

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

March 16, 2021 – 10:00 a.m.

Division Office in Whitecourt, AB via Zoom

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 March 16th, 2021 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.

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

- E.15) Protocol Issue
- J.1.) Personnel

Acceptance of Agenda

4. Acceptance of Agenda

4392-21

Moved by Trustee Hagman– that the agenda for the March 16th, 2021 Regular Board Meeting be adopted as amended.

Motion Carried

Minutes of the February 9th, 2021 Regular Board Meeting

C. Minutes of the February 9th, 2021 Regular Board Meeting

4393-21

Moved by Trustee Jeffreys– that the minutes of the February 9th, 2021 Regular Board Meeting be adopted as presented.

Motion Carried

Action Items

D. Action Items

2021 – 2022 School Fees

2021 – 2022 School Fees

2021-2022 Transportation

2021-2022 Transportation Fee

Rhett Czaban, Director of Transportation was called to join the meeting.

2021-2022 Non-Alberta
Students Tuition Fees

4394-21

2021-2022 Non-Alberta Students Tuition Fees

Moved by Trustee Muir – that the 2021-2022 tuition fee for Non-Alberta Students be increased from:

\$10,500 to **\$11,000** full year
\$5,000 to **\$5,500** half year

Motion Carried

Draft Nomination – Friends
of Education Award

4395-21

Draft Nomination – Friends of Education
Award

Moved by Trustee Portsmouth – that the Board accept the Draft Nomination – “Friends of Education Award” as presented.

Motion Carried

2021 – 2022 Technology
Access/Maintenance Fees

4396-21

2021 – 2022 Technology Access/Maintenance Fees

Moved by Trustee Muir – that the 2021-2022 Technology Access/Maintenance Fee be increased from:

\$31.50 to \$33.00 per student Grade 1 – 12
\$15.75 to \$16.50 for half-day ECS student
\$31.50 to \$33.00 per full day every day ECS student

Motion Defeated

Rhett Czaban, Director of Transportation, entered the meeting at 10:31 a.m.

Director of Transportation to provide Transportation Revenue/Expenses data, by community, across Northern Gateway, for the next Board meeting.

2021-2022 Transportation

4397-21

2021-2022 Transportation Fees

Moved by Trustee Hagman – that the Board move to defer the 2021- 2022 Transportation Fees to the April 13th, 2021 Board meeting, pending receiving further information.

Motion Passed

Rhett Czaban, Director of Transportation, left the meeting at 11:10 a.m.

Additional Action Items

Additional Action Items

Nil

Information/Reports

E. Information/Reports

ASBA/PSBAA

ASBA/PSBAA

ASBA: (Linda Wigton)

ASBA Zone 2/3: (Jim Hailes)

Report provided for information.

PSBAA: (Christine Peck)

PSBC Meeting Report – February 12th, 2021

- Possible upcoming PD session for public school councils: How to run for trustee and/or support current trustee in election and what to ask candidates.
- School council attendance is a concern in many divisions.
- Award nominations are out- please consider nominees.

- Charter school proposed in Edmonton.
- Questions about charter schools – how can a charter open and be financially viable when the current division cannot support school and students.
- Website now has a “Members Only” portal- passwords and usernames have been emailed to members
- Communication tools including Tri-fold, Business cards, etc., are being designed. Boards will be provided with templates and order options.
- Lengthy discussion about “polling/surveying” Albertans about their understanding of “public” education. Pre vs. post election? Concerns that Covid issues may taint outcome. Many suggested using time and money to educate Albertans rather than to survey.
- April meetings have been moved to 12th & 16th to accommodate NSBA available by Zoom.
- The money allocated for President Cathy Hogg to attend NSBA is now available for all executive members to attend.
- Parliamentarian and CEO have identified 73 + issues in by-laws to be amended. I have joined this committee.

PD Session – Feb. 12:

- Dennis Theobald – Bill 32: Restoring Balance in Alberta’s Workplaces
- Wendy Keiver & Dorcas – Assurance Model & Relationships with Trustees

Standing Committee Reports

Standing Committee Reports

Policy – move ahead with Zoom meetings – meet prior to next Board meeting

Communications - need to discuss Staff appreciation evening for next year.
- For discussion at the next Board meeting – having an in-house “Friends of Education Award”.

Group Benefits – Completed
Support/Admin Compensation – Completed

Audit Committee – Working on tender for new Auditor

Joint Board Support Staff – Completed

Rural Caucus – Zoom Meeting – April 27th – Minister Lagrange attending.

YRL – Met March 15th – Trustee Jeffreys to forward report

Superintendent’s Report

Superintendent’s Report

Report provided for information.

COVID Update Northern Gateway:

- 31 confirmed positive cases affecting: 641 students, and 85 staff members.
- groupings of 10 people – must be part of an existing cohort
- still want people to be working from home when possible, only at work if you have to be
- Northern Gateway will continue as status-quo

- in-person meetings will be re-evaluated after the Spring Break
- Alberta Health, in collaboration with AB Ed, is launching a pilot program to determine the feasibility of conducting rapid screening tests in schools to manage outbreaks and prevent the spread of Covid. The pilot program will start with two schools in Calgary.

