

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

December 15, 2020 – 10:00 a.m.

Division Office in Whitecourt, AB via Zoom

Opening

A. Opening

Meeting to be recorded – started at 10:07 a.m.

Call to Order and Roll Call

1. Call to Order and Roll Call

The December 15, 2020 meeting was called to order by Chair Wigton at 10:07 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 Maddigan read the Treaty Land Acknowledgement.

Additions/Deletions to the Agenda

3. Additions/Deletions to the Agenda

D.a) AERR Approval

Acceptance of Agenda

4. Acceptance of Agenda

4351-20

Moved by Trustee Jeffreys– that the agenda for the December 15th, 2020 Regular Board Meeting be adopted as presented.

Motion Carried

Appointments and Delegations

B. Appointments and Delegations

Annual Education Results Review

Annual Education Results Review

NGPS Assistant Superintendent Leslee Jodry reported on the Division’s 2019-20 Annual Education Results Review (AERR) which demonstrates the progress and performance of NGPS students.

Areas of Strength:

- Student Learning Opportunities – Education Quality
- Drop-out Rate (decrease) and High School Completion Rate
- Work Preparation
- Citizenship
- School Improvement

Areas of Challenge:

- Diploma Exam Participation Rate
- Transition Rate
- PAT (Provincial Achievement Test) Excellence
- PAT Acceptable

David Quick, Dual Credit/Learning Services, entered the meeting at 10:45 a.m.

Please visit the ngps.ca website to view.

4352-20

Moved by Trustee Hagman – that the Board approve the Annual Education Results Review Report for 2019-2020 as presented.

Motion Carried

Health Care Aide
Program at Mayerthorpe
High School (MHS)

Health Care Aide Program at Mayerthorpe
High School (MHS)

MHS' Dual Credit Health Care Aide program will continue to run this year for students who began the program in 2019-20.

While the program has been a popular and successful opportunity for students, provincial funding changes have result in serious implications for Dual Credit Programs and there is no way for NGPS to continue to participate without outside funding.

As such, the Division is not accepting new enrollments in the program.

Students who were previously enrolled and had completed courses in the program will continue to be supported until they complete the program.

Dual Credit programming will continue to exist for high school credits only.

NGPS Dual Credit consultants continue work within our communities in search of local Business and industry partners who are interested in investing and supporting dual credit

programming for students. Third part funding has been secured to support program completion for current Health Care Aide students.

David Quick, left the meeting at 11:24 a.m.

**Minutes of the
November 24, 2020
Regular Board Meeting**

4353-20

**C. Minutes of the November 24, 2020
Regular Board Meeting**

Moved by Trustee Peck– that the minutes of the November 24th, 2020 Regular Board Meeting be adopted as presented.

Motion Carried

Action Items

**By-Law No. 4-20
(Arrangement of
Electoral Wards and
Trustees)**

4354-20

D. Action Items

**By-Law No. 4-20 (Arrangement of Electoral
Wards and Trustees)**

Moved by Trustee Maddigan– that the Board approve to conduct the third reading of By-Law No. 4-20 (Arrangement of Electoral Wards and Trustees).

Motion Carried Unanimously

4355-20

Moved by Trustee Muir – that By-Law No. 4-20 (Arrangement of Electoral Wards and Trustees) accept third and final reading by the Board.

Motion Carried

**Policy 19 - Establishment
of Electoral Wards and
Trustees**

4356-20

**Policy 19 – Establishment of Electoral
Wards and Trustees**

Moved by Trustee Steinke – that the Board adopt
Policy 19 – Establishment of Electoral Wards
and Trustees as presented.

Motion Carried

**Group Benefits Committee
Meeting Record**

4357-20

Group Benefits Committee Meeting Record

Moved by Trustee Portsmouth – that the Board
support an overall premium increase of
3.3% (\$94,986.01) with Manulife benefit plan for
January 1st, 2021 to December 31st, 2021.

Motion Carried

Nolan Andruik, Falon Ball, Elmer Elson School
and David Turcott, Jenny Dickson, Percy Baxter
School, entered the meeting at 12:55 p.m.

