

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

Division Office Board Room, Whitecourt, Alberta
October 17, 2023

OPENING

Call to Order and Roll Call

A. OPENING

1. Call to Order and Roll Call

The October 17, 2023, meeting was called to order by Board Chair Gerry Steinke at 10:00 a.m.

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

Lisa Bakos, Communications Officer, and Beth Jager, Principal of Mayerthorpe Jr/Sr High School, were present at this time. There were three members of the public present in the gallery.

Treaty Land Acknowledgement

2. Treaty Land Acknowledgement

Vice Chair Diane Hagman read the Treaty Land Acknowledgement.

Additions/Deletions to the Agenda

3. Additions/Deletions to the Agenda

Added to Information and Reports:

- a) Yellowhead Regional Library Report (Trustee Maddigan)
- b) Results Review Template (Trustee Muir)

Acceptance of the Agenda

4. Acceptance of the Agenda

4889-23

Moved by Trustee Barb Maddigan: That the Agenda for the October 17, 2023, Regular Public Board Meeting be adopted as amended.

Motion Carried

APPOINTMENTS AND

B. APPOINTMENTS AND DELEGATIONS

Delegation

Alana Simpson presented her PowerPoint presentation regarding Sangudo/Mayerthorpe Transportation to the Board for information.

Appointment

Principal Beth Jager presented her slide presentation regarding this past summer's Boot Camps to the Trustees for information.

Beth Jager left the meeting at 10:47 a.m.

DRAFT MINUTES OF THE ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING

C. DRAFT MINUTES OF THE SEPTEMBER 12, 2023, ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING

4890-23

Moved by Trustee Linda Wigton: That the draft Minutes of the September 12, 2023 Organizational Meeting be approved as presented.

Motion Carried

DRAFT MINUTES OF THE REGULAR BOARD MEETING

D. DRAFT MINUTES OF THE SEPTEMBER 12, 2023, REGULAR BOARD MEETING

4891-23

Moved by Trustee Deb Koloski: That the draft Minutes of the September 12, 2023 Regular Board Meeting be approved as presented.

Motion Carried

ACTION ITEMS

E. ACTION ITEMS

Policy 7

1. Policy 7 Board Operations

Trustee Barb Maddigan reviewed the Meeting Record with recommended changes to Policy 7 for consideration. The Trustees requested clarification:

- Need to determine which attachments are approved for viewing by the public.
- Benefit plans for staff are separate from benefit plans for Trustees (future topic for discussion).

4892-23

Moved by Trustee Barb Maddigan: That Policy 7, Section 6.2.3 is amended by adding: 'and posted with supporting documentation on the Division's website.'

Round table discussion.

- Clarification requested regarding availability of supporting documentation for the public online vs attending in person.
- Concerns regarding transparency.
- Distinguish attachments to minutes and agendas in Policy.
- Trustee Wigton suggested leaving 6.2.3 as is and adding section 6.2.4 (Motion amendment).

Motion Amendment by Trustee Linda Wigton: That Section 6.2.3 is not amended, and a new Section 6.2.4 is added: 'A record of the approved minutes and supporting documentation will be available on the Division's website.'

Round table discussion.

Motion Carried as Amended

Point of Order: Trustee Jim Hailes did not vote on the amended Motion. The Motion was reread, and all Trustees voted again.

Motion Carried as Amended

The Policy Committee recommended the following amendment to Policy 7, Section 10:

Section 10.9.2 is added which reads: 'Trustees who are ineligible for current benefit plans and health spending accounts shall be reimbursed the cost of a benefit plan and health spending account currently available to other Trustees and Division staff.'

4893-23

Moved by Trustee Barb Maddigan: That the Board reaffirm Policy 7, Section 10, as amended.

Motion Carried

Policy 9

2. Policy 9 Board Representatives

The Policy Committee recommended the following amendments:

Section 3.1: 'To represent the Board on the Whitecourt Community Association that manages the joint community space with Whitecourt Central School.'

Section 5 by adding 'excluding the Whitecourt Community Association (refer to Section 3.1)'.

