

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

Division Office Board Room, Whitecourt, Alberta

October 15, 2024

OPENING

Call to Order and Roll Call

A. OPENING

1. Call to Order and Roll Call

The October 15, 2024, Regular Board Meeting was called to order by Board Chair Gerry Steinke at 10:02 a.m. Chair Steinke announced that the meeting was being livestreamed and recorded.

Present at this time: Board Chair Gerry Steinke, Board Vice-Chair Diane Hagman (virtual), Trustees Jim Hailes, Judy Muir, 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. Trustee Christine Peck was absent from the meeting.

Lisa Bakos, Communications Officer, was present at this time and there was one guest present in the gallery.

O Canada

2. O Canada

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

Treaty Land Acknowledgement

3. Treaty Land Acknowledgement

Trustee Barb Maddigan read the Treaty Land Acknowledgement.

Additions/Deletions to the Agenda

4. Additions/Deletions to the Agenda

- a) Expression of condolence for Trustee Peck was added to Action Items by Trustee Jim Hailes.

- b) Approval for absence from the morning session of the November 5, 2024 Regular Board Meeting was added to Action Items by Trustee Barb Maddigan.
- c) Letter received by Trustee Peck will be presented in Closed Session and Trustees will receive a copy of the letter.

Acceptance of the Agenda

5. Acceptance of the Agenda

The Agenda for the October 15, 2024 Regular Public Board Meeting was accepted as amended.

Acceptance of the Minutes

6. Acceptance of the September 10, 2024, Organizational Meeting Minutes

The Minutes of the September 10, 2024, Organizational Meeting were accepted as presented.

Acceptance of the Minutes

7. Acceptance of the September 10, 2024, Regular Board Meeting Minutes

The Minutes of the September 10, 2024, Regular Board Meeting were accepted as presented.

DELEGATIONS

B. DELEGATIONS

Nil

COMMITTEE REPORTS

C. COMMITTEE REPORTS

Community Engagement Committee

1. Community Engagement Committee

Trustee Linda Wigton gave her report from the Committee Meeting held on September 24, 2024. The Committee is continuing to work on the school tours schedule and the Land Acknowledgement Statement. Interaction with municipal partners will be a future topic of discussion.

Support Staff/Contractor

2. Support Staff/Contractor Compensation Committee

Trustee Judy Muir gave a report on the October 9, 2024, Group Benefits Administrative Committee meeting and the recent market review completed by HUB International. The Support Staff/Contractor Compensation Committee accepted the Group Benefits Committee's recommendation to renew the plan with Manulife.

5038-24

Moved that the Board accept the Support Staff/Contractor Compensation Committee's recommendation to renew with Manulife as the Division's insurance provider for Trustees and support staff following the 2024 Market Review.

Motion Carried

ACTION ITEMS

D. ACTION ITEMS

Bylaw No. 1-24

1. Bylaw No. 1-24 Arrangement of Electoral Wards and Trustees

Secretary-Treasurer Tamara Spong gave First Reading of Bylaw 1-24 which realigns the ward boundaries and Trustees as directed by Board Motion 4977-24.

5039-24

Moved that Bylaw 1-24 Arrangement of Electoral Wards and Trustees, receive First Reading by the Board.

Motion Carried

The Bylaw will be circulated to stakeholders for community review. School Councils will be provided with an overview and detailed maps. The use of transportation maps and ngpsTALK will be discussed at the next GSD meeting on October 31, 2024. Second Reading of the Bylaw will be included in the agenda for the Regular Board Meeting on November 26, 2024.

Condolences to Trustee Peck

2. Expression of Condolences to Trustee Christine Peck

5040-24

Moved that the Board direct Administration to send condolences and flowers/charitable donation (\$200.00) to Trustee Peck to recognize the recent passing of a close family member.

Motion Carried

Absence from Board Meeting

3. Absence from Morning Session of November 5, 2024 Regular Board Meeting

Trustee Maddigan requested Board approval for her absence during the morning session of the November 5, 2024 Regular Board meeting, so that she may attend the Remembrance Day ceremony at Hilltop High School.

5041-24

Moved that the Board excuse Trustee Barb Maddigan from the morning session of the November 5, 2024 Regular Board Meeting so that she may attend the Remembrance Day ceremony at Hilltop High School.

Motion Carried

INFORMATION/REPORTS E.

INFORMATION AND REPORTS

Staff Reports

1. Staff Reports

Preschool/Junior Kindergarten Report

Superintendent Bird presented a report on preschool and junior kindergarten programs offered in the Division and answered questions as appropriate.

