

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

November 8, 2022 – 10:00 a.m.

Division Office Board Room in Whitecourt, Alberta

OPENING

Call to Order and Roll Call

Treaty Land Acknowledgement

Additions/Deletions to the Agenda

Acceptance of the Agenda

4715-22

A. OPENING

1. Call to Order and Roll Call

The November 8, 2022, meeting was called to order by Board Chair Barb Maddigan at 10:03 a.m.

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

Trustee Diane Hagman and Deputy Superintendent Leslee Jodry were absent from the meeting.

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

2. Treaty Land Acknowledgement

Vice Chair Christine Peck read the Treaty Land Acknowledgement.

3. Additions/Deletions to the Agenda

- a) Legal Item added to Closed Session – Vice-Chair Peck
- b) Tab 5 Moved to Closed Session – Chair Maddigan

4. Acceptance of the Agenda

Moved by Trustee Deb Koloski: That the Agenda for the November 8, 2022, Regular Public Board Meeting be adopted as amended.

Motion Carried

**DRAFT MINUTES OF THE
OCTOBER 18, 2022,
REGULAR BOARD MEETING**

4716-22

**B. DRAFT MINUTES OF THE OCTOBER 18, 2022,
REGULAR BOARD MEETING**

Moved by Trustee Jim Hailes: That the draft Minutes of the October 18, 2022, Regular Board Meeting, be approved as presented.

Motion Carried

ACTION ITEMS

Board Policy 2 Role of the Board

4717-22

Board Policy 18 Student Transportation Services

Locally Developed Courses

4718-22

C. ACTION ITEMS

1. Board Policy 2 Role of the Board

Trustee Gerry Steinke presented the Policy Committee's recommended changes to Policy 2. Some language was clarified. Section 1.1 will be amended to read 'Provide overall direction for the Division by establishing mission, vision and values.' – as recommended at the Board Workshop on November 7, 2022.

Moved by Trustee Gerry Steinke: That the Board reaffirm Policy 2 Role of the Board, as amended.

Motion Carried

2. Board Policy 18 Student Transportation Services

Deferred until after the presentation by Rhett Czaban, Director of Transportation.

3. Locally Developed Courses

Moved by Superintendent Kevin Bird: That the Board approve to reauthorize the use of the following Locally Developed Courses acquired from Edmonton Public Schools, from September 1, 2022, to August 31, 2026 (at no cost to the Division); Drawing 15 (5 Credits); Drawing 25 (5 Credits), Drawing 35 (5 Credits). Resources used to teach the courses are listed in the Learning Resources of the Course Details.

Motion Carried

**INFORMATION AND
REPORTS**

ASBA

PSBAA

Standing Committee Reports

4719-22

D. INFORMATION AND REPORTS

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

ASBA business papers will be discussed in Closed Session.

ASBA Zone 2/3 reports were provided as information. Trustee Hailes reminded Trustees about the upcoming MLA breakfast meetings. Trustee Wigton will speak to Martin Long, Trustee Steinke has spoken to MLA Todd Loewen, and Board Chair Maddigan will notify MLA Shane Getsen.

2. PSBAA (Board Vice-Chair Christine Peck)

PSBAA Executive has requested a meeting with the Board in January 2023. Administration will send an invitation to them to attend the January 17th Board meeting in person, or as an alternative, a virtual meeting will be scheduled for January 18.

Topics for PSBAA to take to the Spring election:

1. Charter schools and choice in education
2. Small school funding for K – 12
3. Support for community-driven needs-based certification programs, such as early childhood education and health care aid programs
4. Continued advocacy on mental health issues and lack of support

The advocacy pamphlet will be provided at the ASBA FGM.

3. Standing Committee Reports

Advocacy Committee (Trustee Linda Wigton)

The Committee met recently via Zoom and reviewed/revised the advocacy pamphlet. Copies will be given to Trustees to bring to the ASBA Fall General Meeting.

Moved by Trustee Linda Wigton: That the Board accept the advocacy pamphlet, as updated.

Motion Carried

Superintendent's Report

4. Superintendent's Report

Superintendent Kevin Bird presented the report to the Trustees.

Questions regarding the controverted election will be answered and further discussion will take place in Closed Session.

Clarification was requested regarding frequency of criminal records checks. The Division requires that checks be completed every year. To assist the RCMP, specific requirements should be listed on the application.

Joint use agreements are due by the end of the school year and meetings are being arranged for all jurisdictions by administration.

