

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

September 22, 2020 – 10:00 a.m.

Board Room of the Division Office in Whitecourt, AB

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## Opening

### A. Opening

Meeting to be recorded – started at 10:04 a.m.

## Call to Order and Roll Call

### 1. Call to Order and Roll Call

The September 22<sup>nd</sup>, meeting was called to order by Chair Wigton at 10:04 a.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.

Randy Lovich, Director of Maintenance, Dave Christie, Christie Consulting Services, Bev Cotton, Learning Services Coordinator and Lisa Bakos, Communications Officer, were present at this time.

## Treaty Land Acknowledgement

### 2. Treaty Land Acknowledgement

Trustee Barb Maddidan read the Treaty Land Acknowledgement.

**Additions/Deletions  
to the Agenda**

**3. Additions/Deletions to the Agenda**

Addition:

E.13.a) Committee Reports

**Acceptance of Agenda**

4289-20

**4. Acceptance of Agenda**

Moved by Trustee Portsmouth – that the agenda for the September 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2020 Regular Board Meeting be adopted as amended.

Motion Carried

**Appointments and  
Delegations**

**B. Appointments and Delegations**

Randy Lovich, Director of Maintenance and Dave Christie, Christie Consulting Services Ltd. presented the Long Range Facilities Plan.

The report was to show opportunities to increase utilization and reduce operational costs.

Report attached for information.

Randy Lovich and Dave Christie left the meeting at 11:00 a.m.

**Minutes of the  
September 1<sup>st</sup>, 2020  
Organizational Meeting**

4290-20

**C. Minutes of the September 1<sup>st</sup>, 2020  
Organizational Meeting**

Moved by Trustee Peck – that the minutes of the September 1<sup>st</sup>, 2020 Organizational Meeting be adopted as presented.

Motion Carried

Minutes of the  
September 1<sup>st</sup>, 2020  
Regular Board Meeting

4291-20

C. Minutes of the September 1<sup>st</sup>, 2020  
Regular Board Meeting

Moved by Trustee Hailes – that the minutes of the September 1<sup>st</sup>, 2020 Regular Board Meeting be adopted as presented.

Motion Carried

Action Items

Long Range Facilities  
Plan

4292-20

D. Action Items

Long Range Facilities Plan

Moved by Trustee Hagman – that the Board of Trustees accept the Long Range Facilities Plan as presented.

Motion Withdrawn

4293-20

Moved by Trustee Portsmouth – that the Board of Trustees accept the Long Range Facilities Plan, Capital recommendations Priorities No. 1 – 5, as presented.

Motion Carried

4294-20

Moved by Trustee Portsmouth – that the Board of Trustees accept for information, the Long Range Facilities Plan recommendations No. 1 and 2, to improve Utilization Rates and Reduce Operational Costs as presented.

Motion Carried

Additional Action Items

Additional Action Items

Nil

Information/Reports

ASBA/PSBAA

E. Information/Reports

ASBA/PSBAA

**ASBA: (Jim Hailes)**

No report. Next meeting scheduled for Friday September 25<sup>th</sup>, 2020.

*ASBA Special General Meeting (Linda Wigton)*

The ASBA Special General meeting was held on September 17, 2020 by Zoom.

Three motions were passed:

BE IT RESOLVED THAT, ASBA support the government in proceeding with the development of legislation that would make CASS a professional regulatory body.

BE IT RESOLVED, THAT if the provincial government determines that it will proceed with the development of legislation granting regulated legislation status to CASS, ASBA will act in the best interest of its members by recommending to the Minister of Education:

1. That the qualifications for a Superintendent of Schools in Alberta continue to be set by the Minister in Regulation as is currently mandated in Superintendent of Schools Regulation 98/2019.
2. That the certification for Superintendents and other system leaders in Alberta continue to be provided by the Minister and set out in Regulation as in the Certification of Teachers and Teacher Leaders Regulation 84/2019.
3. That the superintendent certification process continue to be accessible only through Ministry-specified post-secondary educational institutions.
4. That Boards would continue to have the full right to investigate conduct or competency concerns related to

their employees and to discipline them accordingly, and further, that the Registrar and the Board Chair be advised immediately of any formal complaints received by CASS in regards to any of its members and receive notice regarding the resolution of the complaints.

