



"Every Student Succeeds"

Media Release

For Immediate Release

May 25, 2016

Alexander (Sandy) McDonald selected as the District's new Superintendent

GRANDE PRAIRIE, AB – The Grande Prairie Public School District No. 2357 Board of Trustees are pleased to announce that Mr. Alexander (Sandy) McDonald has been appointed as the new Superintendent of Schools and Chief Executive Officer effective June 1, 2016.

Mr. McDonald's appointment follows a Canada-wide search process that invoked applications from six different provinces and territories. The Board was pleased to have the input from a representative group of school-based leaders as it made its final selection of a suitable candidate. The Board believed it was important to select a leader who could inspire a shared vision throughout the district, with strong communications skills and a commitment to student achievement and success.



"The ideal Candidate profile emphasized a passionate leader who is a team player who instills and values trust, collaboration, shared decision-making and strategic planning," said John Lehnert, Board Chair for the Grande Prairie Public School District. "Throughout his career with GPPSD, Sandy has proven his leadership and commitment to our students. And we are fortunate to have someone of his caliber".

Mr. McDonald has over 25 years of experience in education as classroom Teacher, Principal, Director of Educational Technology, Assistant Superintendent and Deputy Superintendent. He has been serving as Acting Superintendent since January 2016. He will apply his broad experience and skills to the role and, together with his passion for education, will lead the district on its continued path to success

Sandy attended the University of Alberta, obtaining a Bachelor of Education Degree with a major in mathematics. He subsequently achieved his Master of Arts in Educational Leadership from San Diego State University and has completed his Doctoral coursework in Educational Leadership at the University of Phoenix.

“I am incredibly proud to have the opportunity to serve the students, staff and community of Grande Prairie in the role of Superintendent of Schools. Having spent the majority of my life in this area, I know firsthand the history of excellence in our district,” said Sandy McDonald. “I interact on a regular basis with talented and skilled GPPSD alumni and our region as a whole benefits from the work of our staff, students, and graduates. It is a great honour to be able to continue to contribute to the legacy of our district.”

For further information, please contact Board Chair John Lehnrs at 780-832-7832.

About Alexander (Sandy) McDonald: Mr. McDonald was born and raised in Daysland Alberta and spent most of his childhood growing up in Clairmont, Alberta. He has been married to Luana for 21 years and has two children, Alex and Olivia. Alex graduates from Charles Spencer High School this year, and Olivia is preparing for the transition to Grade 9 at Grande Prairie Composite High School next year.

About Grande Prairie Public School District (GPPSD): The Grande Prairie Public School District is a learning community in the city of Grande Prairie responsible for the education of over 8,000 students. The Grande Prairie Public School District is proud to provide a variety of Preschool, French Immersion, Montessori, Christian Education, sports-focused and International Baccalaureate programs catered to students and parents of the Grande Prairie community. Growing from 15 schools to 18 schools in September 2017, the District serves students from Preschool through Grade 12 and believes in creating a nurturing environment where “Every Student Succeeds.” For more information, please visit www.gppsd.ab.ca and follow GPPSD2357 on Facebook and Twitter.

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