

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

February 8, 2022 – 10:00 a.m.

Division Office Board Room in Whitecourt, Alberta

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### **Opening**

#### **Call to Order and Roll Call**

### **A. Opening**

#### **1. Call to Order and Roll Call**

The February 8, 2022, meeting was called to order by Board Chair Barb Maddigan at 10:09 a.m.

Board Chair Barb Maddigan, Board Vice Chair Christine Peck, Trustees Linda Wigton, Jim Hailes, Judy Muir, Gerry Steinke, Deb Koloski, Sally Petryshen and Administrators Kevin Bird, Superintendent; Leslee Jodry, Deputy Superintendent; Tamara Spong, Secretary-Treasurer and Nancy Whittaker, Recording Secretary, were present at this time.

Trustee Diane Hagman was absent from the meeting.

Lisa Bakos, Communications Officer and Randy Lovich, Director of Maintenance were present at this time.

### **Oh Canada**

#### **Treaty Land Acknowledgement**

#### **2. Singing of Oh Canada**

#### **3. Treaty Land Acknowledgement**

Vice Chair Christine Peck read the Treaty Land Acknowledgement.

**Additions/Deletions to the Agenda**

**Acceptance of the Agenda**

4561-22

**Appointments and Delegations**

**Draft Minutes of the January 11, 2022 Regular Board Meeting**

4562-22

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

- a) Trustee Gerry Steinke recommended that ASBA Zone 2/3 regarding negotiations be discussed during closed session.
- b)

**5. Acceptance of the Agenda**

Moved by Trustee Linda Wigton: That the Agenda for the February 8, 2022, Regular Public Board Meeting be adopted as presented.

Motion Carried

**B. Appointments and Delegations**

The Infrastructure Maintenance Renewal (IMR) plan was presented by Randy Lovich, Director of Maintenance, to the Trustees for information.

Round table discussion followed: should the Valleyview schools be listed in the IMR; the Onoway Jr/Sr High School is not listed as they do not qualify yet; Secretary-Treasurer Tamara Spong noted that structural items need to be the focus for insurance purposes in order to mitigate any potential claims.

Projects in the IMR will be put to tender.

Randy Lovich left the meeting at 10:21 a.m.

**C. Draft Minutes of the January 11, 2022 Regular Board Meeting**

Moved by Trustee Deb Koloski: That the draft Minutes of the January 11, 2022, Regular Board Meeting be approved as presented.

Motion Carried

**Action Items**

**Policy 8 Committees of the Board and Draft Administrative Procedure 109 Group Benefits**

4563-22

**D. Action Items**

**1. Policy 8 Committees of the Board and Draft Administrative Procedure 109 Group Benefits**

The Policy Committee met on January 12<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup>, 2022, for an intensive review of the policies. Committees of the Board are designed to serve the Board's purpose. Trustee Gerry Steinke gave an overview of each committee.

Round table discussion regarding the Communications Committee followed Trustee Gerry Steinke's report: possible role for a Community Engagement Committee; concern about the role of the committee being too broad; -- need to build a distinction between the roles of the Board and Division.

Moved by Trustee Gerry Steinke: That the Board approve Policy 8 and Administrative Procedure 109 as presented and amended.

Amendment: Trustee Jim Hailes: To amend the Motion to remove the Community Engagement Committee until it is further reviewed.

Amended Motion Defeated

Motion Carried

**Policy 9 Board Representatives**

4564-22

**2. Policy 9 Board Representatives**

Slight changes in wording, otherwise no changes.

Moved by Trustee Gerry Steinke: That the Board approve Policy 9 as presented.

Motion Carried

**2021-2022 IMR Plan Approval**

4565-22

**3. 2021-2022 IMR Plan Approval**

Moved by Trustee Judy Muir: That the Board approve the 2021-2022 IMR Plan as it was presented.