5. That CASS be completely distinct from a labor union, that CASS not engage in any labor or legal employment matters on behalf of its members and that CASS not fund legal fees for investigations involving CASS members.
6. That CASS accept for membership all Board-appointed, Superintendents of Schools, and further, that membership in CASS be mandatory for all Superintendents of Schools and those who are required to hold a superintendent certificate, and further, that any Board-appointed Superintendent who is not a member of CASS be given one year in which to meet the established criteria for membership.
7. That CASS have authority to set membership fees, which must be publicly displayed, and that Boards have complete discretion to negotiate payment of these fees in part or in whole with their employees, and further, that if a Board should choose not to pay the membership fees in whole or in part, the responsibility to the outstanding amount will rest with the employee.
8. That Boards will continue to have complete authority over contract negotiations within legislation to determine the roles and responsibilities for Superintendents, in policy, as is currently the case as set out in Section 222 (4) of the Education Act, and as such, Boards will continue to have full authority to evaluate their Superintendents, and further, that this explicit authority be outlined in Alberta Education's revised Teacher Growth, Supervision and Evaluation Policy.
9. That CASS have the authority to set minimum expectations of ongoing mandatory professional development (continuing competence programs) for its members and that CASS be recognized as a bona fide deliverer of professional development, but further, that
10. CASS should not be the sole provider or mandated provider for professional learning, and further, that professional learning should also be determined between the Board and Superintendent.

BE IT RESOLVED, THAT ASBA recommends the development of a Terms of Reference outlining

how ASBA and the Minister of Education will engage with one another.

#### PSBAA: (Christine Peck)

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

#### Superintendent's Report

#### Superintendent's Report

Report provided for information.

- Will have School Council Chairs zoom into Board meetings with their reports, starting at the October 13<sup>th</sup> Board meeting. Will do one or two reports per Board meeting.

*COVID Response Activity Plan –  
Michelle Brennick, Deputy Superintendent*

Updates were made to the NGPS 2020-21 COVIS-19 Re-Entry Handbook as of September 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2020. All updates will be dated and time stamped so everyone knows the most current copy. Handbook is available on the NGPS web page – see link:

<https://www.ngps.ca/download/287417>

Michelle Brennick, Deputy Superintendent, left the meeting at 12:06 p.m.

*At Home/Online Learning –  
Leslee Jodry, Assistant Superintendent*

Assistant Superintendent, Leslee Jodry reported on the At Home/Online Learning opportunities.

- "Gateway Online" is the official name for the online program.
- Online day is scheduled from 9:00 a.m. to 3:15 p.m. with the standard breaks. Online program is available from K – 9.
- Kindergarten is half days – 2 half days/one teacher
- Grades 10 – 12 is being handled in house by our own teachers. Plan to be revisited for the third Quarter.
- Online students are registered in their home schools.
- They are part of a Gateway online class.
- Teachers can access these students through PowerSchool. We have been able to create a "Gateway School" in PowerSchool, so teachers are now able to enter student's assessments.
- We have 16 online teachers. 4 of these teachers are Grade 9 teachers from Onoway High School. These grade 9 teachers have their regular classes each day but also have one block for their online class – teaching the four core subjects.
- Generalist teachers for K-6 for the 4 core subjects as well as health. May do supplemental classes if they are able.
- Grade 7 – 8 – one teacher for Math/Science 7/8 and two half time teachers for Social/English 7 and Social/English 8.
- Online teachers are present in their home schools and the principal is their supervisor.
- Online school is not like it was in March – June. There will be face to face with teacher throughout the day with responsibilities to complete assignments on their own, and also smaller group sessions.
- To date the online overview of students participating:  
K- 24 students (2 kindergarten classes)

Gr. 1 – 24  
Gr. 2 – 20  
Gr. 3 – 18  
Gr. 4 - 23  
Gr. 5 – 21  
Gr. 6 – 22  
Gr. 7 – 33  
Gr. 8 – 29  
Gr. 9 – 25  
Gr. 10 – 31  
Gr. 11 – 40  
Gr. 12 – 22

- We are keeping a close eye on the online attendance – there is a process to be followed.
- In summary – we have 240 teachers, 1 teacher from each school doing the online teaching and we hired 2 FTE additional teachers for online teaching. Across the province this is extremely efficient.

## Finance

## Finance

Reports provided for information.

In response to COVID-19 pandemic, the Province provided additional resources to schools, including \$250 million in accelerated capital maintenance and renewal funding and a \$10 million in PPE for our schools. Of the Federal funding, Northern Gateway received \$1,653,750.00.

We will receive the \$1,653,750.00 in two payments - September 2020 and January 2021.

Boards need to report to Alberta Education expenditures allocated to the federal funding by the following priorities:



- a) Additional Learning Supports (Staff and Substitute costs)
- b) Adaptation of Learning Spaces
- c) Testing (Temperature Checks/Swab Test)
- d) Facility Alterations (Air Systems)/Utility Costs
- e) Personal Protective Equipment (masks/faceshields etc.)
- f) Cleaning Supplies & Sanitization
- g) Additional Cleaning & Custodial
- h) Health and Safety Training
- i) Online Learning and Teacher Training (PD/Equipment)
- j) Supports for Special Needs Students (Staff & Equipment)
- k) Transportation (Cleaning and Routing)
- l) Other

To date we have spent close to a million dollars on COVID.

