

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

Division Office Board Room, Whitecourt, Alberta

May 28, 2024

OPENING

Call to Order and Roll Call

A. OPENING

1. Call to Order and Roll Call

The May 28, 2024, meeting was called to order by Board Chair Gerry Steinke at 10:01 a.m.

Present at this time: Board Chair Gerry Steinke, Board Vice-Chair Diane Hagman, Trustees Jim Hailes, Judy Muir, Christine Peck, Barb Maddigan, Deb Koloski, Les Urness and Linda Wigton; 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 Jalisa Barnet, Vice-Chair of the Pat Hardy Parent Council, were present at this time.

O Canada

2. O Canada

A recording of O Canada by Whitecourt Central School Grade 5 students was presented.

Treaty Land Acknowledgement

3. Treaty Land Acknowledgement

Vice-Chair Diane Hagman read the Treaty Land Acknowledgement.

Announcement

4. Announcement

Trustee Linda Wigton shared moments from the celebration of life for former NGPS administrator Allen Hodgson and Chair Steinke offered condolences on behalf of the Board to the Hodgson family.

Additions/Deletions to the Agenda

5. Additions/Deletions to the Agenda

Nil

Acceptance of the Agenda

6. Acceptance of the Agenda

The Agenda for the May 28, 2024 Regular Public Board Meeting was accepted as presented.

Acceptance of the Minutes

7. Acceptance of the May 7, 2024, Regular Board Meeting Minutes

The Minutes of the May 7, 2024 Regular Board Meeting were accepted as presented.

APPOINTMENTS AND DELEGATIONS

B. APPOINTMENTS AND DELEGATIONS

1. Jalisa Barnet, Vice-Chair for Pat Hardy’s Parent Council, attended the Alberta School Councils’ Association Conference and AGM, and shared her experience and a slide presentation with the Board.

Jalisa Barnet left the meeting at 10:29 a.m.

2. Tammy Davis presented the Three-Year Education Plan. Three specific goals were identified: numeracy, literacy and wellness.

Tammy Davis left the meeting at 10:36 a.m.

ACTION ITEMS

C. ACTION ITEMS

Three-Year Education Plan

1. Three-Year Education Plan

4992-24

Moved that the Board approve the Three-Year Education Plan.

Motion Carried

The Plan will be posted to the NGPS website on Friday, May 31, 2024.

2024 – 25 Division Budget

2. 2024 – 25 Division Budget

Secretary-Treasurer Tamara Spong presented a slideshow summarizing the Division’s 2024 – 25 Budget.

4993-24

Moved that the Board approve the 2024 – 25 Division Budget, as presented.

Motion Carried

Trustees had roundtable discussion on the sustainability of using reserves for budget shortfalls and how to make the public aware of the issue. The budget will be submitted to the government and posted on the Division’s website on May 31, 2024.

NGPS Policy Position Statement

3. NGPS Policy Position Statement for ASBA

Trustee Wigton will make further changes to the document and will send the revised resolution to Trustees for information. It will be presented at the ASBA Fall AGM.

4994-24

Moved that the Board approve the NGPS Policy Position Statement on the transition of rural students to post-secondary studies.

Motion Carried

Board Meeting Dates

4. Board Meeting, Results Review and GSD Dates

4995-24

Moved that the Board approve, in principle, the 2024 – 25 Board Meeting, Results Review and GSD Dates, as presented.

Motion Carried

INFORMATION/REPORTS D.

INFORMATION AND REPORTS

ASBA

1. Alberta School Boards Association

The proposed emergent position statement by St. Albert Public Schools -Directives to Employers was seconded by NGPS and will be discussed further at the Spring General Meeting.

An emergent resolution from Parkland School Division regarding the draft parental choice legislation will be shared with the Board.

The ASBA President, in conversations with the Minister, reassured that party politics will not be attached to school boards.

ASBA is working with the CSBA to advocate for a carbon tax rebate or elimination of the tax for school divisions.

The Trustees reviewed the Budget Bulletin. The 4% budget increase in fees results in an approximate \$1000.00 increase to the Division.

PSBAA/PSBC

2. Public School Boards Association of Alberta

Trustee Peck gave details of the event schedule for the PSBAA Spring General Assembly.

Standing Committee Reports

3. Standing Committee Reports

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

The Community Engagement Committee met twice in May and Trustees were provided with the Meeting Records. Committee Chair Wigton provided details of the Employee Recognition Evening scheduled for October 4, 2024.

Committee Chair Maddigan presented the Policy Committee Meeting Record for May 21, 2024. The Trustees reviewed the proposed changes to the Board agenda and the new format will be implemented on a trial basis starting in September. The Committee will consider adding the sample agenda as an Appendix to Policy 7 and will also review Board policy on the land acknowledgement statement.