Protocol Issue

Protocol Issue

Trustee Hailes raised a concern with events/meetings being double booked due to a lack of communication/calendars not being updated.

Secretary Treasurer to develop a Trustee Calendar for trustees to book events/meetings and to be shared with administration.

Finance

Finance

Reports provided for information.

Trustee Maddigan asked what we were spending Federal dollars on and to share this information with Hilltop High school as per their request.

- Additional Learning Supports
- Plexiglass barriers for learning areas
- Testing – Facility alterations
- PP& E (Protective Equipment)
- Cleaning Supplies/Sanitation
- Additional Custodial Costs/Cleaning
- Online Learning and PD and Training
- Transportation Costs (Masks)

Secretary-Treasurer will forward this information to Trustee Maddigan.

Trustee Steinke expressed concern some schools are amassing some very significant surpluses. Some schools not spending – still in single digits. Why are they saving for next year? Should be spent on this years' students.

No direction has been given to schools to do this. We also have to remember we are down 400 students overall which funds are not being spent on.

2021-22 Budget Update

2021-22 Budget Update

Will be receiving the 2021-22 Budget Funding Manual and Profile on March 31st, 2021. School jurisdictions have not been given an extension for when their budgets are due to Alberta Education.

Actual WMA is going to be calculated for next year – we will see the impact of losing those 411 students in the 2021-22 Budget year.

Election 2021

Election 2021

Secretary-Treasurer, Tamara Spong is the Returning Officer for the upcoming election and will be running all aspects of the 2021 Election. The Board has completed all their duties to date regarding the upcoming election.

Postings will soon appear on the NGSD webpage, advertising for the 2021 election.

Sandra Wouters, Grasmere School Council Chair, and Shelley Wyman, Principal, Grasmere School, Julianna Merritt, Onoway Elementary School Council Chair and Jody Beck, Principal, Onoway Elementary School entered the meeting at 12:56 p.m.

Appointments and Delegations

School Council Reports -
via Zoom

B. Appointments and Delegations

School Council Reports – via Zoom

Grasmere School:

Shelley Wyman – Principal

Sandra Wouters – School Council Chair

School Council Chair:

- Sandra has served on the council since 2012.
- Monthly meetings every Monday (just doing online at the moment)
- Volunteering in the schools has been very rewarding with the appreciation and support from the students and staff
- Some of the events we have been doing:
 - Wednesday's are Hot Dog Days
 - Hot Lunches – one Friday a month
 - Soup Days
 - Sports Day
 - Xmas Dinner
 - Hot Chocolate at Winter Carnival
 - Baking
 - Santa's Secret Workshop
 - Tower Garden

Fundraising for the following items:

- Team Jerseys
- Technology
- Library Furniture
- Gym equipment
- Getting donations for HERO (selling some plants)
- Playground (applying for Grants and fundraising)
- Next year – new shelving and books for Library
- Principal:

- Greatful for the support of our school council
- Over the years the council has supported many activities and initiatives

Onoway Elementary School:

Jody Beck – Principal

Julianna Merritt – School Council Chair

Principal:

- Julianna has been chair for 3 years – breath of fresh air.
- She has a long history working with parent council
- We have issues getting participation with the virtual meetings

School Council Chair:

- Great to have a chance to see what other school councils do – taking notes and trying out different ideas from other councils
- Things we have done in a year in Onoway Elementary School:
 - Welcome Back Tea (not this year)
 - What's the Scoop (meet the teacher night) and serve Hot Dogs to everyone (not this year)
 - Set up Spirit Wear Table
 - Terry Fox Run
 - Sports day in June (school run but Council helps) – set up a Concession
 - Safe and Caring Draw for all age ranges
 - Grade Seven Service Award
 - With grants we purchased 35 pairs of snowshoes
 - Skate sharpening/wax skis/fix boots
 - Grant for Trickster Theatre (all Virtually) coming in May
 - Hot Lunch – usually twice a month (last month we did the first one all done online)

- Fundraising Association – did not do well with Covid. All set up electronically this year so should do better.
- Xmas Concert (50/50 draw this year) went very well
- Usually 5 – 10 people attend our meetings.
- ASCA workshop started off this year – did 2 workshops
- Working on new playground for the Grade 3-7 area
- Meetings held virtually every 2nd Wednesday in the evenings
- Trying to promote our Facebook page.

Sandra Wouters, Grasmere School Council Chair, and Shelley Wyman, Principal, Grasmere School, Julianna Merritt, Onoway Elementary School Council Chair and Jody Beck, Principal, Onoway Elementary School left the meeting at 1:26 p.m.

Edwin Parr Award Nominations

Edwin Parr Award Nominations

The Division is excited to announce and congratulate our Edwin Parr nominee, Gabrielle Guderyan from Percy Baxter School and also special mention to Krysten Schilling from Rich Valley Elementary School.

