

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

September 20, 2022 – 10:00 a.m.

Division Office Board Room in Whitecourt, Alberta

OPENING

Call to Order and Roll Call

A. OPENING

1. Call to Order and Roll Call

The September 20, 2022, meeting was called to order by Board Chair Barb Maddigan at 10:06 a.m.

Present at this time: Board Chair Barb Maddigan, Board Vice-Chair Christine Peck, Trustees Jim Hailes, Judy Muir, Gerry Steinke, Deb Koloski, Diane Hagman, and Sally Petryshen; and Administrators Kevin Bird, Superintendent; Leslee Jodry, Deputy Superintendent; Tamara Spong, Secretary-Treasurer; and Nancy Whittaker, Recording Secretary. Trustee Linda Wigton was absent from the meeting.

Lisa Bakos, Communications Officer, was present at this time.

Maureen Kendall - Coordinator and Kevin Babiuk - Teacher, for the Whitecourt Gateway Academy; and Beth Jager, Principal of Mayerthorpe Jr Sr High School, were present at this time.

Treaty Land Acknowledgement

2. Treaty Land Acknowledgement

Vice Chair Christine Peck read the Treaty Land Acknowledgement.

Additions/Deletions to the Agenda

3. Additions/Deletions to the Agenda

In Closed Session: Two 'Labour' items were added.

Acceptance of the Agenda

4692-22

4. Acceptance of the Agenda

Moved by Trustee Deb Koloski: That the Agenda for the September 20, 2022, Regular Public Board Meeting be adopted as amended.

Motion Carried

APPOINTMENTS AND DELEGATIONS

B. APPOINTMENTS AND DELEGATIONS

Board Chair Barb Maddigan welcomed Maureen Kendall and Kevin Babiuk to the meeting. The delegates spoke about the Whitecourt Gateway Academy and the impact of its programs. Present and former students were asked about their experiences and their responses were shared with the Trustees.

Beth Jager presented a slideshow on the Summer Bootcamps that took place this past summer at Hilltop High School. The program was sponsored by local businesses and provided week-long learning opportunities tied specifically to exposure to careers.

The Trustees and Superintendent Bird thanked the delegates for their presentations and for the work they do for the students.

Maureen Kendall, Kevin Babiuk and Beth Jager left the meeting at 10:52 a.m.

DRAFT MINUTES OF THE AUGUST 30, 2022 ANNUAL ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING

4693-22

C. DRAFT MINUTES OF THE AUGUST 30, 2022 ANNUAL ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING

Moved by Trustee Sally Petryshen: That the draft Minutes of the August 30, 2022, Annual Organizational Meeting be approved as presented.

Motion Carried

DRAFT MINUTES OF THE AUGUST 30, 2022, REGULAR BOARD MEETING

D. DRAFT MINUTES OF THE AUGUST 30, 2022, REGULAR BOARD MEETING

Amendment: Trustee Judy Muir was added to the list of attendees at the October 2022 Rural Municipalities Meeting, Item G. Topics for Future Discussions.

4694-22

Moved by Trustee Diane Hagman: That the draft Minutes of the August 30, 2022, Regular Board Meeting, be approved as amended.

Motion Carried

ACTION ITEMS

Policy 18 Student Transportation Services

4695-22

E. ACTION ITEMS

1. Policy 18 Student Transportation Services

Trustee Gerry Steinke presented Policy 18 revisions to the Trustees for consideration. No changes were made to content, only to format.

Moved by Trustee Gerry Steinke: That the Board affirm Policy 18 Student Transportation Services, as amended.

Information was requested regarding preschool transportation services. This will be discussed with the Director of Transportation at the October 18, 2022, Regular Board Meeting and Policy 18 will be presented again for affirmation.

Motion Withdrawn

Policy 19 Establishment of Electoral Ward Structures

4696-22

2. Policy 19 Establishment of Electoral Ward Structures

No amendments were made by the Committee.

Moved by Trustee Gerry Steinke: That the Board affirm Policy 19 Establishment of Electoral Ward Structures, as presented.

Round table discussion regarding approval process of wards and adding this to the Board Workplan.

Motion Carried

Policy 1 Discussion

Policy Committee Chair Steinke informed the Board that the Committee will be reviewing Policy 1 and would like to have a 30-minute discussion at the October 18, 2022, Board meeting. Trustees were asked to review the policy and present revisions.

APPOINTMENTS AND DELEGATIONS

APPOINTMENTS AND DELEGATIONS (continued)

Pam Mehl, Lead Teacher/Coordinator for the 2023 Hilltop High School Trip joined the meeting at 11:05 a.m. via Zoom . She confirmed that the trip aligns with curriculum and reiterated the importance and benefits of student travel. Superintendent Bird thanked Ms Mehl for her time and commitment. Round table discussion regarding insurance, fundraising and payment plans.

Pam Mehl left the meeting at 11:15 a.m.

Policy 1 Discussion (continued)

Discussion resumed regarding the review of Policy 1 as a potential topic for the Board Workshop.

4697-22

Moved by Trustee Gerry Steinke: That the Board Workshop be held on November 7, 2022.

Motion Carried

ACTION ITEMS

ACTION ITEMS (continued)

2023 Hilltop High School International Trip

3. 2023 Hilltop High School International Trip

4698-22

Moved by Trustee Jim Hailes: That the Board approve, in principle, the 2023 Hilltop High School International Trip to Scotland and Ireland.

Clarification was made: The cover letter indicates Scotland is included in the itinerary, but the supporting documents mention Ireland only.

