

Minutes of the Regular Board of Trustees Meeting of Northern Gateway Public Schools

February 12, 2019

Board Room of the Division Office in Whitecourt, AB

Opening

A. Opening

Call to Order and Roll Call

1. Call to Order and Roll Call

The February 12, 2019, meeting was called to order by Chair Muir at 5:05 p.m.

Chair Judy Muir, Trustees, Diane Hagman, Sherry Jeffreys, Barb Maddigan, Christine Peck, Anita Portsmouth, Gerry Steinke, Linda Wigton and Administrators Kevin Andrea, Superintendent, Michelle Brennick, Deputy Superintendent, Leslee Jodry, Assistant Superintendent, and Wendy Robertson, Recording Secretary, were present at this time.

Michelle Brennick, Deputy Superintendent and Trustee Ethen Thesen, were absent from the meeting.

Jason Yaremchuk, Director of Information Technology and Lisa Bakos, Communications Officer were present at this time.

Additions/Deletions
to the Agenda

2. Additions/Deletions to the Agenda

- D.1.a) National Congress on Rural Education
- I.3.a) Personnel Update

Acceptance of Agenda

3. Acceptance of Agenda

3938-19

Moved by Trustee Portsmouth – that the agenda for the February 12th, 2019 Regular Board Meeting be adopted as amended.

Motion Carried

Minutes of the
January 29th, 2019
Regular Board Meeting

C. Minutes of the January 29th, 2019
Regular Board Meeting

3939-19

Moved by Trustee Wigton– that the minutes of the January 29th, 2019 Regular Board Meeting be adopted as amended.

Motion Carried

Appointments and
Delegations

B. Appointments and Delegations

Jason Yaremchuk – Director of Information Technology:

Jason provided a brief technology overview on the following:

Google Classroom Hardware Demo:

NGPS presented this hardware at ATLE convergence summit in Calgary this last November. Also asked to participate on provincial panel on classroom redesign.

NGPS tech has been asked to be participant on another panel at the ATLE JTC Spring Symposium.

WCS and MHS showcase this hardware being effectively used.

Evergreen:

4 Year Evergreen Cycle

Details are still being finalized

Balance inequality of access

Give all Students and Staff access to reliable Technology

Evergreen Priority Decision Tree:

1. Technology follows the student.
2. Current need of a refresh (hold old/poor is the hardware).
3. By school that feel they can leverage the newer technology the most.

VOIP Phone

What is VOIP?

A VOIP phone is a hardware – or software – based telephone designed to use voice over IP (VOIP) technology to send and receive phone calls over an IP network.

Currently all schools and office combined spend \$126,494 yearly on Telus bills for phone services.

The VOIP project requires an initial investment of \$117,583, this initial investment saves NGPS 64% yearly on all future yearly phone bills across NGPS.

To minimize the risk to NGPS – the tech dept will be doing a 90 days pilot at Pat Hardy Primary School, Hilltop High School, Rich Valley School, Onoway Elementary School and Hillside High School.

NGPS Hosting ATLE Zone Event

NGPS tech now has representation on the ATLE Board and as such we are attempting to leverage that membership to the benefit of NGPS when possible.

ATLE conference moved to Red Deer.

On March 1st, NGPS will be hosting a remote event. The ATLE Zone directors are planning the online event on information governance and digital student records to support collaboration on implementation of digital student records.

Other Work and Changes

Over Easter Break NGPS tech will be working with CANARIE to prioritize NGPS traffic to the data centers and universities in Eastern Canada.

Supernet CAR upgrades, most high schools 200 mbps.

Powerschool Dossier – January mark submission, found hiccup in prereqs but all went very well. Upcoming Dossier and Powerschool training. Dossier allows NGPS to analyze our data better, for benefit of our schools and students.

Q – How many parents access powerschool?

Jason will provide the answer at the next Board meeting.

Jason Yaremchuk completed his report at 5:54 p.m. and left the meeting.

Action Items

**Fox Creek Tour
Group 2019**

3940-19

**2019 – 2020 Non-
Alberta Students
Tuition Fees**

3941-19

**National Congress on
Rural Education in
Canada**

3942 – 19

D. Action Items

Fox Creek Tour Group 2019

Moved by Trustee Portsmouth – that the Board approve in full the Fox Creek international field trip to Scotland, Ireland, England and Paris, scheduled for April 19th, 2019 – April 30th, 2019.

Motion Carried

2019 – 2020 Non-Alberta Students Tuition Fees

Moved by Trustee Wigton – that the 2019 – 2020 tuition fee for Non-Alberta students be increased from:

\$7420.00 full year to \$10,000.00 full year
\$3714.50 half year to \$5,000.00 full year

Motion Carried

**National Congress on Rural Education in
Canada**

Moved by Trustee Jeffreys – that the Board approve Trustee Anita Portsmouth to attend the National Congress on Rural Education Symposium scheduled for March 31 – April 2, 2019, in TCU Place, Saskatoon.

Motion Carried

Information/Reports

ASBA/PSBAA

E. Information/Reports

ASBA/PSBAA

ASBA:

Next meeting to be held February 22nd, 2019.

