Prairie  
Public School  
Division**  
Every Student Succeeds

April 23, 2025

Lora Pillipow  
Deputy Minister of Education  
7<sup>th</sup> Floor, Commerce Place  
10155-102 Street  
Edmonton, Alberta T5J 4L5

Dear Ms. Pillipow,

This letter is in response to your April 16, 2025, correspondence requesting formal confirmation on whether the Grande Prairie Public School Division has an interest in acquiring the former Harry Balfour School, located at 10815-104 St. Grande Prairie (Plan 66KS, Lot A). Thank you for the opportunity to respond.

The Division's 2026-2029 3-Year Capital Plan identifies the acquisition and modernization of Harry Balfour School as our #2 priority, and this is a project of high importance to the school division. Having had the opportunity to examine the facility, it is evident that the building requires significant investment to modernize the school to meet the current quality standard of other schools operated by the Grande Prairie Public School Division.

Grande Prairie Public School Division does not have the capital to modernize Harry Balfour School, and the project would need financial support from the Government of Alberta to be achieved. In addition to the cost of modernizing the school, the Division would need to engage in discussions to support the interim costs of maintaining the building prior to the initiation of modernization.

Grande Prairie Public School Division is interested in acquiring the former Harry Balfour School and site, contingent upon further discussions on:

- Interim costs associated with maintaining the facility, pre-modernization, and
- A reasonable commitment to design funding supporting a future modernization of the facility.

We look forward to future discussions on this matter and appreciate the opportunity to further our division's commitment to ensuring every student succeeds.

Sincerely,

James Robinson  
Deputy Superintendent of Schools

---

April 29, 2025

Dr. Sam Wong, MD, FRCPC  
President of the AMA Section of Pediatrics

Dear Dr. Wong,

**Re: Advocacy for Enhanced Early Intervention Supports for Students with Complex Needs**

Thank you for your recent advocacy letter addressed to the Minister of Education regarding the changes made to the Program Unit Funding (PUF) model in 2020. On behalf of the Board of Trustees of Red Deer Catholic Regional Schools, I wish to acknowledge receipt of your letter and express our appreciation for the concerns the Section of Pediatrics raised.

Your advocacy aligns closely with our experience within Red Deer Catholic Regional Schools. Despite the 2020 changes to PUF funding, our Division continues to prioritize and support early intervention. However, these supports are now funded through our Inclusive Education budget, which is increasingly stretched. Additionally, due to funding constraints, we are no longer able to provide one-on-one educational assistants, even as the complexity of classroom needs continues to grow.

The Board remains concerned about the adequacy of current funding mechanisms to support all students, including early learning students with complex needs. Trustees recently discussed the importance of reviewing internal systems and exploring strategic approaches to budget, with plans to continue advocating for appropriate and sustainable funding levels.

We recognize the gaps in cross-ministry collaboration since the loss of the Regional Collaborative Services Delivery (RCSD), whose intent was a regional partnership, in essence a wrap-around service, to meet the identified needs of children and youth. We are currently finding ways to collaborate in Zone 4 with our ministry partners. We would advocate to you in your role to continue looking at your internal system for solutions to address children's complex needs, for example, decreasing the wait time for families to see a pediatrician or the use of the Primary Care Network in the realm of school-aged mental health concerns. It will also be essential to look at the Alberta Health Services (AHS) model to ensure the early intervention services of speech and language, occupational therapy, physical therapy and behavioural therapy are made available to families in a timely and consistent manner to ensure young children are supported even before they enter school aged programming. Additionally, having AHS Pediatric Specialty Clinics processes and

operations optimized to serve more families with not only a diagnosis but also family services and recommendations to their child, either at home or at school.

We commend the Alberta Medical Association for its efforts to raise awareness of the long-term impacts of reduced early intervention support in its continued advocacy for enhanced, stable funding to ensure all students have the opportunity to succeed.

