



**Grande Prairie
Public School
Division**

AGENDA
Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees of the
Grande Prairie Public School Division
Tuesday, September 23, 2025 6:00PM

| 1. CALL TO ORDER and INTRODUCTIONS | | |
|--|---|-------------------------|
| 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"> Committee of the Whole 2025 09 09 Regular Board Meeting Minutes 2025 09 09 | Board Chair Nellis |
| e. | Business Arising from Previous Minutes | |
| 2. DELEGATIONS, PRESENTATIONS and SYSTEM LEADERSHIP REPORTS | | |
| a. | Presentation of 2025 ASBA Edwin Parr Nominee Certificate | Board Chair Nellis |
| 3. COMMITTEES AND REPORTS | | |
| a. | Alberta School Boards Association Update <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ASBA Zone 1 Meeting & Edwin Parr and Friends of Education Awards Banquet 2025 09 17 | Trustee Buziak |
| b. | Board Policy Committee <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2025 09 09 Board Policy Committee Meeting Minutes for information only | Vice Chair Koch |
| c. | Advocacy and Engagement Committee <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2025 09 23 Advocacy and Engagement Committee | Trustee Martin |
| d. | Governance Minute | Trustee Ouellette |
| e. | Individual Trustee Reports (round table) | Trustees |
| f. | Superintendent's Report <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Board Governance Framework All Administrators and Principals Meeting 2025 09 10 Community Food Equity Committee Leadership Table Northwestern Polytechnic (NWP) Academic Showcase Cancellation of Alberta School Councils Association "Managing Meetings" Workshop Supporting Professional Recruitment in Grande Prairie Items for Action or Discussion <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Oh Canada Integrated School Support Program (ISSP) Advocacy | Superintendent McDonald |

| | | |
|------------------------|--|-------------------------------------|
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Board Orientation Planning | |
| g. | Associate Superintendent of Business Services Report <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ASEBP Transition Update Non-Instructional Liaison Committee Meeting | Associate Superintendent Oladele |
| 4. NEW BUSINESS | | |
| a. | Trustee Professional Learning and Sharing | Trustees |
| b. | Upcoming Dates and Events <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Board Workplan | Trustees |
| c. | Correspondence <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2025 09 10 Letter from Greater St. Albert Catholic Schools to Ministers re: Cross-Ministry Collaboration & Advocacy | 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 |

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE - MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE
BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE GRANDE PRAIRIE PUBLIC SCHOOL
DIVISION HELD AT CENTRAL OFFICE ON **September 9, 2025**

Board Chair Nellis called the Committee of the Whole meeting to order at 5:08 p.m. with the following present:

PRESENT

Trustees Buziak, Koch, Martin (5:14 pm), Nellis, Ouellette, Superintendent McDonald, Deputy Superintendent Robinson, Associate Superintendent Oladele, Executive Assistant, Business Services Crichton and Secretary to the Board Westwater (minutes).

Virtual: Trustee Johnston

Division Assurance Survey Summary

Superintendent McDonald and Director of System Planning, Kimberly Frykas, provided an overview of the results of the spring 2025 provincial Alberta Education and Childcare Assurance Measures (AEAM) results and the spring 2025 Division Assurance Results. The overview provided a description of process, participation rates, as well as a high-level review of results and a brief description of how the results are used by administration.

There was discussion on the overall themes that resulted from the AEAM report and Division Assurance Survey results including:

- 3- and 5-year high school completion rates.
- Increasing and promoting student engagement.
- Different cohorts of students and different schools tend to show different trends.
- Division staff satisfaction.

**BOARD
GOVERNANCE**

The Board thanked Administration for their work on engaging parents, students, teachers, and Division staff.

ASBA Position Statement Review 2025

Superintendent McDonald noted that Draft Position Statements from ASBA were distributed for School Board review earlier in August. The CEO of ASBA has asked for any feedback from Board Chairs to be submitted by Friday, September 26, 2025, in preparation for the Fall General Meeting on November 16-18. The Board discussed suggested amendments to the Draft Position Statements. The Board Chair will respond back to ASBA with feedback as discussed.

ADJOURNMENT

Chair Nellis called the Committee of the Whole Meeting closed at 6:01 p.m.

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TRUSTEES OF THE GRANDE PRAIRIE PUBLIC SCHOOL DIVISION
HELD AT CENTRAL OFFICE ON **September 9, 2025**

Board Chair Nellis called the Regular Meeting to order at 6:11 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, Koch, Martin, Nellis, Ouellette, Superintendent McDonald, Associate Superintendent Business Services Oladele, Deputy Superintendent Robinson, Executive Assistant Business Services SheraLea Crichton, (recorder), and Secretary to the Board Amanda Westwater (minutes).

Virtual: Trustee Johnston

Superintendent McDonald expressed appreciation to the division staff who arranged for the new flag stand and flags that are now raised in both the Board Room and the Central Office reception area, with the addition of the Metis flag and Treaty 8 flag.

**ADOPTION OF
AGENDA**

Adoption of Board Agenda

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

- Addition of In Camera item at end of meeting to discuss labour relations

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

UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED 15783

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

No conflicts.

MINUTES

Committee of the Whole Meeting of August 19, 2025

The Board reviewed the Committee of the Whole Meeting minutes of August 19, 2025.

MOTION: Trustee Martin moved to adopt the minutes of the Committee of the Whole Meeting of August 19, 2025, as circulated.

UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED 15784

Regular Board Meeting of August 19, 2025

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The Board reviewed the Regular Board Meeting minutes of August 19, 2025.

MOTION: Trustee Johnston moved to adopt the minutes of the Regular Board Meeting of August 19, 2025, as circulated.

UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED 15785

**BUSINESS ARISING
FROM THE MINUTES**

None to report.

**DELEGATIONS,
PRESENTATIONS and
SYSTEM
LEADERSHIP
REPORTS**

No Delegations or Presentations.

**COMMITTEES AND
REPORTS**

- Board Chair Report
Board Chair Nellis commented on the Meeting with Board members, Senior Leadership Team, MLA Dyck, and MLA Wiebe on September 2, 2025. Topics of discussion included the 2026-2029 Capital Plan, changes to the Real Property Governance Act, Classroom and System Complexity, System Administration and Governance, and regional support for Trades Education (Career Pathways). The Board expressed gratitude for the ongoing engagement with our local MLAs.
- Advocacy and Engagement Committee
The August 19, 2025 meeting minutes were included for information.
- Board Policy Committee
Vice Chair Koch provided a summary of the September 9, 2025 Board Policy Committee meeting. Items included Board Policy 11, Board Policy 6, and planning and support for the new Board Policy Committee following the election. Vice Chair asked the Board to provide any feedback to the Executive Assistant to the Board before the Committee meets next on October 14, 2025.
- Governance Minute
Trustee Johnston discussed the topic of “How does the Board know what parents, students, and staff think about the division?”. There are various methods and mechanisms, including but not limited to, annual assurance surveys, regularly scheduled advisory meetings (ex. TTLC,

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Non-Instructional, Student Advisory), School Council meetings each month, various external events, Thought exchanges and ad hoc committees. The data generated from those mechanisms is used to formulate future education plans. The Board thanked Trustee Johnston for his informative presentation.

Next Governance Minute will be completed by Trustee Ouellette on September 23; and Trustee Buziak on October 14.

