

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

Division Office Board Room, Whitecourt, Alberta

May 23, 2023 – 10:00 a.m.

OPENING

Call to Order and Roll Call

A. OPENING

1. Call to Order and Roll Call

The May 23, 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, 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.

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

- Rural Caucus Draft Budget added to Standing Committee Reports by Trustee Hagman

Acceptance of the Agenda

4. Acceptance of the Agenda

4827-23

Moved by Trustee Deb Koloski: That the Agenda for the May 23, 2023, Regular Public Board Meeting be adopted as amended.

Motion Carried

APPOINTMENTS AND DELEGATIONS

4828-23

B. APPOINTMENTS AND DELEGATIONS

Steffen Missfeldt, Key Supervisor, Onoway Jr/Sr High School 2025 international field trip to Europe gave an outline of the proposed trip to the Trustees.

Moved by Judy Muir: That the Board approve, in principle, the Onoway Jr/Sr High School 2025 international field trip to Europe.

Motion Carried

Steffen Missfeldt left the meeting at 10:17 a.m.

DRAFT MINUTES MAY 9, 2023, BOARD MEETING

4829-23

C. DRAFT MINUTES OF THE MAY 9, 2023, REGULAR BOARD MEETING

Moved by Trustee Linda Wigton: That the draft Minutes of the May 9, 2023, Regular Board Meeting be approved as presented.

Motion Carried

ACTION ITEMS

Draft NGPS Three-Year

D. ACTION ITEMS

1. Draft NGPS Three-Year Education Plan

The Draft NGPS Three-Year Education Plan was presented to the Trustees at the May 9, 2023 Regular Board Meeting and the amended Plan was included in this agenda package for information. The budget piece will be inserted once approved by the Board. Round table discussion.

The recommendation to approve the Plan was deferred until after the Policy 1 discussion.

2. 2023 – 24 Division Budget

Secretary-Treasurer Tamara Spong presented the 2023 – 24 Division Budget to the Trustees – a copy of the document was provided for information. Questions were answered as appropriate by administration.

- Staffing costs are higher but budget is basically the same.
- Will be requesting from Ministry permission to draw down surplus.

2023 – 24 Division Budget

- Increase to number of split classes and possible impacts.
- Clarification on instructional fees
- Governance budget – inclusion of membership fees, appreciation evening (can this be adjusted in future reporting to align with other boards).
- Request to follow up on previous letter sent to Minister regarding funding inequities.

4830-23

Moved by Trustee Diane Hagman: That the Board approve the 2023 – 24 Division Budget, as presented.

Motion Carried

Board Policy 1

3. Board Policy 1 Division Foundational Statements and Identity

Trustee Steinke presented the draft Policy 1 amendments to the Trustees for information. The process in developing the changes to the Policy began with recommendation from the Board and involved extensive discussion by the Board and the Committee.

Comments by Trustees included finding alternatives to the words 'strives', 'humility' and 'gratitude'.

4831-23

Moved by Trustee Gerry Steinke: That the Board reaffirm Policy 1 Division Foundational Statements and Identity, as amended.

4832-23

Motion Amendment: Moved by Trustee Jim Hailes: That in 'Our Vision' the words 'strives to be' be replaced with the word 'is'.

Motion Amendment Defeated

Motion Carried

Board Policy 8

4. Board Policy 8 Committees of the Board

Trustee Steinke presented the amendment to Policy 8 to the Trustees for information. A section for Committee of the Whole was added to the Policy. Round table discussion regarding confidentiality and number of meetings with timelines. The dates will be added to Policy 2 Appendix A Board Annual Work Plan.

4833-23

Moved by Trustee Gerry Steinke: That the Board reaffirm Policy 8 Committees of the Board, as amended.

Motion Carried

Draft NGPS Three-Year Education Plan

5. Draft NGPS Three-Year Education Plan

4834-23

Moved by Trustee Linda Wigton: That the Board approve the draft NGPS Three-Year Education Plan as amended, and to include the Division Foundational Statements and Identity of the new Policy 1.

Motion Carried

INFORMATION AND REPORTS

**ASBA
ASBA Zone 2/3**

E. INFORMATION AND REPORTS

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

Trustee Jim Hailes forwarded the Agenda for the upcoming Zone 2/3 meeting to the Trustees.

The ASBA proposed budget and changes to by-laws were provided to the Trustees for information and discussion at a Committee of the Whole meeting after the regular Board meeting adjourns.

PSBAA

2. PSBAA (Board Vice-Chair Christine Peck)

Vice-Chair Peck reminded Trustees about registration for the Spring General Assembly.

Standing Committee Reports

3. Standing Committee Reports

Advocacy Committee (Trustee Wigton)

Met May 10 – discussed the social media slides as approved and also discussed creating some one-liners. Public response has been positive.

Rural Caucus of Alberta School Boards (Trustee Hagman)

Trustee Hagman presented the draft budget for the Rural Caucus, which will be discussed at their meeting on June 4, 2023. Trustee Hagman will not be attending that meeting and requested that a Trustee attend in her place.

