

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

October 27, 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 10:01 a.m.

## Call to Order and Roll Call

### 1. Call to Order and Roll Call

The October 27<sup>th</sup>, meeting was called to order by Chair Wigton at 10:01 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.

Lisa Bakos, Communications Officer, was 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

- D.2.a) Letter to Holy Family
- D.2.b) Board Workshop

Acceptance of Agenda

4. Acceptance of Agenda

4312-20

Moved by Trustee Portsmouth– that the agenda for the October 27<sup>th</sup>, 2020 Regular Board Meeting be adopted as amended.

Motion Carried

Minutes of the  
October 13<sup>th</sup>, 2020  
Regular Board Meeting

C. Minutes of the October 13<sup>th</sup>, 2020  
Regular Board Meeting

4313-20

Moved by Trustee Hagman – that the minutes of the October 13<sup>th</sup>, 2020 Regular Board Meeting be adopted as amended.

Motion Carried

Action Items

D. Action Items

School Board Ward  
Structure By-Law  
Requirements

School Board Ward Structure By-Law  
Requirements

4314-20

Moved by Trustee Hailes – that the Board undertake an independent review of the current ward governance structure with a recommendation to pass a bylaw, meeting the requirements of the Education Act at the December 15<sup>th</sup>, 2020 regular Board meeting.

Motion Defeated

4315-20 Moved by Trustee Steinke – that the Board create a By-law for Board realignment that incorporates the newly acquired lands between Fox Creek and Whitecourt.

Motion Carried

Additional Action Items

Additional Action Items

D.2.a) Letter to Holy Family

4316-20 Moved by Trustee Portsmouth – that the Board Chair send a letter of condolences on behalf of the NGSD Board of trustees to the Holy Family CRD Board of trustees regarding the passing of their Trustee Carmelle Lizee.

Motion Carried

D.2.b) Board Workshop

4317-20 Moved by Trustee Steinke – that the Board Workshop be held on November 30<sup>th</sup> and December 1<sup>st</sup>, 2020.

Motion Carried

4318-20 Moved by Trustee Muir – that the Board Workshop be held in Whitecourt, AB.

Motion Carried

4319-20 Moved by Trustee Hailes – that the Board strike a 3 member committee to organize the Board Workshop.

Motion Carried

Committee Members:

Linda Wigton, Judy Muir, Gerry Steinke

## Information/Reports

### ASBA/PSBAA

## E. Information/Reports

### ASBA/PSBAA

#### ASBA: (Jim Hailes)

- Zone 2/3 meeting was held on Friday, October 23, 2020 – via Zoom.
- Budget – reduced the basic fee down from \$1402.00 to \$750.00. Per student fee is waived this year. One time adjustment. Fee for Zone this year is a flat rate of \$750.00.
- Bylaws were amended as per policy. No major changes.
- Held elections – results as per the attached sheet.
- Presidents report – nothing new as she has been consistent with her updates to everyone.
- PD presentation at the AGM for an hour on Governance.
- Advocacy Report – looking at two prime things this year: Public Education and School Board autonomy.
- Maurice Fritz is available to provide advocacy training to Boards if we want to take advantage of this.
- Alberta Education – Gene Williams retired and Gloria Latridis is the Acting Assistant Deputy Minister.

#### PSBAA: (Christine Peck)

- PSBAA FGM held on October 15<sup>th</sup>, 2020.
- Meeting started with an address from the Minister of Education, Adriana LaGrange. Her main topics were the Re-entry Success and Diploma Exams for the remainder of the year - still undecided at this point and will continue to monitor that situation.

- The UPC was happy with their promise to deliver on the new Education Act.
- Not much time for questions due to technical problems. Questions will be answered in writing and sent out to participants of the meeting.
- Announced the recipients of the Special Recognition Awards. Link was forwarded for the YouTube presentations on that.
- New Executive Director is Troy Tate.
- Finance Committee had a successful audit, no fee increases to the member Boards.
- Two Executive positions were filled by acclamation.
- Bylaw – housekeeping changes.
- Trustee Peck accepted a position on the Special Recognition Committee for the upcoming year.
- Had a Zoom meeting with the president and the executive director on Oct. 19 – that was just with Northern Gateway’s Board where we were able to talk with the new Executive Director Troy Tate.
- President spoke about the upcoming tasks that are to be discussed at the upcoming November meeting.
  - Update on the Theodore Case
  - Advocate for the review of Charter School Mandate by the Auditor General - asking the Minister of Education to support that to make sure this is currently being followed.
  - Trying to get meetings with the non-member boards highlighting membership as an investment and not an expense.
  - Working to secure an invitation to the Throne speech.
  - The Advocate which is their newsletter has had a major facelift. It’s becoming a must read for our members.
  - Website has been updated as well.
  - Asking all Boards to review the Associate Work Plan and see what we can do in the schools and possible use some of the

- language in our own work plan.
- Asking the government to use “Publically Funded Schools” terminology instead of Public Schools”
  - PSBAA has a new belief statement: “We believe public schools are the first choice in our communities, where children can go to learn and live the values of democracy together, reflecting our hope, and shaping the future of our communities.”

## Standing Committee Reports

## Standing Committee Reports

*Policy Committee* – meeting was held on October 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2020. Meeting record will be presented at the November 24, 2020 Board meeting.

*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.

*Advocacy Committee* – Committee Chair Peck presented the meeting record. (attached for information)

4320-20

Moved by Trustee Hailes – that the Board approach Maurice Fritz to do a workshop on Advocacy to the Board.

Motion Carried

## Superintendent's Report

## Superintendent's Report

Report provided for information.