Individual Trustee Reports

No reports.

Superintendent's Report

Items for Information

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

- **Draft Board Workplan 2025 – 2026**
The Board Workplan for the 2025 – 2026 year was attached for trustee review and information. It is designed in a new format to separate the months at a glance and improve utility of the plan. It will continue to be updated and presented monthly as part of the board meeting packages. The Board provided suggested updates including removing the specific times of meetings with stakeholders and shifting the completed month to the bottom of the document after each update.

There was discussion on the conflicting meetings on November 18, and whether the Regular Board Meeting in November could be changed to a different day (Wednesday November 12) due to Remembrance Day occurring on the second Tuesday of November.

Superintendent McDonald will adjust the proposed Board Meeting Schedule to include a Regular Board Meeting on November 12 and recommend to the new Board at the Organizational Meeting on October 28, 2025.

- **New Curriculum Resources**
At the August 19 Board meeting trustees asked for an update regarding the availability of resources to support the new core curriculum that is being developed and implemented and new instructional topics that have been impacted by new provincial legislation. Director of Teaching and Learning, Corinne Kruse, shared the following update:

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- The content is still relatively limited for the new curricula but continues to be developed. As resources for core curriculum subjects continue to be updated and identified on the New Learn Alberta website, division curriculum leads from the Teaching and Learning department are reviewing them and sharing with schools.
 - Recently a list of approved learning and teaching resources that deal primarily and explicitly with gender identity, sexual orientation or human sexuality and the list of approved external parties using or providing learning and teaching resources that deal primarily and explicitly with gender identity, sexual orientation or human sexuality were made available on the New Learn Alberta Website. Curriculum leads are developing a proposal to form a teacher working group to develop units and lessons that will use approved resources that teachers across the division can use as the core of their instruction in this area.
- Learning Commons Implementation Update
Deputy Superintendent Robinson noted that Ministerial Order #034/2025 was released on September 8, 2025. The new Ministerial Order repeals the previous order and school authorities now have until January 5, 2026 to comply with the Standards. The Division's approach to meeting the Ministerial Order re: school learning commons books, is to work with principals and develop a standard system plan and process that will allow us to support all schools, regardless of size. Various Administrative Procedures will be updated or created to address standards outlined by the Ministerial Order.
- Division Family Fun Run
The GPPPSD Annual Division Fun Run is set for September 20, 2025 at the Legion Field. Trustees are invited to attend, from 8:30am to 10:30am, and join Kindergarten to grade 6 students and their families. The Fun Run is a great opportunity for students to gather as part of their school community and show pride for their school. The event starts with a family walk-a-thon, followed by the grade-level student runs.
- 2025 School Board Trustee Election Videos
The videos created by trustees to promote the work of trustees for the public and potential candidates for the 2025 municipal election are available on the division YouTube page and linked on the division election website. The videos, available online at [Role of a School Board - Trustee 2025 Election](#) will also be promoted via newsletters and social media.

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- Off Campus Trades Education Planning
System leadership from all three local school divisions met with the Grande Prairie Construction Association on September 8 to discuss an ongoing partnership to support Career Education in the Grande Prairie area. Resources, for students in grades 1-6 that focus on skilled trades, from [Honour The Work](#) a Canadian company that is partnered with Calgary Construction Association and surrounding school divisions, were shared with members from the construction association. The concept of summer Career and Technology week-long camps was also discussed.
- Board Orientation Planning
October 20 – Election Day
October 23 – First Day of Orientation
October 28 – Annual Organizational Meeting and First Regular Meeting
November 20 – Second day of Orientation

The recommendations for consideration at the Organizational Meeting include trustee compensation, the draft schedule of board meeting dates, and the moving of the 2026-2027 annual Organizational Meeting to June 23, 2026, at 5:00 pm will be shared this day as well.

Items for Action or Discussion

- 56th Board Social Planning
The 56th Board Social is scheduled earlier in October this year, to accommodate the municipal election, and is planned for Saturday, October 4th, Tara Centre at Evergreen Park. The invitations have been distributed to all staff and retirees, reflecting an increase in ticket price from \$10 to \$15 for everyone, and to all casual and temporary staff who have worked more than 40 days in the previous year.

Superintendent McDonald provided a verbal update on current registration numbers to inform board discussion regarding contingency planning. If the Board were to postpone the event until later in the 2025-2026 school year, the venue has available dates in January or March 2026 and would apply the deposit to the new date.

MOTION: Trustee Buziak moved the Board postpone the 56th Board Social to a later date in the 2025-2026 school year.

UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED 15786
Abstained: Trustee Martin not in room

- Draft Governance Framework

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The framework has been developed to build understanding for internal and external stakeholders re: how the Board of Trustees of the Grande Prairie Public School Division defines and enacts governance. Publishing the framework on the division website and distributing it to stakeholder groups for review also provides an opportunity to highlight the work of the board. The Framework also has potential to support candidates in the upcoming municipal election, and in addition to being posted on the division website, if it is approved by the board, it could be distributed to the final list of candidates for trustee in the introductory email sent September 23, after nomination day ends at noon on September 22.

The Board had no further feedback and approved the Governance Framework as presented.

- **Trustee Attendance Request Form**
Administration is proposing a formalization of the process inviting trustees and the board to attend internal and external events. The purpose of this change is to support the organization of board calendars and to support communication in general within the division and the community. The proposed process is to ask all individuals, schools, school councils, and external organizations to use an online form to invite trustees to attend an event.

The Board expressed no concerns with the use of the online form.

- **Teacher Trustee Liaison Committee (TTLC) and Non-Instructional Liaison Committee Planning**
The first TTLC meeting is currently scheduled for Wednesday, October 15 and the first Non-Instructional Liaison Committee meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, October 22. These two meetings fall immediately before, and immediately after, the election. There is no issue with the TTLC meeting scheduled for October 15.

The October 22 Non-Instructional Liaison Committee meeting is scheduled prior to the establishment of the committee assignments for the new board on October 28, 2025. Administration is recommending that meeting be cancelled for the year, as has occurred previously. The Board inquired if the Non-Instructional Liaison Committee Meeting could occur prior to the election on October 20. Superintendent McDonald and Associate Superintendent Oladele will investigate whether the date change could be accommodated by the members on the Committee and report back at the September 23 Regular Board Meeting.

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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:

- **SCORES Agreement**
On May 15, 2025, the Technical Committee presented the updated and finalized draft SCORES agreement to the Standing Committee. The draft reflects feedback from all parties to the agreement. Key updates to the expired agreement includes two separate agreements (land agreement and operations agreement) and the inclusion of Tournament and Extended Event Fees.

There was discussion from the Board on the changes to the Real Property Governance Act and whether it will impact the SCORES Agreement.

- **2025 – 2025 Audit Planning**
Planning is underway for the audit of the Division's financial statements for the year ended August 31, 2025. As previously approved by the Board in June following a public tender process, Fletcher Mudryk LLP will continue to serve as the Division's financial statement auditor for a new five-year term.
Two Audit Committee meetings are tentatively planned to support the completion and approval of the audited financial statements:
 - October 7, 2025 to review the audit plan and timelines
 - November 25, 2025 to review the draft audited financial statements

Due to the timing of this year's municipal election and having only one Board meeting in November, the final approval of the audited financial statements will occur later than usual. Unlike prior years where approval and submission to Alberta Education typically occurred by November 30, this year the Division will be submitting the approved statements following the December 9 Board meeting. Administration has received formal approval from Alberta Education for the delayed submission.

