

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

Division Office Board Room, Whitecourt, Alberta
January 16, 2024

OPENING

Call to Order and Roll Call

A. OPENING

1. Call to Order and Roll Call

The January 16, 2024, 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 (virtual via Zoom), 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, was present at this time, and two members of the public entered the gallery at 10:06 a.m.

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

Nil

Acceptance of the Agenda

4. Acceptance of the Agenda

The Agenda for the January 16, 2024, Regular Public Board Meeting was accepted as presented.

APPOINTMENTS AND DELEGATIONS

B. APPOINTMENTS AND DELEGATIONS

Nil

**MINUTES
DECEMBER 19, 2023**

C. MINUTES OF THE DECEMBER 19, 2023 REGULAR PUBLIC BOARD MEETING

The Minutes of the December 19, 2023, Regular Public Board Meeting were approved as presented.

ACTION ITEMS

D. ACTION ITEMS

Policy Committee

1. Policy Committee

Recommended changes to Policy 7 Board Operations were presented by Trustee Peck. Trustees had round table discussion around not including the name of the mover of Board motions as recommended by the consultant at the December workshop.

4938-24

Moved that the Board reaffirm Policy 7, as amended.

Motion Carried

Request by Chair Steinke to reconsider Motion 4938-24 was accepted by the Trustees.

4939-24

Motion Amendment: That Policy 7 Section 6.1.7 regarding recording of names on motions is not deleted.

Round table discussion. There was general consensus that once a motion is made it is owned by the Board.

**Motion Amendment Defeated
Motion Carried**

Trustee Peck presented the amendment to Policy 8, Committee of the Whole. The importance of renaming the Committee was discussed.

4940-24

Moved that the Board reaffirm Policy 8, as amended.

Motion Carried

Changes to Policy 2, Appendix A Work Plan were presented by Trustee Peck. Round table discussion regarding ward boundary review.

4941-24

Moved that the Board reaffirm Policy 2, Appendix A, as amended.

Motion Carried

Advocacy Committee

2. Advocacy Committee

The 2023 – 24 Advocacy Plan was presented by Trustee Wigton. Round table discussion and recommended edits:

- Advocate for decreasing drive times added to Transportation Funding for Driver Wages or Equitable Funding for Rural Education.
- Emphasize funding models for small K-12 schools.
- Change words: capital funding model to process.

4942-24

Moved that the Board approve the 2023 – 2024 Advocacy Plan, as presented.

4943-24

Motion Amendment: That the capital funding model section be deleted from the Advocacy Plan.

Motion Amendment Defeated
Motion Carried

Locally Developed Courses

3. Locally Developed Courses

The courses presented for approval (Dance 15, 25 and 35) would be offered in the Summer Bootcamp Program.

4944-24

Moved that the Board approve the use of the following Locally Developed Courses from the Edmonton School Division (at no cost to our Division): Dance 15 (3 credits), Dance 25 (3 credits), Dance 35 (3 credits).

Motion Carried

INFORMATION/REPORTS E.

INFORMATION AND REPORTS

ASBA

1. Alberta School Boards Association

Trustee Wigton gave a report on the December, 2023 meeting. Trustees were encouraged to view the Speakers Corner presentations on the ASBA website. 'Rural education supports' is on the January 19, 2024 ASBA meeting agenda.

PSBAA

2. Public School Boards Association of Alberta

The next council meeting is February 8 and 9. Webinars and research papers can be accessed on the website.

Standing Committee Reports

3. Standing Committee Reports

The Support Staff/Contractor Compensation Committee report will be presented in Closed Session.

Superintendent's Report

4. Superintendent's Report

The Superintendent presented his report to the Trustees for information. Questions regarding critical incident response were answered by Superintendent Bird.

Transportation Report

5. Transportation Report

Superintendent Bird presented the Transportation Report and area maps to the Trustees for information. Questions from Trustees were answered by Superintendent Bird.

School Tours

6. School Tours

Round table discussion on ideas for this year's school tours. Engagement with staff and students will be the focus. Superintendent Bird will present a list of ideas to school administrators. Visits to Outreach Schools will be done at another time.

Financial Reports

7. Financial Reports

The financial reports and enrolment report for December, 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

Trustee Peck explained the need to discuss ward boundaries and the requirement to approve the by-law reaffirming or changing ward boundaries by December 31, 2024 (Policy 19, Section 4). The Trustees had round table discussion, considering these ideas:

- Hiring a consultant to review, and potential costs.
- Reduce number of trustees from 9 to 7.
- Feasibility of representation by population.
- Review previous reports completed by administration.
- Other divisions have used ASBA and PSBAA consultants.

Board Chair Steinke asked for and received consensus from Trustees to discuss previous reports and board policy at the next Regular Board Meeting.

Motion Review Cycle

9. Motion Review Cycle

The Motion Review Cycle is up to date.

Trustee Reports

10. Trustee Reports

Trustee Urness

Attended Valleyview Ranch Colony Christmas Concert.

Board Chair Steinke

Started attending Valleyview and District Chamber of Commerce meetings in a director's role.

Trustee Muir

Attended Grasmere and Rich Valley Christmas Concerts as well as Grasmere school council meeting which was well attended.

Trustee Koloski

Attended and assisted with Sangudo Community School and Mayerthorpe High School Christmas dinners.

Trustee Peck

Attended Onoway Health Fair meeting. The committee will invite indigenous advisors and representatives from Edson and Alexis to be involved with planning.

Trustee Maddigan

Attended Whitecourt Central School council meeting.

Upcoming Events

11. Upcoming Events

- February 5, 6, 27 and 28, 2024 – School Tours
- February 13, 2024 – Regular Board Meeting
- March 3 to 5, 2024 – Alberta Rural Education Symposium (all Trustees except Steinke and Urness will attend)
- March 11 and 12, 2024 – School Tours

TOPICS FOR FUTURE DISCUSSIONS

F. TOPICS FOR FUTURE DISCUSSIONS

- Ward Boundary Review

REQUESTS FOR INFORMATION

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

Nil

MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

H. MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

- Approval of 2023 – 2024 Advocacy Plan
- Locally Developed Courses
- Critical Incident Response Outline
- Transportation Report
- Upcoming School Tours

CLOSED SESSION

I. CLOSED SESSION

4945-23

Moved that the Board move to Closed Session at 1:51 p.m.

Motion Carried

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

Electronic Recording stopped at 1:51 p.m.

4946-23

Moved that the Board move out of Closed Session at 2:53 p.m.

Motion Carried

ADJOURNMENT

J. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 2:54 p.m.

Board Chair

Secretary-Treasurer