

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

April 12, 2022 – 10:00 a.m.

Division Office Board Room in Whitecourt, Alberta

Opening

Call to Order and Roll Call

A. Opening

1. Call to Order and Roll Call

The April 12, 2022, meeting was called to order by Board Chair Barb Maddigan at 10:04 a.m.

Board Chair Barb Maddigan, Board Vice Chair Christine Peck, Trustees Linda Wigton, Jim Hailes, Judy Muir, Gerry Steinke, Deb Koloski, Diane Hagman, Sally Petryshen; and Administrators Kevin Bird, Superintendent; Leslee Jodry, Deputy Superintendent; Tamara Spong, Secretary-Treasurer; Nancy Whittaker, Recording Secretary

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

O Canada

Treaty Land Acknowledgement

2. Singing of O Canada

3. Treaty Land Acknowledgement

Vice Chair Christine Peck read the Treaty Land Acknowledgement.

Additions/Deletions to the Agenda

4. Additions/Deletions to the Agenda

- a) Report on Rural Caucus Virtual Spring General Meeting on March 31, 2022

Acceptance of the Agenda

4609-22

5. Acceptance of the Agenda

Moved by Trustee Sally Petryshen: That the Agenda for the April 12, 2022, Regular Public Board Meeting be adopted as amended.

Motion Carried

Appointments and Delegations

Draft Minutes of the March 22, 2022 Regular Board Meeting

4610-22

B. Appointments and Delegations

C. Draft Minutes of the March 22, 2022 Regular Board Meeting

Moved by Trustee Deb Koloski: That the draft Minutes of the March 22, 2022, Regular Board Meeting be approved as presented.

Motion Carried

Action Items

Locally Developed Courses

4611-22

D. Action Items

1. Locally Developed Courses

Moved by Trustee Judy Muir: That the Board approve to reauthorize the use of the following Locally Developed Course acquired from the Red Deer School Division from September 1st, 2022 – August 31st, 2026: (at no cost to the Division); Competencies in Math 15-5 (2021) (5 credits). Resources used to teach the course are listed in the Learning Resources of the Course Details.

Motion Carried

4612-22

Moved by Trustee Diane Hagman: That the Board approve to reauthorize the use of the following Locally Developed Courses acquired from the Calgary Roman Catholic Separate School Division from September 1st, 2022 – August 31st, 2026: (at no cost the division); Learning Strategies (2018) 15-5 (5 credits), Learning Strategies (2018) 25-5 (5 credits), Learning Strategies (2018) 35-5 (5 credits). Resources used to teach the course are listed in the Learning Resources of the Course Details.

Motion Carried

4613-22

Moved by Vice Chair Christine Peck: That the Board approve to reauthorize the use of the following Locally Developed Course acquired from the Pembina Hills

School Division from September 1st, 2021 – August 31st, 2025: (at no cost to the Division); Psychology - Abnormal 35-3 (3 credits). Resources used to teach the course are listed in the Learning Resources of the Course Details.

Motion Carried

2022 – 2023 School Calendar

2. 2022 – 2023 School Calendar

Superintendent Kevin Bird reported that there was a lot of positive feedback from schools and on ngpsTALK. Some suggestions: a) the start of school before Labour Day (cannot be changed due to required hours of instruction); and b) Wednesday-to-Wednesday Christmas break, (a possibility for 2023-2024 calendar). Noted changes: addition of September 30th holiday for National Day for Truth and Reconciliation and May 29, 2023, non-instructional day due to the provincial election.

Round table discussion.

4614-22

Moved by Trustee Linda Wigton: That the Board of Trustees accept the 2022 – 2023 School Calendar as presented.

Motion Carried

Policy 12 – Appendices B and C

3. Policy 12 – Appendices B and C

Trustee Gerry Steinke presented Policy 12 – Appendices B, C and D to the Board for review. The new model is aligned with the CASS Superintendent Leadership Quality Standard and Division criteria.

Superintendent Bird outlined several specific indicators and recommended that they be included in the evaluation criteria rubric.

4615-22

Moved by Trustee Gerry Steinke: That the Board accept Policy 12, Appendices B, C and D, as presented, with further alignment in descriptors as reported by the Superintendent.

Trustee Hailes requested Board discussion.

Motion Withdrawn

Round table discussion.

4616-22

Moved by Trustee Gerry Steinke: That the Board accept Policy 12, Appendices B, C and D, as presented, with further alignment in descriptors as presented by the Superintendent:

- Acts as, or designates, the attendance officer for the Division.
- Provides guidance and support in the planning, development, implementation, and evaluation of Board policies.
- Develops, maintains, and communicates administrative procedures that are consistent with Board and provincial policies, regulations, and procedures.
- Informs the Board of revisions to the Administrative Procedures Manual.
- Attends all Board meetings and makes recommendations on matters requiring Board action by providing accurate information and reports as are needed to ensure the making of informed decisions.
- Demonstrates effective organization and crisis management skills, resulting in Division compliance with all legal, Ministerial and Board mandates and timelines.
- Reports to the Minister with respect to matters identified in and required by the Education Act and other provincial legislation.
- Participates actively and recognizes staff involvement in the community to enhance and support the Division's mission.
- Ensures parents and students have a high level of satisfaction with the services provided and the responsiveness of the Division.

