

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

March 21, 2023 – 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 March 21, 2023, 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, Linda Wigton, Sally Petryshen (via Zoom), Deb Koloski, and Diane Hagman; and Administrators Kevin Bird, Superintendent; Leslee Jodry, Deputy Superintendent; and Nancy Whittaker, Recording Secretary.

Lisa Bakos, Communications Officer and Randy Lovich, Director of Maintenance, were present at this time. Tamara Spong, Secretary-Treasurer, was absent from the meeting.

Brad Quarin, Editor/Multimedia Journalist with the Whitecourt Star, as well as other members of the public, were present in the gallery.

### **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**

- Item 7, Information and Reports removed at the request of Trustee Petryshen. The Rural Education Symposium Report will be added to the April 18, 2023 Board Meeting Agenda.

- Item 3 Information and Reports -- Standing Committee Report for Advocacy Committee was removed at the request of Trustee Wigton.

#### **Acceptance of the Agenda**

4775-23

#### **4. Acceptance of the Agenda**

Moved by Trustee Diane Hagman: That the Agenda for the March 21, 2023, Regular Public Board Meeting be adopted as amended.

Motion Carried

#### **APPOINTMENTS AND DELEGATIONS**

#### **B. APPOINTMENTS AND DELEGATIONS**

1. Alana Simpson, School Council Chair, Sangudo Community School, Treasurer, Sangudo Parent Association, and member of Board of Directors, Sangudo Children's Academy & Daycare.

Alana Simpson gave a presentation and PowerPoint to the Trustees detailing the Sangudo Community School enrolment and funding, PAT scores, and Junior High leaders and mentors.

Annabelle Haresnape, a Grade 8 student, was given permission by the Trustees to speak about her experiences as a student and mentor at Sangudo Community School.

Alana Simpson also reported that the current Daycare space will be expanding to another classroom as they are at capacity and have a wait list.

2. Tammy Ethier, on behalf of the Community of Sangudo, provided written materials to the Trustees and Administration and gave a PowerPoint presentation regarding the plan by NGPS to move the junior high program from the Sangudo Community School to Mayerthorpe Jr/Sr High.

Trustees clarified the references in the presentation to the Education Act and discussed inequity in funding.

*Trustee Sally Petryshen left the meeting at 10:53 a.m.*

3. Randy Lovich, Director of Maintenance, presented the IMR and CMR for 2022 – 2023 and the 2024 – 27 Three-Year Capital Plan.

Round table discussion, questions answered by administration as required.

Sangudo modernization plan is based on a viable school of K – 6. Board Chair Maddigan asked if changes can be made to the Capital Plan if the Board decides to keep the school functioning as a K-9 model. Mr. Lovich confirmed that changes can be made.

*Randy Lovich left the meeting at 11:17 a.m.*

**DRAFT MINUTES OF THE FEBRUARY 14, 2023, REGULAR BOARD MEETING**

4776-23

**C. DRAFT MINUTES OF THE FEBRUARY 14, 2023, REGULAR BOARD MEETING**

Moved by Trustee Jim Hailes: That the draft Minutes of the February 14, 2023, Regular Board Meeting be approved as presented.

Motion Carried

**ACTION ITEMS**

**IMR AND CMR Plans**

4777-23

**D. ACTION ITEMS**

**1. Infrastructure Maintenance Renewal and Capital Maintenance Renewal Plans**

Moved by Trustee Judy Muir: That the Board approve the 2022 – 23 Infrastructure Maintenance Renewal Plan and Capital Maintenance Renewal Plan, as presented.

Motion Carried

**Three-Year Capital Plan**

4778-23

**2. 2024 – 2027 Three Year Capital Plan**

Moved by Trustee Deb Koloski: That the Board approve the 2024 – 27 Three Year Capital Plan, as presented.

Superintendent Bird recommended that the Board approve the Capital Plan, dismissing the reference to the grades in Sangudo, pending a decision on transfer of students.

Round table discussion regarding clarification to the grade structure and wording in the Plan.

4779-23

**Motion Amendment:** Moved by Trustee Gerry Steinke: That the Board approve the 2024 – 27 Three-Year Capital Plan, as presented, with the removal of the “K-6” reference for Sangudo Community School.

Amended Motion Carried

Motion Carried

*Brad Quarin left the meeting at 11:30 a.m.*

**2023 – 24 School Fees**

**3. 2023 – 24 School Fees**

Superintendent Bird explained the funding changes to the transportation budget regarding ride limits.

