

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

February 23, 2016 – 10:00 a.m.

Board Room of the Division Office in Whitecourt, AB

Welcome to Visiting Students

1. Welcome to Visiting Students

Chair Muir welcomed Trista St. Martin's grade six students from Percy Baxter School. The students came to observe a Board Meeting as part of their unit on local government.

Introductions were made around the Board table. Chair Muir explained the Board Meeting procedures. Students were told that the Board would take a break at 11:00 a.m. and answer any questions they had.

Opening

A. Opening

Call to Order and Roll Call

1. Call to Order and Roll Call

The February 23rd, 2016 meeting was called to order by Chair Muir at 10:07 a.m.

Chair Judy Muir, Trustees, Jim Govenlock, Cindy Granley, Jim Hailes, Sherry Jeffreys, Albert Schalm, Robyn O'Neill, Gerry Steinke, and Administrators Kevin Andrea, Superintendent, Michelle Brennick, Deputy Superintendent, Michael Gramatovich, Secretary-Treasurer, Milly McGregor, Assistant Secretary-Treasurer, and Gloria Kirsch, Recording Secretary, were present at this time.

Lisa Bakos, Communications Officer, was present at this time.

Trustee Terry Slemko was absent from this meeting.

Additions/Deletions to the Agenda

2. Additions/Deletions to the Agenda

I. 3. A) Legal Matter

Acceptance of Agenda

3. Acceptance of Agenda

3280-16

Moved by Trustee Jeffreys – that the agenda for the February 23rd, 2016 Regular Board Meeting be adopted as amended.

Motion Carried

Draft Minutes of the February 9th, 2016 Regular Board Meeting

C. Draft Minutes of the February 9th, 2016 Regular Board Meeting

3281-16

Moved by Trustee Schalm – that the draft minutes of the February 9th, 2016 Regular Board Meeting be adopted.

Motion Carried

Action Items

**Hilltop High School
Field Trip**

3282-16

**Hillside High School
Field Trip**

3283-16

**Trustee Request to be Absent
From Board Meetings**

3284-16

D. Action Items

Hilltop High School Field Trip

Moved by Trustee Govenlock – that the Board approve in full Hilltop High School’s international field trip , Science and Arts Tour of London, England scheduled for March 24th – April 3rd, 2016.

Motion Carried

Hillside High School Field Trip

Moved by Trustee Steinke – that the Board approve in full the Hillside Jr./Sr. High international field trip, “Free the Children Community”, Nicaragua, scheduled for March 25th – April 1st, 2016.

Motion Carried

Trustee Request to be Absent from Board Meetings

Trustee Govenlock excused himself and left the meeting room.

Moved by Trustee Schalm – that the Board approve Trustee Govenlock’s request to potentially be absent for three consecutive Board meetings; April 5, 19, and May 10, 2016.

Motion Carried

Trustee Govenlock returned to the meeting room.

Director of Maintenance, Randy Lovich, arrived at 10:25 a.m.

Additional Action Items

Additional Action Items

Nil

Appointments and Delegations

B. Appointments and Delegations

Maintenance Report

The Maintenance Department is concentrating on the smaller items.

The small amount of snow this year has been good for the Maintenance Department budget.

Director of Maintenance Randy Lovich will be talking to principals and putting together an IMR list to share with Superintendent Andrea.

The NGPS Support Services Building renovation is coming along well.

The Maintenance Department has received four applications for an advertisement they posted for a journeyman carpenter in Valleyview.

New Onoway High School Project

The new Onoway High School is 57% complete. The modulars for the new school will be delivered in early March. June 6 is the scheduled date for moving over equipment from the old school's cafeteria and music room – have staff in place to help with the move. The demolition of the old school will begin on July 11.

Mayerthorpe High School Renovation Project

The Mayerthorpe High School renovation contractor issues have been resolved.

Snow and Ice Removal From School Parking Lots

Trustee Hailes asked about the process for putting sand down on site parking lots because of ice. Director of Maintenance Lovich explained that schools need to phone the Maintenance Department and request the sand. There are contractors and Maintenance staff in place to take care of this. Most municipalities will not do snow removal or sanding of school parking lots. Chair Muir suggested this should be put on the agenda when the Board meets next with municipalities.

Information on Exterior Requests From Schools

Director of Maintenance Lovich directed the Board to the list of Playground and Exterior Grounds Current or Future Requests from schools. It is a list of needs for school exteriors – parking lots paving, storage, etc. All schools are represented on the list and Director of Maintenance Lovich has added the approximate cost of each request to the list. The total cost was approximately \$6,981,500.00.

The Board needs to continue to lobby government to provide funding for exterior needs for schools.

Pat Hardy Primary School Playground

The Pat Hardy Primary School playground was vandalized. The Maintenance Department has been trying to find replacement parts to fix the equipment so it will be CSA certified.

Our insurance deductible is \$25,000.00.