- **Grande Prairie Christian School Expansion Letter**
The Minister of Education and Childcare responded to Grande Prairie Christian School (GPCS) Society's expansion proposal, encouraging the Society work with the Division to include the project in the Division's three-year capital plan. The Board has previously indicated support for the expansion project; however, current government rules prevent the Division from proceeding with the Minister's recommendation. Alberta

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Education assigns facility codes only to division-owned schools, and those codes are required to submit capital projects, GPCS does not have one. The province does not typically fund improvements of properties not owned by a school division, francophone authority or charter schools.

Administration recommends that Board Chair Nellis and Vice Chair Koch meet with the Society's Board's Chair and Vice Chair to explore possible solutions that could be presented jointly to Alberta Education.

Formal correspondence will be sent to the Minister that outlines the current restrictions that prevent GPPSD from including the project in the Capital Plan, and that both the Division and the Society are jointly in support of the proposed expansion and securing long term lease funding.

The Board was in favour of scheduling the meeting with the Board Chair and Vice Chair from GPPSD and the Grande Prairie Christian School (GPCS) Society Board Chair and Vice Chair.

NEW BUSINESS

Trustee Professional Learning and Sharing

Nothing to report.

Upcoming Dates and Events

- Board Workplan
The Board reviewed the updated Board workplan as information.
Upcoming events include:

| | |
|------------------------|---|
| Wednesday September 17 | ASBA Zone 1 Meeting (10:00am) GP Catholic School Division |
| Thursday September 18 | ASCA Council of School Council's Workshop (5:00pm) |
| Tuesday September 23 | Advocacy and Engagement Committee (3:30pm) |
| Tuesday September 23 | Regular Public Meeting (6:00pm) |

Correspondence

- 2025 08 21 Letter from Minister of Education and Childcare to GP District Society for Christian Education re: Long-term Lease Request
- 2025 08 27 Letter of Condolences to Chomyc Family
- 2025 08 29 Letter from Wolf Creek Public School Board to Premier of Alberta -Premiers Statement in Edmonton Journal

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IN CAMERA SESSION **MOTION:** Trustee Ouellette moved that the Board go in camera to discuss labour relations at 7:31 p.m.

UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED 15787

MOTION: Trustee Koch moved that the Board come out of camera at 8:15 p.m.

UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED 15788

ACTIONS ARISING FROM IN CAMERA **MOTION:** Trustee Ouellette moved that a Labour Disruption Committee be formed and shall act on behalf of the Board on all matters related to the labour disruption.

UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED 15789

NEXT MEETING AND ADJOURNMENT Next Board Meeting and Adjournment
The next meeting of the Board of Trustees is scheduled for Tuesday, September 23 at 6:00pm, to be held at Central Office in the Board Room.

Board Chair Nellis called the Regular Board Meeting closed at 8:16 p.m.

Chair

Secretary-Treasurer



**Grande Prairie
Public School
Division**

Board Policy Committee Meeting NOTES

Date: Tuesday, September 9, 2025
Time: 3:30 to 4:30pm
Location: Education Collaboration Room
Attendees: Trustee Koch (Chair), Trustee Johnston (virtual), Trustee Buziak, Superintendent McDonald, Deputy Superintendent Robinson, Executive Assistant to the Board Westwater (notes)

Agenda Items

Topic

1. Welcome & Land Acknowledgement
2. Board Policy 11 – Policy Making
 - Review DRAFT preamble for Policy Development. Finalize proposed updates.
3. Board Policy 6 – Trustee Code of Conduct
 - Legal advice sought to ensure compliance with new legislation
 -
4. Planning to support the new Board's policy committee.
5. Member Roundtable
6. Next Meeting Date – Tuesday, October 14, 2025 at 3:30pm in the Central Office Education Collaboration Room

1. Chair Koch opened the meeting at 3:32 pm with a Land Acknowledgement. No additions to the agenda.
2. Board Policy 11 – review preambles: Superintendent McDonald reviewed the background on this item. At the previous meeting on May 27 there was a request to develop some DRAFT preambles to update Board Policy 11 – Policy Making.

There was discussion on the three sample preambles provided for review.

Recommendation to Board: Executive Assistant to create DRAFT update to Board Policy 11 with updates discussed and distribute it to the Board Policy Committee for their initial review. If no additional changes are identified, the DRAFT Policy will be added to the September 23 Regular Board Meeting agenda for approval.

3. Board Policy 6 – Trustee Code of Conduct: Superintendent McDonald provided background on this item. There are several potential changes to Division Administrative Procedures and Board Policies as per recent legislation changes. Draft amendments to policies were provided to school boards by ASBA. The next Board Policy that needs to be addressed is Board Policy 6 – Role of the Trustee (particularly Section E), as the Education Amendment Act, 2025 removes the Board’s autonomy to disqualify or remove a Trustee and impose any sanctions for Code of Conduct breaches.

There was discussion on the current process outlined in Board Policy 6 and the recommendations from the legal opinion received.

Recommendation: External legal opinion will be shared with the Committee and the proposed amendments to Board Policy 6 will be brought back to the BP Committee meeting on October 14 for review and further discussion.

4. Planning to support new Board’s Policy Committee: The Committee discussed whether there was anything they think should be done differently for the next Board Policy Committee following the election. Discussion included:
 - Meeting frequency – should remain as monthly meetings
 - Governance Minute – keep on Regular Meeting agenda for a quick check-in for understanding
 - o Could address each policy during this section of the agenda for the new Board (20 Board policies and 18 meetings per year).
 - Rotating Trustees on the BP Committee to ensure all Trustees have a good understanding of all Board Policy’s
 - Show new Board the sequence of policy review, as it helps to explain why the review schedule is the way that it is.

Recommendation: Seek further feedback from whole Board on September 9 Regular Board Meeting and revisit at the October 14th committee meeting.

5. Roundtable: No updates or comments.
6. Next Meeting Date: Tuesday, October 14, 2025 in Board Room.

Meeting adjourned at 4:04pm.



**Grande Prairie
Public School
Division**

DATE: September 23, 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

BOARD GOVERNANCE FRAMEWORK

The Board Governance Framework, developed to inform division stakeholders of the general nature of the Board's governance actions, has been posted online. The Framework will also be an effective resource for candidates in the municipal election who wish to learn more about how the board operates to meet its responsibilities that are identified in provincial legislation and board policy. The Framework also describes the board's deliberate engagement with division administration and stakeholders and is available online at: <https://www.gppsd.ab.ca/our-board/board-governance>.

ALL ADMINISTRATORS MEETING/PRINCIPALS MEETING

The morning of the meeting was focused on professional learning for all school administrators and focused on the implementation of the division's Indigenous Education Guiding Document and the Career Pathways framework. Teams were given the opportunity to work collaboratively to plan for integrating each topic into their school workplans for the year to support their 3-Year Education Plans.

Teams were also provided a more detailed introduction to the changes in, and the new impact of, provincial privacy legislation on our practice. This topic will be revisited several times throughout the year as the new legislation will impact several areas of operations at all levels of the organization.