4894-23

Moved by Trustee Barb Maddigan: That the Board reaffirm Policy 9, as amended.

Motion Carried

Vice-Chair Hagman asked if the Policy Committee will be coming back to the Board with a recommendation on how Agendas and attachments are made available to the public. The Trustees had round table discussion.

4895-23

Moved by Vice-Chair Diane Hagman: That the Board make no changes to policy regarding how agendas and attachments are made available to the public.

Point of Order: Trustee Peck commented that the Board has already voted on the amendments to Policy 7 regarding agendas and attachments.

Board Chair Steinke accepted the motion as presented.

Motion Carried

Oath of Office for Trustee-elect

3. Oath of Office for Trustee-elect

4896-23

Moved by Trustee Barb Maddigan: That the Board direct the Secretary-Treasurer to administer the Oath of Office for the Trustee-elect of Ward 3, Subdivision 2, prior to November 7, 2023, if and when the Trustee-elect is available.

Motion Carried

Annual Board Workshop

4897-23

4. Annual Board Workshop 2023

Moved by Trustee Linda Wigton: That the Board move the Annual Board Workshop to December 18, 2023.

Motion Carried

**Sangudo/Mayerthorpe
Transportation**

5. Sangudo/Mayerthorpe Transportation

Superintendent Bird presented the Transportation Report by Administration.

Trustee Wigton gave clarification on the original motion that transportation would be provided only to current grade 7 – 9 students for this school year, as a pilot project.

Questions were answered by the Superintendent as required and the Trustees had round table discussion, requesting further clarification of the intent and wording of the motion.

Chair Steinke suggested an amendment to the motion, adding: 'and such action shall not apply to new registrants'.

Deferred Motion 4879-23

Debate was opened on Deferred Motion 4879-23, as amended:

Moved by Trustee Linda Wigton: That the Northern Gateway Board of Trustees approve transportation provision for students who live in the Sangudo School catchment area and who are presently enrolled at Mayerthorpe Jr/Sr High School, grade 7 – 9 program, and such action shall not apply to new registrants.

Round table discussion, key points:

- parental choice to transport students
- may affect viability of Sangudo School
- ramifications could be great across the Division
- need to respect parent's right to choose education
- how does it affect future enrolment and requests for transportation

Amended Motion Defeated

INFORMATION AND REPORTS

ASBA
ASBA Zone 2/3

PSBAA

Standing Committee Reports

Sangudo Community Ad Hoc Committee

Superintendent's Report

F. INFORMATION AND REPORTS

1. ASBA (Trustee Linda Wigton)
ASBA Zone 2/3 (Trustee Linda Wigton)

Trustee Wigton gave a synopsis of the recent Director's Meeting. Trustees will be provided with a summary of meetings with the action items. Position Statements need to be reviewed by the Board.

2. PSBAA (Trustee Christine Peck)

The Agenda for the Fall conference is now available with the following areas for discussion:

- 5% membership fee increase for upcoming budget
- Recommendation to move \$175,000 from current legal reserve to personnel and contingency reserve
- Proposed change in By-law regarding legal fees
- Elections

3. Standing Committee Reports

Support Staff/Contractor Compensation – Trustee Muir

Trustee Muir gave an update on CUPE negotiations. The committee has met three times and hope to meet again before the end of the year.

4. Sangudo Community Engagement Ad Hoc Committee

The committee met for the second time, with 15 people in attendance. Discussion included:

- 450 leaflets were sent out highlighting the school
- Funding and current viability of the school
- RAP program in the Sangudo area
- Transportation topic
- Will revisit having further meetings if something changes

5. Superintendent's Report

Superintendent Bird presented his report to the Trustees for information.

AP 107 was attached, with draft changes regarding school calendar.

Annual School Council Reports

6. Annual School Council Reports

The reports were provided to Trustees for information.

2024 School Tours

7. 2024 School Tours

The draft schedule was provided to Trustees.

4898-23

Moved by Vice-Chair Diane Hagman: That the Board direct the Policy Committee to insert language into policy that authorizes annual school tours.