Superintendent Andrea explained that Secretary-Treasurer Gramatovich is looking into the feasibility of having our Maintenance Department repair the equipment themselves instead of trying to find CSA approved parts.

Trustees wanted to know if there are cameras on our school playgrounds. There are some schools that have cameras but not all. Usually RCMP can't use videos to identify people because of hoods, etc. that cover faces. Trustees felt that signs warning that there are video cameras might be a deterrent. Superintendent Andrea directed Director of Maintenance Lovich to purchase warning signs and post them on all Division property.

Step Program

Trustees wanted to know if the Division will be able to hire students for the summer. Yes, the Maintenance Department will be posting an advertisement.

Director of Maintenance Randy Lovich left the meeting at 10:55 a.m.

Learning Services Coordinators Jennifer Ferguson and Debbie Vance arrived at 10:55 a.m.

Information/Reports

ASBA/PSBAA Update

E. Information Reports

ASBA/PSBAA Update

ASBA

Trustee Hailes reported that there is no update on the proposed by law yet.

It appears that the policy is going in the direction that Northern Gateway trustees wish it to. Hoping to see the draft policy soon.

If there are any other suggestions for additions they should be submitted to ASBA as soon as possible. Trustee Steinke suggested that ECS funding should be added to see if ASBA would be able to push this initiative forward. Will bring this to the next Board Meeting for discussion.

PSBAA

Nil

Appointments and Delegations

B. Appointments and Delegations

Learner Pathways Presentation

Learning Services Coordinators Jennifer Ferguson and Debbie Vance will be giving a presentation at the Alberta Rural Education Symposium – March 6th – 8th.

Trustees were given a preview of the powerpoint presentation.

There is a link at the end of the presentation that allows feedback from other school jurisdictions.

There is a concern that we are losing the ability to talk one-on-one because of digital technology. A study showed that a generation ago students had a vocabulary of 30,000 words now they only have 10,000 words.

Learning Services Coordinators Jennifer Ferguson and Debbie Vance left the meeting at 11:05 a.m.

Break for Student Question and Answer

Break for Student Question and Answer

Trista St. Martin's grade six students were allowed to ask the trustees questions.

Chair Muir presented the students and Ms. St. Martin gifts as they left the meeting at 11:24 a.m.

Information/Reports

ASBA/PSBAA Update

Superintendent's Report

Finance

**Summary of 2014-15
Innovation Grants**

E. Information Reports

ASBA/PSBAA Update

Municipal Government Act – ASBA Letter to Ministers

The draft of the Municipal Government Act was sent out to school boards to see if there are any concerns.

Superintendent's Report

Written report provided for information.

Decision was made that a Board photo will be taken at the next meeting when all trustees are in attendance.

Finance

Written report provided for information.

Summary of 2014-15 Innovation Grants

Written summary had been prepared and was distributed to Board members at the meeting.

Learning Services monitored all projects. Some projects were given extensions and will be completed by the end of this year

Trustees were asked to send any questions they had to Superintendent Andrea.

Grade 4 Supply Lists

Grade 4 Supply Lists

Superintendent Andrea explained that the Board discusses supply lists every year due to parent complaints they receive. Grade four principals were asked to meet and come up with one Division wide supply list.

Principals reported that the task was not an easy one as they had to deal not only with different supply lists from each school but personal preferences from each grade four teacher.

The aim was to have one supply list for all grade four parents no matter what school their child attends in Northern Gateway. If teachers have personal preferences above what is on the common supply list, the school will have to provide those items to the students.

This process will have to be repeated at every grade level.

Superintendent Andrea asked for clarification on what the body corporate is looking for when it comes to supply lists.

Chair Muir felt this was not something principals should be spending their time on.

Yellowhead Regional Library Report

Yellowhead Regional Library Report

A written report was provided for information.

3285-16

Moved by Trustee Govenlock – that the Board accept Information/Reports E1-E6 as information.

Motion Carried

Topics for Future Discussions

F. Topics for Future Discussions

1. Discussion on appropriate amounts of surpluses and reserves. This should be part of budget discussions.

Requests for Information

G. Requests for Information

Nil

Meeting Highlights

H. Meeting Highlights

1. Visiting Grade 6 Students
2. Dual Credit: Learner Pathways Presentation
3. Field Trips
4. Draft Administrative Procedures

In-Camera Items

G. In-Cameral Items

3286-16

Moved by Trustee Schalm – that the Board go in-camera at 1:55 p.m. and that Kevin Andrea, Michelle Brennick, Mike Gramatovich and Milly McGregor be invited to remain.

Motion Carried

Trustee Steinke declared a conflict and left the meeting at 2:12 p.m.

3287-16

Moved by Trustee Jeffreys – that the Board come out of in-camera at 2:23 p.m.

Motion Carried

Adjournment

3288-16

I. Adjournment

Moved by Trustee Granley - that the meeting be adjourned at 2:24 p.m.

Motion Carried

Board Chair

Secretary-Treasurer