

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

May 26, 2020

Board Room of the Division Office in Whitecourt, AB by Zoom

**Opening**

**A. Opening**

Meeting to be recorded – started at 1:02 p.m

**Call to Order  
and Roll Call**

**1. Call to Order and Roll Call**

The May 26<sup>th</sup>, 2020, meeting was called to order by Chair Wigton at 1:02 p.m.

Chair Linda Wigton, Trustees, Barb Maddigan, Diane Hagman, Jim Hailes, Sherry Jeffreys, Judy Muir, Christine Peck, Anita Portsmouth, Gerry Steinke Administrators Kevin Andrea, Superintendent, Michelle Brennick, Deputy Superintendent, Leslee Jodry, Assistant Superintendent, Tamara Spong, Secretary Treasurer and Wendy Robertson, Recording Secretary, participated by Zoom.

Lisa Bakos, Communications Officer and Randy Lovich, Director of Maintenance, participated by Zoom.

**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.7.a) Class of 2020 Letter
- D.7.b) RAP Program – Parent Letter
- D.7.c) June 16 – Board Meeting

Acceptance of Agenda

4214-20

4. Acceptance of Agenda

Moved by Trustee Maddigan – that the agenda for the May 26<sup>th</sup>, 2020 Regular Board Meeting be adopted as amended.

Motion Carried

Appointments and Delegations

4215-20

B. Appointments and Delegations

Randy Lovich, Director of Maintenance

Presented his Capital Maintenance and Renewal Stimulus Proposal.

How did we get the grant in the first place? What was the formula they used for funding provided to School Divisions?

Administration advised no criteria was given on how they determined funding was distributed to School Divisions.

Moved by Trustee Steinke – that administration look into the basis of the Stimulus funding and follow through with our questions on the formula if required.

Motion Carried

4216-20

Moved by Trustee Muir – that the Board approve the Capital Maintenance and Renewal Stimulus Proposal as presented.

Motion Carried

Randy Lovich, Director of Maintenance, left the meeting at 1:38 p.m.

**Minutes of the  
May 5<sup>th</sup>, 2020  
Regular Board Meeting**

**C. Minutes of the May 5<sup>th</sup>, 2020  
Regular Board Meeting**

4217-20

Moved by Trustee Hailes – that the minutes of the May 5, 2020 Regular Board Meeting be adopted as presented.

Motion Carried

**Action Items**

**D. Action Items**

**Budget 2020-2021**

**Budget 2020-2021**

4218-20

Moved by Trustee Hailes – that the Board accept the Budget 2020-2021 document as presented.

Motion Carried

**2020-2023 Three Year  
Education Plan Draft**

**2020-2023 Three Year Education Plan DRAFT**

4219-20

Moved by Trustee Hagman - that the Board approve the 2020-23 Three Year Education Plan as amended.

Motion Carried

## Insurance

## Insurance

Northern Gateway School Division worked with six potential insurers since we received the almost 300% premium increase with ASBIE. Provided is a summary in regards to each potential insurer.

Update on Foster Park – submitted their information on May 26, 2020 at 11:30 a.m. Administration has not had adequate time to review the package submitted.

4220-20

Moved by Trustee Maddigan - that the Board not renew our contract with ASBIE as of June 1<sup>st</sup>, 2020.

Motion Carried

4221-20

Moved by Trustee Maddigan – that the Board direct administration to make the decision of choosing ARMIC or Foster Park to be NGPS's Insurance provider, commencing November 1<sup>st</sup>, 2020.

Motion Carried

## Hilltop High School International Field Trip

## Hilltop High School International Field Trip

4222-20

Moved by Trustee Maddigan – that the Board approve in principle the Hilltop High School International Field Trip to German, Czech Republic, Poland and Hungary, scheduled from March 26<sup>th</sup> – April 4<sup>th</sup>, 2021.

Motion Carried

**Rescind Motion  
No. 4178-20**

4223-20

**Rescind Motion No. 4178-20**

Moved by Trustee Peck – that the Board rescind Motion No. 4178-20 approving in principle Hilltop High International Field Trip to Scotland and Ireland Tour scheduled for March 26<sup>th</sup> – April 4<sup>th</sup>, 2021.

Motion Carried

**Additional Action Items**

**Class of 2020 Letter**

**Additional Action Items**

**Class of 2020 Letter**

Administration has provided a possible message for our Graduates of Class 2020.

- Communications Committee met on this today
- Signature on the message will be signed as "Board of Trustees"
- Font will be changed
- Central Office will send out to all Graduates

**RAP Program – Parent  
Letter**

**RAP Program – Parent Letter**

A trustee received an inquiry from a parent regarding Northern Gateway's decision to not continue with the RAP Program, while other school divisions are continuing the program.

Administration advised that GOA did not close the RAP program but did close schools. The decision to discontinue with the RAP Program was made for the Health and Safety of students and staff.

Administration did respond to the parent whom made the inquiry.

June 16, 2020  
Board Meeting

June 16, 2020 Board Meeting

4224-20

Moved by Trustee Maddigan– that the Board move Additional Action Item 7c) to In-Camera.

