

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

October 13, 2020 – 10:00 a.m.

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

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## Opening

### A. Opening

Meeting to be recorded – started at 10:11 a.m.

## Call to Order and Roll Call

### 1. Call to Order and Roll Call

The October 13<sup>th</sup>, meeting was called to order by Chair Wigton at 10:11 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 and Rhett Czaban, Director of Transportation, were present at this time.

Lisa Bakos, Communications Officer, was absent from the meeting.

## 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**

NIL

Acceptance of Agenda

4. **Acceptance of Agenda**

4303-20

Moved by Trustee Peck – that the agenda for the October 13<sup>th</sup>, 2020 Regular Board Meeting be adopted as presented.

Motion Carried

Appointments and  
Delegations

B. **Appointments and Delegations**

Rhett Czaban, Director of Transportation provided his transportation report.

Written report provided for information.

4304-20

Moved by Trustee Hailes – that the Board Chair write a letter to the Minister of Education and Minister of Transportation, requesting an extension to the permit to operate a school bus without S-endorsement or the elimination of the requirement that S-endorsement remain a pre-employment requirement and that the MELT program training become mandatory but not a pre-employment requirement.

Motion Carried

Jason Yaremchuk, Director of Information Technology gave Technology Overview report.

Powerpoint presentation provided for information.

Rhett Czaban, Director of Transportation, left the meeting at 11:16 a.m.

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

4305-20

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

Moved by Trustee Jeffreys – that the minutes of the September 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2020 Regular Board Meeting be adopted as amended.

Motion Carried

**Action Items**

**School Operational  
Viability Report**

4306-20

**D. Action Items**

**School Operational Viability Report**

Moved by Trustee Maddigan – that the Board direct viability studies be completed for Sangudo Community School and Harry Gray Elementary School consistent with the parameters outlined in Board Policy 15: School Operational Viability.

Recorded Vote:

In favor:

Barb Maddigan  
Linda Wigton  
Judy Muir  
Diane Hagman  
Jim Hailes  
Christine Peck

Opposed:

Gerry Steinke  
Sherry Jeffreys  
Anita Portsmouth

Motion Carried

Additional Action Items

Additional Action Items

Nil

Information/Reports

E. Information/Reports

ASBA/PSBAA

ASBA/PSBAA

ASBA: (Jim Hailes)

- ASBA Zoom meeting held – no new information.
- President holding weekly meetings with Stakeholders and Minister of Education.
- Edwin Parr Awards held by Zoom – well received.
- Will send out unapproved meeting minutes.

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.
- October 19, 2020 – PSBAA President, Cathy Hogg, will be doing a Zoom meeting.
- Please watch the Proposed 2021 Budget Presentation before the October 15, 2020 meeting. Link provided:  
<http://www.public-schools.ab.ca/proposed-2021-budget>

Randy Lovich, Director of Maintenance, left the meeting at 12:00 noon.

## Standing Committee Reports

## Standing Committee Reports

*Policy Committee* – meeting scheduled for October 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2020 @ 10:00 a.m – Division Office upstairs meeting room.

*Support/Admin Compensation Committee* – meeting scheduled for November 12<sup>th</sup>, 2020 @ 10:00 a.m. – Division Office upstairs meeting room.

*Audit Committee* – TBA – early November after Division auditors complete their audit.

*Group Benefits Ins. Plan Committee* – Deputy Superintendent to contact Brad Seib to determine need for meeting.

Brigette Moore, Reporter, Whitecourt Star, entered meeting at 1:00 p.m.

## Appointments and Delegations

## B. Appointments and Delegations

### School Council Reports – Via Zoom

### School Council Reports – via Zoom

Darwell: Bobby Yoeman – Assistant Chair  
Lorna Vardy – Principal

#### *Major Activities:*

- New school-parent introduction.
- School Community Garden
- Local fundraisers
- Hot Lunch program

#### *Parental Involvement:*

- Annual Christmas Bake Sale, Christmas concert, Christmas Raffle.
- School-wide free meal days, Pancake day, Stone Soup Day.

- Hot Lunch Program
- School Community Garden

*Major Challenges:*

- Parental Involvement

**Onoway Jr/Sr High School:**

- Janine Mickey – Chairperson
- John Lobo – Principal

*Major Activities:*

- Anchor Club (formerly Coffee Club)
- Fundraising
- Accountability Pillar Survey completion

*Parental Involvement:*

- Interacting with students at front doors
- Support breakfast nook with food donations
- Casino in 2020 – every 2 years
- Parent facebook page to communicate school activities with parents
- <https://www.facebook.com/ojshscouncil/>

*Major Challenges:*

- Reduced attendance at meetings
- Communication is better with use of email, synervoice and facebook postings.
- Virtual meetings after COVID-19.

**Superintendent's Report**

**Superintendent's Report**

Report provided for information.

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

*Safety School Re-entry Inspections:*

Occupational Health and Safety inspectors from Ministry of Labour and Immigration were

assigned to audit COVID-19 safety practices in a number of schools across Alberta.

