

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

December 10, 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 December 10, 2019, meeting was called to order by Chair Wigton at 1:02 p.m.

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

**Treaty Land
Acknowledgement**

2. Treaty Land Acknowledgement

Vice Chair Sherry Jeffreys read the Acknowledgement.

**Additions/Deletions
to the Agenda**

3. Additions/Deletions to the Agenda

Addition:

D.10.a) School Jurisdiction Insurance
I.1.) ASBA Zone 2/3

Acceptance of Agenda

4132-19

Appointments and
Delegations

4. Acceptance of Agenda

Moved by Trustee Maddigan – that the agenda for the December 10th, 2019 Regular Board Meeting be adopted as amended.

Motion Carried

B. Appointments and Delegations

Randy Lovich, Director of Maintenance

Maintenance Report:

General and ongoing maintenance continues for schools through our PSW work order system. There were 617 work orders issued for the month of November.

Storage room to washroom in the Rich Valley Kindergarten room 100% complete.

Snow removal has been contracted out, there were a few bumps in the beginning but everything seems to be going ok now. Some custodial contractors are still struggling with proper snow removal.

IMR Projects:

The 2019-2020 budget for IMR is \$1,569,000.00. Administration will be meeting over the coming weeks to finalize projects and obtain estimates.

Other:

- Johnson Controls Energy Retrofit Project – Lighting retrofit to start in early January.

- In final stages of completing plans for heating controls
- Fox Creek School Running Track 30% complete due to the rain and has been postponed until the spring of 2020 for completion
 - Stage setups/take downs will begin in December
 - We have sold one skid steer and loader. The gravel truck, sanding unit/stand and a blade will be sold at Michener Allen on December 17th, 2019.
 - Painting classrooms at Pat Hardy and touching up the old Division Office.

Randy Lovich completed his report at 1:29 p.m. and left the meeting.

**Minutes of the
November 26th, 2019
Regular Board Meeting**

**C. Minutes of the November 26th, 2019
Regular Board Meeting**

4133-19

Moved by Trustee Portsmouth– that the minutes of the November 26th, 2019 Regular Board Meeting be adopted as presented.

Motion Carried

Action Items

D. Action Items

**DRAFT AERR/Three
Education Plan**

DRAFT AERR/Three Year Education Plan

Assistant Superintendent, Leslee Jodry, presented an overview of the Division's education results and the Three Year Education Plan.

Education Results – 2018 Provincial Accountability Pillars

Accountability Pillars are how the Alberta Government, school divisions and schools measure success and progress. There are 16 measures that show communities how schools and Divisions are performing each year. We use the results to identify areas for improvement and to help build our education plans.

NGPS scored high on Safe and Caring, Education Quality and High School Completion Rate measures. The Division scored Excellent on the Drop Out Rate measure, meaning our drop out rate is lower than the province. Areas of challenge for the Division lie in Diploma Exam Participation Rate and Transition Rate measures.

First Nations, Metis and Inuit Accountability Pillar

We have improved our Provincial Achievement Test (PAT) Excellence measure and are on par or better than provincial numbers in Drop Out Rate, High School Completion, Rutherford Scholarships and Diploma Acceptable measures.

Provincial Achievement Tests (PATs)

Division results for Grade 6 Language Arts and all core subjects in Grades 1 through 6 are strong. Challenges present in Grade 9 Math and in Standard of Excellence measures for Grades 6 through 8.

Mathematics

While we are on par with provincial results in K through 6, we are significantly below provincial results in Grade 9. We have seen a significant improvement in our Math 30-2 results.

Diploma Examinations

Areas of strength are English 30-1 and 30-2, Social 30-1 and math 30-2 SE.

Challenges present in Math 30-1, Chemistry 30, Physics 20 and Biology 20. We also scored considerably lower than the province on the Standard of Excellence measure.

Our Journey, Our Story – review of the Three Year Education Plan

Assistant Superintendent Jodry reviewed the Plan with the Board sharing that the format of the Plan is expanding to a four year plan and will include additional measures. The Education Plan will be shared online at ngps.ca by January 6th, 2020.

Leslee Jodry completed her report at 2:09 p.m.

4134-19

Moved by Trustee Portsmouth – that the Board accept the 2019-2021 DRAFT AERR and Three year Education Plan as presented.

