

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

November 23rd, 2021 – 10:00 a.m.

Division Office Board Room in Whitecourt, AB

Opening

A. Opening

Call to Order and Roll Call

1. Call to Order and Roll Call

The November 23rd, 2021 meeting was called to order by Board Chair Barb Maddigan at 10:03 a.m.

Board Chair Barb Maddigan, Board Vice Chair Christine Peck, Trustees Diane Hagman, Linda Wigton, Jim Hailes, Judy Muir, Gerry Steinke, Deb Koloski and Administrators: Kevin Bird, Superintendent; Leslee Jodry, Deputy Superintendent; Tamara Spong, Secretary-Treasurer and Nicole Draves, Recording Secretary, were present at this time.

Lisa Bakos, Communications Officer was present at this time.

Trustee Sally Petryshen joined the meeting via Zoom.

Brad Quarin, Mayerthorpe Freelancer attended the meeting.

Oh Canada

2. Singing of Oh Canada

Treaty Land Acknowledgement

3. Treaty Land Acknowledgement

Vice-Chair Christine Peck read the Treaty Land Acknowledgement

Additions/Deletions

4. Additions/Deletions to the Agenda

to the Agenda

- a) Audit Committee Report removed from Appointments and Delegations and will be presented under Action Items only.
- b) Information items-Election Debrief will be time specific @ 130 p.m.

Acceptance of Agenda

4524-21

5. Acceptance of Agenda

Moved by Trustee Hailes: That the agenda for the November 23rd, 2021 Regular Public Board Meeting be adopted as amended.

Motion Carried

Appointments and Delegations

B. Appointments and Delegations

- a) Annual Education Results Review-(Deputy Superintendent Leslee Jodry)

Deputy Superintendent Leslee Jodry presented the AERR to the Trustees for information.

Draft Minutes of the October 26th, 2021 Organizational Meeting

4525-21

C. Draft minutes of the October 26th, 2021 Organizational Meeting

Moved by Trustee Wigton: That the draft minutes of the October 26th, 2021 Organizational Meeting be adopted.

Motion Carried

Draft Minutes of the October 26th, 2021 Regular Public Board Meeting

4526-21

D. Draft Minutes of the October 26th, 2021 Regular Public Board Meeting

Moved by Trustee Koloski: That the draft minutes of the October 26th, 2021 Regular Public Board Meeting be adopted as amended.

Motion Carried

Action Items

E. Action Items

4527-21

1. Draft Annual Education Results Review-
(Superintendent Kevin Bird)

Superintendent Kevin Bird presented the Draft Annual Education Results Review to the Trustees for information.

Moved by Trustee Wigton: That the Board accept the draft Annual Education Results Review as amended, in principle, as presented to the Trustees.

Motion Carried

2. School Operational Viability Report-
(Superintendent Kevin Bird)

Superintendent Kevin Bird presented the School Operational Viability Report to the Trustees for information.

Brad Quarin, Maytherope Freelancer left the meeting at 1:30 p.m.

4528-21

Moved by Trustee Hailes: That the Board direct Administration to do a further study based on the Superintendent's recommendation presented in the School Operational Viability Report.

Motion Carried

Round table discussion on various schools in the division: configuration, declining numbers in rural schools

Superintendent Kevin Bird: The process is now to do the study, which will give us the best options possible for the schools that require a further study. Each option will have expenses associated.

3. Audited Financial Statements-(Diane Hagman)

Audit Committee Chair Diane Hagman presented the Audited Financial Statements to the Trustees for information.

- Audit Committee met yesterday.
- Audit Committee has Trustees: Diane Hagman, Christine Peck and Barb Maddigan as well as two public members; Dave Arcand & Kathy Thebeau
- We were satisfied with our new auditors.
- Auditors reported to the committee that communication & cooperation with division office staff was appreciated.

4529-21

Moved by Trustee Hagman: That the Board accept the Audited Financial Statement as presented to the Board for the period ending August 31, 2021.