Time was committed in the afternoon for principals to review division strategies to support school councils. [Administrative Procedure 110 – School Councils](#), was reviewed and the addition of the Alberta School Councils' Association (ASCA) Code of Ethics was discussed. Principals will review AP 110 with their councils later this fall to collect feedback on the procedure in general and on the addition of ASCA's code of ethics. A copy of the Yearly Engagement Guide for School Councils that principals use to support their planning is attached for trustee information.

Principals were also given time to focus on the strategies they use to provide mentorship and guidance to their vice principals, to support both their day-to-day work and system leadership succession planning.

COMMUNITY FOOD EQUITY COMMITTEE LEADERSHIP TABLE

On September 15th the Superintendent participated with other organizational leaders from within the community to begin development of a strategic plan for the committee. The strategic planning was led by City of Grande Prairie staff to support *Helping Hand*. *Helping Hands* is the organization selected by the City of Grande Prairie to lead development of a community strategy to enhance collaboration among organizations that work to address food inequity and insecurity in Grande Prairie.

The feedback provided by community organizations who sit on the leadership table illustrates food inequity is a growing need in the community. Participating on this leadership table will allow the division to connect our families to support that extends beyond the current lunch and snack program.

More information, including background information about the issue and a list of food providers in the community, is available on the City of Grande Prairie's web page at <https://cityofgp.com/foodsecurity>.

NORTHWESTERN POLYTECHNIC (NWP) ACADEMIC SHOWCASE 2025

Deputy Superintendent Robinson and Director Kim Frykas, along with representatives from administration and counselling at the Grande Prairie Composite High School and Charles Spencer High School, attended the NWP Academic Showcase on September 15th. The agenda included topics to support the transition of students from our schools to NWP, including updates on the supports available for students at NWP and the dual credit opportunities for the year. Participants received presentations from the School of Skilled Trades, School of Applied Science and Technology, School of Business and Education, the School of Health and the School of Applied Research and Innovation.

It was shared at the Showcase that NWP's proposal to offer a Bachelor of Education degree in Secondary Education has been approved by the Minister of Advanced Education. Student registration is beginning this fall, for both new students and students already in the program, to begin in the program at the start of the second semester.

ALBERTA SCHOOL COUNCILS ASSOCIATION MANAGING MEETINGS WORKSHOP

Appreciation is extended to all school council members and school administrators who signed up for the *Managing Meetings* workshop. Unfortunately, the interest was not high enough to warrant bringing in a presenter from Edmonton for the workshop and it was cancelled. The value in this workshop expressed at the spring 2025 Council of School Councils meeting was high, and principals will be asked to seek interest from their councils, once all are formed this fall, to reschedule it later in the year.

SUPPORTING PROFESSIONAL RECRUITMENT IN GRANDE PRAIRIE

On September 18th, the Superintendent and Deputy Superintendent met with a representative from the city to share how our division can support the City's efforts to recruit professionals into Grande Prairie by sharing information about the division. The meeting occurred after this report was prepared and more information will be shared later.

ITEMS FOR ACTION OR DISCUSSION

OH CANADA

Administration is seeking feedback from the Board regarding a potential change in process for the playing of Oh Canada at public board meetings. The current version, sung by former division students who are now well into adulthood, is not the official version of Oh Canada. The proposed change is to update the version played at meetings to the official version of the national anthem and to work with schools during the year to develop a new recording of current students singing the official version. The proposal also includes changing the playing of the anthem to play it through the boardroom speakers out of the podium.

Trustees are asked to come prepared to share feedback to inform administrations planning to update the process.

INTEGRATED SCHOOL SUPPORT PROGRAM (ISSP) ADVOCACY

ISSP provides wraparound services at Hillside Community School to address the academic, social, and emotional needs of students, contributing to improved outcomes for children, families, and communities. The provincial ISSP initiative began with a program developed by the Calgary Police Youth Foundation several years ago and was extended across the province in the past two years. It is an initiative of Child and Youth Health Services, funded with up to \$10M per year by the Government of Alberta.

The provincial director of the ISSP program has initiated a provincial effort to share the positive feedback from divisions hosting the ISSP program and the Board is asked to consider writing a letter of support to the Government of Alberta in support.

Current funding for this program is scheduled to end in June 2026. To help sustain and expand this impactful initiative beyond that, administration asks the board to consider writing a letter of support for the program to the government advocating for continued funding.

For background, the ISSP program at Hillside Community School began operations in September 2024. Wraparound services provided through the ISSP at Hillside Elementary School are provided for the purpose of improving the academic performance and the social, emotional, and physical well-being of children. Students benefit from access to a full-time mental health professional, a nutrition program, a full-time physical education teacher in the school, a positive police presence in the school and enhanced after school programming. Support for families is also available through the program.

The final report for the first year of the program at Hillside has not been completed by the provincial staff who support the program at this time, but anecdotal observations of staff, feedback from students and parents, is extremely positive. While no evidence exists to suggest it is the result of the program, division data illustrates overall student attendance increased by over 6% last year and is the highest in the last 6 years.

The following motion is requested of the board:

Trustee X moved the board direct administration to draft a letter from the Board to the government advocating for the continuation and expansion of ISSP funding.

BOARD ORIENTATION PLANNING

A report providing an overview of the plan to support the onboarding and orientation of the new board is provided for information. The plan is like the plan used for the current board in the fall of 2021, but has been refined based on administration's work to support the board throughout their current term.

Trustees are asked to review the plan and bring feedback and advice to the board meeting for discussion to refine the plan, if needed, to support the new board.



GPPSD School Council Yearly Agenda & Engagement

- Anything underlined must be attended to; dates may fluctuate.
- Principal's report topics are suggestions – these topics should be populated in consultation with the school council and principal.

September Meeting

- ☐ Welcome and orientation (purpose and role of School Council and review [AP110 School Councils](#))
- ☐ Principal's Report: key events for the year, opportunities for School Council engagement
- ☐ Discuss parent communication protocol (Teacher > Principal > Trustee > Superintendent > Minister of Education)
- ☐ Creation or Review of School Council Plan for the year (set goals)
- ☐ Overview of current School Budget and Student Learning Goals/Challenges
- ☐ Elections/ Appointments to key positions (School Council AGM)
 - [Sample SC AGM Agenda.pdf](#) (ASCA)

September To Do

- ☐ Share this document, [GPPSD School Council Yearly Agenda and Engagement](#), with the new chair, and review the [ASCA sample of code of ethics and conduct](#), School Council purpose, and meeting management practices.
- ☐ Annual School Council report to the Board (submitted by September 30)
 - financial statements of any money handled by the School Council
 - activities of the school council for the preceding year
 - School Council Grant – details of expenditures
 - [SC Annual Report Template.pdf](#) (from ASCA)
- ☐ Share ASCA Session Information: Managing Meetings Session
 - September 18th, 2025: 5:00 pm – 7:30 pm
 - Central Office Board Room

October Meeting

- ☐ Principal's Report: Introduction/Overview of the Accountability Pillar for school and school division
- ☐ Overview of the 3 Year Education Plan of the school and the school division
- ☐ Elections/ Appointments to key positions (School Council AGM) – if this did not occur in September

November Meeting

- ☐ Principal's Report: Review Optimum Learning Framework purpose, student assessment practices in support of Student Learning / Initiatives for “at-risk” students in support of Student Learning
- ☐ Review communication practices in the school used by teachers to communicate with parents
- ☐ Analysis and Implementation of School Council Plan to support Student Learning

