

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

Division Office Board Room, Whitecourt, Alberta
November 28, 2023

OPENING

Call to Order and Roll Call

A. OPENING

1. Call to Order and Roll Call

The November 28, 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 (virtual via Zoom), Judy Muir, Barb Maddigan, Linda Wigton, Deb Koloski, Les Urness and Christine Peck; and Administrators Kevin Bird, Superintendent; Leslee Jodry, Deputy Superintendent; Tamara Spong, Secretary-Treasurer; and Nancy Whittaker, Recording Secretary.

Lisa Bakos, Communications Officer, Tammy Davis, Director of Learning, and Bev Cotton, Director of Learning Supports, were present at this time. Two members of the public were 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

Request to be added to Closed Session by Trustee Hailes: Labour item. Chair Steinke to review with Trustee Hailes prior to adding the item to the Agenda.

Acceptance of the Agenda

4. Acceptance of the Agenda

4916-23

Moved by Trustee Barb Maddigan: That the Agenda for the November 28, 2023, Regular Public Board Meeting be adopted as presented.

Motion Carried

APPOINTMENTS AND DELEGATIONS

B. APPOINTMENTS AND DELEGATIONS

The Results Review/Action Plan was presented to Trustees by Director Tammy Davis, and a copy of the Draft Annual Education Results Report was included in the agenda package. Questions and comments from Trustees were addressed by administrators Tammy Davis, Bev Cotton, Leslee Jodry and Superintendent Bird. The final report will be shared on the website as a digital document with links to further information, and consideration will be given to posting the report on the NGPS Facebook page.

Tammy Davis and Bev Cotton left the meeting at 11:27 a.m.

DRAFT MINUTES OF THE REGULAR BOARD MTG

C. DRAFT MINUTES OF THE NOVEMBER 7, 2023, REGULAR BOARD MEETING

4917-23

Moved by Trustee Deb Koloski: That the draft Minutes of the November 7, 2023 Regular Board Meeting be approved as presented.

Motion Carried

ACTION ITEMS

D. ACTION ITEMS

Draft AERR

1. Draft Annual Education Results Report

4918-23

Moved by Trustee Linda Wigton: That the Board accept the Draft Annual Education Results Report 2022 – 23, as presented.

Motion Carried

Audited Financial Statements

2. Audited Financial Statements

Committee Chair Christine Peck presented the auditor’s report and provided the Committee Meeting Record and Audited Financial Statements in the agenda package. Questions from Trustees were addressed by Secretary-Treasurer Tamara Spong. The audit went well, and Tamara Spong recognized the time and hard work put in by Milly McGregor, Assistant Secretary-Treasurer; Jennifer Richard, Finance Assistant; and Payroll administrators Lori Gallant and Maegan Cossette.

4919-23

Moved by Trustee Christine Peck: That the Board accept the Audited Financial Statements for the period ended August 31, 2023, as presented.

Motion Carried

Amendment to the Agenda

4920-23

Moved by Trustee Jim Hailes: That the Agenda be amended by adding a Closed Session item related to labour/Trustee communication.

Motion Carried

Manulife Benefits Plan Renewal

3. Manulife Benefits Plan Renewal

Trustee Muir reviewed the Manulife renewal information with the Trustees.

4921-23

Moved by Trustee Judy Muir: That the Board accept the negotiated rate increase of 12.3% for the Manulife benefits plan for Trustees and support staff.

Motion Carried

The Group Benefits administrative committee may request a market review in 2024 and Trustees requested that ASEBP be part of the review. Membership on the Group Benefits administrative committee and the Support Staff Compensation Committee was discussed and will need to be clarified in policy and the administrative procedure as it was suggested that the same Trustees be on both committees.

INFORMATION/REPORTS E.

INFORMATION AND REPORTS

ASBA

1. Alberta School Boards Association

The fall general meeting was attended by all Trustees except Trustee Urness.

The Zone 2/3 meeting is December 1, 2023. Trustee Wigton gave a summary of upcoming events.