Motion Carried

**Approve 2022-2023  
Non-Alberta Students  
Tuition Fees**

4566-22

**4. Approve 2022-2023 Non-Alberta  
Student Tuition Fees**

Round table discussion regarding the funding of exchange students; possibility of bringing in a scholarship; current fees are competitive with other jurisdictions.

Moved by Trustee Linda Wigton: That the 2022-2023 tuition fees for Non-Alberta students remain the same at \$11,000 for Full Year and \$5,500 for Half Year.

Amendment: Trustee Jim Hailes: That each school will be allowed to waive the fees for one student on an annual basis.

Amended Motion Defeated

Motion Carried

**Information/Reports**

**ASBA  
ASBA Zone 2/3**

**E. Information/Reports**

**1. ASBA – to be discussed in-camera  
ASBA Zone 2/3**

Trustee Jim Hailes was unable to attend -- presentation was delegated to Trustee Gerry Steinke who asked for Board discussion, particularly pertaining to the purpose and relevancy of the zone languages committee.

Round table discussion regarding the zone languages committee included the lack of reports, and that the committee does not know its

purpose. Trustee Judy Muir recommended that the committee be dissolved.

Draft Curriculum: Zone 2/3 discussion was very general as it is not a public document.

## **PSBAA**

### **Standing Committee Reports**

## **2. PSBAA**

### **3. Standing Committee Reports**

- Policy Committee (Trustee Gerry Steinke)
- Communications Committee (Vice-Chair Christine Peck) – positive internal communication rather than political advocacy committee was positive change. Discussed smaller community events to recognize employees.
- Advocacy Committee (Trustee Linda Wigton) – reviewed Advocacy Plan from two years ago, cleaned up wording. Discussed potential goals including wrap around services, curriculum, Valleyview school project, community consultation, transport facilities, insurance, and internet access. The Committee reviewed the brochure - information is still relevant but needs to be updated.

The Board had a round table discussion regarding the Advocacy Committee and priorities. The Board's role is to discuss priorities and the Advocacy Committee takes those recommendations, develops a plan, and presents it to the Board.

Trustee Linda Wigton: The Committee recommended that we maintain focus on three primary areas – supporting rural schools, transportation and facilities, and community connections (in the brochure). They are open to other areas of discussion. Trustee Sally Petryshen: Points made came from presentations of the results reviews.

4567-22

Moved by Trustee Linda Wigton: That the Board approve the advocacy topics as outlined in the brochure.

Motion Carried

Vice-Chair Christine Peck added to the Communications Committee report: Regarding school tours, should tours scheduled for February be postponed? Superintendent Kevin Bird reported that Covid numbers are high in schools and that school tours should be postponed until March.

4568-22

Moved by Trustee Linda Wigton: To postpone our school tours and look at rescheduling them to the month of March or April (The ones that were to occur in February).

Motion Amendment: Moved by Trustee Linda Wigton: That the Board reschedule school tours.

Amended Motion Carried

#### **Finance Committee Meeting Discussion**

#### **4. Finance Committee Meeting Discussion**

In-person meeting scheduled for February 28, 2022, at 9:30 am.

#### **Superintendent's Report**

#### **5. Superintendent's Report**

Verbal report was presented to the Trustees for information.

Covid update: We may have seen the peak as schools are seeing the return of staff. Amazing job done by the government at distributing masks and tests in a timely manner.

Waiting for today's announcement from Alberta Health Services regarding restrictions. There will be additional planning for seriously medically

fragile students and the Superintendent will deal with privacy issues.

A new supply of rapid test kits is coming, and a second distribution is planned.

There was some round-table discussion regarding close contacts and current recommendations. It was confirmed that staff can request 14 days unpaid leave if they are a close contact to someone testing positive for Covid. There are also other types of leaves for staff to use. Administration will work with staff and their circumstances regarding any potential hardship.

Trustee Linda Wigton pointed out that decisions regarding sick leave evolve around negotiated contracts that stipulate time off, and changes need to be considered carefully. The Board should not be involved in contractual issues.