Motion Carried

4. Black Gold School Division Letter Re: Insurance Rate Impacts on Contract School Bus Operators-(Board Chair Barb Maddigan)

On November 5, 2021, Black Gold School Division sent a request for support of contract bus operators advocacy letter to a number of divisions, with a deadline of November 15 for a response. The letter was supported by Chair Maddigan, as well as 6 other School Board Chairs, and was sent to Honourable Ministers Adriana LaGrange, Travis Toews and Ranjan Sawhney, and cc'd to these Boards MLAs. Since all of this occurred in between NGPS regular board meeting dates, the Chair is requesting that the Board ratify the Chair's signature in support of Black Gold's advocacy letter.

4530-21

Moved by Trustee Muir: That the Board ratify the Board Chairs signature in support for Black Gold

Motion Carried

Information/Reports

E. Information/Reports

ASBA

1. ASBA

All Trustees attended the ASBA Fall General Meeting

It was good to get together and get to know each other, time well spent

ASBA New President: Marilyn Dennis

NGPS nominated Pembina Pipeline for the "Friends of Education" award and they won!

Education Minister attended the first evening and handed out awards. Next morning, she answered questions on curriculum.

ASBA Zone 2/3

ASBA Zone 2/3

Trustee Hailes shared election results with the Trustees for information

Linda was successful in achieving a Director's Position. Congratulations!

Next meeting: Next Friday

PSBAA

2. PSBAA

Trustee Deb Koloski is the Alternate for PSBAA, Debbie would like to withdraw her name and give her alternate position to Trustee Judy Muir.

Trustee Muir is now the alternate representative for PSBAA.

PSBAA Fall AGM was immediately following the ASBA Fall AGM.

There were some really good speakers this year.

Board Vice Chair Christine Peck was not successful in the Director position this year, but she will continue to put her name out there in hopes of getting elected in the future

Standing Committee Reports

3. Standing Committee Reports

Policy Committee Trustees this term are: Gerry Deb & Diane

Policies outstanding from last year.

Trustee Steinke will discuss with administration regarding a meeting date.

Audit committee: Chair is Diane Hagman-policy 2.2.2- agreed to have meeting in march/April of next year

Group Benefits Committee meeting is December 6

Support Admin Committee has met

Superintendent's Report

4. Superintendent's Report

The Superintendent's report was presented to the Trustees for information.

School council meeting tentative set January.

Internal newsletter goes out every Friday. Contains the collection of information and is sent out once a week. Trustees are now getting this newsletter.

Administrative Committees-Director Jason Yaremchuk will be starting this within the division



and present information on technology needs/requirements. In the future we will be looking for Trustee and parent involvement.

Covid Testing Repsonse

5. Covid Testing Response

a) Draft AP

Draft AP presented to the board for information.

The document was created as an administrative procedure (AP) to enable prompt changes as required.

Round table discussion regarding the draft AP including: Letter from Education Minister discussed, OH & S has declared Covid an OH & S hazard, insurer premiums will increase without a Covid procedure, surveyed staff almost 100% response rate, what we learned 85% of staff are vaccinated or partially vaccinated, testing response provides an extra layer of protection in the schools. NGPS has made the testing a mandate and not the vaccine itself, timeline of when testing would start. Discussion around who is included in the testing mandate and what that means for field trips and allowing visitors (family/parents) back into the schools

Mike Gramatovich entered the meeting at 1:32 p.m.

Election Debrief

6. Election Debrief

The election debrief was presented to the Trustees for information.

Issues discussed and suggestions on what to do differently next election.

Discussion included Rejected/spoiled ballots, training of officers, separate ballot boxes, pros/cons of electronic ballots, use of different paper for the ballots, issues with summer village polling stations, boundaries with municipal election & school board election, and advanced voting stations.

Mike Gramatovich left the meeting at 2:00 p.m.

Financial Reports

7. Financial Reports

SJFR & Division Finance Reports for October were presented to the Trustees for information.

Student Enrolment Report was presented to the Trustees for information.

We are +26 students from September.

Trustee report was presented to the Trustees for information.

Insurance rates discussed. Increase in insurance rates especially with bus contractors. We only have one bus driver that is covered under us and ARMVIC. Insurance is a concern across the board.