Superintendent's Report

4. Superintendent's Report

Superintendent Bird presented his report to the Trustees for information. A status report of the wildfires and air quality of schools in affected areas was provided. Recognition and thanks were given to Holy Family Catholic School Division for their assistance in Valleyview.

Financial Reports

5. Financial Reports

Secretary-Treasurer Tamara Spong presented the April financial and enrolment reports to the Trustees for information. Round table discussion regarding projected enrolment numbers.

Administration is reviewing the response from the Government of Canada regarding taxable Trustee mileage.

Ward 3 Subdivision 2 By-Election

6. Ward 3 Subdivision 2 Trustee By-Election

Secretary-Treasurer Spong presented the costs of some past by-elections and required timelines (Education Act) to the Trustees for information. Round table discussion on the importance of having a by-election to fill the vacancy left by Sally Petryshen. Costs and current representation were discussed as well as reducing the number of Trustees on the Board.

4835-23

Moved by Trustee Linda Wigton: That the NGPS Board of Trustees forego a by-election to replace the Trustee in Ward 3 Subdivision 2.

Further discussion regarding ward boundary review.

Motion Defeated

The Trustees discussed alternate dates.

4836-23

Moved by Trustee Jim Hailes: That the by-election be held on October 16, with Nomination Day on September 5, 2023.

Motion Amendment: Moved by Trustee Jim Hailes: That the Nomination Day be set for September 11, 2023, and the Election Day be set for October 23, 2023.

Motion Carried as Amended

Board Annual and Term Work Plans

Motion Review Cycle

Trustee Reports

Trustee Wigton

Board Chair Maddigan

Trustee Muir

Trustee Koloski

Trustee Hagman

Trustee Hailes

Upcoming Events

4837-23

7. Board Annual and Term Work Plans

The Work Plans are up to date.

8. Motion Review Cycle

The Motion Review Cycle is up to date.

9. Trustee Reports

Worked first casino for Percy Baxter.

Attended New Teacher Induction Ceremony.

Onoway High School Council Meeting, no quorum, just principal's report and budget. President of ATA attended New Teacher Induction Ceremony.

Attended New Teacher Induction Ceremony and Support Staff Contractor Compensation Committee meeting.

Attended Policy Committee meeting.

Kudos to staff of Fox Creek School for their handling of the evacuation of the school due to wildfire.

10. Upcoming Events

- May 26 – ASBA Zone 2/3 Awards Banquet
- June 1 to 3 – PSBAA 2023 SGA
- June 5 to 6 – ASBA 2023 SGM
- June 20 – Regular Board Meeting - Lunch with Honouring Spirit Award Nominees and Past Trustees
- June 24 – Hillside High Graduation (1 pm)
- June 24 – Fox Creek School Graduation (2 pm)
- June 29 – Mayerthorpe High Graduation (1 pm)
- June 30 – Onoway High Graduation (1:30/2 pm)
- June 30 – Hilltop High Graduation (1 pm)
- July 3 to 5 – CSBA Congress

Moved by Trustee Diane Hagman: That the Board accept Information and Reports E1 – E10 as information.

Motion Carried

TOPICS FOR FUTURE DISCUSSIONS

F. TOPICS FOR FUTURE DISCUSSIONS

Nil

REQUESTS FOR INFORMATION

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

1. Board governance report – request for more information and understanding of how other boards report their budget on the audited financial statements. Secretary-Treasurer Spong will survey other Boards and report back to the Trustees in September.

4838-23

Moved by Trustee Gerry Steinke: That the Board collect data regarding how Boards report governance expenses to the Province of Alberta.

Motion Carried

2. The Board is requesting information on projected enrolments for September.

4839-23

Moved by Trustee Diane Hagman: That the Board receive information or a report on projected enrolments for this coming September.

Motion Carried

MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

H. MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

- Onoway Jr/Sr 2025 International Trip to Europe
- Approval of the Draft Three-Year Education Plan
- Approval of the 2023 – 24 Division Budget
- Approval of Amendments to Policy 1
- Wildfire Impact Update
- New Teacher Induction Ceremony
- By-Election in Ward 3, Subdivision 2

CLOSED SESSION

I. CLOSED SESSION

4840-23

Moved by Trustee Linda Wigton: That the Board move to Closed Session at 2:21 p.m.

Motion Carried

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

Electronic Recording stopped at 2:21 p.m.

Superintendent Kevin Bird excused himself from the Closed Session at 2:21 p.m. due to conflict of interest.

4841-23

Moved by Trustee Deb Koloski: That the Board move out of Closed Session at 2:46 p.m.

Motion Carried

Superintendent Bird rejoined the meeting at 2:46 p.m.

4842-23

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

J. ADJOURNMENT

4843-23

Moved by Trustee Linda Wigton: That the meeting be adjourned at 2:47 p.m.

Motion Carried

Board Chair

Secretary-Treasurer