

MINUTES

Northern Gateway Public Schools Board of Trustees

Regular Board Meeting

Division Office Board Room – Whitecourt, Alberta
January 21, 2025 – 10:00 a.m.

OPENING

Call to Order and Roll Call

A. OPENING

1. Call to Order and Roll Call

The January 21, 2025, Regular Board Meeting was called to order by Board Chair Gerry Steinke at 10:00 a.m.

Present at this time: Board Chair Gerry Steinke, Trustees Jim Hailes, Judy Muir, Barb Maddigan, Deb Koloski, Les Urness, Christine Peck and Linda Wigton; and Administrators Kevin Bird, Superintendent; Tamara Spong, Secretary-Treasurer; and Nancy Whittaker, Recording Secretary. Deputy Superintendent Leslee Jodry joined the meeting at 10:04 a.m. Vice-Chair Diane Hagman was absent from the meeting.

Communications Officer Lisa Bakos was present and there was one guest in the gallery.

O Canada

2. O Canada

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

Truth and Reconciliation Statement

3. Truth and Reconciliation Statement

Trustee Barb Maddigan read the Truth and Reconciliation Statement.

Additions/Deletions to the Agenda

4. Additions/Deletions to the Agenda

Nil

Acceptance of the Agenda

5. Acceptance of the Agenda

The Agenda for the January 21, 2025, Regular Public Board Meeting was accepted as presented.

Acceptance of the Minutes

6. Acceptance of the December 17, 2024, Regular Public Board Meeting Minutes

The Minutes of the December 17, 2024 Regular Public Board Meeting were accepted as presented.

DELEGATIONS

B. DELEGATIONS

Nil

STAFF/ADMINISTRATION REPORTS/PRESENTATIONS

C. STAFF/ADMINISTRATION REPORTS and PRESENTATIONS

Nil

COMMITTEE REPORTS

D. BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS

Advocacy Committee

1. Advocacy Committee

Committee Chair Deb Koloski reviewed the January 10, 2025 Meeting Record and presented the 2024 – 25 Board Advocacy Plan and brochure. Some minor revisions will be made to the brochure.

5086-25

Moved that the Board approve the 2024 – 25 Advocacy Plan and the 2025 Advocacy Brochure, as discussed.

Motion Carried

Community Engagement

2. Community Engagement Committee

Committee Chair Linda Wigton presented the January 14, 2025 Meeting Record. The School Visits Schedule was reviewed – Board approval by motion was not required. Trustees discussed the idea of requesting presentations on specific topics versus doing a general tour of the schools.

Superintendent Bird presented the potential scope of the proposed Council of School Councils meetings. Trustees had roundtable discussion regarding the format of the meetings and whether they should be held virtually or in person.

ACTION ITEMS

E. ACTION ITEMS

Nil

INFORMATION/REPORTS

F. INFORMATION AND REPORTS

ASBA and Zone 2/3

1. Alberta School Boards Association and Zone 2/3

Trustee Wigton gave a verbal report of the zone meeting held on January 17, 2025. ASBA is advocating for Jordan’s Principle funding as shortfalls in support continues to be a province-wide issue. The Meeting Summary will be forwarded to Trustees once received. Trustee Hailes reported that discussion is continuing regarding the bus safety issue.

PSBAA/PSBC

2. Public School Boards’ Association of Alberta

Trustee Peck reported that the Political Relations Committee has met and they are discussing the same issues as ASBA regarding Jordan’s Principle funding and bus safety. Trustee Peck shared the NGPS funding chart with the Committee. PSBAA may use the chart as a guideline to share when trustees meet with MLAs and school councils.

Superintendent’s Report

3. Superintendent’s Report

Superintendent Bird presented his report to the Trustees for information and answered questions regarding the ‘Permission Click’ and the ‘Provincial Digital Assessment Platform’.

The new Valleyview school plan has been accepted and the project is construction-funded. The Knowledge Tree Early Learning & Childcare Centre will begin operating in the summer for before- and after-school care in Harry Gray Elementary, and will eventually occupy a space in the new Valleyview school.

Draft School Calendar

4. Draft School Calendar Review

Superintendent Bird presented the 2025 – 26 draft school calendar. The calendar will be on the agenda for final approval at the Regular Board Meeting on February 18, 2025. The 2026 – 27 draft calendar will be presented for information at that time.

Financial/Enrolment Reports

5. Financial and Enrolment Reports

The financial and enrolment reports for December were presented by Secretary-Treasurer Tamara Spong.

Board Work Plans

6. Board Annual and Term Work Plans

The Work Plans are up to date.

Motion Review Cycle

7. Motion Review Cycle

The Motion Review Cycle is up to date.

Upcoming Events

8. Upcoming Events

- February 10 – GSD/Finance Meeting
- February 18 – Regular Board Meeting
- February 19 and 20 – Growing the North Conference
- March 2 to 4 – Rural Education Symposium
- March 18 – Regular Board Meeting
- April 15 – Regular Board Meeting
- April 14, 24, 25 – School Visits
- May 1 – GSD Meeting following School Visits
- May 2 – School Visits

TOPICS FOR FUTURE DISCUSSIONS

G. TOPICS FOR FUTURE DISCUSSIONS

- Health Care Responsibilities (Bev Cotton, Director of Learning Supports)

REQUESTS FOR INFORMATION

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

ASBA has requested information from school divisions regarding costs from past elections.

5087-25

Moved that the Board requests that the Secretary-Treasurer provides information to the Board regarding past election costs, which can be shared with ASBA.

Motion Carried

Trustee Wigton will ask ASBA for more specifics.

MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

I.

MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

- Advocacy Committee – Advocacy Plan and Brochure
- Community Engagement Committee – Council of School Councils and School Visits
- Division-wide Professional Development Day (August)
- Valleyview Before- and After-school Childcare
- Curriculum Consultation Participation
- Bridge to Teaching Program

INFORMATION/REPORTS

J.

INFORMATION AND REPORTS (continued)

Trustee Reports

9. Trustee Reports

Trustee Urness

Attended Fox Creek Council Meeting.

Trustee Maddigan

Attended Fox Creek Council Meeting.

Trustee Wigton

Attended ASBA Zone Meeting and school councils.

Trustee Muir

Attended school council meetings. Completed four-year term on ASEBP. Recognition and condolences to the family of former Yellowhead Regional Library Chair Darril Butler who passed away earlier this month. Darril was a strong supporter of education.

Trustee Koloski

Attended Christmas dinners at Sangudo School and Elmer Elson. Attended two council meetings and the Advocacy Committee meeting.

Trustee Peck

Attended school council meetings and Onoway Children’s Health Fair Committee meeting.

Trustee Hailes

Attended Fox Creek Council Meeting with Board members – important to continue to meet.

Chair Steinke

Attended Fox Creek Council Meeting. Continuing to work with Valleyview Chamber of Commerce on the newly named 'Stay in Valleyview' bursary.

CLOSED SESSION

K. CLOSED SESSION

5088-25

Moved that the Board move to Closed Session at 12:35 p.m.

Motion Carried

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

Electronic recording stopped at 12:35 p.m.

5089-25

Moved that the Board move out of Closed Session at 1:02 p.m.

Motion Carried

ADJOURNMENT

L. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 1:02 p.m.

Board Chair

Secretary-Treasurer