

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

January 27, 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 January 27th, 2015 meeting was called to order by Chair Muir at 10:01 a.m.

Chair Judy Muir, Trustees Jim Govenlock, 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.

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

Milly McGregor, Assistant Secretary Treasurer, was absent from the meeting.

**Additions/Deletions
to the Agenda**

2. Additions/Deletions to the Agenda

E.11.a) Letter from ADM
E.11.b) Onoway High School

Acceptance of Agenda

3. Acceptance of Agenda

2995 -15

Moved by Trustee Hailes – that the agenda for the January 27th, 2015 Regular Board Meeting be adopted as amended.

Motion Carried

**Draft Minutes of the
January 13th, 2015
Regular Board Meeting**

2996-15

Action Items

**Hilltop High School
International
Field Trip**

2997-15

Additional Action Items

Information/Reports

ASBA/PSBAA Update

**C. Draft Minutes of the January 13th, 2015
Regular Board Meeting**

Moved by Trustee Granley– that the draft minutes of the January 13th, 2015 Regular Board Meeting be adopted.

Motion Carried

D. Action Items

Hilltop High School International Field Trip

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

Motion Carried

Additional Action Items

Nil

E. Information/Reports

ASBA/PSBAA Update

ASBA

Trustee Govenlock report on the ASBA Zone 2/3 meeting held on Friday, January 23rd, 2015.

- Sarah Hoffman, Edmonton Public, resigned with Michael Janz taking her place.
- Cheryl Dumont, Chair, Zone 2/3 will be absent on medical leave.
- There were a number of presenters including: Wayne McNeil, founder of Respect in Sport, spoke on Respect in School. This program is an on-line bullying, abuse, harassment and neglect prevention program for all school-based leaders. Provincial Government will fund up to \$4000.00 for schools, in a pilot program.

Rhett Czaban, Director of Transportation, entered the meeting at 10:09 a.m.

- Another presenter was a young mother from an Edmonton Catholic School. She presented on Wi-Fi in schools and the electromagnetic radiation health danger it causes.
- A presentation on Brain Development and Sharing and how many adverse childhood experiences cause more learning problems.
- Jim Gibbons presented on the draft of the new regulations.
- Scott McCormick reported only two Boards have responded on the new Home Education regulations.

Sheila Ranslam, Assistant Superintendent, entered the meeting at 10:21 a.m.

- Administration to write a letter of support to the Minister of Education on regulations, but waiting to see what ASBA's response is first. Draft response will be sent to all trustees for review before submitting on the January 31st deadline.

PSBAA

Next Public School Board Council meeting is scheduled for February 5th – 7th, 2015.

PSBAA has sent out two letters, one on the Draft Regulations and the Establishment of Separate School Division.

Appointments & Delegations

B. Appointments & Delegations

Rhett provided two handouts: Driver Shortage Overview from 1996 to Present and School Bus Service Cancellations. (Attached for information)

Rhett also reviewed a Power Point presentation: School Bus Driver Shortages in Alberta – September – December 2014. (Attached for information)

Rhett Czaban, Director of Transportation, presented to the Board an update on the bussing situation in Whitecourt.

Mr. Czaban advised that as of late Friday afternoon, January 23rd, 2015, bus route 102 was eliminated. 40 students from bus route 102 will be riding a new bus effective Monday, January 26th, 2015: 20 to bus route 105 and 20 to bus route 106. A letter will be sent out to parents outlining the process that took place and apologizing for any inconvenience this short notice may have caused.

A number of meetings have taken place between Northern Gateway and First Student to review the situation and possible solutions. Northern Gateway administration will be meeting with Brett Harris, First Student Area Manager, Winnipeg, to further discuss the current situation.

Rhett Czaban, Director of Transportation, and Sheila Ranslam, Assistant Superintendent, left the meeting at 11:29 a.m.

Superintendent's Report

Superintendent's Report

Written report provided.

Additional report items:

Budget:

With the delays of the Legislature it may be possible we could be looking at a May budget. With such a late budget, we would need to look at our staffing. We may ask principals to base their staffing on last year's budget figures. Northern Gateway administration would meet with each school/site individually as usual. Teacher Framework 3% increase must be addressed with all schools.

ATA Agreement:

Document was to be completed and sent out to Northern Gateway over a year ago. Northern Gateway does not have the document from the ATA who was to prepare the document. Scott McCormick has advised Northern Gateways is next to be updated and we should receive something this week.