Gabrielle Guderyan – Grade 8 Teacher at Percy Baxter School (Math, Science and CTF options)

Krysten Schilling – Grade 3 Teacher for Gateway Online (home school – Rich Valley School)

Council of School Councils

Council of School Councils

Recommendation to organize COSC in the fall of 2021, scheduling a fall meeting as an

**2021 – 2022 Approved
Capital Projects**

organizational meeting and setting the purpose and setting dates for two more meetings over the year.

2021 – 2022 Approved Capital Projects

14 Capital Projects approved – see attached information.

**Advocacy Committee
Meeting Report**

Advocacy Committee Meeting Report

Report attached for information.

Since 2015, Northern Gateway Public School Division has identified a new school in Valleyview as its top capital priority. This was not one of the 14 approved Capital Projects as shown above.

Huge concern in Valleyview as this project was overlooked again. We need to be looking into this matter for further explanation.

Chair Wigton to ask MLA Lowen's assistance to set up a meeting with Minister LeGrange and the three MLAs.

Advocacy Brochure:

- email Brochure to all trustees
- make accessible on the website – easy to find
- attach link to Facebook page
- print copy for the Board minutes

4398-21

Moved by Trustee Peck – that the Board approve the Media Release for the new Valleyview School and to post on the NGSD webpage.

Motion Carried

Reports on MLA Meetings

Reports on MLA Meetings

Meeting with MLA Long (Board Chair, Linda Wigton, Trustee Barb Maddigan and Superintendent Kevin Andrea)

Education Budget:

- Kevin spoke on this.
- We are pleased regarding the Hold Harmless information from Alberta Education.
- Budget based on 200 students returning next year
- Will online teachers be mandatory?
- Inclusive Ed Block Funding – we are over-extended.
- What does residency mean?

Infrastructure: (Linda Wigton)

- 14 new capital projects approved
- need new school in Valleyview
- have a media release to go out
- talked about #2 priority in Whitecourt
- no news from Transportation Work Force Committee
- Broad Bandwidth discussion for Rural areas
- continue with open communication

Meeting with MLA Getson/Lowen: (Trustees Hagman/Jeffreys/Muir/Peck and Superintendent, Kevin Andrea)

- meeting went well
- MLA Lowen was positive that Valleyview would be approved for a new school build
- same agenda as the other MLA meetings
- building relationships with MLAs

Board Annual Work Plan

Board Annual Work Plan

Provided for information.

Move Approve School Calendar from March to April.

Motion Review Cycle

Motion Review Cycle

Provided for information.

Trustee Reports

Trustee Reports

Diane Hagman

- Parent-teacher interviews being held this week
- Trustees Jeffreys/Hagman attended February School Council meetings
- Mayerthorpe High Principal Thomas reviewed his accomplishments and reminded parents they still have no Council Chair or Vice-Chair.
- Mr. Thomas reported on school suspensions
- 2021 Awards still happening, also Grad
- Elmer Elson School administration attended a Alberta School Councils Workshop
- Will be some local school performances this year
- Parents review Calendar on NGSD webpage.

Barb Maddigan

- Pat Hardy Primary held their School Council meeting March 15 in the evening.
- Alberta School Councils' Association AGM, April 23-25, 2021 – school councils can

contact NGPS Division Office regarding financial assistance with registration fees.

Linda Wigton

- Shout out to all the School Councils that listen to our Board meetings.

Upcoming Events

Upcoming Events

- March 17 – Engagement sessions @ 9:00 a.m.
- April 8 & 9 – NSBA Conference
- April 13 – Regular Board Meeting
- April 16 – PSBC Meeting Council Meeting
- April 19 – PSBAA PD Sessions 9:00 – 4:00 p.m.
- May 5 – Teacher Induction
- May 11 – Coffee Conversation (Tentative)

Additional Report Items

4399-21

Additional Report Items

Moved by Trustee Jeffreys– that the Board of Trustees accept Information/Reports E1- E16 as information.

Motion Carried

Topics for Future Discussion

F. Topics for Future Discussions

Requests for Information

G. Requests for Information

1. Local "Friends of Education Award" – Trustee Portsmouth to provide more information.
2. New Information on 2021-2022 Assurance Surveys – Administration to pass information on to Trustees.

Meeting Highlights

H. Meeting Highlights

1. 2021 – 22 Non-Alberta Students Tuition Fees increased
2. ASBA Friends of Education Award Nominee
3. Bridge to Teacher Certification Program
4. 2021 Board Election
5. School Council Presentations
6. Edwin Parr Nominee
7. Advocacy and Capital Priority One
8. MLA meeting with MLAs Long and Getson

In-Camera Items

I. In-Camera Items

4400-21

Moved by Trustee Maddigan – that the Board move into In-Camera at 2:32 p.m., and Kevin Andrea, Michelle Brennick, Leslee Jodry and Tamara Spong, were invited to stay.

Motion Carried

Electronic recording of meeting discontinued at 2:32 p.m.

Trustee Hailes left the meeting at 2:49 p.m.

4401-21

Moved by Trustee Hagman – that the Board move out of In-Camera at 2:51 p.m.

Motion Carried

Adjournment

4402-21

J. Adjournment

Moved by Trustee Jeffreys - that the meeting
be adjourned at 2:51 p.m.

Motion Carried

Board Chair

Secretary-Treasurer