Amended Motion by Board Chair Barb Maddigan: That the Board approve, in principle, the 2023 Hilltop High School International Trip to Ireland.

Amended Motion Carried

INFORMATION AND REPORTS

F. INFORMATION AND REPORTS

ASBA

1. ASBA (Board Chair Barb Maddigan) ASBA Zone 2/3 (Trustee Jim Hailes)

ASBA Zone 2/3 meets on September 23rd

PSBAA

2. PSBAA (Board Vice-Chair Christine Peck)

Reminder about the Fall Conference on October 12 – 14, 2022.

Standing Committee Reports

3. Standing Committee Reports

Community Engagement Committee

Committee Chair Christine Peck confirmed the staff appreciation evening will be held at Westward Community Hall on September 29, 2022.

Superintendent's Report

4. Superintendent's Report

Superintendent Kevin Bird presented his report to the Trustees for information.

Additional item: Mayerthorpe High School has declared an outbreak – not Covid related. Protocols are in place.

Discussions will start soon on an updated Capital Plan focusing on Whitecourt, Grasmere, and Darwell schools.

The Sangudo Community School lease agreement, development permit and insurance are in place for the daycare and will be used as a template for the future.

Concern was expressed about the lack of an official announcement for the Valleyview school. An opening date of September 2026 has been announced.

Topics discussed at the meeting with the Education Minister included rural education, bridge funding, reserves, and loss of dual credit funding.

APPOINTMENTS AND DELEGATIONS

APPOINTMENTS AND DELEGATIONS (continued)

Arnold Marira, Director of Human Resources, joined the meeting at 1:07 p.m.

Mr. Marira introduced himself and informed the Board of new staff in the Division office. Additional staff are being trained in payroll to ensure business continuity. To improve recruitment, Human Resources is reaching out

to new graduates by having job fairs to build awareness. Superintendent Bird thanked Mr. Marira for his efforts over the past year.

Arnold Marira left the meeting at 1:21 p.m.

INFORMATION AND REPORTS

Financial Reports

4699-22

INFORMATION AND REPORTS (continued)

5. Financial Reports

The financial reports for August 2022, were provided to Trustees for information. Round table discussion regarding anomalies in communication, meals, and accommodation expenses.

Moved by Trustee Sally Petryshen: That an audit be completed by administration, of monthly Trustee reports and compared to the final report from the past school year.

A monthly report was requested detailing each Trustee's expenditures, anomalies to be reviewed by the Secretary-Treasurer and the Board Chair. Further discussion regarding Trustee expenses.

Motion Withdrawn

Round table discussion regarding surpluses in school budgets and school generated funds. School based fees will be reviewed.

Secretary-Treasurer asked Trustees if the monthly SJFR report is worthwhile keeping in the financial reports – consensus was to omit the report from the Board package.

School Tours Schedule

6. School Tours Schedule

The proposed schedule was presented by Superintendent Kevin Bird. A 'topic' will be given to the schools so they can prepare. Comments about the schedule should be forwarded to Superintendent Bird.

Board Annual Work Plan

7. Board Annual Work Plan

Policy 2, including the Board Annual Work Plan, is being reviewed by the Policy Committee and will be presented at a future Board meeting. The current Work Plan is up to date. Review of ward structures will be added to the revised Work Plan.

Motion Review Cycle

8. Motion Review Cycle

Pending motion 4690-22 is now complete.

Trustee Reports

9. Trustee Reports

Trustees reported that the first school council meetings of the year have been held or are upcoming. Vice-Chair Peck attended the Onoway council meetings and reported that parents were surprised about the large amount of uncollected fees.

Upcoming Events

10. Upcoming Events

- September 29, 2022 – Annual Employee Appreciation Evening
- October 12 to 14, 2022 – PSBAA Fall Conference and AGM
- October 18, 2022 – Regular Board Meeting
- November 7, 2022 – Board Workshop
- November 20 to 22, 2022 – ASBA FGM

4700-22

Moved by Trustee Judy Muir: That the Results Review dates be set for November 30 and December 1, 2022.

Motion Carried

4701-22

Moved by Trustee Jim Hailes: That the Board accept Information and Reports F1 – F10 as information.

Motion Carried

TOPICS FOR FUTURE DISCUSSIONS

G. TOPICS FOR FUTURE DISCUSSIONS

Trustee Jim Hailes requested that all schools be given the opportunity to submit a video for the singing of O

Canada at Board meetings. Administration will request this from the schools.

REQUESTS FOR INFORMATION

H. REQUESTS FOR INFORMATION

Nil

MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

I. MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

- Presentations from Whitecourt Gateway Academy, Summer Bootcamps, and Hilltop High School 2023 Trip to Ireland
- Employee Recognition Evening

CLOSED SESSION

J. CLOSED SESSION

4702-22

Moved by Trustee Sally Petryshen: That the Board move in to Closed Session at 2:13 p.m.

Motion Carried

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

Electronic Recording stopped at 2:13 p.m.

4703-22

Moved by Trustee Sally Petryshen: That the Board move out of Closed Session at 3:03 p.m.

Motion Carried

4704-22

Moved by Trustee Jim Hailes: That the Board send a letter to the Ministers of Education and Finance in regard to the proposed compensation model.

Motion Carried

ADJOURNMENT

4705-22

K. ADJOURNMENT

Moved by Trustee Deb Koloski: That the meeting be adjourned at 3:03 p.m.

Motion Carried

Board Chair

Secretary-Treasurer