Motion Carried

Valleyview Rural By-Election

8. Valleyview Rural By-Election Update

Secretary-Treasurer Tamara Spong gave an update on the upcoming Trustee By-election. The three candidates are Tracie Craig, Ed Tollefson, and Les Urness. Polling stations are Greenview Regional Multiplex and Sunset House Community Hall. Workers are in place and training is scheduled.

Financial/Enrolment Reports

9. Financial/Enrolment Reports

Secretary-Treasurer Tamara Spong presented the August and September financial reports and September enrolment report to the Trustees for information.

**Instructional Time
Exam Week Schedules**

10. Instructional Time Lost to Staggered Entry and Exam Week Schedules

Trustee Hailes expressed concerns about instructional time being reduced with staggered starts and exam week schedules. Round table discussion, Administration answered questions as appropriate.

**Board Annual and Term Work
Plans**

11. Board Annual and Term Work Plans

The Work Plans are up to date.

Motion Review Cycle

12. Motion Review Cycle

The Motion Review Cycle is up to date.

Upcoming Events

13. Upcoming Events

- October 18 to 20, 2023 – PSBAA Fall Conference/AGM
- October 23, 2023 – Ward 3, Subdivision 2 By-Election
- November 7, 2023 – Regular Board Meeting
- November 19 to 21, 2023 – ASBA Fall General Meeting
- November 28, 2023 – Regular Board Meeting

Yellowhead Regional Library

14. Yellowhead Regional Library Report

Trustee Maddigan gave an update on the YRL. Budget was discussed and they are proposing a fee increase in January. NGPS fee is \$51,936.45.

4899-23

Moved by Vice-Chair Diane Hagman: That the Secretary-Treasurer provide the Board with information regarding the financial impact from the budget increase for Yellowhead Regional Library services.

Motion Defeated

Results Review Template

15. Results Review Template

Trustee Muir suggested that the template be reviewed to make sure that the information that the Board would like to see is included.

- current budget figures compared to last year with details about the differences
- explanation for the use of surpluses
- reports on staff and support staff, enrolment and specialized supports
- clarification on specific health supports
- a video presentation would be appreciated

Trustee Reports

16. Trustee Reports

Trustee Maddigan

School council meetings with reconfigured schools were positive and encouraging.

Trustee Wigton

Busiest September with ASBA, hard but meaningful work and appreciated being a Director.

Vice-Chair Hagman

Attended ASBA zoom meeting on ASEBP and coverage for Trustees over 70.

Trustee Koloski Attended 5 school council meetings and a daycare open house.

Trustee Peck Thank you to staff and Trustees for helping with Employee Appreciation Evening. Thank you to the Trustees on the Sangudo Community Engagement Ad Hoc Committee.

Trustee Hailes Fox Creek school council had an interesting discussion regarding the Sangudo transportation issue.

4900-23 Moved by Trustee Deb Koloski: That the Board accept Information and Reports F1 – F16 as information.

Motion Carried

TOPICS FOR FUTURE DISCUSSIONS

G. TOPICS FOR FUTURE DISCUSSIONS

Nil

REQUESTS FOR INFORMATION

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

Nil

MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

I. MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

- NGPS Mission Statement
- Presentation on Sangudo Transportation
- Presentation on Summer Boot Camps
- Sangudo Community Engagement Ad Hoc Committee
- 28th Annual Employee Recognition Evening
- New Valleyview School Update
- Valleyview Rural By-Election Update

CLOSED SESSION

J. CLOSED SESSION

4901-23 Moved by Trustee Barb Maddigan: That the Board move to Closed Session at 4:03 p.m.

Motion Carried

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

Electronic Recording stopped at 4:03 p.m.

4902-23

Moved by Trustee Jim Hailes: That the Board move out of Closed Session at 4:11 p.m.

Motion Carried

ADJOURNMENT

K. ADJOURNMENT

4903-23

Moved by Trustee Deb Koloski: That the meeting be adjourned at 4:12 p.m.

Motion Carried

Board Chair

Secretary-Treasurer