

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

Division Office Board Room, Whitecourt, Alberta

June 18, 2024

OPENING

Call to Order and Roll Call

A. OPENING

1. Call to Order and Roll Call

The June 18, 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; Tamara Spong, Secretary-Treasurer; and Nancy Whittaker, Recording Secretary. Deputy Superintendent Leslee Jodry was absent from the meeting.

Lisa Bakos, Communications Officer, was present at this time and two members of the public entered the gallery at 10:07. Shelley Knott joined the meeting at 10:07 a.m. via Zoom videoconferencing.

O Canada

2. O Canada

A recording of O Canada sung by Addison Watson, Grade 9 student at Hilltop High School, was presented.

Treaty Land Acknowledgement

3. Treaty Land Acknowledgement

Vice-Chair Diane Hagman read the Treaty Land Acknowledgement.

Additions/Deletions to the Agenda

4. Additions/Deletions to the Agenda

- a) Land Update – Valleyview School added to Closed Session by Chair Steinke

b) Cell Phone Use Announcement by Minister of Education added to Action Items by Trustee Koloski

c) Legal Item added to Closed Session by Chair Steinke

Acceptance of the Agenda

5. Acceptance of the Agenda

The Agenda for the June 18, 2024 Regular Public Board Meeting was accepted as amended.

Acceptance of the Minutes

6. Acceptance of the May 28, 2024, Regular Board Meeting Minutes

The Minutes of the May 28, 2024 Regular Board Meeting were accepted as presented.

APPOINTMENTS AND DELEGATIONS

B. APPOINTMENTS AND DELEGATIONS

Shelley Knott, Lead Teacher for the Mayerthorpe High School D-Day 80: Juno and the Road to Liberation Tour presented a slideshow and shared her experience of her trip with the Board.

Shelley Knott left the meeting at 10:38 a.m.

Recess was called by Chair Steinke at 10:38 a.m. to address technical issues. The meeting resumed without video at 10:50 a.m.

ACTION ITEMS

C. ACTION ITEMS

Locally Developed Courses

1. Locally Developed Courses

Superintendent Bird presented renewals for two locally developed courses.

5002-24

Moved that the Board approve the use of the following Locally Developed Courses (at no cost to our Division): Military Studies 15 (3 and 5 credits), Military Studies 25 (3 and 5 credits), and Military Studies 35 (3 and 5 credits).

Motion Carried

5003-24

Moved that the Board approve the use of the following Locally Developed Courses (at no cost to our Division): Reading Foundations A 15 (3 and 5 credits) and Reading Foundations B 15 (3 and 5 credits).

Motion Carried

Mobile Device Use in Schools

2. Minister's Announcement on Mobile Device Use in Schools

The Trustees had roundtable discussion regarding the Minister's announcement and more information was requested regarding the direction that the Division was going to take. Superintendent Bird provided school policy information and indicated that some schools are already implementing restrictions on the use of mobile devices. Once more details are received from the Ministry, school policies will be aligned with administrative procedures, while ensuring consistency across the Division. The Board and school councils will be informed of any changes.

INFORMATION/REPORTS D.

INFORMATION AND REPORTS

ASBA

1. Alberta School Boards Association

Trustee Wigton presented her report and action items to the Trustees for information. Two position statements were presented for approval:

Parkland School Division: Policy position that member school boards be consulted in the development of legislation on parental choice.

5004-24

Moved that the Board accept the placement of the position statement submitted by Parkland School Division as a Zone 2/3 submission on the ASBA Fall General Meeting agenda.

Motion Carried

Edmonton Public Schools: Policy position connecting funding rates to the inflation rate.

5005-24

Moved that the Board accept the placement of the position statement submitted by Edmonton Public Schools as a Zone 2/3 submission on the ASBA Fall General Meeting agenda.

Motion Carried

ASBA Awards were discussed, and Trustees will consider and submit possible nominations by the June 30th deadline.

PSBAA/PSBC

2. Public School Boards Association of Alberta

Trustee Peck gave a summary of the 2024 PSBAA Spring General Assembly.

Standing Committee Reports

3. Standing Committee Reports

Trustee Maddigan presented her report on the YRL Board Meeting. The Stronger Together Library Conference is taking place on October 3 and 4, 2024 in Edmonton and Trustee Maddigan requested Board approval to attend.

5006-24

Moved that the Board approve Trustee Maddigan's expenses to attend the Stronger Together Library Conference on October 3 and 4, 2024, as the Board's representative.

Motion Carried

Superintendent's Report

4. Superintendent's Report

Superintendent Bird presented his report to the Trustees for information. Trustees had roundtable discussion regarding the summer bootcamp offerings.

Honouring Spirit: Indigenous Student Awards and Lt Governor of Alberta Student Award

The meeting recessed for lunch at 11:45 a.m. at which time the Board welcomed the following students for provincial achievement awards:

Honouring Spirit: Indigenous Student Awards recipient Mary Campbell, and nominees Creio Johnson and Madison Alexis; and Lieutenant Governor of Alberta Student Award recipient Adam Auclair

The meeting resumed at 12:53 p.m. and video was restored at that time.