PSBAA:

Minister approved the request for \$100,000 grant for the Student Voice to support the program until 2022.

PSBAA is considering sending Representatives to CSBA Conference and setting aside funds within the budget for this. Some discussion of the value of PSBAA attending this conference. This will most likely come to a vote and how does our Board feel about this decision?

A letter was sent to the ATA about language and the misrepresentation of public schools. If the letter is not published, alternative steps will be taken. (Note: this letter has been published and is available online).

PSBAA will be producing a list of 5 questions titled "Questions to Ask at the Door". These are questions that can be asked of candidates in the upcoming election. Trustees can also use them and are welcome to take them to their respective school councils to be distributed.

Superintendent's Report

Superintendent's Report

Written report provided for information.

Additional information:

Productive meeting in Fox Creek regarding the Joint Use Agreement.

Updating of the "Guidelines for Planning School Sites" is in progress.

Employment Standards Variance:

NGPS will be asking to be put on the list for the variance regarding the Three-hour pay minimum.

Employers may apply for a variance to provide less than the minimum standard requirement of three hours' pay when calling in an employee.

Basic rules:

- The Employment Standards Code states that employees must be paid for a minimum of three hours if they're asked to go to work or attend training, even if it's for a period of less than three hours, unless the employee is unable to continue working.
- An employer may apply for a variance to this rule to pay no less than 30 minutes but no more than 2.5 hours.
- The Director of Employment Standards issues variances at their discretion.
- A Director's Variance may be amended or revoked at any time.
- Variances (formerly permits) issued before January 1st, 2019 expire on January 1st, 2019 or on the stated expiry date, whichever occurs first.

Work site health and safety committees:

NGPS is ready to send in their variance application to see approval for one health and safety committee instead of the one committee for every 20 or more workers at a work site.

Cold Weather and Bus Cancellations:

Due to the cold weather the last week or so there have been more bus cancellations. Our greatest concern is student safety. Please refer to Admin Procedure 131 – Emergency Closure – Regular School Day.

Finance

Finance

Financial Report Profiled provided for information.

Division Financial Report provided for information.

Enrolment Report for January, 2019, provided for information.

Administrative

Administrative Procedures

The following APs were reviewed and some changes were made:

- AP 110 – School Councils
- AP 210 – Early Childhood Services
- AP 208 – Remembrance Day

45 CEU Credit Funding Cap

45 CEU Credit Funding Cap

Board Brief provided for information.

- If you waive a prerequisite you must record this information.
- NGPS lost \$26,000 because schools were not recording this information.
- How are we going to manage how many CEUs a student can achieve?

- "Policy Shift" by the Government is the only explanation that was provided to justify this change to CEUs.
- How can NGPS provide programming that we are not being funded for?

Letter of response to
Town Annexation Plan

Letter of response to Town Annexation Plan

Provided for information.

Board Annual Work Plan

Board Annual Work Plan

Provided for information.

Motion Review Cycle

Motion Review Cycle

Provided for information.

Trustee Reports

Trustee Reports

Anita Portsmouth

Trustee Portsmouth attended the Valleyview Elks 17th Anniversary Celebration on Feb. 11th, 2019. She thanks the Elks on behalf of the Board.

Linda Wigton

Trustee Wigton will be attending the Whitecourt Economic Forum scheduled for Thursday, March 7th, 2019 (2-8 pm) at the St. Joseph Parish Hall. Tickets are \$75.00 + GST – includes Dinner and Guest Speakers.

Keynote Speaker: Kevin Cullen, LEADERA Consulting Group. He will be speaking on Leadership Development, Performance Improvement, Strategic Implementation and the Art of Communication.

Panel Discussion: Elections 2019
Tom Vernon, Graham Thomson, Jason Leslie, Jonathan Seib

Barb Maddigan

Trustee Maddigan came across this on Twitter:

Freedom Talk – A Project of the Economic Education Association of Alberta. Was held in Calgary, AB on February 8 & 9, 2019. “Things That Matter: An Agenda for Alberta”. Was well attended and publicized.

Additional Report Items

Additional Report Items

Nil

3943-19

Moved by Trustee Hagman – that the Board accept Information/Reports E1- E10 as information.

Motion Carried

Topics for Future Discussions

F. **Topics for Future Discussions**

Nil

Requests for Information

G. **Requests for Information**

Nil

Meeting Highlights

H. Meeting Highlights

1. Technology Update
2. Fox Creek International Field Trip
3. Non-Alberta Tuition Fee Increase
4. CEU Credit Cap
5. Admin Procedure Review

Lisa Bakos, Communication Officer, left the meeting at 7:25 p.m.

In-Camera Items

I. In-Camera Items

3944-19

Moved by Trustee Maddigan – that the Board go in-camera at 7:26 p.m. and that Kevin Andrea, Leslee Jodry, Milly McGregor and Wendy Robertson be invited to remain.

Motion Carried

3945-19

Moved by Trustee Maddigan–that the Board come out of in-camera at 7:52 p.m.

Motion Carried

Adjournment

J. Adjournment

3946-19

Moved by Trustee Steinke - that the meeting be adjourned at 7:57 p.m.

Motion Carried

Board Chair

Secretary-Treasurer