GPPSD November/December School Council Chairs Meeting

December Meeting

- ☐ Principal's Report: School and Division PAT and DIP results
- ☐ Review of draft school Annual Education Results Report (Dec/Jan)
- ☐ Review draft calendar for next year (could be Nov-Feb date range for review)
- ☐ Holiday celebration

January Meeting

- ☐ Principal's Report: Review of Discipline Policy relating to Student Learning, and review of [AP395 – Resolving School Level Complaints](#)
- ☐ Review of draft/final school Annual Education Results Report (Dec/Jan)
- ☐ Review draft calendar for next year (could be Nov-Feb date range for review)
- ☐ Begin discussion relating to upcoming School Budget and Three-Year Educational Plan
- ☐ Assessment of School Council Plan relating to supporting Student Learning
- ☐ **Alberta School Councils' Association's Conference/AGM information/registration (late April)**

GPPSD January/February School Council Chairs Meeting

February Meeting

- ☐ Principal's Report: Mid-year assessment: Share student learning progress results to date. Review what staff are learning through school inquiry process.
- ☐ Review of final school Annual Education Results Report
- ☐ Special Guest Speaker in support of Student Learning: Topic TBA
- ☐ School Council Recruitment Strategies and Succession Planning
- ☐ **Review, discuss and pre-vote: all Proposed Advocacy Resolutions for ASCA AGM (available on ASCA website)**

March Meeting

- ☐ Principal's Report: Instructional Practices relating to Student Learning
- ☐ Final discussion relating to the upcoming School Budget and Student Fees
- ☐ Draft Three-Year Educational Plan (Mar-June)
- ☐ Assessment of School Council Plan relating to supporting Student Learning
- ☐ **Review, discuss and pre-vote: all Proposed Advocacy Resolutions for ASCA AGM**
- ☐ **Nominations for ASCA Board of Directors – Deadline: 15 days prior to AGM (late April)**

April Meeting

- ☐ Principal's Report:
- ☐ Finalize School Council Recruitment Strategies and Succession Planning
- ☐ Opportunities for recognition of staff, students and parents relating to supporting Student Learning
- ☐ Draft Three-Year Educational Plan (Mar-June)
- ☐ **Attend/send delegate to ASCA Conference/AGM (Learning, Networking, Provincial Voice)**

May Meeting

- ☐ Principal's Report: Staffing, Program and Practices Changes in support of Student Learning
- ☐ School Council AGM planning
- ☐ Final Evaluation of School Council Plan relating to supporting Student Learning
- ☐ Draft Three-Year Educational Plan (Mar-June)
- ☐ **Summary of ASCA Conference (Learning/Networking) and AGM (Elections/Advocacy = Provincial Voice)**



GPPSD May School Council Chairs Meeting

June Meeting

- ☐ Principal's Report: Finalized School Budget
- ☐ Draft Three-Year Educational Plan (Mar-June)
- ☐ Celebrate successes!



Guidelines

School Education Plan (Sept, Jan-June)

School Administrators, in collaboration with staff, develop school education plans. School Councils have the opportunity to provide advice and feedback on the development of the School's Annual Education Plan. The School Education Plan will be shared at the beginning of each year and should be referenced throughout the year.

Annual School Council Reporting Requirements (submit to Central Office by September 30)

- each school council will submit their report to the Board by Sept 30 yearly
- reports will include:
 - financial statements of any money handled by the School Council
 - activities of the school council for the preceding year
 - School Council Grant – details of expenditures

School Education Results Report (October - January)

School Administrators, in collaboration with staff, develop annual school education results reports that align with their School Plan. School Councils have the opportunity to provide advice and feedback on the development of the Annual Results Report.

Provincial Assessment Results (October – December)

School Administrators will provide the School Council with the results for the school from provincial assessments (Provincial Achievement Tests grades 6 and 9, and Diploma Exams), an interpretation of those results for the school by the end of December.

GPPSD School Council Chairs Meetings (November/December, January/February, May)

The Grande Prairie Public School Division Central Office Administration and School Board meets with School Council Chairs and representatives to seek their input into key areas of direction, and to share results for the school from provincial assessments, and interpretation of those results.

Division & School Calendar (December – January)

School Administrators will provide draft calendar(s) and build understanding with School Council of the process and parameters considered when developing the calendar. Feedback from School Council will be shared with Central Office.

School Budget Updates (schedule determined by Principal and School Council)

School Administrators will provide an overview of the school budget and fees. School Councils can offer suggestions on school budget priorities, expenditure allocations, instructional and other fees.

School Fees (April)

AP 505: School Assessed Fees outlines principals, in consultation with School Councils and the Superintendent, may propose school fees.

Board Policy 16: Student Fees indicates that the “consulting process will be documented and must include an explanation of why a change in any fees or costs was required.”



Other Engagement Opportunities for School Councils to Consider

Kindergarten and New Student Registration

- Promoting registration dates
- Providing testimonials about the school
- Sharing the role of School Council with new families

School Council Presence at School Community Events (Welcome Back, Welcome to Kindergarten, Parent Teacher Interviews, Celebrations)

- Be available to talk with families about School Council

School Council Workshops

Alberta School Council Association Workshops

MediaSmarts

- [Resources For Parents](#)
 - [Tutorials and Workshops](#)
 - [Tip Sheets](#)

Question to Consider:

- What makes parents feel “in community with” their children’s schools?
- In what ways do you create mutually beneficial opportunities for parents and other stakeholders?





**Grande Prairie
Public School
Division**

DATE: September 23, 2025

TO: Board of Trustees

FROM: Alexander (Sandy) McDonald, Superintendent of Schools

SUBJECT: Board Orientation Planning

REFERENCE: Board Policy 2.7.3 – Role of the Board (Ensure new trustees are provided appropriate orientation opportunities at local and provincial levels)

BACKGROUND

The purpose of this report is to provide an overview of the plan to support the onboarding and orientation of the new Board of Trustees following the municipal election on October 20. The plan is a refinement of the plan used in the fall of 2021 to support the current board.

The intent of the content included in this plan is to build shared understanding of all trustees of their fiduciary responsibility to the school division and of the individual and collective responsibilities identified in provincial legislation and board policy. The content presented should be reviewed as draft, as the identified needs of the new board will also influence development of the content shared with trustees during the onboarding and orientation process.

KEY DATES RELATED TO THE ELECTION AND BOARD ORIENTATION

| | |
|---------------------------------|--|
| Monday, September 22, 12:00 pm | Nominations close |
| Tuesday, September 23, 12:00 pm | Deadline for candidates to withdraw |
| Tuesday, September 23, 1:00 pm | Introductory email to all candidates |
| October 9-11 and 16-18 | Advance Voting |
| Monday, October 20 | Municipal Election |
| Tuesday, October 20 | Welcome email from Superintendent |
| Thursday, October 23 | Board and Trustee Orientation – Day 1 |
| Tuesday, October 28 | Trustee/Board Pictures <i>*tentative*</i> |
| Tuesday, October 28 | Board Organizational Meeting |
| Tuesday, October 28 | First Regular Public Board Meeting |
| Thursday, November 20 | Board and Trustee Orientation – Day 2 |
| Thursday, February 19 | Board Professional Learning and Planning Retreat |
| Thursday, May 7 | Board Planning Retreat |

Note: The Alberta School Boards Association offers training to new trustees and new board chairs as well and all trustees are encouraged to participate. Dates have not yet been set for those training opportunities.