Joint Use Facility Agreement

5. Joint Use Facility Agreement with the Town of Whitecourt and Woodlands County

Superintendent Bird presented the JUFA and indicated that the Agreement will be used as a model for future joint use facility agreements with other jurisdictions. The Superintendent answered questions from the Trustees regarding fees and

scheduling during holidays. Section 8 (scheduling) will be amended.

5007 – 24

Moved that the Board approve the Joint Use Facility Agreement with the Town of Whitecourt and Woodlands County.

Motion Carried

YouTube Livestreaming

6. YouTube Livestreaming of Board Meetings

Chair Steinke requested Board discussion on whether to continue the practice of livestreaming Board meetings which would require a change in policy wording. Options include upgrading the technology in the boardroom or ceasing livestreaming and following current policy of posting the recording on the website only. Trustees had roundtable discussion regarding low viewership, Board transparency, precedence-setting, and timing of posting the recording. The Board requested more information regarding costs to upgrade the technology before making a decision at the next meeting.

5008-24

Moved that the Board direct Administration to gather costs to upgrade the technology in the boardroom in order to continue offering livestreaming of Board meetings.

Motion Carried

5009-24

Moved that livestreaming of Board Meetings be paused until Administration can provide a report on costs to upgrade the systems in the boardroom.

Motion Carried

Financial and Enrolment Reports Report on Reserves

7. Financial and Enrolment Reports

Secretary-Treasurer Tamara Spong presented the May Financial Reports, the Report on Reserves as of August 31, 2023, and the May Enrolment Report, and answered questions as appropriate.

Board Annual Work Plan

8. Board Annual Work Plan

The Superintendent's annual SLQS review will be in Closed Session.

Motion Review Cycle

9. Motion Review Cycle

The Motion Review Cycle is up to date.

Trustee Reports

Trustee Wigton

10. Trustee Reports

Attended both PSBAA and ASBA conferences and school council meetings. Whitecourt Central School Council discussed frustration with red tape when applying for Jordan's Principle funding. *Administration will explore and report back.*

Trustee Maddigan

Attended the ASBA conference.

Trustee Urness

Attended PSBAA conference and was impressed by the speakers. Attended OAP council meeting.

Trustee Peck

Attended both PSBAA and ASBA conferences, as well as Onoway Elementary school council meeting where the board was voted in. Thank you and farewell to Jody Taylor and Amanda Beekman. Onoway Jr/Sr postponed elections to school council due to low attendance. Thank you and farewell also to Dr. Amy Villneff.

Trustee Koloski

Attended barbeque celebrating health care workers.

Trustee Muir

Attended PSBAA and ASBA conferences and Rich Valley, Onoway High and Grasmere school council meetings.

Trustee Hagman

Acknowledged and congratulated Kelle Hansen for her induction into the Alberta Schools Athletic Association Hall of Fame. Also acknowledged and congratulated Elmer Elson Elementary's achievement for placing first in choral speech, grades 1 to 3, and second in choral speech, grades 4 to 6, at the Alberta Music Festival.

Chair Steinke

Attended, along with Superintendent Bird, the Rural Caucus of Alberta School Boards Spring General Meeting in Calgary on June 2, 2024. The Premier was in attendance and spoke about funding models for rural schools; how the WMA affects rural boards; school structures in rural communities and the need for specialized government services and multipurpose facilities; and encouraging local students to work in their rural communities after post-secondary studies. Chair Steinke will try to set up a meeting with the three MLAs to discuss these issues.

Upcoming Events

11. Upcoming Events

- 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
- August 7 to 9, 2024 – PSBC Meeting, Grande Prairie AB (Trustee Urness and Chair Steinke tentative)
- September 10, 2024 – Organizational and Regular Board Meetings

TOPICS FOR FUTURE DISCUSSIONS

E. TOPICS FOR FUTURE DISCUSSIONS

- Livestreaming Board Meetings and costs to upgrade
- Red Tape re: Jordan’s Principle applications for funding

REQUESTS FOR INFORMATION

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

MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

G. MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

- D-Day 80 Trip Highlights by Shelley Knott
- Honouring Spirit: Indigenous Awards Celebration
- Lieutenant Governor of Alberta Student Award Celebration
- Approval to renew two Locally Developed Courses
- Mobile Device Announcement by the Minister
- Policy on Livestreaming of Board Meetings
- Career Exposure Summer Bootcamps

CLOSED SESSION

H. CLOSED SESSION

5010-24

Moved that the Board move to Closed Session at 2:07 p.m.

Motion Carried

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

Electronic Recording stopped at 2:07 p.m.

5011-24

Moved that the Board move out of Closed Session at 3:15 p.m.

Motion Carried

5012-24

Moved that the Superintendent's evaluation be accepted as information.

Motion Carried

ADJOURNMENT

I. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 3:16 p.m.

Board Chair

Secretary-Treasurer