- Grasmere School has reported one student may have contracted Scarlet Fever. This is currently being verified with Alberta Health Services.
- Google Summit will be taking place on March 5th and 6th, 2015 in Whitecourt.
- Trustees and administration met with the Town of Valleyview Council on January 20th, 2015.

Town Council has asked Northern Gateway to send them a letter in regards to student safety crossing the highway and installing crosswalks.

C2 Committee Meeting:

The C2 Committee met on January 21st, 2015 to review and discuss work that has been done and the continuation of the process.

Michelle Brennick advised that the ATA Local does not have enough funds to support ongoing face to face C2 Committee meetings. Northern Gateway will cover one meeting this year. Meetings will continue via Video-Conference.

Two new members joined the C2 Committee: Joe Shelast, Education Manager, Zone 2/3, replaces Jerry Tymkow as the meeting facilitator and Trustee Jim Hailes replaces Trustee Jim Govenlock.

For the two new members of the committee, it was reviewed what has been done so far. A priority framework template was introduced and reviewed. Each committee member was given two priorities to work on and present at the next meeting.

Finance

Finance

Michael Gramatovich reviewed the following report:

- Bank Statements as at December 31st, 2014.

Student Curricular Fees

Student Curricular Fees

Report provided for information.

- The School Act allows for certain fees to be collected, but does not describe what schools can charge for which causes administration confusion.
- Do we have any control over what is collected? for SGF from students? How do we get all schools consistent as to what is being charged for, is it even possible?
- There is a high discrepancy from school to school as to what is being charged.
- Trustee Steinke requested an itemized list of what the Mandatory Student Curricular Fees are being spent on. This information was presented at the April 9th, 2014 Board meeting to the trustees, but Trustee Steinke wants to compare reports to see if there has been any improvement.

2998-15

Moved by Trustee Steinke– that the Board direct administration to collect further expenditure details regarding the Mandatory Curricular Fees for 2013 – 2014.

Motion Defeated

Alberta Ed Letter - Modular Classroom

Alberta Ed Letter – Modular Classroom

Northern Gateway administration received a letter of final approval for the construction of the new Onoway Jr/Sr High School, with Binder Construction Ltd. being the successful tender. Plans are in the works for a ground breaking ceremony in the spring of 2015. Expected project completion is for September of 2016.

Letter provided for information.

Future Committee Meeting Dates

Future Committee Meeting Dates

Ad Hoc Awards Committee Meeting was rescheduled from January 29 @ 10:00 a.m. to February 3 @ 10:00 a.m.

Advocacy and Policy Committee meeting dates to stay the same.

The new Regulations may make it necessary for the Policy Committee to meet and review current policies.

Administration to work with ASBA to confirm a date to review the new Regulations. The proposed review dates of February 11th and 13th have been cancelled.

Town of Whitecourt - Southlands School Site

Town of Whitecourt – Southlands School Site

Letter provided for information.

Administration received a letter from Robert Craig, Senior Education Manager, stating he had received a letter from the Town of Whitecourt with a school site plan of the Athabasca Flats school reserve site. Mr. Craig believes the site plan was drawn up by the Town of Whitecourt. Northern Gateway was not involved in this process, and does not know whether this site will meet the needs for a future school site; such as if a bus route or size of roads were contemplated in the plan.

Administration to have further discussions with the Town of Whitecourt on this site plan.

Minister's Meeting Report

Minister's Meeting Report

Alberta Education Minister Gordon Dirks is meeting with school boards across Alberta to discuss education issues. Board Chair Judy Muir and Northern Gateway Superintendent, Kevin Andrea met with the Education Minister on January 21st, 2015. Boards were asked to provide two or three examples of how their division is working to meet the goals of Inspiring Education, plus a brief review of two key challenges faced by their division. Northern Gateway's three examples of Inspiring Education were: Jigsaw Learning, High School Redesign and Curriculum Redesign. The challenges are: Funding Formula and Supernet. Other issues discussed were the weight of diploma exams and the new school projects the province announced in October of last year.

Staff Liaison Committee Meeting Record

Staff Liaison Committee Meeting Record

Committee Chair Cindy Granley reviewed the meeting record. No changes were made.

