

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

September 1, 2020 – following Organizational Meeting  
Board Room of the Division Office in Whitecourt, AB

**Opening**

**A. Opening**

Meeting to be recorded – started at 1:18 p.m.

**Call to Order  
and Roll Call**

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

The September 1<sup>st</sup>, meeting was called to order by Chair Wigton at 1:18 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.

Lisa Bakos, Communications Officer, was present at this time.

**Treaty Land  
Acknowledgement**

**2. Treaty Land Acknowledgement**

Trustee Sherry Jeffreys read the Treaty Land Acknowledgement.

Additions/Deletions  
to the Agenda

3. Additions/Deletions to the Agenda

Addition:

D.5.a) Call for Board Meeting Agenda Items

E.10.a) Annual Awards Appreciation

E.10.b) Share your Smile

Acceptance of Agenda

4. Acceptance of Agenda

4282-20

Moved by Trustee Portsmouth – that the agenda for the September 1<sup>st</sup>, 2020 Regular Board Meeting be adopted as amended.

Motion Carried

Appointments and  
Delegations

B. Appointments and Delegations

NIL

Minutes of the  
June 16<sup>th</sup>, 2020  
Regular Board Meeting

C. Minutes of the June 16<sup>th</sup>, 2020  
Regular Board Meeting

4283-20

Moved by Trustee Peck – that the minutes of the August 18<sup>th</sup>, 2020 Regular Board Meeting be adopted as presented.

Motion Carried

Action Items

D. Action Items

Provincial Assessment

Provincial Assessment

4284-20

Moved by Trustee Muir – that Grade 6 and 9 students will not participate in the writing of the English Language Arts and the Mathematics Provincial Achievement Tests for the 2020-21 school year.

Motion Carried

**ASBA Advocacy Priorities Survey**

**ASBA Advocacy Priorities Survey**

Trustees will complete the survey and send to Trustee Muir. The Advocacy committee will review the responses, compile, and send completed survey on to ASBA.

**National/International Field Trips**

**National/International Field Trips**

4285-20

Moved by Trustee Hagman– that the Board of Trustees, cancel all national and international field trips and excursions for the balance of the 2020/21 school year.

Motion Carried

**Additional Action Items**

**Additional Action Items**

**Call for Agenda Items**

**Call for Agenda Items**

4286-20

Moved by Trustee Hailes - to have an email sent to all trustees the Monday of the week the Board Agenda goes out to ask for any items they wish to be placed on the agenda for the Board meeting.

Motion Withdrawn

No motion needed procedural action only.

## Information/Reports

### ASBA/PSBAA

## E. Information/Reports

### ASBA/PSBAA

#### ASBA: (Linda Wigton)

Board Chair Linda Wigton reported from the ASBA Board Chairs Meetings held on August 14<sup>th</sup> and 31<sup>st</sup>, 2020:

- Federal money coming to Boards to be spent on four categories:
  1. Online Learning or Online teacher training.
  2. Transportation
  3. Cleaning and Safety Protocols
  4. Teaching, Sub Costs and Support Costs
- Federal money has not been received yet and the money will be tracked as required by the Federal Government and will be coming out in two allotments very soon.
- School boards have autonomy of spending the dollars but must fall within the four categories.
- The funding model will carry on this year and consideration will be given to impact on this year and will monitor the situation.
- Are Boards able to use the money to cover off expenses that have already occurred – the Minister of Education confirmed they could.
- The government is committed to providing resources to Boards, and to please tell them when resources are needed.
- Would the money provided to Boards from the Provincial government come off the top of the Federal money being provided and the Minister said no.
- The formal order for masks has been sent out as that was requested by schools.
- Masking was a topic of concern.

