

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

Division Office Boardroom, Whitecourt, Alberta
September 12, 2023 - 10:00 a.m.

OPENING

Call to Order and Roll Call

A. OPENING

1. Call to Order and Roll Call

The September 12, 2023, Organizational Meeting was called to order by Tamara Spong, Secretary-Treasurer at 10:04 a.m.

Present at this time: Trustees Diane Hagman, Barb Maddigan, Judy Muir, Gerry Steinke, Linda Wigton, Christine Peck, Jim Hailes and Deb Koloski; 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.

Method of Voting & Destruction of Ballots

4851-23

2. Method of Voting & Destruction of Ballots

Moved by Trustee Linda Wigton: That elections, if necessary, be made by way of secret ballot.

Motion Carried

4852-23

Moved by Trustee Barb Maddigan: That the ballots for any voting be destroyed after each election.

Motion Carried

Call for Nominations for Board Chairperson

First Call

Second Call

Third & Final Call

Election of Board Chair/ Oath of Office

4853-23

4854-23

3. Call for Nominations for Board Chairperson

First call for nominations for the position of Board Chair by Secretary-Treasurer Tamara Spong.

Trustee Linda Wigton nominated Trustee Gerry Steinke.

Trustee Steinke accepted the nomination.

Second call for nominations by Secretary-Treasurer Tamara Spong.

Trustee Judy Muir nominated Trustee Christine Peck.

Trustee Peck accepted the nomination.

Third and final call for nominations by Tamara Spong.

4. Election of Board Chair/Oath of Office

The Trustees vote by secret ballot resulted in a tie after three attempts.

Moved by Trustee Jim Hailes: That the candidates leave the room so that the Board can have a discussion in caucus.

Round table discussion.

Motion Defeated

Moved by Trustee Linda Wigton: That the Board move to drawing a name to break the tie.

Motion Carried

After the draw, Trustee Gerry Steinke was declared elected as Board Chair, took the Oath of Office, and chaired the remainder of the meeting.

Call for Nominations for Board Vice-Chairperson

First Call

Second Call

Third & Final Call

Election of Board Vice-Chairperson/Oath of Office

Minutes of August 30, 2022 Organizational Meeting

Disclosure of Personal Interest Statement

Process for Board Standing Committees and Board Appointments

4855-23

5. Call for Nominations for Board Vice-Chairperson

First call for nominations for the position of Board Vice-Chair by Chair Steinke.

Trustee Deb Koloski nominated Trustee Diane Hagman.

Trustee Hagman accepted the nomination.

Second call for nominations by Chair Steinke.

Third and final call for nominations by Chair Steinke.

6. Election of Board Vice-Chairperson/Oath of Office

Trustee Diane Hagman was declared elected as Board Vice-Chairperson and took the Oath of Office.

7. Minutes of August 30, 2022, Organizational Meeting

Accepted as information.

8. Disclosure of Personal Interest Statement

Secretary-Treasurer Tamara Spong informed the Trustees of their requirement to submit an annual disclosure of a personal interest statement in accordance with the Education Act.

9. Process for Board Standing Committees and Board Appointments

Moved by Trustee Deb Koloski: That standing committee positions and Board representatives on organizations are filled on a volunteer basis in order of preference by each Trustee.

Motion Carried

Standing Committee Appointments

10. Standing Committee Appointments

Audit Committee: Trustees Linda Wigton, Christine Peck and Judy Muir

Advocacy Committee: Trustees Deb Koloski, Barb Maddigan, Linda Wigton and Board Chair Gerry Steinke as alternate

ATA Negotiations Committee: Trustees Deb Koloski, Christine Peck and Jim Hailes

Community Engagement Committee: Trustee Linda Wigton, Board Vice-Chair Diane Hagman, Board Chair Gerry Steinke and Trustee Deb Koloski as alternate

Support Staff/Contractor Compensation Committee: Trustees Judy Muir, Linda Wigton, Board Chair Gerry Steinke and Trustee Deb Koloski as alternate

Joint Board/Support Staff Liaison Committee: Trustees Barb Maddigan, Christine Peck, Judy Muir and Board Vice-Chair Diane Hagman

Policy Committee: Trustees Barb Maddigan, Christine Peck, Judy Muir and Board Vice-Chair Diane Hagman as alternate

4856-23

Moved by Trustee Barb Maddigan: That the Board accept the new Committee appointments for 2023 - 24.

Motion Carried

Representatives to Organizations

11. Representatives to Organizations

Round table discussion regarding the Whitecourt Community Association and if it is still active.

4857-23

Moved by Board Vice-Chair Diane Hagman: That the Whitecourt Community Association be removed from the list of organizations on which the Board has representation.