BOARD ORIENTATION TOPICS

| Event Date | Topics Covered |
|-------------------------|--|
| Thursday, October 23 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review of the structure and process of Organizational and Regular Meeting. Review finance/expense and interests disclosure expectations. Receive laptops and information technology instruction for keeping calendars, utilizing software, and accessing tech support. |
| Board and Trustee | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Receive and review Trustee Welcome Binder. Fiduciary Responsibility, Education Act, Board Policy 2, 3, and 6. |

| Event Date | Topics Covered |
|--|--|
| Orientation, Day 1 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Run through Board Meeting Practices, including Robert's Rules of Order, in preparation for first regular meeting. • Review of Governance Framework and Board Workplan, with a focus on the schedule of reports to the board. • Introduction to division administration and operations. • Trustee Book Study discussion: It is recommended all trustees participate in a structured reading and review of The Governance Core, by Davis Campbell and Michael Fullan. |
| Tuesday, October 28 Board Organizational Meeting | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Declaration of official results. • Individual trustees take Oath of Office. • Election of the Chair and Vice Chair. • Appointment of Committees. • Confirmation of Regular Board Meeting Schedule. • Approval of Trustee Compensation. • Trustee information disclosure submitted. |
| Thursday, November 20 Board Planning Retreat | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introduction to planning and results in GPPSD. • 3-Year Education Plan. • Draft Annual Education Results Report review. • Review of processes and structures to support trustees to meet their fiduciary responsibilities. • Division budget overview and introduction to Audited Financial Statements. • The relationship between the Superintendent of Schools and the Board of Trustees. |
| Thursday, February 19 Board Professional Learning and Planning Retreat | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Trustee book study summary. • Specific content identified by trustees in December. |
| Thursday, May 7 Board Planning Retreat | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Budget Development Update. • Review Draft third year update of 3-Year Education Plan update. |

Note: the content of all orientation dates following the Organizational Meeting and the First Regular Public Meeting may change as needs arise during the year.



**Grande Prairie
Public School
Division**

DATE: September 23, 2025

TO: Board of Trustees

FROM: Ola Oladele, Associate Superintendent, Business Services

SUBJECT: Business Services Update

GOVERNANCE REFERENCE: Board Policy 2.9.5: Role of the Board: Human Resources; Board Policy 8: Committees of the Board

PURPOSE

To update the Board on the status of the benefit services from Sun Life to the Alberta School Employee Benefit Plan (ASEBP) and confirm a new date for the Non-Instructional Liaison Meeting.

ASEBP UPDATE

The Grande Prairie Public School Division has successfully transitioned employee benefit services from Sun Life to the Alberta School Employee Benefit Plan (ASEBP) for all support staff and the Board of Trustees.

ASEBP welcome packages were distributed to all eligible members in June and July as part of the transition, which included details specific to each group's coverage. Staff enrollment began in August, with onboarding completed for 401 employees. Benefits for permanent non-instructional staff became effective September 1, 2025, while benefits for temporary non-instructional staff, whether new or returning for the school year, became effective August 25, 2025.

The Division was able to provide health benefit coverage continuity during the transition, and the process has been quite seamless. As part of the onboarding process, final deadlines for enrolment changes, dependent declarations, and leaves are underway and deadlines continue to be monitored, including final allocation deadlines for Health and Wellness Spending Accounts.

All ASEBP covered members were provided the opportunity to attend a virtual benefit session that was hosted by ASEBP on September 10, 2025. ASEBP offers improved digital tools (My ASEBP), streamlined claims, and stronger wellness support that is now unified across the Division for all staff.

NON-INSTRUCTIONAL LIASON MEETING

At the September 9 Board Meeting, the Board requested that Administration investigate the possibility or rescheduling the October 22nd Non- Instructional Liaison to an earlier date as opposed to canceling. The meeting has now been rescheduled to October 17th at 4:15pm after consulting with the Executive team.



GPPSD BOARD OF TRUSTEES 2025-2026 WORK PLAN

Note: agendas, minutes, and links to the meeting recordings are available on the division website, at: <https://www.gppsd.ab.ca/our-board/board-meetings>. Regular Meetings of the Board are open for the public to attend in person and are held in the Board Room of the division office at 10127 – 120 Avenue.

Information about board and committee meetings, including the process for individuals or delegations to present to the board, is available in Board Policy 7 – Board Operations, available on the division website, at: <https://www.gppsd.ab.ca/our-board/policies-and-bylaws>.

SEPTEMBER

| Date | Event | Governance Description |
|-----------------------------------|--|--------------------------------------|
| Tuesday, September 9 | Board Policy Committee (3:30 pm) | Standing Committee Meeting |
| Tuesday, September 9 | Committee of the Whole (5:00pm) - Division Assurance Survey Summary - Review ASBA Position Statement Drafts | Board Committee of the Whole Meeting |
| Tuesday, September 9 | Regular Public Meeting (6:00 pm) | Regular Board Meeting |
| Wednesday, September 17 | ASBA Zone 1 Meeting GP Catholic School Division Office | External Board/Committee |
| Thursday, September 18 | ASCA Council of School Council's Workshop (5:00pm) | Parent Engagement |
| Tuesday, September 23 | Advocacy and Engagement Committee (3:30pm) | Standing Committee Meeting |
| Tuesday, September 23 | Regular Public Meeting (6:00pm) | Regular Board Meeting |

OCTOBER

| Date | Event | Governance Description |
|--------------------------|--|--------------------------------------|
| Tuesday October 7 | Audit Committee Meeting (4:30pm) | Standing Committee Meeting |
| Wednesday October 8 | ASBA Zone 1 Meeting High Prairie School Division | External Board/Committee |
| Tuesday October 14 | Board Policy Committee (3:30 pm) | Standing Committee Meeting |
| Tuesday October 14 | Committee of the Whole (5:00 pm) - <i>Annual Staff Exit Survey Data Summary</i> | Board Committee of the Whole Meeting |
| Tuesday October 14 | Regular Public Meeting (6:00 pm) - <i>Annual Student Enrollment Summary</i> | Regular Board Meeting |
| Wednesday October 15 | Teacher Trustee Liaison Committee (3:45pm) | Standing Committee Meeting |
| Monday October 20 | Municipal Election Day | |
| Wednesday October 22 | Non-Instructional Liaison Committee Meeting (4:15pm) | Standing Committee Meeting |
| Thursday October 23 | First day of trustee orientation | Board Development |
| Tuesday October 28 | Annual Organizational Meeting (5:00pm) - <i>Set Board Meeting Schedule for the year</i> - <i>Review Trustee Compensation Recommendation</i> | Annual Board Organizational Meeting |
| Tuesday October 28 | Regular Public Meeting (6:00pm) | Regular Board Meeting |