- Topic of HVAC standards in schools was discussed and the Minister thought a lot of those had been updated in schools and that was something they were very interested in keeping track of.
- Second main discussion was on the CASS Membership.
- Hot button of issue with the ASBA.
- Seems to be a done deal with the Government, and are thinking it will be a professional status.
- Has not gone through yet, they are thinking this fall or upcoming spring. ASBA has asked for a delay so they can look at all of the criteria.
- Minister says the CASS issue has been raised since 2005 and she believes this will raise the bar of accountability; provide a title, code of conduct standards, discipline procedures, professional development and fee schedules.
- Minister said it is very similar to other organizations and will be mandatory for Superintendents and Deputy Superintendents to be in CASS. Assistant Superintendents do not need to be a member of CASS.
- CASS would take complaints, provide professional development courses, but the Minister would control certification and standards.
- The Chief Superintendent would continue to be accountable to the Board. CASS would not receive any additional funding from the Government and Boards would decide if they wanted to pay CASS fees.
- CASS would report all complaints to the registrar of the Government.
- CASS would not negotiate Superintendents salary or benefits.
- Minister looking at Pension issues with Superintendents.
- Minister believes CASS will be beneficial to the Board and enhance the educational system.

### PSBAA: (Judy Muir)

PSBAA FGM will be held on October 15, 2020. Will be a virtual meeting from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Trustees have asked to book the small meeting room at Division Office.

Trustees were asked to watch the video on the PSBAA Budget presentation that is being sent out.

### Superintendent's Report

### Superintendent's Report

Report provided for information.

- Shared the ASAA Guiding Documents with trustees.
- No intra/interschool sports in Northern Gateway yet, will be reviewed again September 30<sup>th</sup>.
- Trustee asked if programs like RAP and work experience would be impacted by the funding this year.
- Administration advised those programs would not be impacted by funding.
- There will be a CAP, as schools will only get a certain amount of funding.
- Students will still receive credits for these programs.
- Summer programs will be capped to a 10 credit CEU offering.
- High Schools will be responsible for summer programming next year and will not fall to Gateway Academy. These are some of the changes taking place.

### Mask Wearing, Transportation, Enrolment Issues

- Dr. Hinshaw – 2 meters apart has been relaxed

- We were aware of the relaxed 2m apart in classrooms for over 2 months – hence the mask wearing.
- Divisions get many phone calls as people interpret information differently.
- Have reached out to Municipalities to find out where they are on potential mask wearing bylaws. The reason for that is if they put out a bylaw more stringent than what we have in our school system that may cause some difficulty.
- None of the five Municipalities has a bylaw in place at this time.
- There will be parents that may have an issue with mandatory mask wearing in classrooms and will want to insist on their rights to bring their children to school with no masks. Northern Gateway is going by this health order and we are in the middle of a pandemic.
- If there is medical reason why a child cannot wear a mask, they must follow the exemption criteria to qualify.
- If a child continues to not wear a mask for no reason, a decision will be made which could lead to a child being suspended or expelled.

#### Special Needs:

- Rather than being funded on a student by student basis, the new funding model gives a block of funding to jurisdictions based upon past student enrolment/profile data.
- The change in total PUF funding where all Kindergarten age children are no longer funded under PUF but now fall under Specialized Learning Supports (SLS – formerly Inclusive Education). It is estimated that this will have an impact of \$413,988 on the already reduced Specialized Learning Supports budget (reduced by \$575,030 from last year).
- 3 and 4 year old PUF students which were previously funded on a per child basis regardless of how many were enrolled are

- now capped at a set limit of \$286,650 for the year regardless of enrolment.
- The Regional Collaborative Services Delivery (RCSD) Model has been discontinued. We estimate that this provided the Division special needs programs with third party supports totaling approximately \$693,568. These supports are still required and are paid for from the SLS budget Allocation.
  - The June withdrawal of Alberta Health Services supports (due to the cancellation of RCSDs) is estimated to be in the area of \$278,000 that must be replaced through the Specialized Learning Supports budget.
  - The consistent and frequent announcement by the Minister of Education that the government has dedicated an increase of \$120 million to school systems (\$1.951 increase in NGPS) as part of budget 2020-21 is addressed misleading. This increase is consumed by the loss of Kindergarten PUF (estimated \$413,988); reduction in Specialized Learning Supports (\$575,030), loss of third part support services in RCSD (estimated \$693,568) and AHS related services (estimated \$267,000) will consume more of this increase.

