

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

February 14, 2023 – 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

A. OPENING

1. Call to Order and Roll Call

The February 14, 2023, meeting was called to order by Board Chair Barb Maddigan at 10:00 a.m.

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

Lisa Bakos, Communications Officer was present at this time. Ian Baxter, Principal of Fox Creek School was present via Zoom video conferencing.

2. Treaty Land Acknowledgement

Vice Chair Christine Peck read the Treaty Land Acknowledgement.

3. Additions/Deletions to the Agenda

- Labour item added to Closed Session at the request of Superintendent Bird
- Rural Caucus Report added to Standing Committees at the request of Trustee Petryshen

Acceptance of the Agenda

4760-23

4. Acceptance of the Agenda

Moved by Trustee Linda Wigton: That the Agenda for the February 14, 2023, Regular Public Board Meeting be adopted as amended.

Motion Carried

APPOINTMENTS AND DELEGATIONS

B.

APPOINTMENTS AND DELEGATIONS

Ian Baxter, Principal of Fox Creek School, gave a presentation on the proposed 2024 spring break international field trip to Scotland and Ireland. Mr. Baxter will be chaperoning along with Assistant Principal Ronica DeCiccio, Academic Counsellor Mary Ann Hodges, and School Resource Officer Constable Branden Dorsey of the RCMP.

Cancellation insurance was a priority in planning. 30 students have shown interest. Principal Baxter explained the increase in price of approximately \$300 is due to higher insurance costs to ensure students are covered in case of cancellation.

Ian Baxter left the meeting at 10:15 a.m.

DRAFT MINUTES OF THE JANUARY 17, 2023, REGULAR BOARD MEETING

4761-23

C.

DRAFT MINUTES OF THE JANUARY 17, 2023, REGULAR BOARD MEETING

Moved by Trustee Diane Hagman: That the draft Minutes of the January 17, 2023, Regular Board Meeting be approved as presented.

Motion Carried

ACTION ITEMS

D.

ACTION ITEMS

Borrowing By-Law No. 1-23

4762-23

1. Borrowing By-Law No. 1-23

Moved by Trustee Deb Koloski: That By-Law No. 1-23 to borrow for the sum or sums not exceeding at any one time two million dollars receive first reading by the Board.

Motion Carried

4763-23

Moved by Trustee Diane Hagman: That By-Law No. 1-23 to borrow for the sum or sums not exceeding at any one time two million dollars receive second reading by the Board.

Motion Carried

4764-23

Moved by Trustee Judy Muir: That the Board approve to conduct the third reading.

Motion Carried Unanimously

4765-23

Moved by Trustee Linda Wigton: That By-Law No. 1-23 to borrow for the sum or sums not exceeding at any one time two million dollars received third and final reading by the Board.

Motion Carried

**Fox Creek School 2024
International Field Trip to
Scotland and Ireland**

**2. Fox Creek School 2024 International Field Trip to
Scotland and Ireland**

4766-23

Moved by Trustee Jim Hailes: That the Board approve, in principle, the Fox Creek School 2024 international field trip to Scotland and Ireland.

Motion Carried

Policy 21 School Calendar

3. Policy 21 School Calendar

Trustee Steinke explained the process taken by the Policy Committee to create a new policy on School Calendar. Administration is looking for guidance and priorities prior to the Board approving the annual calendar. The Trustees had roundtable discussion:

- Concerns were expressed about why the policy was created without prior Board approval.
- Trustees suggested that the priorities listed in the proposed Policy 21 be added to Policy 2 instead.
- The Education Act requires that the Board approve the school calendar, and each year several questions are asked of administration. This new policy clearly defines Board priorities.

- This policy gives the corporate voice of the Board and clear direction for the future. Board priorities are not included in the Administrative Procedure.

4767-23

Moved by Trustee Gerry Steinke: That the Board direct the Policy Committee to develop policy guidelines with regard to school calendar.

Further discussion by the Board. The Policy Committee will meet again to do further work.