NOVEMBER

| Date | Event | Governance Description |
|--|---|--------------------------------------|
| Wednesday November 12 | ASBA Zone 1 Meeting Peace Wapiti School Division | External Board/Committee |
| Wednesday November 12 | Advocacy and Engagement Committee (3:30 pm) | Standing Committee Meeting |
| Wednesday November 12 | Committee of the Whole (5:00 pm) - Review Draft Alberta Education Results Report - Bi-annual Risk Management Report | Board Committee of the Whole Meeting |
| Wednesday November 12 | Regular Public Meeting (6:00pm) | Regular Board Meeting |
| Sunday November 16 – Tuesday November 18 | ASBA Fall General Meeting | External Board/Committee |
| Wednesday November 19 – Friday November 21 | PSBAA Fall Conference & AGM | External Board/Committee |
| Thursday November 20 | Second day of Trustee Orientation (9:00am) | Board Development |
| Friday, November 21 | Student Advisory Committee (9:00am) | Standing Committee Meeting |
| Tuesday November 25 | Audit Committee Meeting (4:30pm) | Standing Committee Meeting |
| Tuesday November 25 | Regular Public Meeting (6:00 pm) - Annual Student Attendance Report | Regular Board Meeting |
| Thursday November 27 | Council of School Council's Meeting (7:00pm) | Standing Committee Meeting |

DECEMBER

| Date | Event | Governance Description |
|-----------------------|--|--------------------------------------|
| Tuesday December 9 | Board Policy Committee (3:30 pm) | Standing Committee Meeting |
| Tuesday December 9 | Committee of the Whole (5:00 pm) - Review Draft School Year Calendar | Board Committee of the Whole Meeting |
| Tuesday December 9 | Regular Public Meeting (6:00 pm) - Review Audited Financial Statements - Fall Budget Update - Annual Education Results Report | Regular Board Meeting |
| Wednesday December 10 | ASBA Zone 1 Meeting (10:00am) Location TBC | External Board/Committee |

JANUARY

| Date | Event | Governance Description |
|----------------------|--|--------------------------------------|
| Tuesday January 13 | Advocacy and Engagement Committee (3:30 pm) | Standing Committee Meeting |
| Tuesday January 13 | Committee of the Whole (5:00pm) - <i>Annual Student Profile and Specialized Services Report</i> | Board Committee of the Whole Meeting |
| Tuesday January 13 | Regular Public Meeting (6:00 pm) - <i>Annual Transportation Report</i> - <i>Annual Finance Department Report</i> | Regular Board Meeting |
| Wednesday January 14 | ASBA Zone 1 Meeting Location TBC | External Board/Committee |
| Wednesday January 14 | Teacher Trustee Liaison Committee (3:45pm) | Standing Committee Meeting |
| Wednesday January 21 | Non-Instructional Liaison Committee Meeting (4:15pm) | Standing Committee Meeting |
| Thursday January 22 | School Assurance Meetings | Board Committee of the Whole Meeting |
| Tuesday January 27 | Board Policy Committee (3:30 pm) | Standing Committee Meeting |
| Tuesday January 27 | Regular Public Meeting (6:00 pm) - <i>Approval of 2026-2027 School Year Calendar</i> - <i>Annual IT Department Report</i> - <i>Q1 Budget Update</i> | Regular Board Meeting |
| Thursday January 29 | School Assurance Meetings | Board Committee of the Whole Meeting |
| Friday January 30 | Student Advisory Committee | Standing Committee Meeting |

FEBRUARY

| Date | Event | Governance Description |
|--|---|--------------------------------------|
| Thursday February 5 – Friday February 6 | PSBC Meeting – Location TBC | External Board/Committee |
| Tuesday February 10 | Advocacy and Engagement Committee (3:30 pm) | Standing Committee Meeting |
| Tuesday February 10 | Committee of the Whole (5:00pm) - <i>Annual Optimum Student Learning Report</i> - <i>Annual Occupational Health and Safety Report</i> | Board Committee of the Whole Meeting |
| Tuesday February 10 | Regular Public Meeting (6:00 pm) - <i>Annual Operations and Maintenance Department Report</i> | Regular Board Meeting |
| Wednesday February 11 | ASBA Zone 1 Meeting Location TBC | External Board/Committee |
| Thursday February 12 | School Assurance Meetings | Board Committee of the Whole Meeting |
| Thursday February 19 | Board Professional Learning / Board Planning Retreat - <i>Review Education Director Workplans</i> | Board Development |
| Tuesday February 24 | Board Policy Committee (3:30 pm) | Standing Committee Meeting |
| Tuesday February 24 | Regular Public Meeting (6:00 pm) - <i>Board Budget Development Process and Budget Guiding Principles Development</i> - <i>Annual Human Resources and Wellness Report</i> | Regular Board Meeting |
| Thursday February 26 | Council of School Council's Meeting (7:00pm) | Standing Committee Meeting |

MARCH

| Date | Event | Governance Description |
|--------------------|--|--------------------------------------|
| Tuesday March 10 | Advocacy and Engagement Committee (3:30 pm) | Standing Committee Meeting |
| Tuesday March 10 | Committee of the Whole (5:00pm) - <i>Draft 3-Year Capital Plan</i> | Board Committee of the Whole Meeting |
| Tuesday March 10 | Regular Public Meeting (6:00 pm) - <i>Indigenous Companion Document Update</i> | Regular Board Meeting |
| Wednesday March 11 | ASBA Zone 1 Meeting Location TBC | External Board/Committee |
| Tuesday March 24 | Board Policy Committee (3:30 pm) | Standing Committee Meeting |
| Tuesday March 24 | Regular Public Meeting (6:00 pm) - <i>Q2 Budget Update</i> - <i>3-Year Capital Plan Approval</i> | Regular Board Meeting |
| Wednesday March 25 | Teacher Trustee Liaison Committee (3:45pm) | Standing Committee Meeting |

APRIL

| Date | Event | Governance Description |
|------------------------------------|--|--------------------------------------|
| Wednesday April 1 | Non-Instructional Liaison Committee Meeting (4:15pm) | Standing Committee Meeting |
| Wednesday April 8 | ASBA Zone 1 Meeting Location TBC | External Board/Committee |
| Thursday April 9 – Friday April 10 | PSBC Meeting – Location TBC | External Board/Committee |
| Tuesday April 21 | Advocacy and Engagement OR Board Policy Committee (3:30 pm) | Standing Committee Meeting |
| Tuesday April 21 | Committee of the Whole (5:00pm) - <i>Annual Succession Planning Report</i> - <i>Annual Division Compensation Report</i> - <i>Bi-Annual Risk Management Report</i> | Board Committee of the Whole Meeting |
| Tuesday April 21 | Regular Public Meeting (6:00 pm) | Regular Board Meeting |
| Friday April 24 | Student Advisory Committee | Standing Committee Meeting |

MAY

| Date | Event | Governance Description |
|--------------------------------------|--|--------------------------------------|
| Wednesday May 6 | Teacher Trustee Liaison Committee (3:45pm) | Standing Committee Meeting |
| Thursday May 7 | Board Spring Planning Retreat (9:00am) - <i>Draft 3-Year Education Plan</i> - <i>Budget Development Update</i> | Professional Development |
| Tuesday May 12 | Advocacy and Engagement Committee (3:30 pm) | Standing Committee Meeting |
| Tuesday May 12 | Committee of the Whole (5:00pm) - <i>Draft Division Budget</i> | Board Committee of the Whole Meeting |
| Tuesday May 12 | Regular Public Meeting (6:00 pm) - <i>Board Policy 16 – Student Fees Update</i> | Regular Board Meeting |
| Wednesday May 13 | ASBA Zone 1 Meeting Location TBC | External Board/Committee |
| Tuesday May 26 | Board Policy Committee (3:30 pm) | Standing Committee Meeting |
| Tuesday May 26 | Regular Public Meeting (6:00 pm) - <i>2026-2027 Division Budget Approval</i> - <i>3-Year Education Plan Approval</i> | Regular Board Meeting |
| Thursday May 28 | Council of School Council's Meeting (7:00pm) | Standing Committee Meeting |
| Thursday May 28 – Saturday May 30 | PSBAA Spring General Meeting in Calgary | External Board/Committee |