APPOINTMENTS AND DELEGATIONS

E. APPOINTMENTS AND DELEGATIONS

Rhett Czaban, Director of Transportation, joined the meeting at 10:50 a.m.

The main challenge in student transportation is driver shortage. Some cancellations and delays have recently been reported, some due to the weather.

A task force has presented concerns to the Minister and the issue of driver shortage is province wide. Salaries and unions have also presented challenges. Alberta is looking at models in Ontario regarding salary.

Several drivers attended the free S-endorsement course in October, which is required to be able to transport students on field trips and sporting events. Three new drivers were added in Fox Creek, one in Sangudo and one in Whitecourt.

Round table discussion regarding driver training, salaries, insurance costs, trip times, and the use of security cameras on busses.

ACTION ITEMS

Board Policy 18 Student Transportation Services

4720-22

F. ACTION ITEMS (continued)

1. Board Policy 18 Student Transportation Services

Trustee Gerry Steinke presented the revisions to Policy 18. Substantive changes were made by the Policy Committee.

Rhett Czaban answered questions from the Trustees regarding fees and guidelines for car seats. Round table discussion regarding the possibility of offering seats to pre-school students who do not have special needs and a formal discussion will be held in a future Committee of the Whole meeting.

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

Motion Carried

Rhett Czaban left the meeting at 12:10 p.m.

INFORMATION AND REPORTS

Board Annual Work Plan

Motion Review Cycle

Upcoming Events

G. INFORMATION AND REPORTS (continued)

1. Board Annual Work Plan

Outstanding items will be added to the November 29th Board meeting agenda.

2. Motion Review Cycle

The Motion Review Cycle is up to date.

3. Upcoming Events

- November 17, 2022 – Awards Ceremony, Hilltop High School
- November 20 to 22, 2022 – ASBA Fall General Meeting
- November 29, 2022 – Regular Board Meeting
- November 30 and December 1, 2022 – Results Review
- December 20, 2022 – Regular Board Meeting

Trustee Reports

4. Trustee Reports

Trustee Hailes suggested that Trustees present a written report of monthly activities to the Board. The item will be added to the agenda for the November 29th Board meeting as a topic for future discussion.

Trustee Maddigan attended two school council meetings and discussed school reconfiguration.

Trustee Peck attended the Onoway Jr Sr council meeting. A large portion of outstanding school fees were successfully collected at parent/teacher interviews. Also attended Onoway Elementary School council meeting and Regional Municipalities Meeting.

Trustee Wigton attended two parent council meetings and discussed school reconfiguration at Pat Hardy. Most repairs have been completed at Whitecourt Central. Attended advocacy meetings and ASBA meetings.

Trustee Petryshen attended the Hillside High School Awards Night – such positive energy and the students were excited to receive their awards.

TOPICS FOR FUTURE DISCUSSIONS

H. TOPICS FOR FUTURE DISCUSSIONS

- Formatting for Trustee Reports
- Lunch Closure at Division Office
- Board Evaluation – Committee of the Whole
- Preschool Transportation – Committee of the Whole

REQUESTS FOR INFORMATION

I. REQUESTS FOR INFORMATION

Nil

MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

J. MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

- Re-authorization for use of locally developed courses from Edmonton Public Schools
- ASBA – MLA Breakfast Invitations
- PSBAA – topics of interest

- Capital planning community conversations in Alberta Beach, Darwell, and Whitecourt
- College of Alberta School Superintendents (CASS) NGPS wellness presentation
- Municipalities meeting – Lac Ste Anne County
- Transportation report

CLOSED SESSION

4721-22

K. CLOSED SESSION

Moved by Trustee Linda Wigton: That the Board move in to Closed Session at 1:05 p.m.

Motion Carried

Superintendent Kevin Bird and Secretary-Treasurer Tamara Spong were invited to stay.

Electronic Recording stopped at 1:05 p.m.

4722-22

Moved by Trustee Sally Petryshen: That the Board move out of Closed Session at 2:30 p.m.

Motion Carried

4723-22

Moved by Trustee Gerry Steinke: That the Board direct the Policy Committee to review the requirements for archiving video records of Board meetings.

Motion Carried

ADJOURNMENT

4724-22

L. ADJOURNMENT

Moved by Trustee Sally Petryshen: That the meeting be adjourned at 2:30 p.m.

Motion Carried

Board Chair

Secretary-Treasurer