4780-23

Moved by Trustee Diane Hagman: That the 2023 – 24 Transportation Fees for Grant Ineligible Students remain the same at:

Grades 1–12 Annual Pass Fee: \$371.00 per student

ECS Pass Fee: \$185.00 per half day ECS student  
\$371.00 per full day every day  
ECS student

Family Pass Fee: \$927.00 maximum per family

Replacement Pass Fee: \$6.00 per pass

Alternate Seat Pass Fee: \$200.00 per student

Alternate Seat Pass Fee ECS: \$100.00 per half day ECS student  
\$200.00 per full day every day  
ECS student

Alternate Seat Pass Fee Family: \$500.00 maximum per family

Motion Carried

*Trustee Linda Wigton was absent from the vote.*

4781-23

Moved by Trustee Judy Muir: That the 2023 – 24 Technology Access/Maintenance Fees remain the same at:

Per Student Grades 1 – 12:	\$32.00
For Half-day ECS Student:	\$16.00
Per Full Day Every Day ECS Student:	\$32.00

Motion Carried

*Trustee Linda Wigton was absent from the vote.*

4782-23

Moved by Trustee Gerry Steinke: That the 2023 – 24 Tuition Fees for Non-Alberta Students remain the same at:

For Full Year:	\$11,000
For Half Year:	\$5,500

Motion Carried

**INFORMATION AND REPORTS**

**ASBA  
ASBA Zone 2/3**

**PSBAA**

**Standing Committee Reports**

**E. INFORMATION AND REPORTS**

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

The ASBA Zone 2/3 Reports for February and March were presented to the Trustees for information. There was significant discussion by the membership regarding the proposed amendments to the By-laws. Vice-Chair Peck will discuss the amendments in Closed Session.

Round table discussion regarding Board Chair meetings and availability of Election Tool Kits.

**2. PSBAA (Board Vice-Chair Christine Peck)**

Election readiness is being shared online. Concern expressed regarding advocating on walking distance, Vice-Chair Peck will bring concerns forward to the membership.

**3. Standing Committee Reports**

Policy Committee

The Committee will be meeting in April to discuss changes to the Work Plan.

### Rural Education Symposium

Trustee Petryshen will present her report at the next Board Meeting in April. A reminder that a survey is available regarding the Symposium.

## Superintendent's Report

### 4. Superintendent's Report

Superintendent Bird presented his report to the Trustees for information.

The Division is working on joint use planning agreements which need to be finalized by the end of the school year. Superintendent Bird gave details on the process.

Trustees recommended that the agreements ease access to facilities and requested that local Trustees be invited to participate in discussions with communities during the process. Superintendent Bird will provide 'base' agreements for discussion purposes.

## APPOINTMENTS AND DELEGATIONS

### F. APPOINTMENTS AND DELEGATIONS (continued)

Pam Mehl, Lead Teacher/Trip Coordinator and Brent Northcott, Principal, from Hilltop High School joined the meeting virtually to discuss details and highlights of the proposed 2024 D-Day 80: Juno and the Road to Liberation International Field Trip to Netherlands, Belgium, and France. Dates are May 31 to June 8, 2024. Learning on the trip will be directly related to modules in English, Social Studies, Science, Photography and Communications, and credit will be earned.

The trip cost is higher due to rising insurance, food and accommodation costs. The travel company allows monthly payments to help with budgeting, and students can reduce costs through fundraising.

Trustee Hailes requested that the students prepare a presentation for the Trustees upon return from their trip.

4783-23

Moved by Trustee Diane Hagman: That the Board approve, in principle, the Hilltop High School 2024 D-Day 80: Juno and the Road to Liberation International Field Trip to Netherlands, Belgium and France.

Motion Carried

## Superintendent's Report

4784-23

### 4. Superintendent's Report (continued)

Superintendent Bird presented information from his report regarding his recommendation to transfer junior high students from Sangudo to Mayerthorpe.

Moved by Trustee Deb Koloski: That the NGPS Board of Education direct the Superintendent to not enact a transfer of students at Sangudo Community School until the 2024 – 25 school year at the earliest, and to only enact a transfer after this date, in order to preserve the school's viability.

Trustee Koloski commented that the community has worked hard to keep the school viable and requested that the Board honour the timeline in its first motion (4540-21).

