

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

Division Office Board Room, Whitecourt, Alberta

April 16, 2024

OPENING

Call to Order and Roll Call

A. OPENING

1. Call to Order and Roll Call

The April 16, 2024, meeting was called to order by Board Chair Gerry Steinke at 10:02 a.m.

Present at this time: Board Chair Gerry Steinke, Board Vice-Chair Diane Hagman, Trustees Jim Hailes, Judy Muir, Barb Maddigan, 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. Trustee Linda Wigton was absent from the meeting.

Lisa Bakos, Communications Officer, was present at this time.

A recording of O Canada by students from Whitecourt Central School was presented.

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 April 16, 2024 Regular Public Board Meeting was accepted as presented.

Acceptance of the Minutes

5. Acceptance of the March 19, 2024, Regular Board Meeting Minutes

The Minutes of the March 19, 2024 Regular Board Meeting were accepted as presented.

APPOINTMENTS AND DELEGATIONS

B. APPOINTMENTS AND DELEGATIONS

Nil

ACTION ITEMS

C. ACTION ITEMS

School Calendar

1. 2024 – 25 School Calendar

4969-24

Moved that That the Board approve the 2024 – 25 School Calendar, as presented.

Motion Carried

The approved calendar and drafts for the next two years will be posted on the NGPS website.

2024 – 25 Technology Access/ Maintenance Fees

2. 2024 – 25 Technology Access/Maintenance Fees

Superintendent Bird presented his report on the financial impact of capping technology access and maintenance fees.

The amendment to Motion 4958-24 was considered by the Trustees in roundtable discussion.

Point of Order: The Meeting was paused at 10:26 a.m. to fix video streaming and the Meeting resumed at 10:37 a.m.

Debate continued on the Motion to Amend.

Amended Motion 4958-24

Moved that a cap be implemented on Technology Access/Maintenance Fees at One Hundred Dollars (\$100.00) per family.

Motion Defeated

4970-24

Moved that the 2024 – 25 Technology Access/Maintenance Fees remain the same at:

- Per Student Grades 1 – 12: \$32.00
- For Half-day ECS Student: \$16.00
- Per Full Day, Every Day ECS Student: \$32.00

Motion Carried

Locally Developed Courses

3. Locally Developed Courses

4971-24

Moved that the Board approve the use of the following Locally Developed Courses from the Northland School Division (at no cost to our Division): Traditional Land Based Learning 25-5 (5 credits); and Traditional Land Based Learning 35-5 (5 credits).

Motion Carried

Policy 19

4. Policy 19 Establishment of Electoral Ward Structures

Policy Committee Chair Barb Maddigan presented the recommended amendments to Policy 19 to the Trustees for consideration.

4972-24

Moved that the Board reaffirm Policy 19 Establishment of Electoral Ward Structures, as amended.

Motion Carried

Policy 8

5. Policy 8 Committees of the Board

The amendments recommended by the Policy Committee were presented by Committee Chair Maddigan. The Board had roundtable discussion and clarification regarding the concept of changing the committee name "Committee of the Whole".

Amendments to the Support Staff/Contractor Compensation Committee were presented by Committee Chair Maddigan. The Administrative Procedure will also be adjusted.

4973-24

Moved that the Board reaffirm Policy 8 Committees of the Board, as amended.

Motion Carried

Policy 2 Appendix A

4974-24

6. Policy 2 Board Operations – Appendix A Work Plan

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

Motion Carried

New Policy Development

4975-24

7. New Policy Development

The concept of tuition fees for non-Alberta students was considered by the Policy Committee as requested by the Board, and the Trustees had roundtable discussion.

Moved that the Board accepts the Policy Committee's recommendation that no changes to policy be made at this time regarding tuition fees for non-Alberta students.

Motion Carried

Trustee Honoraria

4976-24

8. Trustee Honoraria (Policy 7, Appendix A)

Trustee Koloski requested Board discussion regarding honoraria paid for work performed beyond 12 hours in a day and requested that the Board consider adjusting the Policy. The Trustees had roundtable discussion.

Moved that the Policy Committee examine the 12-hour limitation for compensation (Policy 7, Appendix A) and provide a recommendation to the Board at the next Regular Meeting on May 7, 2024.

Ward Boundaries

4977-24

9. Ward Boundaries

Moved that the Board directs Administration to prepare a bylaw that:

- a) Maintains a nine (9) person Board of Trustees in the next term;
- b) Adjusts ward and subdivision boundaries to align more directly with transportation areas; and
- c) Provides for the amalgamation of Ward 1, Subdivisions 3 and 4 with two (2) Trustees to be elected at-large, and the amalgamation of Ward 3, Subdivisions 2 and 3 with two (2) Trustees to be elected at-large.

