

Minutes of the Organizational Meeting of Northern Gateway Public Schools

October 28th, 2014 - 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 October 28th, 2014 meeting was called to order at 10:04 a.m.

Trustees Jim Govenlock, Cindy Granley, Jim Hailes, Sherry Jeffreys, Judy Muir, Albert Schalm, Beverly Smith, Gerry Steinke, and Administrators Kevin Andrea, 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.

Michelle Brennick, Deputy Superintendent and Trustee Terry Slemko were absent from the meeting.

Metho

2. Additions/Deletions to the Agenda

E.13.a) Cost of Rebranding Packages

Acceptance of Agenda

3. Acceptance of Agenda

2925-14

Moved by Trustee Granley – that the agenda for the October 14th, 2014 Regular Board Meeting be adopted as amended.

Motion Carried

**Draft Minutes of the
October 2nd, 2014
Regular Board Meeting**

**C. Draft Minutes of the October 2nd, 2014
Regular Board Meeting**

2926-14

Moved by Trustee Hailes– that the draft minutes of the October 2nd, 2014 Regular Board Meeting be adopted.

Motion Carried

Jim Rennie, Mayor, Woodlands County and Rhett Czaban, Director of Transportation, entered the meeting at 10:10 a.m.

Mayor, Maryann Chichak, Town of Whitecourt, was absent from the meeting.

**Appointments &
Delegations**

B. Appointments & Delegations

Jim Rennie, Mayor, Woodlands County, advised that Barbara Stegemann will be coming to Whitecourt to speak on March 2nd, 2014 and would also be willing to speak to students at Hilltop High School, at no cost, with the Boards' approval. She has also agreed to a private lunch with a few students and local trustees.

Barbara Stegemann's entrepreneurial vision was formed after her best friend, a soldier, was

severely wounded in Afghanistan. Understanding that supporting Afghanistan's economy was a key to building stability for its people, Stegemann created "The 7 Virtues Beauty" – a company that sources organic oils from countries experiencing turmoil (such as Afghanistan, Haiti and the Middle East) to encourage change and to reverse the effects of war and poverty. Stegemann became known to millions when she landed a venture-capital deal on the CBC TV show Dragons' Den for The 7 Virtues Beauty.

Trades, Technology and Innovation Center:

Woodlands County Mayor, Jim Rennie, presented to the Board a proposal for a Center for Innovation in the Whitecourt area. This project is intended to be a partnership between the Woodlands County, the Town of Whitecourt, NorQuest College, the local school systems and industry to promote creative, innovative and sustainable partnerships that will provide a state of the art facility in the area of career training, performing arts and adult learning. One of the key attractions to students in the school systems will be to access dual credit opportunities where high school students can earn post-secondary credits while completing high school programming. This will make the transition into the world of work easier with the additional benefit of having students' access employment opportunities in the local community.

Alberta Dual Credit (Provincial Dual Credit Strategy):

Debbie Vance, Dual Credit Administrator, College of Alberta School Superintendents (CASS) presented on the Alberta Dual Credit Strategy.

The Government of Alberta has identified six priority initiatives, including education and entrepreneurship, as the cornerstones of a dynamic Alberta economy. The Provincial Dual Credit Strategy contributes to, and aligns with, the mandate and creates more opportunities for students to earn credits in high school and post-secondary institutions at the same time, as well as opportunities for preferred placement (post-secondary course exemption) and workplace certification.

The Provincial Dual Credit Strategy assists school jurisdictions, post-secondary institutions, and business and industry or community partners in expanding or creating dual credit opportunities that:

- engage students in their learning through pathways that open their possible futures;
- motivate students to finish high school;
- inspire students to learn, work and live in the local community, and
- give students the confidence to transition from high school to post-secondary and/or the workplace.

Jim Rennie and Debbie Vance, completed their presentations and left the meeting at 10:51 a.m.

Student Learning Assessment (SLA)

Roger Lacey, Director of Learning Services/Lana Brand, Learning Services Coordinator

Administration provided an update on the Student Learning Assessment (SLA) pilot. Student Learning Assessments, or SLAs, are a new assessment tool the province is providing to help students with their learning. Parts of the

assessments are digital (taken on a computer or tablet), while others can be finished using a pencil and paper. The SLA's are currently in pilot and will replace Provincial Achievement Tests over the next three years.

The SLAs are comprised of Literacy and Numeracy assessments. Each assessment has two parts: Digital and Performance Task.

This is a pilot project and feedback from parents and teachers as well as school administration will be gathered throughout the year.

More information regarding these assessments can be found at:
<http://education.alberta.ca/department/ipr/curriculum/student-learning-assessments/parents.aspx>

The Board also received a presentation on sample assessment questions:
<https://public.education.alberta.ca/assessment/Home>

October 2014 Accountability Report

Copy of report provided for information.

Transportation – Bussing

Rhett Czaban, Director of Transportation provided an update on bussing.