The Trustees had round table discussion:

- A goal/target is needed in order to continue the junior high program
- Daycare does not affect funding, but benefit is that students may continue through other grades
- The school needs to be viable, K – 6 program would keep it viable and allow focus on the elementary program
- Trustees would like more time to consider the pros and cons – more information is needed
- The Capital Plan includes modernization of the school. The K-6 plan was created with the intent to keep the school open indefinitely

The Trustees had concern with the wording of the motion and requested a recess to discuss and recommend an amendment.

*Board Chair Barb Maddigan called a recess at 1:45 p.m.*

Round table discussion.

*Board Chair Barb Maddigan called the meeting to order at 1:58 p.m.*

Motion Withdrawn

4785-23

Moved by Trustee Deb Koloski: That the Board continue to operate Sangudo Community School from 2023 – 2025, barring any extraordinary circumstances that would require additional program funding beyond the 2021 – 2022 allotment.

**Motion Amendment:** Moved by Trustee Deb Koloski: That the Board continue to operate the Sangudo Community School as a K- 9 school, from 2023 – 2025, barring any extraordinary circumstances that would require additional program funding beyond the 2021 – 2022 allotment.

Further discussion by the Trustees:

- The motion supports two more years, until the end of the 2024 – 25 school year
- The motion ties the hands of the Superintendent regarding funding
- Need to work with the community and have continual and intentional dialogue and consultation to keep the Board updated
- Need to indicate the Board's intent before spring break and work through the details later
- The new motion restates the original motion to keep the school operating until 2025.

Motion Carried as Amended

4786-23

Moved by Trustee Jim Hailes: That a letter be written to the Minister of Education detailing the dilemma with every small school in Alberta regarding inequitable funding.

Motion Carried

**The letter will be copied to other Alberta school boards and the Division's MLAs.**

Round table discussion regarding weighted moving average concerns, misinformation, and funding for small schools.

4787-23

Moved by Trustee Diane Hagman: That the Board set up community engagement meetings with the Community of Sangudo, one this spring, and one this fall, to start.

Round table discussion:



- Need specific dates (April and October)
- Need structure to meetings (eg. agendas, meeting records, chairperson to keep order)
- Need Trustee representation on the Sangudo revitalization committee

Motion Carried

*Delegations left the meeting at 2:26 p.m.*

Superintendent Bird continued his report with a budget slide presentation.

Round table discussion, questions from Trustees answered by Superintendent Bird as appropriate – bridge funding, operations/maintenance grants and inflation, amortization through capital reserves, and transportation agreements.

*Board Chair Barb Maddigan called for recess at 3:20 p.m.*

*Board Chair Barb Maddigan called the meeting to order at 3:28 p.m.*

## **New Curriculum Teacher Feedback Report**

### **5. New Curriculum Teacher Feedback Report**

Deputy Superintendent Leslee Jodry presented the New Curriculum Teacher Feedback Report and PowerPoint presentation to the Trustees for information.

## **Financial Reports**

### **6. Financial Reports**

Superintendent Kevin Bird presented the February Financial Summaries to the Trustees for information. Trustees had questions regarding surpluses and if there is a plan in place to deal with them.

## **Edwin Parr and Honouring Spirit: Indigenous Student Award Nominations**

### **7. Edwin Parr Nomination and Honouring Spirit: Indigenous Student Award Nominations**

Deputy Superintendent Leslee Jodry provided information regarding the two nominees submitted by two principals for the Edwin Parr Award -- Teacher Katherine Lewis from Mayerthorpe Jr/Sr High and Gabija (Gabby) Brazinskaite from Fox Creek School. After much deliberation, the Division will nominate Gabby Brazinskaite, and both teachers will be acknowledged for their excellence in the area of a beginning teacher. Thanks will also be given to

the administrators who worked hard at putting the nomination packages together.

Northern Gateway Public Schools has nominated three students for the 2023 Honouring Spirit: Indigenous Student Award:

- Onoway Junior/Senior High School Grade 10 student Mason Johnston is being recognized for being kind, respectful, and committed to achieving his goals. We wish him well as he represents Alberta in U19 baseball at the North American Indigenous Games in Halifax this July.
- Hillside Junior/Senior High School Grade 11 student Vada Sunshine aspires to enroll in post-secondary studies in science. She is an active member of her school's Student Leadership Group where she shares knowledge about her culture. Vada is a talented artist and photographer who uses her gifts to help improve her world.
- Hilltop High School Grade 12 student Sunshyne Brown proudly shares her knowledge of her heritage with her peers and is an active participant in indigenous celebrations. She has been accepted at Northern Lakes College for the fall of 2023 to pursue her goal of obtaining a degree in social work. She demonstrates kindness and leadership, sharing her passion for acceptance of cultural diversity.