The Board has looked extensively at current ward boundaries and Trustee representation. Amalgamation of subdivisions in some wards gives more balance with some Trustees appointed at-large.

Motion Carried

INFORMATION/REPORTS D.

ASBA

INFORMATION AND REPORTS

1. Alberta School Boards Association

Trustee Wigton is working on the draft position statement on students moving to post-secondary education (Board Motion 4963-24). The draft will be presented to the Trustees for consideration before being forwarded to ASBA.

PSBAA/PSBC

2. Public School Boards Association of Alberta

Trustee Muir attended the PSBC meeting as alternate and gave a synopsis of the proceedings. A written report will be emailed to Trustees for information.

Standing Committee Reports

3. Standing Committee Reports

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

The Policy Committee Meeting Record was provided to Trustees for information.

Superintendent's Report

4. Superintendent's Report

Superintendent Bird presented his report to the Trustees. Congratulations to Kariann Roszko as the new Principal at Mayerthorpe Jr/Sr High School, effective August, 2024.

Strong letters of support were received from the Town of Valleyview and the MD of Greenview for the Division's proposed new school and the connectivity to the Multiplex, with the Town committing money to upgrade the road system adjacent to the school site.

ASBA Zone 2/3 MLA Engagement

4978-24

5. ASBA Zone 2/3 MLA Engagement Evening May 8, 2024

Moved that the Board approve the expenses of Trustees Wighton, Hailes, Maddigan, Koloski, and Board Chair Steinke to attend the ASBA Zone 2/3 MLA Engagement Evening on May 8, 2024.

Motion Carried

Yellowhead Regional Library

6. Yellowhead Regional Library 2023 Annual Report

Trustee Maddigan presented the report to the Trustees for information.

Financial Reports

7. Financial Reports for March, 2024

The financial reports and enrolment report for March, 2024 were presented to the Trustees for information by Secretary-Treasurer Spong.

Board Annual and Term Work Plans

8. Board Annual and Term Work Plans

Outstanding Items: The draft Three-Year Education Plan will be presented at the May 7th Board Meeting, and the final Plan will be presented for Board approval on May 21st.

Motion Review Cycle

9. Motion Review Cycle

The Motion Review Cycle is up to date.

Trustee Reports

10. Trustee Reports

Trustee Urness

Attended Valleyview school tours and the OAP Council meeting. Parents were anxious for more information on the new school.

Trustee Maddigan

Attended Hilltop HS school council meeting and school tours. Enjoyed meeting the many foreign students at Fox Creek School.

Trustee Hagman

Attended school tours and enjoyed experience of play-based learning. Attended the Honouring Spirit: Indigenous Student Awards ceremony in Edmonton. Congratulations to Hilltop High School student Mary Campbell who received the award this year!

Trustee Muir

Attended CUPE mediation, school tours, and PBSC.

Trustee Koloski

Attended school tours and CUPE mediation as alternate. Attended Sangudo school council meeting, principal attended two-day Elder presentation and found it very informative.

Trustee Peck

Trustee Peck thanked the Board, staff and community for reaching out after her recent family emergency. Attended Onoway Jr/Sr school council meeting with Superintendent Bird.

Trustee Hailes

School tours were a highlight and congratulations to staff and students for their participation.

Upcoming Events

11. Upcoming Events

- May 2, 2024 – New Teacher Induction and Celebration
- May 7, 2024 – Regular Board Meeting
- May 8, 2024 – Zone 2/3 MLA Advocacy Meeting
- May 21, 2024 – Regular Board Meeting
- May 30 to June 1, 2024 – PSBAA Spring General Assembly
- June 3 to 4, 2024 – ASBA Spring General Meeting
- June 18, 2024 – Regular Board Meeting

TOPICS FOR FUTURE DISCUSSIONS

E. TOPICS FOR FUTURE DISCUSSIONS

Nil

REQUESTS FOR INFORMATION

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

Nil

MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

G. MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

- Approval of the 2024 – 25 School Calendar
- Approval of Locally Developed Courses
- Motion for Draft By-law for Ward Boundaries/Trustee Representation
- Welcome to Kariann Roszko, new Principal at Mayerthorpe Jr/Sr High School, effective August, 2024
- Meeting with the Town of Valleyview and MD of Greenview
- School Tours

CLOSED SESSION

4979-24

H. CLOSED SESSION

Moved that the Board move to Closed Session at 1:00 p.m.

Motion Carried

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

Electronic Recording stopped at 1:00 p.m.

4980-24

Moved that the Board move out of Closed Session at 1:48 p.m.

Motion Carried

ADJOURNMENT

I. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 1:48 p.m.

Board Chair

Secretary-Treasurer