

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

April 28th, 2015 - 10:00 a.m.

Board Room of the Division Office in Whitecourt, AB

Opening

A. Opening

**Call to Order
and Roll Call**

1. Call to Order and Roll Call

The April 28th, 2015 meeting was called to order by Chair Muir at 10:03 a.m.

Chair Judy Muir, Trustees Cindy Granley, Jim Hailes, Sherry Jeffreys, Albert Schalm, Terry Slemko, Beverly Smith, Gerry Steinke, and Administrators Kevin Andrea, Superintendent, Michelle Brennick, Deputy Superintendent, Michael Gramatovich, Secretary-Treasurer, and Wendy Robertson, Recording Secretary, were present at this time.

Milly McGregor, Assistant Secretary Treasurer and Lisa Bakos, Communications Officer, were present at this time.

Trustee Jim Govenlock, was absent from the meeting.

**Additions/Deletions
to the Agenda**

2. Additions/Deletions to the Agenda

- D.2.a) Alberta Library Conference – Jasper, AB
- I.4.a) Personnel
- I.4.b) Board Boundaries

Acceptance of Agenda

3056 -15

**Draft Minutes of the
April 14th, 2015
Regular Board Meeting**

3057-15

Action Items

**Group Benefits
Meeting Record**

3058-15

3059-15

3060-15

3. Acceptance of Agenda

Moved by Trustee Steinke– that the agenda for the April 28th, 2015 Regular Board Meeting be adopted as amended.

Motion Carried

**C. Draft Minutes of the April 14th, 2015
Regular Board Meeting**

Moved by Trustee Granley– that the draft minutes of the April 14th, 2015 Regular Board Meeting be adopted.

Motion Carried

D. Action Items

Group Benefits Meeting Record

Moved by Trustee Hailes – that the Board approve under EFAP a Survival Benefit Program to continue for two years for the spouse and children in the case of a staff members death, and continue to match the two year time limit for Health and Dental, effective immediately.

Motion Carried

Moved by Trustee Schalm – that the Board increase the Health Spending Account from \$350.00 to \$400.00, for all non-union employees, effective September 1st, 2015.

Moved by Trustee Schalm – that the Board defer the vote on Motion 3059-15 to the May 12th, 2015 Board Meeting.

Carried: Not Unanimous

Board voted on Motion 3059-15.

Motion Carried

Additional Action Items

**Alberta Library
Conference 2015**

3061-15

Additional Action Items

Alberta Library Conference 2015

Moved by Trustee Hailes – that the Board authorize Trustee Slemko to attend the Alberta Library Conference, scheduled for April 30th – May 3rd, 2015, Jasper, AB, and he be compensated for per diem and expenses.

Motion Carried

Information/Reports

ASBA/PSBAA Update

E. Information/Reports

ASBA/PSBAA Update

ASBA

Trustee Hailes provided a report from the April 2015 Zone 2/3 meeting:

1. Chair Report: Reminder that the May meeting is at 1:00 p.m. at the Royal West Inn, with the Zone Edwin Parr Banquet and presentations at 6:00 p.m. The Provincial Edwin Parr recognition has been downsized and will take place on the Sunday evening of the FGM.
2. Presidents Report: We need to have consistent messaging on the Provincial Budget and how it will affect Education. There must also be messaging regarding School Board Reserves and what they are used for and that their use should reflect local needs. There was a lot of discussion on the Provincial Budget.