Motion Carried

Onoway Jr/Sr High School Field Trip

Onoway Jr/Sr High School Field Trip

4135-19

Moved by Trustee Peck – that the Board approve in principle the Onoway Jr/Sr High School Field trip to Encounters with Canada, scheduled for February 2nd – 8th, 2020, in Ottawa.

Motion Carried

Additional Action Items

Additional Action Items

Nil

Information/Reports

E. Information/Reports

ASBA/PSBAA

ASBA/PSBAA

ASBA: (Anita Portsmouth)

ASBA Zone 2/3 Report:

- ASBA is reviewing all of the current awards (including Edwin Parr)
- Any Boards bringing forth motions, the deadline for 1st motion for the Spring meeting is in January
- February Zone 2/3 meeting is changed to February 28th, 2020 to align with the Rural Education Symposium
- The Government of Alberta has set further restrictions to ERLC. The ERLC is diversifying its delivery models to accommodate new restrictive budgets.
- Workshop on understanding bias. Discussions about subconscious bias and how it affects conscious decisions. The effects of subconscious bias in test creation and test takers anxiety cause them to revert to early cultural teachings, therefore failing tests.
- ASBA President Lori Jess requested feedback on the Fall General Meeting. She stressed the need to educate our MLAs. Lori reported the P.E.I. is restoring school boards and trustees. President Lori Jess and Dr. Abboud were invited to the Premier's breakfast where she extended an invitation to the ASBA Spring General Meeting.
- Dr. Abboud has sent out an email concerning ASBIE. She is working with the Minister of Education and has contacted other insurance

companies. Dr. Abboud did mention that if school boards start pulling out of ASBIE the last few may not be able to obtain coverage and the Government of Alberta would then have to cover any incidents, which will cost everyone.

PSBAA: (Judy Muir)

No report.

Superintendent's Report

Superintendent's Report

Report provided for information.

Finance

Finance

Reports provided for information:

- Minister's Announcement IMR:
Alberta's education minister has informed the province's school boards that they can apply for one-time access to funding earmarked for maintenance to support classroom and school-based staffing costs.

- Enrolment Report:

Provided for information.

Committee Meeting Reports

Committee Meeting Reports

Reports provided for information.

Audit Committee – goes to the Policy Committee for review.

Advocacy: Include in your Trustee Reports if you have done any work involving Advocacy.

Letter to Town of Whitecourt

Letter to Town of Whitecourt

Letter provided for information.

Valleyview Sign at new School Site

Valleyview Sign at new School Site

4136-19

Moved by Trustee Portsmouth – that the Board pursues installing a sign of the future site of the new Valleyview School with a cap of \$1000.00.

Motion Carried

Sign will come back to the Board for review.

Board Annual Work Plan

Board Annual Work Plan

Provided for information.

Motion Review Cycle

Motion Review Cycle

Provided for information.

Additional Report Items

Additional Report Items

School Jurisdiction Insurance

School Jurisdiction Insurance

The Board and administration discussed the exponential increase to the Division's insurance premiums, currently administered by the Alberta School Boards' Reciprocal Insurance Exchange

(ASBIE). Premiums have increase by 274% over last year. The Board directed administration to explore options with alternative providers.

4137-19

Moved by Trustee Maddigan – that the Board direct Administration to serve notice to Alberta School Boards’ Reciprocal Insurance Exchange (ASBIE), we will be withdrawing January 1st, 2020.

Motion Carried

4138-19

Moved by Trustee Maddigan – 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. Maintenance Report
2. Insurance Premiums
3. DRAFT AERR & Three Year Education Plan
4. Onway High School Field Trip
5. New Trustee Welcomed

Lisa Bakos, Communications Officer, left the meeting at 3:21 p.m.

In-Camera Items

4139-19

I. In-Camera Items

Moved by Trustee Portsmouth – that the Board move into In-Camera at 3:21 p.m.

Motion Carried

4140-19

Moved by Trustee Hailes – that the Board move out of In-Camera at 3:40 p.m.

Motion Carried

Adjournment

4141-19

J. Adjournment

Moved by Trustee Muir - that the meeting be adjourned at 3:40 p.m.

Motion Carried

Board Chair

Secretary-Treasurer