ASBA sponsors these awards and recognition to the Association will be part of the messaging.

## **Annual and Term Work Plans**

### **8. Board Annual and Term Work Plans**

The Board Annual and Term Work Plans were reviewed:

- Three-Year Education Plan review and acceptance will be moved to April and May (correction)
- The second Finance meeting should be held in late March or early April (not yet complete)
- Formal review of proposed ASBA by-law and budget changes will be added to the Work Plan after review by the Policy Committee

**Motion Review Cycle**

**9. Motion Review Cycle**

The Motion Review Cycle is up to date. Vice-Chair Peck asked if a letter was written to the member-at-large on the Audit Committee.

**Trustee Reports**

**10. Trustee Reports**

Trustee Jim Hailes

Enjoyed the school tours, met some great kids.

Trustee Diane Hagman

Attended the Elmer Elson school council meeting and Rural Education Symposium. School tours were a positive experience.

Trustee Deb Koloski

Attended four school council meetings. School tours were fantastic as a new Trustee attending.

Trustee Judy Muir

School tours were excellent, one-on-one meetings with municipal partners at the Rural Education Symposium was invaluable.

Chair Barb Maddigan

Attended Percy Baxter council meeting – parents are concerned about the proposed school calendar, particularly Christmas and Easter breaks.

Vice-Chair Christine Peck

Attended Onoway school council meetings but there was no quorum – information session only. Attendees had concerns regarding the proposed school calendar. Attended school tours and Rural Education Symposium. The Onoway Children’s Health Fair event had a large turnout and was well received.

Trustee Linda Wigton

School tours were excellent, attended Pat Hardy school council meeting – discussion regarding Whitecourt realignment. Attended election advocacy meeting and it was interesting to get a pollster’s view of what could happen at the next election.

Trustee Gerry Steinke

Attended school council meetings and had ongoing discussions regarding the new school.

**Past Trustee Recognition**

**11. Past Trustee Recognition**

Trustee Hailes proposed that the Board recognize past Trustees for service, with a lunch and celebration.

4788-23

Moved by Trustee Jim Hailes: That the Board invites former Trustees from the previous Board to a Regular Board Meeting to honour and recognize their past service.

Motion Carried

**Upcoming Events**

**12. Upcoming Events**

- March 31, 2023 – PSBAA 2023 Special Recognition Awards Deadline
- April 18, 2023 – Regular Board Meeting

**Additional Report Items**

**13. Additional Report Items**

Nil

4789-23

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

Motion Carried

**TOPICS FOR FUTURE DISCUSSIONS**

**G. TOPICS FOR FUTURE DISCUSSIONS**

Trustees would like information on the technology fees and status of the Evergreen Plan.

Superintendent Bird: The Director of Information Technology will present a report in April or May.

**REQUESTS FOR INFORMATION**

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

Nil

**MEETING HIGHLIGHTS**

**I. MEETING HIGHLIGHTS**

- Delegations from Sangudo community groups and Sangudo Community School
- Director of Maintenance presenting IMR, CMR and Three-Year Capital Plan
- School Fees approved with no changes
- Hilltop High School 2024 International Field Trip

- Budget Breakdown
- Presentation on Teacher Feedback for New Curriculum
- Edwin Parr and Honouring Spirit Indigenous Award Nominations

**CLOSED SESSION**

4790-23

**J. CLOSED SESSION**

Moved by Trustee Linda Wigton: That the Board move to Closed Session at 4:27 p.m.

Motion Carried

Superintendent Kevin Bird and Deputy Superintendent Leslee Jodry Spong were invited to stay.

*Electronic Recording stopped at 4:27 p.m.*

*Superintendent Kevin Bird left the meeting in Closed Session at 6:07 p.m. due to conflict of interest. Superintendent Bird returned to the meeting at 6:14 p.m.*

4791-23

Moved by Trustee Jim Hailes: That the Board move out of Closed Session at 6:14 p.m.

Motion Carried

4792-23

Moved by Trustee Judy Muir: That the Board of Trustees approve the recommendation from the Support Staff/Contractor Compensation Committee, as presented.

Motion Carried

**ADJOURNMENT**

4793-23

**K. ADJOURNMENT**

Moved by Trustee Deb Koloski: That the meeting be adjourned at 6:15 p.m.

Motion Carried

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Board Chair

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Secretary-Treasurer