- Consultation re: Labour Relations should start up again after the Provincial Election.
3. Advocacy Committee – New priority is assisting member Boards in putting forth their messaging. Some directions may be: training new MLAs on the role of School Boards, we need to be more proactive than one event a year and we need to make better use of Social Media. How many Trustees have a report in their school's newsletters?
 4. Board of Directors – Advocacy. Going back to predictable, sustainable and adequate funding as the key message.
 5. Edwin Parr – There were 17 nominations.
 6. School Health Report – Interesting tidbit, in a health crisis the Minister can exclude non immunized students from attendance for up to 4 weeks. Go to immunizedalberta.ca for more information.
 7. ASBA Draft Budget – Reduction in membership fee of 2%, fees for service have been increased 5%, they are not touching reserves, 9% lower budget than 2014/15, conference fees are up, membership in NSBA is not being renewed, as well as other smaller cuts to the budget.
 8. Reaction to the budget from Pembina Hills – for the 5 days before the Election PHSD will be posting a different picture each day illustrating the effect of the Provincial Budget on Children. Pictures depicting 1. - 3 hours on a bus every day, 2. – Teacher too busy to answer questions, 3. – Band class with no instruments, 4. – Student “I don't understand” and 5. – Special Needs Student “I can't do this alone”. This campaign was approved by all Boards in attendance to take back to their individual Boards for implementation.
 9. All of the proposed ASBA policy changes from zone members were vetted and feedback was given for presentation at the FGM. Trustee Gerry Steinke was the last to speak on the Full Time Kindergarten Funding. There was a lot of respect given for this presentation and made

the Boards who fund full time kindergarten rethink the outcome of what they are doing. A number of suggestions were made. Trustee Steinke will incorporate some of these ideas into his presentation and bring the final draft to the Board for approval.

PSBAA

Trustee Steinke provided a report from the April 16th – 18th, 2015 PSBAA meeting:

1. President's Report: PSBAA has offered assistance to Sturgeon Public Schools to assist the community of Legal to have a public school in its community.
2. Executive Director's Report: Spring Assembly's theme is Diversity is a Lesson Plan for Life, to be held in Red Deer on May 29th – 31st, 2015.
 - Since the Provincial government has cancelled the Speak Out conference, PSBAA has extended an invitation to the Speak Out registrants to attend the Spring Assembly. Some program adjustments will be made.
3. Northern Lights Public Schools: Northern Lights continues in a dispute with Alberta Education on how the process for the formation of a separate Roman Catholic division has been formed.
 - PSBAA will be supporting in principle NLPS in its effort regarding the establishment of a separate division in Lac La Biche.
 - A detailed report will be given at the Spring Assembly.
4. Strategic Priorities for PSBAA:
 - Priority One: to protect, promote and enhance Public School Education in Alberta.
 - Priority Two: To protect, promote enhance Public School Board Governance and Local Autonomy in Alberta.

- Priority Three: To strengthen and support the Association.
Council members then discussed goals and strategies and measures for each of the three priorities.
- 5. Reaction to Provincial Budget: President Hryniuk called participants to share how their jurisdictions are responding to the tabled 2015 provincial budget.
 - Key messages were spoken of.
 - PSBAA will be spending up to \$50,000 to educate the public on the effects of the budget.
- 6. Guest speaker: Lorna Rosen, Deputy Minister
 - Cancelled due to directive from Minister that administration is not to consult with "stakeholders" during election.

Superintendent's Report

Superintendent's Report

Written report provided.

Finance

Finance

Michael Gramatovich reviewed the following report:

- Bank Statements as of March 31st, 2015.

Randy Lovich, Director of Maintenance, entered the meeting at 12:50 p.m. Michelle Brennick, Deputy Superintendent and Lisa Bakos, Communications Officer, were not present at this time.

Appointments and Delegations

B. Appointments and Delegations

Randy Lovich, Director of Maintenance, provided a Maintenance report update:

Ongoing repairs to monthly maintenance requests to schools continues.

Update on Onoway High School New School Construction:

- 30% completion of Grade Beams
- 90 % completion on Storm Sewer Services
- 25% completion on Sanitary Lines
- 100 % completion on Piles
- Mechanical and electrical have been mobilized to site and starting on their ground work
- Site Services – completion for end of April
- Grade Beams – completion for 3rd week of May
- Masonry to start 1st to 3rd week of May

Michelle Brennick, Deputy Superintendent, returned to the meeting at 1:07 p.m.

In-Camera Items

3062-15

G. In-Camera Items

Moved by Trustee Jeffreys – that the Board go in-camera at 1:10 p.m. and that Kevin Andrea, Michelle Brennick, Michael Gramatovich, Randy Lovich and Milly McGregor, be invited to remain.

