

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

October 20th, 2015 - 11:12 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 October 20th, 2015 meeting was called to order by Chair Muir at 11:12 a.m.

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

Sheila Ranslam, Assistant Superintendent and Milly McGregor, Assistant Secretary Treasurer, were present at this time.

**Additions/Deletions
to the Agenda**

2. Additions/Deletions to the Agenda

8.a) Lord's Prayer in Schools

8.b) Sensory Rooms

Acceptance of Agenda

3. Acceptance of Agenda

3198 -15

Moved by Trustee Schalm– that the agenda for the October 20th, 2015 Regular Public Board Meeting be adopted as amended.

Motion Carried

**Draft Minutes of the
October 6th, 2015
Regular Public Board
Meeting**

3199-15

Action Items

Additional Action Items

Information/Reports

ASBA/PSBAA Update

**C. Draft Minutes of the October 6th, 2015
Regular Public Board Meeting**

Moved by Trustee Hailes– that the draft minutes of the October 6th, 2015 Regular Public Board Meeting be adopted.

Motion Carried

D. Action Items

Nil

Additional Action Items

Nil

E. Information/Reports

ASBA/PSBAA Update

ASBA

No report

***ASBA Input into Minister’s Teacher Bargaining
Consultations:***

Provided for information.

Letter from Northern Lights:

Provided for information.

Letter from Red Deer Public Schools:

Provided for information.

Letter from Golden Hills School Division:

Provided for information.

PSBAA

No report

Stephanie Damery, Jennifer Ferguson and Lana Brand, Learning Service Coordinators, entered the meeting at 11:26 a.m.

Appointments and Delegations

B. Appointments and Delegations

Stephanie Damery, Jennifer Ferguson, Learning Service Coordinators, presented the 2014-2015 PAT and Diploma results to the Board of Trustees.

The report showed Northern Gateway Public Schools' strengths and areas of weakness. Meeting times will be scheduled with each school to discuss the results and the go forward plans to address areas of concern and to build upon areas of strengths.

Stephanie Damery, Jennifer Ferguson and Lana Brand, Learning Service Coordinators, left the meeting at 1:24 p.m.

Information/Reports

E. Information/Reports

Superintendent's Report

Superintendent's Report

Written report provided for information.

Additional report items:

Michelle Brennick, Deputy Superintendent, presented the proposed Agenda for the Council of School Councils meeting:

The day is structured as a "Learning platform for School Councils and COSCs (Council of School Councils.) The day begins at 9:45 a.m. and ends at 2:45 p.m.

Topics for the Board of Trustees Facilitated Session were discussed and agreed upon:

- The Role of the Parent (in the new Education Act)
- Parental involvement with the school – what this means to you?
- What is the legislation for School Councils?
- How do we build a culture of student achievement?

ECD Mapping Project:

The Early Child Development (ECD) Mapping Initiative was a province-wide, five-year research project activity looking at the factors that may influence healthy child development. The results of the Initiative were used to support communities and families in ensuring that all children had the best possible start in life. Northern Gateway had participated in this project.

With the conclusion of the research project, government is exploring options for the most effective structure for continuing this work in the future. In the interim, there will be bridge funding to support the work of community coalitions to the end of December 2015. Government has also committed resources to assist with overall coordination of the coalitions.

Alberta Education has designated the ECD mapping as being optional in this round. Northern

Gateway has chosen not to participate this time, but if there is significant pushback from Alberta Ed; we may have no choice but to participate. Administration will keep the Board updated if this situation should occur.

Finance Position

Finance Position

Written report provided for information.

ASBIE Insurance

ASBIE Insurance

Written report provided for information.

ASCA Announces New Executive Director

ASCA Announces New Executive Director

Written report provided for information.

Requests for Information

Requests for Information

Workload shifts in Principal teaching time:

Administration provided a written report.

Additional Report Items

Additional Report Items

Lord`s Prayer in Schools

The issue continues to arise across Alberta, where individual public school districts set their own policies on religion in the classroom. Some districts allow prayer with various restrictions, while others specifically prohibit the practice.

Recently Pembina Hills School Division was challenged by a parent raising a concern about the recitation of the Lord's Prayer.

The province's rules governing prayer in public schools date back to 1905, when the federal government allowed the province and Saskatchewan to maintain protection for school prayer with their entry into Confederation.

School Act – Section 50 – Religious and patriotic instruction.

Administration provided a handout showing the practice of Northern Gateway schools regarding the recitation of the Lord's Prayer and will have discussions with school administration to see if they wish to continue this practice in their school. If practice continues the Board may need to make a motion to allow this to continue in our schools.

Sensory Rooms:

Administration provided a handout showing if Northern Gateway schools had a sensory room and if so what was it used for and how often.

Trustee Reports

Trustee Reports

Terry Slemko

The Town of Onoway held a by-election to fill two vacant positions on town council on October 16th, 2015.

Onoway Elementary Parent Council discussed if the Grade 7 students should remain at the Elementary School or be part of the High School. Some of the parents in attendance wanted the Grade 7 students to stay in the Elementary School.

The new Onoway High School build is moving along and is almost all covered in now.

Trustee Slemko attended the Onoway High School Award night on Friday, October 16th, 2015.

Trustee Slemko reported that the Woodlands County signed 6 one-room schools:

Fort Assiniboine
Clearwater
Pride Valley
Topland
Klondyke
Freeman River
Buller.

Gerry Steinke

Trustee Steinke was invited to attend the Early Childhood Development Coalition meeting. This coalition was just formed and had approximately 100 people in attendance at this meeting.

The speaker at the meeting was Dr. Debbie Pushor, Professor, University of Saskatchewan. Dr. Pushor spoke about Family Engagement. Trustee Steinke advised administration that Dr. Pushor would be an excellent speaker to have at a Northern Gateway function.

Sherry Jeffreys

Trustee Jeffreys reported that the Sangudo Parent Council still have questions regarding transportation.

13 students are registered in the Sangudo Pre-School to date.
Sangudo Parent Council have put together a Parent Council Handbook. ASCA (Alberta School

Council Association attended the Parent Council meeting to do a presentation.

Administration to discuss with the Director of Transportation concerns raised regarding ride time comparisons, etc.

Albert Schalm

Trustee Schalm forward an email to all trustees regarding the October 28th MLA Function for their information.

Trustee Schalm attended the Mayerthorpe High School Awards night and was impressed with the number of awards going out.

The Mayerthorpe High School Parent Council has an executive this year and are looking forward to seeing the change in the new Board Awarded Scholarships AP.

Trustee Schalm also attended the Elmer Elson Elementary Parent Council Meeting.

Judy Muir

Chair Muir reported that Darwell School added a new piece to their playground equipment and put in a concrete court for Pickleball. The seniors will be able to use this court and will be teaching the students how to play.

Chair Muir attended the Onoway High School Awards Night and Parent Council Meeting. The OHS Parent Council is growing and now has two students attending.

Topics for Future Discussions

F. Topics for Future Discussions

Nil

Requests for Information

G. Requests for Information

Nil

Meeting Highlights

H. Meeting Highlights

1. Organizational Meeting
2. Council of School Councils Meeting
3. 2014-2015 PAT and DIP Presentation

In-Camera Items

I. In-Camera Items

Nil

Adjournment

J. Adjournment

3200-15

Moved by Trustee Schalm – that the meeting be adjourned at 3:04 p.m.

Motion Carried

Board Chair

Secretary-Treasurer