

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

March 10, 2020

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 March 10th, 2020, meeting was called to order by Chair Wigton at 1:02 p.m.

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

Lisa Bakos, Communications Officer, and Randy Lovich, Director of Maintenance, were present at this time.

Trustee Diane Hagman participated by Google Hangout.

Trustee Gerry Steinke was absent and joined the meeting by phone later in the meeting.

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:

A.5.) Completion of Finance Meeting

Acceptance of Agenda

4. Acceptance of Agenda

4169-20

Moved by Trustee Maddigan – that the agenda for the March 10th, 2020 Regular Board Meeting be adopted as amended.

Motion Carried

Completion of
March 10th Finance
Meeting

5. Completion of March 10th Finance Meeting

Discussion:

- System Admin – has anything been added to this envelope? Yes – still working on this to determine what needs to be there. Can transfer funds out but cannot transfer funds in.
- Will any funds transferred out be tracked by Alberta Ed? This has not been determined by Alberta Ed yet.
- Alberta Government has said Education was given more funds in their budgets this year. But what they did was they included the extra grants into the regular budget, thus is funds are used for their intended purpose, in reality less funds were given to Education, especially in the Instructional Budget.
- Do not present this to School Councils at this time as nothing has been presented to school principal yet.

Appointments and Delegations

B. Appointments and Delegations

Randy Lovich – Director of Maintenance, presented on Capital Planning.

Randy reviewed the 3 Year Capital Plan 2019 – 2022. There should only be one No. 1 Capital Project – not two as we are showing.

Randy's recommendation:

Year 1 – Valleyview New School
Year 2 – Whitecourt New School K – 6 School
Year 3 – Fox Creek Modernization

Alberta Education now requires a 10 Year Capital Plan.

4170-20

Moved by Trustee Muir – that a new 3 Year Capital Plan 2020 - 2024 be completed with the three new capital projects:

Year 1 – Valleyview New School
Year 2 – Whitecourt New School 9 – 12 School
Year 3 – Fox Creek Modernization

Motion Carried

Minutes of the February 11th, 2020 Regular Board Meeting

C. Minutes of the February 11th, 2020 Regular Board Meeting

4171-20

Moved by Trustee Portsmouth– that the minutes of the January 14th, 2020 Regular Board Meeting be adopted as presented.

Motion Carried

Action Items

2020 – 2024
Capital Plan

Borrowing By-Law
No. 1-20

4172-20

4173-20

4174-20

4175-20

D. Action Items

2020 – 2024 Capital Plan

Deferred to the April 12th, 2020 Board meeting.

Borrowing By-Law No. 1-20

Moved by Trustee Maddigan – that By-Law No. 1-20 to borrow the sum or sums not exceeding at

any one time two million dollars receive first reading.

Motion Carried

Moved by Trustee Muir – that By-Law No. 1-20 to borrow the sum or sums not exceeding at any one time two million dollars receive second reading.

Motion Carried

Moved by Trustee Hailes – that the Board approve to conduct the third reading.

Motion Carried

Moved by Trustee Jeffreys – that By-Law No. 1-20 to borrow the sum or sums not exceeding at any one time two million dollars receive third and final reading.

Motion Carried

Policy Meeting Record

4176-20

Policy Meeting Record

Moved by Trustee Jeffreys – that Policy 1 – “Divisional Identity and Foundation Statements” be affirmed as amended.

Motion Carried

4177-20

Moved by Trustee Jeffreys – that Policy 10 – “Policy Making” be affirmed as amended.

Motion Carried

Hilltop High International Field Trip

4178-20

Hilltop High International Field Trip

Moved by Trustee Peck – that the Board approve in principle Hilltop High School’s Scotland and Ireland Tour, scheduled for March 26th to April 4th, 2021. (Dates are tentative as per Northern Gateway School Calendar.)

Motion Carried

Draft School Year Calendar

4179-20

Draft School Year Calendar

Moved by Trustee Portsmouth – that the Board supports Draft School Year Calendar No. 2 (184/195) as presented.

Motion Carried

Communications Plan 2020 – 2021

4180-20

Communications Plan 2020 – 2021

Moved by Trustee Maddigan – that the Board accept the Communications Plan 2020 – 2021 as amended.

Motion Carried

Additional Action Items

Additional Action Items

Information/Reports

E. Information/Reports

ASBA/PSBAA

ASBA/PSBAA

ASBA: (Anita Portsmouth)

ASBA Zone 2/3 Meeting - items discussed:

- Report about the zone board chairs meeting
- ASBA was invited to attend the throne speech.
- Still looking for boards to submit their highlights for Choice in Education. Highlight unique offerings that exist in publicly funded education already.
- ASBA was invited to be part of the discussion of the local authorities elections act with the Minister of Municipal Affairs and staff.
- On February 6th, 2020 President Lori Jesse and Dr. Abboud met with the Minister of Transportation to discuss MELT and transportation.
- Updated deadlines list presented. Nothing new.

PSBAA: (Judy Muir)

- The new Executive Director and CEO of PSBAA is Troy Tait. Mr. Tait will commence his term as of March 16, 2020.

Superintendent's Report

Superintendent's Report

Report provided for information.

Finance

Finance

Reports provided for information:

Communications Committee Meeting Record

Communications Committee Meeting Record

Meeting record was reviewed.

- Can we list which committees etc., trustees are a part of on the NGPS web page. Communications Officer will look into this.