Letter has been sent out thanking the Committee representatives and also asking for any agenda items. Depending on the responses, a decision will be made when this Committee will be reactivated or maybe dissolved.

Trustee Reports

Trustee Reports

Albert Schalm

Schools were happy to receive the Innovation Grant funds from Division Office.

Trustee Schalm was pleased to see a very positive response from Mayerthrope High School parents and students at the inaugural information meeting promoting the international field trip to, France,

England and the Netherlands, planned for April 2017.

Jim Govenlock

Trustee Govenlock was asking if any feedback was received from School Councils on agenda topics for the Family of School Councils meeting scheduled for March 9th, 2015.

George VanderBurg's Annual General Meeting Dinner is being held February 6th, 2015.

Sherry Jeffreys

Trustee Jeffreys met with the Sangudo (CDC) Community Development Council. The CDC would like to be more proactive rather than reactive when it comes to the school within the community. The CDC would like to meet with the NGRD Board and administration to strengthen the relationship between them. They have some really great, positive ideas for the betterment of the community, school and Division.

Cindy Granley

Trustee Granley commented we have some very good parent councils in our schools.

Whitecourt Central School held an EPIC Night on January 24th, 2015 to raise funds for a new playground. The event was a sell-out and it will be interesting to see how much was raised.

Gerry Steinke

Trustee Steinke continues to be concerned by the Trustee Survey by Alberta Education. Trustees are not provided with the questions ahead of time and there is no on-line survey application.

Questions are repetitive and irrelevant. Trustee Steinke finds this survey process inappropriate.

Terry Slemko

Trustee Slemko finds great value from receiving the school newsletters; gives him a sense of what is happening in the schools.

Onoway High School Grad students/parents are holding a Fashion Show in February to raise funds for graduation.

Trustee Slemko visited Richard Bilodeau who has received extensive surgery for cancer. He is doing as well as can be expected.

Additional Report Items

Grant Monies

Additional Report Items

Grant Monies

Administration received an email from the Assistant Deputy Minister stating that some boards/or schools have policies in place that compensate students for completing courses. He wanted to remind school jurisdictions that the intended use of education grants is to support approved education programs and support services related to children and students in ECS to Grade 12.

If our jurisdiction or school(s) has policies in place where students are being compensated solely for completing a certain number of credits or credit enrolment units in a given school year or over the course of their high school career, this practice must stop immediately.

Northern Gateway has two schools; Mayerthorpe High School and Hillside High School that continue with this practice. Administration to consult with these two schools.

Trustees asked what has changed for the ADM to bring this action forward.

2999-15

Moved by Trustee Steinke– that the Board direct administration to respond to the Assistant Deputy Minister regarding the improper use of Education Grant monies.

Motion Carried

New Onoway High School

New Onoway High School

Northern Gateway administration received a letter of final approval for the construction of the new Onoway Jr/Sr High School with Binder Construction Ltd. being the successful tender. Plans are in the works for a ground breaking ceremony in the spring of 2015. Expected project completion is for September of 2016.

Topics for Future Discussions

F. Topics for Future Discussions

1. Strategic Plan Catholic Issues – full time funding for Kindergarten placing pressure on Public Schools
2. Offer Full Time Kindergarten in all our facilities (Administration to look at costs for this)
3. Bussing for Colony Students
4. Sangudo School Facility Report

Requests for Information

G. Requests for Information

1. Transportation Report – information needs to be sent to Trustees ahead of time.

Meeting Highlights

H. Meeting Highlights

1. New OHS High School
2. Hilltop High School International Field Trip
3. C2 Committee Meeting Report
4. Modular Classroom Pat Hardy Primary
5. Transportation Report
6. Meeting with the Minister

Lisa Bakos, Communications Officer, left the meeting at 2:28 p.m.

In-Camera Items

G. In-Camera Items

3000-15

Moved by Trustee Jeffreys – that the Board go in-camera at 2:28 p.m. and that Kevin Andrea, Michelle Brennick, and Michael Gramatovich be invited to remain.

Motion Carried

3001-15

Moved by Trustee Schalm – that the Board come out of in-camera at 2:40 p.m.

Motion Carried

Adjournment

I. Adjournment

3002-15

Moved by Trustee Steinke – that the meeting be adjourned at 2:41 p.m.

Motion Carried

Board Chair

Secretary-Treasurer