PSBAA

2. Public School Boards Association of Alberta

Trustee Peck gave a summary of the Fall General Meeting and notified the Board of recent elections. The PSBC meeting included a professional development session and appointments to committees. Trustee Peck will represent the Board on the Political Advisory Committee for a two-year term. Board Chair Steinke requested that Trustee Peck bring forward a request to PSBC to discuss audit committee effectiveness. This has been done and Trustee Peck will report back to the Board.

Rural Caucus of Alberta School Boards

3. Rural Caucus of Alberta School Boards

The Trustees were provided with a report from the November 19, 2023 meeting. ASBA Chair Marilyn Denis attended the meeting and would like feedback from rural school boards regarding the importance of rural supports. Vice-Chair Hagman informed the Board that the next symposium is March 3 to 5, 2024, and invitations to municipal partners will be sent by the Superintendent's office.

Standing Committee Reports

4. Standing Committee Reports

Advocacy Committee

Trustee Wigton reported that the committee met but has not appointed a Chairperson. The current advocacy plan was reviewed and should be discussed as a committee of the whole.

Annual Community Engagement Plan

5. Annual Community Engagement Plan

Trustee Linda Wigton presented the Community Engagement Plan to the Trustees for information. Questions to bring forward to school councils will be provided by Superintendent Bird.

Superintendent's Report

6. Superintendent's Report

Superintendent Bird presented his report to the Trustees for information.

Financial Reports

7. Financial Reports

The financial reports and enrolment report for October, 2023 were presented to the Trustees for information by Secretary-Treasurer Spong.

Board Annual and Term Work Plans

8. Board Annual and Term Work Plans

The Work Plan is up to date.

Motion Review Cycle

9. Motion Review Cycle

The Motion Review Cycle is up to date.

Trustee Reports

10. Trustee Reports

Trustee Peck

Attended Onoway Elementary and Jr/Sr High School council meetings. The book fair at OES raised over \$4000.00 for their

library. Concerns were brought forward regarding student transportation.

Trustee Koloski
Attended 3 of 4 school council meetings. Plans are being made for Christmas events and school trips.

Trustee Muir
Rich Valley has their winter carnival this Saturday which is planned by council and is a large fundraiser.

Board Chair Steinke
Attended Hillside school council meeting last week and was pleased to see administration trying to improve attendance.

Vice-Chair Hagman
Attended Elmer Elson school councils. Fundraising committee is very enthusiastic and supportive. Working on raising funds for an outdoor school and skating program at the arena.

Trustees Maddigan/Wigton
Attended Whitecourt Central school council meeting – looking at accessibility for the playground equipment. Pat Hardy school council talked about Board Policy 1 and parents would like to see Trustees valuing and putting more focus on academic rigor.

Trustee Urness
Attended the public engagement meeting for the new Valleyview school. Attended a COW with MD of Greenview in Debolt.

Upcoming Events

11. Upcoming Events

- November 29 and 30, 2023 – Results Review
- December 18, 2023 – Board Workshop
- December 19, 2023 – Regular Board Meeting
- January 16, 2024 – Regular Board Meeting
- February 13, 2024 – Regular Board Meeting
- March 3 to 5, 2024 – Alberta Rural Education Symposium

4922-23

Moved by Trustee Christine Peck: That the Board accept Information and Reports E1 – E11 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)

Nil

MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

H. MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

- NGPS Value Statement
- Education Results Review Presentation
- Approval of Draft Annual Education Results Report
- Approval of Audited Financial Statements
- New Valleyview School Community Meeting
- Mental Health First Aid Training
- Division Increase in Enrolment

CLOSED SESSION

I. CLOSED SESSION

4923-23

Moved by Trustee Les Urness: That the Board move to Closed Session at 2:12 p.m.

Motion Carried

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

Electronic Recording stopped at 2:12 p.m.

4924-23

Moved by Trustee Barb Maddigan: That the Board move out of Closed Session at 3:20 p.m.

Motion Carried

ADJOURNMENT

J. ADJOURNMENT

4925-23

Moved by Trustee Linda Wigton: That the meeting be adjourned at 3:21 p.m.

Motion Carried

Board Chair

Secretary-Treasurer