God bless,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Murray Hollman', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Murray Hollman  
Board Chair

cc:

The Honourable Demetrios Nicolaides, Minister of Education

The Honourable Adriana LaGrange, Minister of Health

Dr. Vivan Abboud, Chief Executive Officer, Alberta School Boards Association

Board Chairs of Alberta School Divisions



April 30, 2025

Memo to: The Honourable Demetrios Nicolaides,  
Minister of Education

Memo from: The Board of Trustees,  
Grande Prairie and District Catholic School Division

Re: Charter School approval in Grande Prairie

We are reaching out to express our concerns regarding the recent application from the Grande Prairie Technical Institute to open a K-12 Public Charter School in Grande Prairie, Alberta.

- According to the Government of Alberta (2025) website, *Public charter schools are autonomous non-profit public schools that have a focus not already offered by the board of the school authority in which the public charter school is located – this could include unique:*
  - *learning styles*
  - *teaching styles*
  - *approaches*
  - *philosophies*
  - *pedagogies*
  - *vocation-based education*
- According to the email received from government on April 3, 2025 titled, *Notification of Public Charter School Application in Grande Prairie*, the proposed charter school would be a vocational school focused on Montessori and experiential learning approaches.

Thus, we respectfully submit the current application not be approved, as the Grande Prairie and District Catholic School Division already offers vocational opportunities for students, a Montessori focused school, and experiential learning approaches in our classrooms.

### **1. Vocational opportunities**

The Grande Prairie and District Catholic School Division offers a variety of programming for students, which includes a focus on career pathways and readiness for entry into the adult workforce. In addition to offering over 30 CTS courses, our students have opportunities that include:

- RAP (Registered Apprenticeship Program) for students in grades 10-11-12
- Work Experience off-campus for grades 9-10-11-12
- Dual Credit – we currently have Memorandums of Understanding with six post-secondary institutions (Northwestern Polytechnic, Bow Valley, Olds College, Southern Alberta Institute of Technology, and Northern Lakes).

In addition, our schools have certificated teachers with Red Seal designations that can offer CTS apprenticeship courses in the following areas:

- Hairstyling
- Carpentry
- Welding
- Automotive Service Tech

## **2. Montessori focus/STEM focus**

Our school division currently runs a Montessori K-8 school (Mother Teresa Catholic School) – this facility houses 505 students. This choice is available to all families within the division. Our teachers have all been certified with the Montessori course, and our classrooms are furnished in the Montessori-style, and Montessori resources are purchased yearly to maintain the high standard of our learning that our students receive, and families have come to expect.

In addition, St. Patrick Catholic School is a K-8 STEM focused school that is also a choice program for our families. With a population of 313 students, this school offers a permeation of science, technology, engineering, and mathematics activities and experiences for students across subject areas. In addition to classroom engagement, this school works with a variety of community organizations to ensure that students are not only learning about STEM, but are engaging in hands-on projects that incorporate STEM.

## **3. Experiential learning approaches**

In addition to having the Montessori and STEM pedagogical approaches, Grande Prairie and District Catholic Schools have also implemented a division-wide approach to Lijedahl's (2020) Building Thinking Classrooms (BTC), which most certainly fulfills and builds upon Kolb's (1984) Experiential Learning Cycle of Experience-Reflect-Think-Act. Students in every single classroom throughout the division have the opportunity to problem-solve through hands-on approaches that include experience with a) conversation/co-operation/collaboration; b) reflection; c) determining next steps/making projections/surmising; and finally d) putting their theory to the test, or summarizing their conclusions. This learning is done in small groups, is conversational, and has a considerable positive impact on deep thinking and problem-solving.

In conclusion, we feel that the application for the public charter school in Grande Prairie does not offer anything new or unique – our students are already being well served by the many choices and programs offered through the Grande Prairie and District Catholic School Division. At 86.5%, our three-year high school completion rates surpass the provincial measure.

Thank you for your consideration – we are always available for further conversation on this matter.

You can contact us by reaching out to:

GPCSD Board Chair, Mr. Russ Snoble at [russnsnoble@gpcsd.ca](mailto:russnsnoble@gpcsd.ca) and/or

GPCSD Superintendent, Dr. Jessie Shirley at [jessieshirley@gpcsd.ca](mailto:jessieshirley@gpcsd.ca)