Motion Carried

INFORMATION AND REPORTS

ASBA ASBA Zone 2/3

PSBAA

E. INFORMATION AND REPORTS

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

The ASBA Zone 2/3 Report was presented to the Trustees for information. A possible topic for future discussion -- Council of School Councils Board priorities.

Trustee Wigton added that if the Board would like to bring concerns regarding curriculum to the Minister, letters need to be written soon as this will be an election issue.

2. PSBAA (Board Vice-Chair Christine Peck)

Vice-Chair Peck presented her report to the Trustees for information. A reminder that the deadline for Special Recognition Awards is March 31. The PSBAA has developed a draft election readiness plan and the NGPS Advocacy Committee will meet to discuss it. PSBAA has asked Trustees to share information on social media – Vice-Chair Peck suggested Board discussion on channeling information through Lisa Bakos.

Trustee Steinke asked for future discussion and feedback regarding a) funding for small high schools; and b) the effectiveness of the audit committee concept in the Education Act.

Standing Committee Reports

3. Standing Committee Reports

Advocacy Committee (Trustee Wigton)

Trustee Wigton presented the 'Two Minute Pitches' insert for the NGPS Advocacy brochure to be given to local election candidates. With Board approval, elected officials would be invited to a Board meeting after the election. Additional information will be added to No. 3 regarding support for all choices in education but tied to funding of, and emphasizing support for, public education.

Community Engagement Committee (Vice-Chair Peck)

The Committee met on January 26, 2023. The employee appreciation evening is tentatively set for September 29.

Community Engagement Plan: plan will follow policy. Currently being reviewed by administration.

School Calendar Card: Layout is being revised by administration and a draft will be brought to the Board.

Rural Caucus of Alberta School Boards (Trustee Petryshen)

Rural Caucus is revamping their website and asking Boards for stories about how their students are flourishing. Can be a video, written submission, slide presentation, etc. with a title and short introduction. They are also requesting gallery pictures that depict rural settings.

Superintendent's Report

4. Superintendent's Report

Superintendent Bird presented his report to the Trustees for information.

The new bus route in the Mayerthorpe area has been created. Funds were set aside within the budget. Approximately six other routes are affected.

The Draft School Calendar was attached to the Superintendent's Report. Round table discussion.

Report on Whitecourt Realignment

5. Report on Whitecourt Realignment

Superintendent Bird presented the Report on Whitecourt Realignment to the Trustees for information and discussion.

Round table discussion:

- Junior kindergarten will be offered at Pat Hardy, run by a Society with space offered at the school. High level of need for PUF students -- societies have access to federal funding.
- Alignment will eliminate the need for students to move at grades 3, 6 and 9.
- Junior Kindergarten is not necessary to meet the needs of PUF students but does provide for efficiency and results.

Superintendent Bird outlined the results of the recent survey.

Annual Board Self-Evaluation

6. Determine Need for Annual Board Self-Evaluation

Round table discussion. Vice-Chair Peck outlined the recommendations of PSBAA – after first year of thorough evaluation with a consultant, subsequent years should have self-evaluations based on issues that arose.

In Policy, the Board determines the need to have a self-evaluation annually.

4768-23

Moved by Trustee Jim Hailes: That the Board conducts a self-evaluation at a Committee of the Whole meeting in April.

Round table discussion.

Motion Defeated

Position Statements for ASBA Fall General Meeting

7. Position Statements for ASBA Fall General Meeting

Trustee Hailes: ASBA Zone 2/3 is looking for input from Boards. Formal requests should be submitted by May.

Financial Reports

8. Financial Reports

Secretary-Treasurer Tamara Spong presented the January Financial Summaries to the Trustees for information.

Board Annual and Term Work Plans

9. Board Annual and Term Work Plans

The Board Annual and Term Work Plans were reviewed. Outstanding items will be included on the March 21 Board Meeting Agenda.

Motion Review Cycle

10. Motion Review Cycle

The Motion Review Cycle is up to date.