Vice Chair Hagman left the meeting at 11:03 a.m. and rejoined at 11:34 a.m.

Traumatic Events Systems (TES) Training

Deputy Superintendent Jodry gave an outline of the recent training for Division staff and community members by the Center for Trauma Informed Practices.

ASBA and Zone 2/3

2. Alberta School Boards Association and Zone 2/3

Trustee Wigton presented the ASBA meeting summary and NGPS proposed position statement to the Trustees for information. Trustees had roundtable discussion regarding competition and funding for public education versus private/charter schools.

PSBAA/PSBC

3. Public School Boards' Association of Alberta

The PSBAA Fall General Meeting package was distributed to Trustees.

Superintendent's Report

4. Superintendent's Report

Superintendent Bird presented his report to the Trustees for information. The Lac Ste. Anne Municipalities Meeting was held recently – Superintendent Bird distributed the advocacy brochure and gave an update on challenges with transportation at the start of the school year. There was good representation from the Division in attendance.

The Trustees had roundtable discussion regarding the recognition/awards given to staff for continuous years of service and requested that administration and the Policy Committee review the recognition of *total years' service* rather than *continuous service* in Board Policy and Administrative Procedures.

5042-24

Moved that the Board directs the Policy Committee to define the years of service for staff recognition awards.

Motion Carried

Annual School Council Reports

5. Annual School Council Reports

The Annual School Council reports were distributed to Trustees for information.

Financial and Enrolment Reports

6. Financial Summaries and Student Enrolment Reports

Secretary-Treasurer Tamara Spong presented the Financial Reports for August and the September Enrolment Report to the Trustees for information. The Division saw a significant increase in enrolment to start the year (additional 48 FTE students compared to September, 2023)

Minister/Board Chair Meeting

7. Meeting with the Minister

Board Chair Steinke met with the Minister of Education on September 25, 2024. Three main topics were: a) the School Construction Accelerator Program, new school construction, modernizations, the Modular Classroom Program, and charter/private school construction assistance; b) Numeracy/Literacy Screening at lower grades; and c) Review of the Funding Model and the effectiveness of Weighted Moving Average. Additional information on the question/answer session with Board Chairs will be presented in Closed Session.

Board Work Plans

8. Board Annual and Term Work Plans

The Board review of the ASBA Proposed Position Statements will be moved to November.

Motion Review Cycle

9. Motion Review Cycle

The Motion Review Cycle is up to date.

Trustee Reports

Trustee Hailes

10. Trustee Reports

Attended Fox Creek school council meeting. Discussed student testing (time consuming and competitive). Superintendent Bird indicated that there are ongoing discussions on this.

Trustee Koloski

Attended three school council meetings, Mayerthorpe HS continues to try to get a school council together. Attended the Mayerthorpe HS awards night, Trustee Hagman made a speech and Trustee Koloski handed out the awards.

Trustee Muir

Attended Grasmere, Rich Valley and Onoway school council meetings. The Terry Fox run raised over \$18,000! Attended the Regional Municipalities Meeting which was well attended. The three RCMP detachments were also present. Attended the Onoway HS awards night and there were many awards given for high academic averages.

Trustee Wigton

Attended council meetings at Whitecourt Central, Pat Hardy, Percy Baxter and Hilltop HS.

Trustee Maddigan

Attended Whitecourt Central and Pat Hardy school councils, as well as a Yellowhead Regional Library meeting (virtual).

Trustee Urness

Attended the OAP/Harry Gray council meeting on September 26th. This was an amalgamation of the two school councils and there was good turnout (not sure if the amalgamation is permanent).

Chair Steinke

Attended OAP/Harry Gray council meeting.

Vice Chair Hagman

Report will be provided at the next Board meeting.

Upcoming Events

11. Upcoming Events

- October 16 to 18, PSBAA Fall Conference and AGM
- October 31 – Governance, Strategy and Development Mtg
- November 5 – Regular Board Meeting
- November 18 to 19 – ASBA Fall General Meeting
- November 26 – Regular Board Meeting
- November 27 and 28 – Results Reviews
- December 16 – Professional Development/GSD Meeting
- December 17 – Regular Board Meeting

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

- First Reading of Bylaw 1-24
- Preschool/Kindergarten Report
- Traumatic Event Systems Training
- Employee Recognition Evening
- Increase in Student Enrolment

CLOSED SESSION

I. CLOSED SESSION

5043-24

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.

5044-24

Moved that the Board move out of Closed Session at 2:15
p.m.

Motion Carried

ADJOURNMENT

J. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 2:15 p.m.

Board Chair

Secretary-Treasurer