

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR 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 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

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

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,

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

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:

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

- 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.

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

- 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**

- 56<sup>th</sup> 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 4<sup>th</sup>, 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 56<sup>th</sup> Board Social to a later date in the 2025-2026 school year.

UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED 15786  
Abstained: Trustee Martin not in room

- Draft Governance Framework

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

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.

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

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

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

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



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

**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.

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Chair

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Secretary-Treasurer