Superintendent Kevin Bird informed the Board that the Division dealt with a threat at Hilltop Highschool. Procedures and checklists are in place and the school released a statement to parents quickly with more instructions coming the following day. Feedback from parents has been positive.

## **Financial Reports**

### **6. Financial Reports**

The Student Enrolment Report was presented to the Trustees for information.

Division Financial Reports and SJFR for January were presented to the Trustees for information.

## **Child & Youth Mental Health Report**

### **7. Child and Youth Mental Health Report**

Superintendent Kevin Bird presented the Child and Youth Mental Health Report to the Trustees for information.

**Initiate Process for Board Evaluation**

Trustee Christine Peck asked that the document be added to the Finance Committee agenda.

**8. Initiate Process for Board Evaluation**

Round table discussion will be held in closed session.

**Correspondence**

**9. Correspondence**

Board Chair Barb Maddigan read aloud a letter received from the Minister of Education dated January 21, 2022, in response to a letter from the Chair of the Black Gold School Division. The Division was advocating for remedies regarding the increase in insurance costs for busses.

**Board Annual Work Plan**

**10. Board Annual Work Plan**

The Work Plan was reviewed.

**Motion Review Cycle**

**11. Motion Review Cycle**

The motion review cycle is up to date.

**Trustee Reports**

**12. Trustee Reports**

Trustees who attended the ATA Summit on January 13<sup>th</sup> reported that it was an excellent and worthwhile session.

Trustee Deb Koloski: Attended the virtual ASBA Trustee orientation, very good learning experience.

Trustee Judy Muir: The ATA Summit worked on advocacy, curriculum, covid issues, government, policy and educational research.



Board Chair Barb Maddigan: Attended school council meetings and in-camera sessions. Participation in PISA assessments. Hilltop High School and Onoway Jr/Sr High are on the auxiliary list.

Trustee Christine Peck: Wants to thank school and division staff for quick reaction to student protests. Students were kept safe.

Trustee Linda Wigton: Thanks staff at Hilltop High School and administration for hard work in dealing with tough issues and push back, especially during the recent threat.

Trustee Sally Petryshen: Felt that the format at the ATA Summit was excellent as was given options for what participants could attend.

### **Upcoming Events**

### **13. Upcoming Events**

- PSBC – February 10 & 11
- School Tours February 17 & 18 (postponed)
- Board Meeting – March 1
- Rural Education Symposium – March 6-8
- School Tours (tentative) – March 10 & 11 and April 7 & 8
- Board Meeting – March 22

### **Additional Report Items**

### **14. Additional Report Items**

4569-22

Moved by Trustee Deb Koloski: That the Board accept the Information Items E1 – E14 as information.

Motion Carried

### **Topics for Future Discussions**

### **F. Topics for Future Discussions**

Round table discussion. The Board will discuss whether to provide a position statement regarding mental health for ASBA consideration.

**Requests for Information**

**G. Requests for Information**

**Meeting Highlights**

**H. Meeting Highlights**

- Infrastructure and Maintenance Renewal (IMR) Presentation
- Policy Review
- Covid Update in Superintendent's Report
- Child and Youth Mental Health Report

**In-Closed Session**

**I. In-Closed Session**

4570-22

Moved by Trustee Judy Muir: That the Board move into closed session at 2:53 p.m.

Motion Carried

Tamara Spong, Secretary-Treasurer; Kevin Bird, Superintendent; and Leslee Jodry, Deputy Superintendent were invited to stay.

Electronic recording of the meeting discontinued at 2:53 p.m.

4571-22

Moved by Trustee Sally Petryshen: That the Board move out of closed session at 3:42 p.m.

4572-22

Moved by Trustee Judy Muir: That the Board enter into an agreement with M<sup>2</sup> Educational Consulting to perform the Superintendent Evaluation.

Motion Carried

**Adjournment**

4573-22

**J. Adjournment**

Moved by Trustee Sally Petryshen: That the meeting be adjourned at 3:44 p.m.

Motion Carried

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Board Chair

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Secretary-Treasurer