**Appointments and
Delegations**

B. Appointments and Delegations

**School Council Reports -
via Zoom**

School Council Reports – via Zoom

Percy Baxter: David Turcott – Principal
Jenny Dickson – School Council Chair

School Council Chair:

- part of School Council for 8 years

- this year very different than last year, but seeing the same amount of parents joining in virtually
- we have a parent Facebook page we use to community with our community
- we have our first Dad join the online meetings this year
- Fundraisers we have been doing:
 - Miss doing the canteen this year.
 - Breakfast Program (more students accessing this program this year.
 - Renaissance T-Shirts purchased for all the kids in the school this year.
 - Getting a projector the gym this year with funds from the Canteen program.

Principal:

- Breakfast Club of Canada decreased funds this year.
- We did receive Gift Certificates from Outlier Resources for the Breakfast Program.
- Have done well financially – purchased Chrome Books, Gym Matts and now the Level Guider Reader Kits.

Jenny Dickson left meeting at 1:20 p.m.

Elmer Elson : Nolan Andruik – Principal
Falon Ball – School Council Vice Chair

School Council Vice-Chair:

- Has been the Vice-Chair for 3 years.
- Have had 3 meetings this year (online) with average of 14 people participating.

- We have one community member – has no children in the school but is a Grandmother of students in EEE. Very active in our schools.
- We have had mixed comments on the virtual meetings.
- Falon is also president of the Elmer Elson Fundraising Society.

Principal:

- Great support from our school council.
- We installed a 3rd Water Filling Station provided by School Council.
- Have some coat hooks installed in the hallways and handy for the students.
- Lot of traditions in our school have been postponed this year – but making adjustments to meet protocols.
- Parents feel the school is keeping their kids safe and happy.
- Parents are keeping their children at home if they are sick.
- We had an OH&S Audit and EEE and Percy Baxter passed with flying colors. Very proud of that.
- Reading Program – received a large grant from Pembina Pipeline last year that went into the Guiding Reading Kits.

David Turcotte, Nolan Andriuk and Falon Boll, left the meeting at 1:35 p.m.

Additional Action Items

Additional Action Items

Nil

Information/Reports

E. Information/Reports

ASBA/PSBAA

ASBA/PSBAA

ASBA: (Jim Hailes)

ASBA Zone 2/3 Meeting Report –
December 4, 2020 via Zoom

- In view of the pressures staff are experiencing during the Covid pandemic the zone voted to correspond with Government to postpone the implementation of any new curriculum until conditions permit.
- Chair's Report – with the Government's move to standardize the naming of School jurisdictions we were requested that if we wanted a name change to contact the zone Secretary. Talked to Kevin to see where we stand and it appears late on the agenda.
- President's Report – She talked to the Minister re: concerns over Bus Driver certification requirements and some of the problems Jurisdictions were experiencing during this time of Covid.
- Will ask the Minister why Covid information re: individual Division are not being shared.
- Concern was expressed re: parents recording conversations, concerts, school activities, etc and then posting them. What are our liabilities?
- Professional Development: Doug Klein from U of A did a presentation on Health and General Wellness re: healthy living. He has a program and wants to get into schools. 2nd session on how to bring a position statement forward for ASBA consideration.
- Advocacy: continuing to put a spotlight on the importance of locally elected Trustees.

- Edwin Parr: pass on to the Superintendent and down to Principals, the importance of a fully completed and polished nomination package, as this is the primary source of the committees information when making decisions.

PSBAA: (Christine Peck)

- No meeting this month.
- Online PD session – November 30 from Dr. Jody Carrington.
- PSBAA is looking to continue with free PD sessions.
- Trustee Peck to keep Board updated.

Standing Committee Reports

Standing Committee Reports

All committees have met.

Trustee Hagman updated the Board that the Audit Committee will be putting out a tender for a new Division Auditor. The contract with Clews & Shoemaker has expired. That process will begin sometime early in the New Year. Once tenders are in, a recommendation will be brought to the Board regarding final approval on the new appointment.