Percy Baxter School, Elmer Elson Elementary School and Rich Valley School were selected to be audited for NGPS. All schools received outstanding reviews, so strong in fact, that the inspectors asked if they could take pictures of the processes that are in place (sign-ins, COVID rooms/infirmarary room, SDS information, signage, bathroom signs...in/out, Needs Sanitizing signs, masking, protocol for illness at school, etc) and share the information at their next OHS/AHS meeting where the Chief Medical Officer will also be in attendance.

Slight adjustments have been made to the COVID Re-entry Manual. Updated version on the Webpage.

## Finance

## Finance

Reports provided for information.

Federal COVID Fund:

- September 22 – 1.54 million committed funds
- Oct. 13 – 1.91 million committed funds
- \$260,000 on 2 FTE on-line teachers and staff that helped with the re-entry survey.

## Graduation Ceremonies 2020/21 Schedule

## Graduation Ceremonies 2020/21 Schedule

- Are graduation ceremonies being held on Friday, June 25<sup>th</sup> or Saturday, June 26<sup>th</sup>.
- Friday, June 25<sup>th</sup> is also a Diploma exam day – may not be much focus on exam is graduation is held on same day.
- Should all graduation ceremonies be held on the same day?

- Division office does not dictate the date of graduation ceremonies, that is up to principals, parents and students.

## Correspondence

## Correspondence

Provided for Information.

*ATA letter and response:*

ATA letter was not specific to Northern Gateway, letter went to all jurisdictions.

Will send Re-entry Audits of our schools to ATA.

*Diploma Exams:*

- Alberta's government is providing students and parents with the option of choosing if they write their diploma exams for the November administration.
- At this time, diploma exams for the balance of the 2020/21 school year are expected to proceed as usual.
- Alberta's government will continue to monitor the situation and potential adjustments to future diploma exam administrations will be considered one administration at a time.

4307-20

Moved by Trustee Hailes – that the Board ask the Minister of Education to extend this option of parents and students choosing if they write their diploma exams for the remainder of 2020/21.

Motion Carried.



## Yellowhead Regional Library Report

## Yellowhead Regional Library Report

- YRL Annual Conference collaborated with Parkland Regional Library System, The Alberta Library and Peace Library System to the library community a two-day virtual conference, held on October 1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2020
- The theme of the conference was “Stronger Together”.
- The conference hosted 45 speakers over the two days speaking about 6 different categories.
- There was very strong messaging and discussions on Community Partnerships, Working Together, and also Engaging our Youth.
- All of the sessions were recorded – see link: <https://strongertogether.heysummit.com/>

## Rural Caucus Report

## Rural Caucus Report

The cancellation of the Annual Rural Caucus of Alberta conference - report by Trustee Hagman.

- Annual Financial Report will be sent out by email.
- Elections – 2 positions up for Election – do we want to keep the current members in these positions for one more year? Diane to send an email what our decision is regarding elections. Positions are Vice Chair: Darcy Elleson and Director: Stuart Angle.
- Leaving the election decision up to Trustee Hagman.
- Issues for school divisions – survey will be sent out for our comments.
- The November AGM will not be held by Zoom due to lack of staff and resources.

## MLA Town Hall meeting reports

## MLA Town Hall meeting reports

Trustee Peck attended the September 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2020 Town Hall meeting in Onoway, AB.

- Trustee Peck was called upon to explain NGPS's Re-entry Plan.

Other topics discussed:

- Tax Increases
- Policing Model Changes
- Firearms
- Forced Vaccinations
- ASHIP
- Flooding and Infrastructure – in the Alberta Beach and Lac St. Anne areas

There were 17 people in attendance.

Trustee Muir attended the October 5<sup>th</sup>, 2020 Town Hall meeting in Alberta Beach.

- Trustee Muir was called upon to explain NGPS's Re-entry Plan.
- 2 ½ hour meeting

Topics discussed

- Alberta Beach lake questions
- Taxation
- The same topics as the Onoway Town Hall meeting.

## Board Annual Work Plan

## Board Annual Work Plan

Provided for information.

**Motion Review Cycle**

**Motion Review Cycle**

Provided for information.

**Upcoming Events**

**Upcoming Events**

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

**Additional Report Items**

**Additional Report Items**

Nil

4308-20

Moved by Trustee Muir – that the Board of Trustees accept Information/Reports E1- E14 as information.

Motion Carried

**Topics for Future Discussions**

**F. Topics for Future Discussions**

1. Not just Government funds reduced but also the ability for schools to fundraise.

**Requests for Information**

**G. Requests for Information**

Nil

**Meeting Highlights**

**H. Meeting Highlights**

1. Transportation Report
2. Technology Report
3. School Viability Report

4. COVID Re-Entry Update (H&S Audits on Schools)
5. Virtual School Council Reports
6. Diploma Exams

Electronic recording of meeting discontinued at 3:13 p.m.

### In-Camera Items

4309-20

#### I. In-Camera Items

Moved by Trustee Portsmouth – that the Board move into In-Camera at 3:13 p.m., and Kevin Andrea, Michelle Brennick and Tamara Spong were invited to stay.

Motion Carried

4310-20

Moved by Trustee Hailes – that the Board move out of In-Camera at 3:49 p.m.

Motion Carried

### Adjournment

4311-20

#### J. Adjournment

Moved by Trustee Portsmouth - that the meeting be adjourned at 3:49 p.m.

Motion Carried

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Board Chair

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Secretary-Treasurer