- Rhett reported it was an interesting startup this September with the children and drivers in all communities.
- Contractors are reporting there is a shortage of drivers. We try to accommodate the drivers when they need to attend doctor appointments, etc.

- Our contractor First Student will have a new person (Barb) in charge starting next Tuesday.
- Meeting with drivers to let them know we need to perform well as they haven't been. Too many fumbles are happening too often. Rhett is not please with this performance.
- Barb needs to let Rhett know if busses are not running, need to have good communication.
- Rhett has had several conversations with Barb about fulfilling the obligations of the contract and unsatisfactory service will not continue.

Children on Busses and 65 Year Old Drivers:

On October 30, 2012 the Board passed Motion No. 2435-12: "that bus operators be permitted to allow their children to accompany them on a school bus according to the terms and conditions as outlined in the application form (attached).

Rhett advised that if drivers are not performing well or are distracted by their child, they will be asked to remove this child from the bus. Drivers need to know this is a privilege and not a right. If an issued arises Rhett will follow up with contractor/principal and may also talk with the driver.

Rhett advised we have at least 10 children on the busses under the age of 5.

All bus drivers over age 65 are evaluated each year.

ASBA Zone 2/3 – Transportation Audit:

Request for information on Transportation Audits from ASBA will be completed by Rhett Czaban, Director of Transportation. This arose from Elk Island Public Schools transportation department being audited and not being compliant with the National Safety Code – Transport Canada.

Rhett informed that Northern Gateway’s transportation department has been compliant with the National Safety Code for approximately the last 5 years.

Rhett Czaban, Director of Transportation, completed his report and left the meeting at 12:10 p.m.

Action Items

Distribution of New Testament Bibles

2927-14

D. Action Items

Distribution of New Testament Bibles

Moved by Trustee Hailes – that the Board approve the distribution of new testament bibles to grade 5 students within the Northern Gateway School Division.

Motion Carried

Additional Action Items

Additional Action Items

Nil

Information/Reports

E. Information/Reports

ASBA/PSBAA Update

ASBA/PSBAA Update

ASBA

Reimagining School Board Governance PowerPoint presentation by Jim Gibbons provided for information.

PSBAA

PSBAA Fall General Meeting is scheduled for October 15th – 17th, 2014

Superintendent's Report

Superintendent's Report

Written report provided.

Administration to advise school administrators that all Draft Admin Procedures are to be shared at School Council meetings.

ASBIE 2014/15 Insurance

ASBIE 2014/15 Insurance

Report provided for information only.

Health Spending Account History

Health Spending Account History

Report provided for information only.

Capital Project Announcement

Capital Project Announcement

In the fall 2014, the Government of Alberta committed \$263.2 million in funding, over two years, for school projects across the province. This includes funding for 12 new starter schools, dozens of modular classrooms, as well as funding for the planning and design of 55 new and expanded schools, and for planning 20 modernized schools. It also includes an increase to infrastructure and maintenance funding to help school boards address their most pressing deferred maintenance needs.

System Administration and Support Concern

System Administration and Support Concern

Organizational Review – Prepared by Warren Phillips – May 2009 (updated 13/14) provided for information.

Administration advised the issue of Division Office staffing has been addressed before. The list of staff was reviewed and was noted of the positions that are vacant and have not been filled.

System Administration is 4 – 6 % of the total budget and we are at approximately 4.8 % currently. Administration advised they operate on a balanced budget and will continue to operate a balanced budget.

Fox Creek Awards Night

Fox Creek Awards Night

The Fox Creek Awards Night has been rescheduled to November 14th, 2014 at 7:00 p.m.

Trustee School Tours Schedule Change

Trustee School Tours Schedule Change

Trustees were given two options for February 20th, 2014. They chose option B with the start time of 9:00 a.m. and end time of 2:45 p.m.

School Calendar (Draft) 2015-2016

School Calendar (Draft) 2015-2016

Calendar will be sent out to schools for review and feedback.

Enrolment Report

Enrolment Report

Provided for information.

Suspension Report

Suspension Report

Provided for information.

Additional Report Items

Additional Report Items

Cost of Rebranding Packages

Cost of Rebranding Packages

Administration provided the cost of the rebranding packages sent out to each parents of students.

- Packages \$3.67 per package
- Bag .21 cents each
- Pen .35 cents each
- Notebook 1.41 each
- Magnet 1.35 each
- Brand Story .35 cents each

3028 x \$3.67 = \$11,112.76 in total

Total cost of rebranding to date is approximately \$108,000.00

Meeting Highlights

F. Meeting Highlights

1. Presentations (3)
2. Draft School Calendar 2015 - 2016
3. Annual Staff Appreciation Evening



Adjournment

2928-14

G. Adjournment

Moved by Trustee Schalm – that the meeting be adjourned at 2:26 p.m.

Motion Carried

Board Chair

Secretary-Treasurer