Motion Carried

Information/Reports

E. Information/Reports

ASBA/PSBAA

ASBA/PSBAA

ASBA: (Gerry Steinke)

ASBA Zone 2/3 – Meeting held online May 22, 2020

Deputy Minister Andre Corbould:

Mr. Corbould addressed Zone 2/3 for approximately 45 minutes. He gave a brief overview of the possible scenarios for school re-entry, ranging from normal operations to far more restrictive environments.

The GOA is watching the experience of other jurisdictions that have allowed children to return to classrooms. In Canada, Quebec has very low attendance; this may be as a result of not doing much consultation. In Asia, very strict protocols are in place and often include children being taught to do cleaning of the school. In Australia, which has many restrictions for social distancing in schools, many parents are choosing to keep children at home, which has forced the system to provide both in class and online instruction.

In dealing with learning gaps and standardized assessments, the department has had the most diversity in opinion about these topics. SLAs will be left to the division to decide about implementation. For the other grade levels, no decision has been made. For learning gaps, teacher monitoring and action is the preferred method of addressing the challenge.

For the Student Transportation Taskforce, he indicated that there is little opportunity to add additional members that will represent rural interests. However, he gave assurance that the taskforce will be allowing presentations.

For mental health support related to the problems children are facing in this environment, including increased domestic violence, the department is working with other departments to provide resources to teachers.

President Jess Report:

Regarding TEBA, ASBA has met with Finance Minister Toews to express concern about the changes that have been made. It appears that the minister is listening to the concerns. He did emphasize that the province is experiencing significant loss of income as it looks at its ability to fund government programs.

ASBA SGM Zoom Meeting Location:

The ASBA SGM Zoom June 1<sup>st</sup> meeting to be held in the Board Room at Division Office.

Meeting starts at 9:00 a.m.

Attending in person: Linda Wigton, Judy Muir, Diane Hagman, Jim Hailes, Anita Portsmouth, Gerry Steinke and Christine Peck.

Participating on-line: Barb Maddigan, Sherry Jeffreys.

**PSBAA: (Judy Muir)**

- PSBAA SGM to be held May 29<sup>th</sup>, 2020 – 1:00 to 4:15 p.m. by Zoom.
- Trustee Muir has sent out the invitation.
- Send NGPS Board Highlights to PSBAA.

**Superintendent's Report**

**Superintendent's Report**

Report provided for information.

**Finance**

**Finance**

Reports provided for information.

**Audit Committee Report**

**Audit Committee Report**

Committee Chair Judy Muir report:

Two community members were added to the Audit Committee:

Dave Arcand – Manager, Servus Credit Union,  
Whitecourt  
Kathleen Thebeau, CPA-CGA

**Student Attendance Report**

**Student Attendance Report**

Report provided for information.

May report will be provided at the June 16<sup>th</sup>, 2020 Board meeting.



**Board Meeting Dates  
2020-2021**

**Board Meeting Dates 2020-2021**

Add – August 18<sup>th</sup> – Regular Board Meeting  
Add – Organizational Meeting to September 1  
Remove – Organizational Meeting from Oct. 27  
but keep as a Regular Board meeting  
Change – December 8<sup>th</sup> to December 15<sup>th</sup>

4225-20

Moved by Trustee Maddigan– that the Board  
reschedule the Organizational Meeting to  
September 1<sup>st</sup>, 2020.

Motion Carried

4226-20

Moved by Trustee Muir – that the Board approve  
the 2020 – 2021 Board Meeting dates as  
amended.

Motion Carried

**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**

Linda Wigton

Attended Pat Hardy Parent Council meeting  
on-line.

Parents are concerned about the learning gap for some students. How will NGPS address this?

Some parents are thinking about not sending their children back to school.

4227-20

Moved by Trustee Hailes – that the Board accept Information/Reports E1-E9 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. Capital Maintenance & Renewal Stimulus Proposal
2. Budget 2020 - 2021
3. Three Year Education Plan
4. Hilltop High International Field Trip
5. Preparedness for the Fall
6. School Playgrounds and Field Closures
7. PUF Programming for 2020-21
8. Audit Committee – 2 New Members

Lisa Bakos, Communications Officer, left the meeting at 4:56 p.m.

Recording of meeting discontinued at 4:56 p.m.

**In-Camera Items**

4228-20

**I. In-Camera Items**

Moved by Trustee Maddigan – that the Board move into In-Camera at 4:58 p.m.

Motion Carried

Kevin Andrea, Superintendent, Michelle Brennick, Deputy Superintendent, Leslee Jodry, Assistant Superintendent and Tamara Spong, Secretary-Treasurer, left the meeting at 4:58 p.m.

Wendy Robertson, Recording Secretary, was invited to stay in the meeting.

4229–20

Moved by Trustee Maddigan – that the Board move out of In-Camera at 5:05 p.m.

Motion Carried

**Adjournment**

4230-20

**J. Adjournment**

Moved by Trustee Hailes - that the meeting be adjourned at 5:05 p.m.

Motion Carried

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Board Chair

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Secretary-Treasurer