JUNE

| Date | Event | Governance Description |
|-----------------------------------|---|--------------------------------------|
| Monday June 1 – Tuesday June 2 | ASBA Spring General Meeting in Calgary | External Board/Committee |
| Wednesday June 3 | Non-Instructional Liaison Committee Meeting (4:15pm) | Standing Committee Meeting |
| Friday June 5 | Student Advisory Committee | Standing Committee Meeting |
| Tuesday June 9 | Advocacy and Engagement (3:30 pm) | Standing Committee Meeting |
| Tuesday June 9 | Committee of the Whole (5:00pm) | Board Committee of the Whole Meeting |
| Tuesday June 9 | Regular Public Meeting (6:00 pm) - <i>Q3 Budget Update</i> - <i>Annual Locally Developed Courses Update</i> - <i>Annual Summer Maintenance Work Schedule Review</i> | Regular Board Meeting |
| Wednesday June 10 | ASBA Zone 1 Meeting Location TBC | External Board/Committee |
| Tuesday June 23 | Board Policy Committee (3:30 pm) | Standing Committee Meeting |
| Tuesday June 23 | Regular Public Meeting 6:00 pm) | Regular Board Meeting |

JULY – NO MEETINGS SCHEDULED**AUGUST**

| Date | Event | Governance Description |
|---|------------------------------|--------------------------|
| Wednesday August 5 – Friday August 7 | PSBC Meeting Location TBC | External Board/Committee |

AUGUST 2025

| Date | Event | Governance Description |
|-------------------|---|--------------------------------------|
| Tuesday August 19 | Advocacy and Engagement Committee (3:30 pm) | Standing Committee Meeting |
| Tuesday August 19 | Committee of the Whole (5:00 pm) | Board Committee of the Whole Meeting |
| Tuesday August 19 | Regular Public Meeting (6:00 pm) - <i>Summer School Participation Summary Report</i> - <i>Career Pathways Planning</i> | Regular Board Meeting |

Board of Trustees

Chair: Lydia Yeomans | Vice-Chair: René Tremblay

Trustees: Joe Becigneul | Cathy Proulx | Noreen Radford | Greg Schell | Serena Shaw

4.c. Letter from GSACRD to Ministers
re: Cross-Ministry Collaboration and
Joint Advocacy

**Greater St. Albert
Catholic Schools**



SENT VIA EMAIL

September 10, 2025

Honourable Demetrios Nicolaides
Minister of Education and Childcare
423 Legislature Building
10800 – 97 Avenue
Edmonton, AB T5K 2B6
education.minister@gov.ab.ca

Honourable Rick Wilson
Minister of Mental Health and Addiction
403 Legislature Building
10800 – 97 Avenue
Edmonton, AB T5K 2B6
mha.minister@gov.ab.ca

Honourable Searle Turton
Minister of Children and Family Services
130 Legislature Building
10800 – 97 Avenue
Edmonton, AB T5K 2B6
cfs.minister@gov.ab.ca

Honourable Adriana LaGrange
Minister of Primary and Preventative Health Services
224 Legislature Building
10800 – 97 Avenue
Edmonton, AB T5K 2B6
health.minister@gov.ab.ca

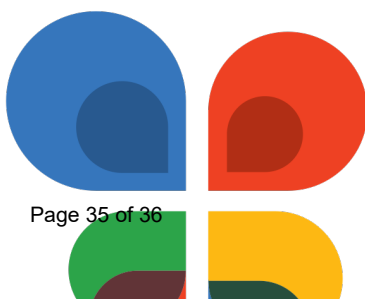
Re: Cross-Ministry Collaboration

Dear Ministers Nicolaides, Wilson, Turton & LaGrange,

On behalf of the Board of Trustees for Greater St. Albert Catholic Schools, I write to you as partners in the shared responsibility of caring for Alberta's children, youth, and families. As a Catholic school division, we believe every child is created in the image of God and deserves to flourish spiritually, academically, emotionally, and socially. Our schools strive to nurture this growth, but we cannot do it alone.

Increasingly, schools are called upon to fill gaps in services that extend well beyond the scope of education, particularly in the areas of mental health counseling, family support, and therapeutic services such as speech-language, occupational therapy, and behavioural intervention. The current fragmentation of services places significant strain on families, schools, and communities.

- Families experience extraordinarily long waits for core services. Inclusion Alberta's 2024 survey found that families face up to a three-year wait to access the full range of supports under the Family Supports for Children with Disabilities (FSCD) program. Half of those surveyed said these delays led to missed developmental milestones, and 10 percent reported interference with their child's school attendance.
- Rural families, such as our families in Morinville and Legal, are disproportionately affected. Seventy-two percent of rural respondents reported negative impacts due to lack of local supports—versus 60 percent among families in urban areas.
- The caseload crisis is acute. Advocates warn that some FSCD caseworkers carry more than 400 families, far exceeding the standard of approximately 100.
- Many families receive no response at all for extended periods. Social media testimony from families includes reports of 18-month waits just to be assigned a caseworker, or even no confirmation that their application was received.



- Mental health supports in Alberta are similarly burdened. In some instances, Alberta Health Services psychiatrists have reported waitlists of up to two years, even for individuals in serious crisis.

As a result, students arrive in classrooms with complex, unaddressed needs that hinder their learning, and staff are stretched beyond sustainable limits—often expected to fill therapeutic roles without proper training or bandwidth.

We respectfully advocate for greater inter-ministerial collaboration to ensure students and families can access timely, coordinated, and community-based supports. A provincial framework for cross-ministry service delivery—whether through renewed collaborative service delivery models or other integrated approaches—would:

- Increase access to early intervention and therapeutic services for students and families;
- Reduce long-term system costs by preventing crises and overreliance on emergency systems;
- Support teachers and school staff by reducing unsustainable burdens; and
- Strengthen outcomes in student learning, wellness, and future pathways.

We recognize that this is not simply a call for additional resources, but for alignment of efforts—Education, Health, Mental Health, and Children and Family Services—working together toward common goals.

The Board of Trustees has identified inter-ministerial collaboration as a key advocacy priority for the coming school year. We would welcome the opportunity to engage with your ministries further on models of integrated service delivery and to contribute to discussions about innovative approaches that serve the best interests of students, families, and communities.

Thank you for your commitment to Alberta's children. We look forward to ongoing collaboration and dialogue.

Yours in faith,



Lydia Yeomans, Board Chair
Greater St. Albert Catholic Schools

cc: Honourable Dale Nally, MLA, Morinville-St. Albert
Marilyn Dennis, ASBA President
School Board Chairs
Board of Trustees, Greater St. Albert Catholic Schools