Trustees Muir and Wigton provided clarification regarding the WCA, that it is a separate association from other community associations.

Motion Withdrawn

4858-23

Moved by Board Vice-Chair Diane Hagman: That the Board direct the Policy Committee to add detail to Policy 9, Section 3 Whitecourt Community Association, that distinguishes that association from other community associations.

Motion Carried

ASBA Zone 2/3: Trustee Linda Wigton and Trustee Jim Hailes as alternate

PSBAA: Trustee Christine Peck and Trustee Judy Muir as alternate

YRL: Trustee Barb Maddigan and Trustee Linda Wigton as alternate

TEBA: Trustee Jim Hailes

Rural Caucus Committee: Board Chair Gerry Steinke and Vice-Chair Diane Hagman as alternate

Group Benefits Insurance Plan Administrative Committee: Board Vice-Chair Diane Hagman and Trustee Judy Muir

4859-23

Moved by Trustee Barb Maddigan: That the Board accept the new representatives to organizations for 2023 - 24.

Motion Carried

4860-23

Moved by Board Vice-Chair Diane Hagman: That the Board support Trustee Deb Koloski to continue to attend meetings of the Health Recruitment and Retention Committee Northeast Zone.

Motion Carried

Regular Board Meetings 12.

4861-23

Regular Board of Trustees Meetings

Moved by Trustee Judy Muir: That Regular Meetings of the Board be held at the Division Office in Whitecourt, commencing at 10:00 a.m.

Motion Carried

Honoraria, Expenses and Benefits 13.

4862-23

Honoraria, Expenses and Benefits

13.1 Trustee Honoraria

Moved by Trustee Linda Wigton: That the Trustee honorarium rate be set at \$30 per hour, with a maximum 12 hours per day, for the 2023 – 24 school year.

Motion Carried

13.2 Travel, Accommodations and Meals for Trustees and Staff

4863-23

Moved by Trustee Jim Hailes: That the reimbursement for travel, accommodations, and meals for Trustees and Staff be maintained at the current rates for the 2023 – 24 school year.

Motion Carried

13.3 Board Chairperson Annual Honorarium

4864-23

Moved by Trustee Barb Maddigan: That the Board Chairperson annual honorarium be set at \$5350.00 for the 2023 – 24 school year.

Motion Carried

13.4 Committee Chairperson Honorarium Per Committee Meeting

4865-23

Moved by Trustee Deb Koloski: That the Committee Chairperson honorarium be set at \$60.00 per Committee Meeting for the 2023 – 24 school year.

Motion Carried

13.5 Communication Allowance for NGPS Business

4866-23

Moved by Trustee Barb Maddigan: That the Communication Allowance for internet, cell phone and other technology use be set at \$75.00 per month for the 2023 – 24 school year.

Motion Carried

13.6 Preparation Time Allowance

4867-23

Moved by Trustee Linda Wigton: That the Preparation Time Allowance for months in which Board Meetings are held, be set at \$240.00 per month for the 2023 – 24 school year.

Motion Carried

13.7 Benefit Plans for Trustees

Round table discussion regarding benefit plans with Manulife vs ASEBP and the age limits. Recommendations made to have Policy reviewed. Inequities in the Health Spending Account were also discussed.

4868-23

Moved by Trustee Deb Koloski: That the Board's contributions for benefit premiums for Trustees be set at 100% of a plan offered by the School Division, for the 2023-24 school year.

Motion Carried

13.8 Health Spending Account for Trustees

4869-23

Moved by Trustee Jim Hailes: That an Ad Hoc Committee be set up to review health benefit plans for Trustees.

Round table discussion.

Motion Defeated

4870-23

Moved by Board Vice-Chair Diane Hagman: That the Board direct the Policy Committee to look at clarifying language about benefits and health spending accounts for Trustees in the Policy Handbook.

Motion Carried

4871-23

Moved by Trustee Judy Muir: That the Health Spending Account for Trustees be set at \$725.00 for the 2023 – 24 school year.

Motion Carried

4872-23

Moved by Trustee Judy Muir: That the Health Spending Account of \$725.00 per year for Trustees be set up for those over the age of 70 and administered through Central Services.

Motion Carried

13.9 Voluntary Accidental Death & Dismemberment

4873-23

Moved by Trustee Jim Hailes: That the Voluntary Accidental Death & Dismemberment rate remain the same at \$500,000 for a Family Plan at the Board's expense.

Motion Carried

Adjournment

14. Adjournment

4874-23

Moved by Trustee Barb Maddigan: That the meeting be adjourned at 12:09 p.m.

Motion Carried

Board Chair

Secretary-Treasurer