Motion Carried

Rhett Czaban, Director of Transportation, entered the meeting at 1:50 p.m.

Trustee Hailes left the meeting at 2:45 p.m.

Rhett Czaban, Director of Transportation and Randy Lovich, Director of Maintenance, left the meeting at 2:55 p.m.

3063-15

Moved by Trustee Schalm – that the Board come out of in-camera at 3:10 p.m.

Motion Carried

Information/Reports

E. Information/Reports

Lisa Bakos, Communications Officer, returned to the meeting at 3:18 p.m.

Trustee Reports

Trustee Reports

Terry Slemko

Onoway High School just completed a recent field trip. Trustee Slemko reported it was one of the best trips they have had and was very well organized. Congratulations go to the Lead Teacher.

Onoway High School Band will be performing at the "Coffee House Show Case", scheduled for this Saturday, May 2nd, 2015 from 7 – 10 p.m. All trustees are invited to attend. There will also be a "Silent Auction Fundraiser".

Gerry Steinke

Trustee Steinke attended Artsfest 2015 and said it was great.

Sherry Jeffreys

Trustee Jeffreys attended the Sangudo Artsfest and said it was great.

Sangudo School has 15 children registered for Kindergarten for the 15/16 school year.

The Sangudo Parent Council hosted the Alberta Fiddlers Association and were able to raise money from this.

Judy Muir

Chair Muir attended Artsfest in Darwell; it was very well received.

Chair Muir also attended the Alberta School Councils Conference, April 24th – 26th, Edmonton, AB. Chair Muir was impressed with the meeting and suggested sending two parent council reps from the schools participating in this event, instead of just one.

Chair Muir reported she attended the following sessions:

- Insurance for Schools
- Working with Schools to Support Students with Special Needs
- School Councils Best Practices

On Sunday, they spent time working on the Resolutions brought forward and listened to speakers present on "Shutting off the Wi-Fi Switch"

Albert Schalm

Trustee Schalm commented that the Artsfest was well done.

Mayerthorpe High School was well represented at

this past weekend's Regional Drama Festival in Spruce Grove. Two students came away with prestigious awards:

- Madi Masterson won the Outstanding Female Actor award for the Festival, and
- Sydney Walker, a Drama 30 student, won the Outstanding Costume and Makeup award.

The Mayerthorpe High Drama Evening will be held later in May.

Beverly Smith

Hillside High School put on a "Beauty and The Beast" performance; it was a great show.

Artsfest 2015 was held at Hillside High School. It was great to have the Ontario Bank Exchange students here at this time as we were able to listen to them play.

Additional Report Items

Additional Report Items

Teacher Induction is scheduled for May 7th, 2015, commencing at 5:30 p.m. at St. Joseph Hall.

School Tour Feedback:

- There are some awesome things happening in our schools.
- Would like to see what makes their school special and why kids are proud to attend that school.
- We should have a more specific agenda as to what we want to see at schools.

Trustee Hailes returned to the meeting at 3:39 p.m.

Trustee Reports

Trustee Reports

Jim Hailes

Was not an impressive Artsfest Program at Darwell School. Program was small and only about 45 minutes long and did not see the High School students participate. Trustee Hailes would prefer to have Artsfest split into two locations instead of three.

Topics for Future Discussions

F. Topics for Future Discussions

Nil

Requests for Information

G. Requests for Information

Nil

Impact of Budget

3064-15

Impact of Budget

Moved by Trustee Hailes – that the Board direct administration to post information regarding the Impact of the Provincial Budget on the NGPS Facebook page, School Websites, Twitter and the Division Webpage.

Motion Carried

Michelle Brennick, Deputy Superintendent, left the meeting at 3:51 p.m.

Meeting Highlights

H. Meeting Highlights

1. Impact of Budget 2015/16
2. Group Benefits Insurance Committee Recommendations Approved
3. Maintenance Report

Adjournment

I. Adjournment

3065-15

Moved by Trustee Steinke– that the meeting be adjourned at 4:02 p.m.

Motion Carried

Board Chair

Secretary-Treasurer