Rural Caucus Report

Rural Caucus Report

Trustee Portsmouth reported items discussed at the Rural Caucus meeting:

President Report:

- Work since November meeting:
 - Met with Minister of Education – unfortunately due to scheduling issues, meeting had to be in-transit (in vehicle) – discussed the insurance situation – discussed concerns about water testing (it was never clarified if this was an issue solely to the president's division or not) – discussed concerns about transportation costs and was told that it would not be addressed in this budget but that a task force will be set up to review the Issue.

Budget Update:

- There will be a lot of calculations with the new educational budget.
- It looks good on the surface but we will have to wait until everything is sorted out to see the bottom line.

- Gene Williams will be at the Rural Education Symposium for Q & A, prepare your questions.
- Keep an eye on bridge funding. It isn't fully evident the first year.
- IMR funding – unused portion of schools is funded at a different rate.

Ward Policy Review:

- Table discussions

Transportation:

- Discussion/Division Report
 - Yard pick up fee (charges for busses to drive into yards to pick up students closer to house)
 - Charging for students that reside under 2.4 km.
 - Double running busses.

Insurance:

- Over half the divisions represented at the rural caucus are participating with the new group to explore options.

ASBIE:

- Email went out to Superintendent – not recommending international travel.
- Boards may have to reconsider international field trips.
- Chinook's Edge reported that they have not been allowing overseas travel for a number of years now (all field trips restricted to North America) in the interest of student safety.

**Rural Education
Symposium Report**

Rural Education Symposium Report

The Alberta Rural Education Symposium brings

together representatives from Alberta Education, the Alberta Teachers' Association, the Alberta School Business Officials Association, the College of Alberta School Superintendents, the Alberta School Boards Association, parents, and business and community leaders to work, plan, share and collaborate on the sustainability of rural communities. Five trustees and NGPS Superintendent Kevin Andrea attended on behalf of the Division, participated in sessions, connected with provincial leaders, including three MLAs who serve NGPS communities, and shared their experiences and learning with Administration.

Shaping the Future Conference Report

Shaping the Future Conference Report

Board Vice-Chair Sherry Jeffreys attended the Shaping the Future Conference which brings together educators, health and wellness professionals and researchers to explore aspects of comprehensive school health.

The focus of the conference was: "Building Bridges: Stronger Together". There were four Keynote presentations and many inside and outside sessions for participants.

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

Nil

Trustee Reports

Trustee Reports

Jim Hailes

- School Tours were very well done.
- Excellent presentation at Rich Valley school.

Anita Portsmouth

- Asked if there was any advocacy to report on.
- Attended the Rural Education Symposium.
Had good conversations with the 3 MLAs that attended.

Judy Muir

- Attended the Rural Education Symposium.
Had good conversations with the our
Municipal partners that attended.

Linda Wigton

- Attended Chamber of Commerce Economic
Forum in Whitecourt.
- Attended Percy Baxter school council
meeting.
- Percy has a speaker coming to the school to
talk about Vaping.

Sherry Jeffreys

- MLA Getson inquired if we have any activities
or events we would like him to attend.
- Sangudo School will be hosting a Dinner
Theatre on April 1st, 2020, - \$5.00 a ticket,
where the students will be performing.

Barb Maddigan

- Attended four parent council meetings and the Whitecourt Chamber of Commerce Forum.
- Pat Hardy students have been practicing hand washing and being kind to each other.
- Principals are encouraging parents to complete the online surveys.
- High Schools have report the Boot Camps will continue this year.

Christine Peck

- School tours were great – it is nice putting names to faces.
- The Rural Education Symposium conference was very enjoyable and was great to hear the Municipalities enjoyed it also.

4181-20

Moved by Trustee Jeffreys – that the Board accept Information/Reports E1-E12 as information.

Motion Carried

4182-20

Moved by Trustee Portsmouth – that given the evolving spread of COVID-19 worldwide, that all international school travel excursions scheduled for the Spring of 2020 be cancelled. Travellers will be apprised of their options available through the travel company and associated insurance.

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. Capital Planning Presentation
2. Hilltop International Field Trip
3. DRAFT 2020 – 2021 Calendar
4. International Travel
5. Transportation Policy
6. Rural Education Symposium Report
7. Shaping the Future Conference Report

Lisa Bakos, Communciations Officer, left the meeting at 4:35 p.m.

Trustee Gerry Steinke joined the meeting by phone at 4:35 p.m.

In-Camera Items

I. In-Camera Items

4183-20

Moved by Trustee Jeffreys – that the Board move into In-Camera at 4:36 p.m.

Motion Carried

4184–20

Moved by Trustee Hailes – that the Board move out of In-Camera at 5:28p.m.

Motion Carried

4185-20

Moved by Trustee Muir – that the Board enter into new contract negotiations with the Superintendent.

Trustee Steinke asked for a recorded vote:

In favor

Jim Hailes
Judy Muir
Barb Maddigan
Diane Hagman
Linda Wigton

Opposed

Gerry Steinke
Anita Portsmouth
Sherry Jeffreys

Motion Carried

4186-20

Moved by Trustee Portsmouth – that the Board strike a committee consisting of the Board Chair and two other trustees to enter into negotiations with the Superintendent.

Linda Wigton, Judy Muir, Jim Hailes

Motion Carried

Adjournment

J. Adjournment

4187-20

Moved by Trustee Maddigan- that the meeting be adjourned at 5:36 p.m.

Motion Carried

Board Chair

Secretary-Treasurer