4769-23

Moved by Trustee Judy Muir: That the Board Evaluation is not conducted in the second year.

Motion Carried

Trustee Reports

11. Trustee Reports

Trustee Diane Hagman

Trustees Hagman and Koloski attended the Elmer Elson school council meeting. Students are participating in the music festival and sports teams are competing in Edmonton. Attended school tours and Policy Committee meetings.

Trustee Deb Koloski

Attended Sangudo Community School council meeting. Students are preparing for the music festival and have a ski trip planned for March. Darwell school council meeting – students have a ski trip planned as well as a career planning fair. Mayerthorpe High School is planning a ski trip and have a Citadel Theatre trip planned.

Trustee Judy Muir

Attended Darwell and Rich Valley school councils. The Mayors of Alberta Beach and Val Quentin attended the Grasmere school council meeting and wanted to speak on before- and after-care at Grasmere for next year.

Chair Barb Maddigan

Attended school council meetings at Whitecourt Central, Pat Hardy and Hilltop HS. Whitecourt Central will be participating in the Trends in International Mathematics and Science Study (TIMSS). Good discussion regarding Whitecourt realignment.

Vice-Chair Christine Peck	Attended Onoway Children’s Health Fair Committee meetings. Event is in March and plans are being finalized.
Trustee Linda Wigton	Attended Percy Baxter presentation on Community Lunch Box. EAs are attending the Virtual Autism Conference. Entrepreneur marketplace is showcasing student’s projects. Basketball tournaments have started.
Trustee Gerry Steinke	Trustees Steinke and Petryshen attended all three school council meetings. Met with Valleyview Town Council with Superintendent Bird to discuss the new school project.
Trustee Sally Petryshen	Attended PBSC virtually. OAP council meeting – collaborating with other schools to discuss \$500 grant money.

Upcoming Events

12. Upcoming Events

- February 22 and 23, 2023 – School Tours
- March 5 to 7, 2023 – Alberta Rural Education Symposium
- March 8 and 9, 2023 – School Tours
- March 21, 2023 – Regular Board Meeting
- March 31, 2023 – PSBAA 2023 Special Recognition Awards Deadline

Additional Report Items

13. Additional Report Items

Nil

4770-23

Moved by Trustee Linda Wigton: That the Board accept Information and Reports E1 – E13 as information.

Motion Carried

TOPICS FOR FUTURE DISCUSSIONS

F. TOPICS FOR FUTURE DISCUSSIONS

Trustee Hailes: Role of Council of School Councils

Some work has been done in the past to establish a Council. Deputy Superintendent Leslee Jodry reported that Council of School Councils require by-laws and regulations. Challenges include travel and meeting times which might not make it feasible in rural areas. The Board will discuss the topic further once more information is received.

**REQUESTS FOR
INFORMATION**

4771-23

**G. REQUESTS FOR INFORMATION FROM ADMINISTRATION
(BY BOARD MOTION)**

Moved by Trustee Sally Petryshen: That administration prepare a brief report of the feasibility of providing transportation for junior kindergarten children in the Division.

Round table discussion.

Motion Defeated

MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

H. MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

- Fox Creek School 2024 International Field Trip to Scotland and Ireland
- NGPS Annual Employee Recognition Evening September 29, 2023
- New Mayerthorpe Bus Route
- Dual Credit Health Care Aide Program
- Whitecourt Proposed Reconfiguration and Survey

CLOSED SESSION

4772-23

I. CLOSED SESSION

Moved by Trustee Diane Hagman: That the Board move to Closed Session at 2:51 p.m.

Motion Carried

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

Electronic Recording stopped at 2:51 p.m.

4773-23

Moved by Trustee Diane Hagman: That the Board move out of Closed Session at 3:41 p.m.

Motion Carried

ADJOURNMENT

4774-23

J. ADJOURNMENT

Moved by Trustee Deb Koloski: That the meeting be adjourned at 3:42 p.m.

Motion Carried

Board Chair

Secretary-Treasurer