Superintendent's Report

4. Superintendent's Report

Superintendent Bird presented his report to the Trustees for information. Trustees had roundtable discussion regarding the Valleyview school project and budget reserves. NGPS was well represented at the Edwin Parr ceremony by nominee Josie Liske.

Financial and Enrolment Reports

5. April Financial and Enrolment Reports

Secretary-Treasurer Tamara Spong presented the financial and enrolment reports. Trustees enquired if there was information available on how many students are in our boundaries and of those students, how many are lost to other divisions, homeschooling and private schools. **Administration will check if there is statistical information available.**

Board Annual Work Plan

6. Board Annual Work Plan

The Work Plan is up to date.

Motion Review Cycle

7. Motion Review Cycle

The Motion Review Cycle is up to date.

Trustee Reports

8. Trustee Reports

Trustee Urness

Attended the Community Engagement Committee Meeting and Finance Meeting.

Trustee Maddigan

Attended the Pat Hardy School Council meeting and Zone 2/3 First Year Teacher Awards.

Trustee Wigton

Attended school council meetings and Edwin Parr Awards evening. Highlight of the month was the MLA Engagement Evening.

Vice-Chair Hagman

Attended the MLA Engagement Evening, Elmer Elson School Council meeting (shared budget summary), attended the Lac Ste Anne regional municipalities meeting (shared advocacy brochure, budget summary, foundational statements, and discussed Bill 20).

Trustee Muir

Attended Policy Committee meeting, Support Staff/Contractor Compensation Committee, and school council meetings. Councils were impressed by the ASCA Meeting and thankful for the opportunity to attend.

Trustee Koloski

Attended the MLA Engagement Evening, LSA regional municipalities meeting and Sangudo School Council meeting. The Health Attraction and Retention Committee is having an event to recognize health care workers. Sangudo teachers and staff were excited about the COMPASS leadership group.

Trustee Peck

Attended PSBA and Political Relations Committee meetings. PSBA will bring forward an election readiness package. Attended Onoway Elementary school council meeting – almost at their goal for raising money for school playground equipment. Attended Policy Committee meetings and LSA regional municipalities meeting.

Trustee Hailes

Attended school council meeting and discussed budget. Attended MLA Engagement Evening and had good a conversation with the Minister on rural education. Edwin Parr was a great event.

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| Chair Steinke | Spoke to the Minister and MLAs Long and Getson at the MLA Engagement Evening. Attended a Library Act training session in Valleyview. |
| 4996-24 | Moved that the Board approve Chair Steinke’s expenses for attending the Library Act meeting.
<p style="text-align: right;">Motion Carried</p> |
| 4997-24 | Moved that the Board approve Trustee expenses for attendance at the Lac Ste Anne Regional Municipalities Meeting.
<p style="text-align: right;">Motion Carried</p> |
| 4998-24 | Moved that the Board approve Trustee Koloski’s expenses to attend the Health Attraction and Retention Committee event.
<p style="text-align: right;">Motion Carried</p> |

Upcoming Events

9. Upcoming Events

- May 30 to June 1, 2024 – PSBAA Spring General Assembly
- June 3 and 4, 2024 – ASBA Spring General Meeting
- June 18, 2024 – Regular Board Meeting and Honouring Spirit Awards Luncheon
- June 22, 2024 – Hillside High School Graduation
- June 22, 2024 – Fox Creek School Graduation
- June 27, 2024 – Mayerthorpe High School Graduation
- June 27, 2024 – Hilltop High School Graduation
- June 28, 2024 – Onoway High School Graduation

TOPICS FOR FUTURE DISCUSSIONS

E. TOPICS FOR FUTURE DISCUSSIONS

Report on Reserves

REQUESTS FOR INFORMATION

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

MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

G. MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

- Presentation of ASCA Conference and AGM
- Approval of the Three-Year Education Plan
- Approval of the 2024 – 25 Division Budget
- Zone 2/3 MLA Engagement Evening

- COMPASS Leadership Group
- ASBA Edwin Parr Awards Nominee and Ceremony

CLOSED SESSION

4999-24

H. CLOSED SESSION

Moved that the Board move to Closed Session at 1:52 p.m.

Motion Carried

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

Electronic Recording stopped at 1:52 p.m.

5000-24

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

Motion Carried

5001-24

Moved that the Board accept the recommendation from the Support Staff/Contractor Compensation Committee.

Motion Carried

ADJOURNMENT

I. ADJOURNMENT

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

Board Chair

Secretary-Treasurer