

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 2nd 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
 - TTLIC 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