4295-20

Moved by Trustee Muir – that the Board Chair send a thank you letter to the Federal Government, the Prime Minister, and cc the three MPs for thinking of Education at this time.

Motion Carried

**Inclusive Ed Funding Information**

**Inclusive Ed Funding Information**

Provided for Information.

Trustee Sherry Jeffreys left the meeting at 2:39 p.m.

### Honouring Spirit: Indigenous Student Awards Update

### Honouring Spirit: Indigenous Student Awards Update

The Honouring Spirit: Indigenous Student Awards offers an opportunity to celebrate First Nations, Metis and Inuit students from across Alberta who model strength and commitment in pursuit of their personal education path and who embrace their own gifts, strengths and potential while celebrating the ways of their people.

Northern Gateway had 5 nominees from Percy Baxter school in Whitecourt. None of our 5 nominees were the recipients.

### Advocacy Committee Report

### Advocacy Committee Report

Report provided for information.

Based upon the ASBA Advocacy request these are the 6 top priorities submitted to ASBA:

1. School Board Autonomy and Flexibility
2. Adequate, Sustainable and Predictable Funding
3. Promoting the Public Education System
4. Student Well-being
5. Raising the Profile of Trustees
6. Emergent Issues as they Arise

Next Advocacy meeting scheduled for October 20<sup>th</sup>, 2020.

4296-20

Moved by Trustee Hailes – that the Board Chair draft a letter to the three local MLAs seeking support for the new School build in Valleyview.

Motion Carried

School Council  
Annual Reports

School Council Annual Reports

Reports provided for information.

Correspondence

Correspondence

*LRSD Funding Framework Letter*

- Letter provided for information.

4297-20

Moved by Trustee Hailes – that the Board Chair draft a letter to the Minister of Education about the negative impact of the pandemic on the Weighted Moving Average and copies to the three local MLAs.

Motion Carried

Motion Review Cycle

Motion Review Cycle

Provided for information.

Upcoming Events

Upcoming Events

- Oct. 13 – Regular Board Meeting
- Oct. 15 – PSBAA AGM – Via Zoom
- Oct. 27 – Regular Board Meeting
- Nov. 16 – ASBA FGM – Via Zoom
- Nov. 24 – Regular Board Meeting

## Trustee Reports

## Trustee Reports

### Barb Maddigan

Hilltop High has been affected by the WMA funding but the principal said they were fortunate for the number of kids registered at their Outreach school – balanced the funding out.

### Judy Muir

Attended Onoway and Grasmere parent council meetings. Good attendance and parents were engaged and positive.

### Diane Hagman

Elmer Elson had their parent council meeting last night. Trustee Hagman did not attend but is waiting to get the minutes from the meeting.

### Sherry Jeffreys

Sangudo Parent Council meeting today at 4:00 p.m.

## Additional Report Items

## Additional Report Items

### Committee Reports:

Trustees would like to have Committee Reports added to the agenda under Information/Reports as No. 3. to be called Standing Committees.

4298-20

Moved by Trustee Portsmouth – that we add “Standing Committees” as an item on the Board meeting agenda.

Motion Carried

4299-20

Moved by Trustee Hagman – that the Board of Trustees accept Information/Reports E1- E13 as information.

Motion Carried

### Topics for Future Discussions

#### F. Topics for Future Discussions

1. 10 Year Capital Plan Discussion (Long Range Facilities Plan – Priorities No. 1-5 to be discussed at the Board Workshop).

### Requests for Information

#### G. Requests for Information

1. Transportation/Bus Drivers/Tweets (Director of Transportation to attend the Oct. 13 Board Meeting.)

### Meeting Highlights

#### H. Meeting Highlights

1. Long Range Facilities Plan
2. COVID Response Activity Plan
3. At Home/Online Learning
4. Federal COVID Funding
5. Indigenous Student Awards
6. Advocacy Committee Work

Electronic recording of meeting discontinued at 3:49 p.m.

**In-Camera Items**

4300-20

**I. In-Camera Items**

Moved by Trustee Hagman – that the Board move into In-Camera at 3:49 p.m., and Kevin Andrea, and Tamara Spong were invited to stay.

Motion Carried

4301-20

Moved by Trustee Portsmouth – that the Board move out of In-Camera at 4:09 p.m.

Motion Carried

**Adjournment**

4302-20

**J. Adjournment**

Moved by Trustee Portsmouth - that the meeting be adjourned at 4:09 p.m.

Motion Carried

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Board Chair

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Secretary-Treasurer