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

- COVID-19 updates as of October 8<sup>th</sup>, 2020
- We've made some adjustments and will be reviewing those at the Administrator's meeting tomorrow as per the new information.
- Some such topics are:
  - Microwave usage by/for students
  - Breakfast/lunch programs in schools
  - Parent-delivered treats
  - Food brought in by outdoor vendors
  - Visitors/volunteers in schools
  - Consultants in schools
  - Extracurricular activities, particularly sports
  - Contact tracing.

Michelle Brennick, Deputy Superintendent, left the meeting at 12:07 p.m.

## Appointments and Delegations

## B. Appointments and Delegations

### School Council Reports – Via Zoom

### School Council Reports – via Zoom

**Pat Hardy:** Rand Richards – School Council Chair  
Anne Martens – Principal

- Rand was elected School Council Chair on October 19, 2020 at the AGM. This is Rand's third year at Pat Hardy.
- School Council meets on the third Monday of each month.
- School Council has already been meeting.
- Rand brings a wealth of experience.

School Council Chair:

- Our school council mission is to have an open and honest communications and build strong collaborations between all stakeholders in our educational system.
- We are meeting regularly and are engaged with principal and community.
- A strong school council begins with great leadership from the school principal.
- Our past years goals was fundraising. A lot of fundraising is not happening due to the COVID restrictions.
- School council was planning on attending the ASCA AGM – but this was cancelled due to the pandemic.
- Started a newsletter at the beginning of the pandemic to highlight what council is doing in the hopes of engaging more parents.
- Some of the current year goals:
  - Encouraging more parent involvement.
  - Continue with fundraising.
  - Kitchen needs upgrading.
  - Playground needs updating – all inclusive playground.

**Hilltop High School:**

- Tammy Dickson – School Council Chair
- Brent Northcott – Principal

School Council Chair:

- This is Tammy's 5<sup>th</sup> year of being the school council chair.
- Usually have the same 6 people come to every meeting.
- They bring lots of questions to the meetings.
- We are pushing hard with less parents help.
- Breakfast program not running due to the pandemic.



- We have no parent volunteers to help in the kitchen.
- We are still able to use the IGA cards to contribute to fundraising.

## Information/Reports

## E. Information/Reports

Cohorts of On-Line Kids Update – Assistant Superintendent – Leslee Jodry

- Number of withdrawn students (students that did not come to us.
- Chart shared with Board of Trustees
- 597 students new to Northern Gateway
- 564 students withdrawn (or did not return to NG)
- That is a difference of a 33 student increase.
- 447 Grade 12 students graduated.
- 414 Student decline – which is what our September Enrollment report indicated.
- Chart attached for information.

## Finance

## Finance

Reports provided for information.

Division Audit:

Division Auditors are on site this week. Need to schedule a time for Auditor to deliver his report to the Audit Committee.

Election Preparations:

School Board Elections Information Pkg. included for information.

## Correspondence

## Correspondence

Letters provided for information.

## Motion Review Cycle

## Motion Review Cycle

Provided for information.

## Trustee Reports

## Trustee Reports

### Christine Peck

Attended the OHS Awards Ceremony last week – is online on YouTube if you are interested in watching.

### Barb Maddigan

Attended Pat Hardy Parent Council meeting with Trustee Linda Wigton. Very exciting to see a very engaged group of parents.

### Linda Wigton

Having online parent council meetings has made it easier for parents to join in.

### Judy Muir

- Online meetings have been happening.
- Meetings have been good.
- Attended OHS Awards Ceremony online.

### Diane Hagman

- Attended the October 15<sup>th</sup> Town Hall meeting in Mayerthorpe hosted by MLA Shane Getson.
- He did invite the crowd to respond on how they think the Re-entry plan was going.
- Topics for discussion and questions were:
  1. RCMP Services changes

2. Parent Link Services changes
  3. Assessments
  4. Regional Collaborative and Alberta Health Services changes
  5. Dual Credit Programs
  6. Alberta Health Services frontline workers
- MLA Geston has asked for more information on Dual Credit program and the Regional Collaboration Services program.
  - Trustee Hagman has a meeting with MLA Geston on Friday, Oct. 30<sup>th</sup> to provide the information on these two programs. Superintendent Kevin Andrea and the MHS vice-principal will also be attending this meeting.
  - Trustee Hagman attended the MHS parent council meeting on Oct. 19<sup>th</sup>, 2020. Meetings are held in person with 6 parents in attendance. The hot topic was in school sports and when they will be starting up.
  - Trustee Hagman also attended the Elmer Elson parent council meeting last night by Zoom. Topics discussed were the AHS absence in the school and the principal describing how they are reinventing school events such as; Halloween parties, Christmas concerts, etc and all the work going into this.

### Upcoming Events

### Upcoming Events

- Nov. 16 & 17 – ASBA FGM – Via Zoom
- Nov. 24 – Regular Board Meeting
- Dec. 15 – Regular Board Meeting

### Additional Report Items

### Additional Report Items

Nil

4321-20

Moved by Trustee Peck – that the Board of Trustees 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. School Council Reports
2. COVID Re-Entry Update

Electronic recording of meeting discontinued at 2:25 p.m.

**In-Camera Items**

**I. In-Camera Items**

4322-20

Moved by Trustee Portsmouth – that the Board move into In-Camera at 2:25 p.m., and Kevin Andrea, and Tamara Spong were invited to stay.

Motion Carried

4323-20

Moved by Trustee Hailes – that the Board move out of In-Camera at 2:57 p.m.

Motion Carried

**Adjournment**

**J. Adjournment**

4324-20

Moved by Trustee Jeffreys - that the meeting be adjourned at 2:57 p.m.

Motion Carried

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Board Chair

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Secretary-Treasurer