Board Workshop

8. Board Workshop

Structure of the Board Workshop discussed.

Correspondence

10. Correspondence

Letter from Education Minister Adriana LaGrange dated November 3, 2021 was shared with the Trustees for information.

Letter from Education Minister Adriana LaGrange dated November 17, 2021 was shared with the Trustees for information.

Board Annual Work Plan

11. Board Annual Work Plan

Work plan was reviewed.

Motion Review Cycle

12. Motion Review Cycle

The motion review cycle is up to date.

Trustee Reports

13. Trustee Reports

Trustee Sally Petryshen will be attending Hillside school council tonight.

Trustee Deb Koloski: Attended Mayerthorpe and Darwell schools to date, other schools to be following shortly.

Trustee Linda Wigton: Parents are engaged, staff (all school staff) appreciation

Vice Chair Christine Peck: Missed Onoway Elementary meeting last week. Onoway High meeting was postponed. Senior girls (Mustangs) are off to provincials!

Chair Barb Maddigan: Whitecourt schools are active on social media. Parents are looking forward to being able to get back into the schools. Hilltop zoom school council meeting.

Trustee Judy Muir: Attended Grasmere school council meeting on November 1, Rich valley November 9. Attendance steady at all the meetings. It's been a very busy month.

Trustee Diane Hagman: Mayerthorpe High School meeting will proceed with the school council advisory. Attended the Town hall in Wabaman, lots of people there. MLA attended, mayors attended. Ambulance service crisis. Mayor of Yellowhead County. Edson hospital is only running at 1/2 capacity. Lots going on in the area.

Trustee Jim Hailes: Advocacy: Mr. Fritz presented at the Advocacy. If board interested members can be invited. Concerns over results review (timeline) over 2 days, request to spread out over 3 days next time. Lots of information over 2 days.

Upcoming Events

14. Upcoming Events

November 25 & 26 Results Review
November 28 & 30 Board workshop
December 14 Board Meeting
January 11 Board Meeting
January 19 School Council Virtua (to be confirmed)

The next regular Board meetings were reviewed

School Awards dates were reviewed.

Additional Report Items

4531-21

15. Additional Report Items

Moved by Diane Hagma– that the Board accept Information/Reports E1-E14 as information.

Motion Carried

Topics for Future Discussions

F. Topics for Future Discussions

Counselling/mental health support in the schools-face to face support for the kids

Revised AP for Covid procedures will be sent out to the Trustees when revised.

Audited Financial Statements: Government funding for pre-kindergarten, there is a substantial surplus-how did we reach that, or is there outstanding bills? 4)

Are there any outstanding bills as of August 31 for the two areas of federal funding?

Requests for Information

G. Requests for Information

Trustee Steinke would like additional information on: increase in surplus with instructional level, budgeted for a \$2 million loss and there was a \$2 million surplus.

Detail as to surplus instruction funds, wording used by Metrix-use of words "surplus & reserve" discussion over the wording/meaning

Meeting Highlights

H. Meeting Highlights

Annual Education Results Review (AERR)

School Operational Viability Report

Pembina Pipeline wins Friends of Education Award

In-Closed Session

I. In-Closed Session

4532-21

Moved by Trustee Wigton That the Board move into Closed Session at 4:38 p.m. Tamara Spong, Secretary-Treasurer; Kevin Bird, Superintendent and Leslee Jodry, Deputy Superintendent were invited to stay.

Motion Carried

Electronic recording of meeting discontinued at 4:38 p.m.

4533-21

Moved by Trustee Hailes: That the Board move out of Closed Session at 5:30 p.m.

Motion Carried

4534-21

Moved by Trustee Wigton: That the Board rescind motion 4506-21.

Motion Carried

4535-21

Moved by Trustee Steinke: To increase the mileage rate for Trustees and staff from \$0.525/km to \$0.57/km with an additional \$0.05/km for carpooling, effective November 1, 2021.

Motion Carried

Adjournment

4536-21

J. Adjournment

Moved by Trustee Hagman: That the meeting be adjourned at 5:32 p.m.

Motion Carried

Board Chair

Secretary-Treasurer