#### NGPS Re-Entry Update – Michelle Brennick

Updates were made to the NGPS 2020-21 COVIS-19 Re-Entry Handbook. All updates will be dated and time stamped so everyone knows the most current copy.

#### Instructional Opportunities – Leslee Jodry

Assistant Superintendent, Leslee Jodry reported on the instructional opportunities in Northern Gateway Public Schools for 2020/21.



Handout provided for information.

- Online classes commence September 8<sup>th</sup>, 2020.
- When teachers receive their class lists, they will be calling all on-line learners.
- Chrome Books can be picked up Friday, September 4<sup>th</sup> and any other class materials needed.
- Online learners will receive a full day of school.
- Online teachers will stay in their own classrooms to teach online. Will be supervised by the principal of their school.
- Attendance will be taken of online students daily. Students will be tracked, if not attending online sessions; it may go to the Attendance Board and have them step in.
- Students will be using Google Meets and Google based programs
- Assessment will be happening this year.
- Teachers will follow a common schedule, so online/in school students are at the same point of learning.
- Two extra teachers have been hired so far, to accommodate the online learners.

## Finance

## Finance

Reports provided for information.

## Communications

## Communications

Letters provided for information.

## ASBA – Virtual Edwin Parr Awards Report

## ASBA – Virtual Edwin Parr Awards Report

The Edwin Parr Awards Banquet was held Thursday, August 27<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m. by a virtual celebration.

Northern Gateway's nominee was Taylor Button, teacher from Hilltop High School.

#### Board Annual Work Plan

#### Board Annual Work Plan

Provided for information.

#### Motion Review Cycle

#### Motion Review Cycle

Provided for information.

#### Upcoming Events

#### Upcoming Events

- Sept. 22 – Regular Board Meeting
- October 13 – Regular Board Meeting
- October 15 – PSBAA AGM – VIA Zoom
- October 27 – Regular Board Meeting

#### Additional Report Items

#### Additional Report Items

Annual Awards Evening Letter:

A draft letter to Award Recipients was shared with the Board of Trustees for their feedback. Trustee would like to see the letter more personalized to each recipient.

Thank you cards will be signed by Trustees and sent just to retirees. A program will be drafted and sent with cards to only retirees.

ShareYourSmile:

The Canadian Hard of Hearing Association has launched a national campaign, #ShareYourSmile to raise awareness and increase the use of "Access Masks" as a universal practice that improves accessible communication and makes

your service environments more inclusive.

Masks can be purchased at the following:  
<https://www.chha.ca/get-involved/share-your-smile-campaign/>

4287-20

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

Motion Carried

Topics for Future Discussions

F. Topics for Future Discussions

Requests for Information

G. Requests for Information

1. Facts around Inclusive Ed and Budget Cuts

Meeting Highlights

H. Meeting Highlights

**Organizational Meeting:**

1. Election of Board Chair and Vice- Chair for the 2020-21 school year
2. Change to start time of Board Meetings from 1:00 to 10:00 am.

**Regular Meeting:**

1. Provincial Assessments
2. National/International Field Trips & Excursions
3. Alberta Schools Athletic Association
4. Career Exposure Boot Camps
5. Challenges to Special Needs Support and PUF funding
6. Re-entry Handbook Updates
7. At-home, online learning

In-Camera Items

I. In-Camera Items

Nil

Adjournment

J. Adjournment

4288-20

Moved by Trustee Portsmouth - that the meeting be adjourned at 5:27 p.m.

Motion Carried

Electronic recording of meeting discontinued at 5:27 p.m.

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Board Chair

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Secretary-Treasurer