Superintendent's Report

Superintendent's Report

Report provided for information.

No longer receiving phone calls from contact tracers from AHS since November 30th, 2020, regarding positive Covid tests in schools. Not sure why.

Update on Explorica Educational Tours and Student Travel:

Parents are starting to receive refunds or partial refunds for trip cancellations due to COVID.

4358-20

Moved by Trustee Hailes – that the Board write a letter to the AHS questioning why Covid notifications/information is not being shared with school divisions and cc to the Minister.

Motion Carried

Finance

Finance

Reports provided for information.

Financial Report:

– Tamara Spong, Secretary Treasurer, to provide more information on the “Available Discretionary Budget” column.

Tamara Spong, Secretary Treasurer, reminded trustees to have their expense claims in by the 3rd of each month.

2021-2022 Draft School Year Calendar

2021-2022 Draft School Year Calendar

The 2021-22 Draft School Year Calendar has been circulated among staff and administrators and will be shared on the Division website and social media for public feedback.

General Financial Overview

General Financial Overview

Provided for information.

4359-20

Moved by Trustee Maddigan – that the Board convene a Finance Committee meeting in January 2021 prior to the January 12th, 2021 Board Meeting.

Motion Carried

Meeting date to be determined.

Trustees to provide Secretary-Treasurer a list of financial information to be provided at the Finance Committee meeting.

Board Policy 16

Board Policy 16

Board Policy 16 – “School Closure” attached for information, for the Board to review.

Division Name Change

Division Name Change

A question was asked about changing our Division name to “Northern Gateway Public Schools.”

In the Education Act – Section 79 it states: “A board of trustees may, by resolution, change its corporate name to another name that is approved by the Minister.”

Northern Gateway’s legal name is Northern Gateway School Division and was just changed in the last year.

Our branded name is Northern Gateway Public Schools.

It was decided not to make any legal name change to our Division at this time.

Yellowhead Regional Library Report

Yellowhead Regional Library Report

- Northern Gateway has a seat on the Executive Board again this year.
- Hosted organization meeting on December 7.
- Will host a Library Trustee Orientation on January 25. Invitation will go out to Judy and the alternate and they are welcome to attend.
- Minutes of meeting will go out in February and will also then have a better of idea of the Budget for the upcoming year.

Correspondence

Correspondence

Letters provided for information.

Board Annual Work Plan

Board Annual Work Plan

Provided for information.

Motion Review Cycle

Motion Review Cycle

Provided for information.

Trustee Reports

Trustee Reports

Diane Hagman

- Attended parent council meeting at Elmer Elson on November 30th, 2020.
- 80% participate on the online parent/teacher interviews. Very successful.

Judy Muir

- Trustee Muir has been selected by the ASBA Board of Directors to serve on the ASBP Board of Trustees. This is a 3 year appointment.

Upcoming Events

Upcoming Events

- January 12 - Regular Board Meeting
- February 2 & 3 - Board Workshop (Will take place at Division Office unless restrictions are still in place otherwise will do it via Zoom)
- February 9 – Regular Board Meeting
- February 18-19 – School Tours (to be discussed at the January board meeting)

Additional Report Items

Additional Report Items

4360-20

Nil

Moved by Trustee Hagman– that the Board of Trustees accept Information/Reports E1- E15 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. Annual Education Results Review
2. Health Care Aide program at MHS
3. School Council Reports
4. 2021-22 Draft School Year Calendar

Electronic recording of meeting discontinued at 3:45 p.m.

In-Camera Items

I. In-Camera Items

4361-20

Moved by Trustee Hagman – that the Board move into In-Camera at 3:45 p.m., and Kevin Andrea, Michelle Brennick, and Tamara Spong were invited to stay.

Motion Carried

4362-20

Moved by Trustee Hailes – that the Board move out of In-Camera at 4:41 p.m.

Motion Carried

Adjournment

J. Adjournment

4363-20

Moved by Trustee Maddigan - that the meeting be adjourned at 4:42 p.m.

Motion Carried

Board Chair

Secretary-Treasurer