Motion Carried

Information/Reports

ASBA

ASBA Zone 2/3

PSBAA

Standing Committee Reports

Superintendent's Report

E. Information/Reports

1. ASBA (Board Chair Barb Maddigan)

ASBA Zone 2/3 (Trustee Jim Hailes)

Trustee Hailes presented his report to the Trustees for information - professional development, transportation funding increase, Coffee and Conversation, and Edwin Parr celebration.

Trustee Linda Wigton gave a report from the March Zone 2/3 Meeting. Highlights included potential position statements from various school divisions (modulars, government funded psychologists in schools, transportation issues and funding format separating new builds from modernizations), and the U of A Field Experience Policy Advisory Committee report.

2. PSBAA (Board Vice-Chair Christine Peck)

Vice-Chair Christine Peck presented a report on the PSBA meeting in Edmonton. Guest speaker Mark Critch, President of Alberta School Bus Contractors Association, gave a very good presentation on the effects of high costs of fuel, insurance, and training on transportation across the Province. Another session covered strategic communications and the use of social media.

Business meeting details were provided by Trustee Judy Muir.

3. Standing Committee Reports

No Reports

4. Superintendent's Report (Superintendent Kevin Bird)

Superintendent Kevin Bird presented his report to the Trustees for information.

Ministry approval was sought to move to home schooling in one of our colony schools due to COVID. The administrator there has a strong relationship with the community and knows the kids very well. A lot of work is being done to ensure continuation of learning.

The Administrator's Meeting on March 23 was in-person, and it was great to see everyone. Lots of lively discussion.

Trustees had round table discussion regarding CPR and Naloxone training, and report card format with new curriculum.

The Division's technology department continues to work diligently on system security due to increased cyber activity. Superintendent Bird gave credit to our technicians for keeping up with updates and patches.

We have not been able to fill some teaching positions - the Division is looking at hiring full time permanent substitute teachers to fill positions in some communities until permanent teachers can be hired. Round table discussion.

Superintendent Bird thanked the Onoway Elementary and Onoway Jr/Sr High for their Easter display in support of Ukraine, set up in the District Office lobby.

Congratulations to Hillside High School student, Ty Holmes on winning the U of A President's Entrance Citation Award and best wishes in pursuing criminal justice and law.

Financial Reports

5. Financial Reports (Secretary-Treasurer Tamara Spong)

Secretary-Treasurer Tamara Spong presented the March financial reports to the Trustees for information.

Yellowhead Regional Library

6. Yellowhead Regional Library (Board Chair Barb Maddigan)

The report was presented to the Trustees for information.

Valleyview Replacement School

7. Valleyview Replacement School (Trustees Gerry Steinke and Sally Petryshen)

Trustees Steinke and Petryshen have had informal meetings with some of the elected councillors of the MD of Greenview and the Town of Valleyview with a threefold purpose:

1. To provide rationale and a progress update in securing approval for construction of a replacement school in Valleyview.
2. To indicate the importance of the magnitude of this project for a small community.
3. To offer an opportunity for discussion about ways the school can be enhanced by facilities.

Superintendent Bird is working closely with the local Trustees to create a Division perspective for a properly aligned facility.

Correspondence

8. Correspondence

Letters from various school boards across the province were provided to the Trustees for information. Trustee Judy Muir suggested that our letter and the response from the Minister of Education be shared with the public to let them know we are still doing work on this and talking about the curriculum.

Board Annual Work Plan

9. Board Annual Work Plan (Trustee Gerry Steinke)

The Board Annual Work Plan is up to date.

Motion Review Cycle

10. Motion Review Cycle

The Motion Review Cycle is up to date.

Trustee Reports

11. Trustee Reports

Trustee Sally Petryshen presented a report on the OAP school council meeting to the Trustees for information.

Round table discussion regarding pre-kindergarten and kindergarten funding.

4617-22

Moved by Trustee Diane Hagman: That administration provide a report regarding the availability of programming of junior kindergarten and preschool/playschool in our communities.

Motion Carried

Vice Chair Christine Peck has been approached by the Onoway Health and Wellness Fair to sit on the Board for the planning committee.

4618-22

Moved by Trustee Jim Hailes: That Vice Chair Christine Peck be compensated for her time on the Onoway Children's Health Fair Committee.

Trustee Hagman asked how many hours will be compensated. Vice Chair Peck will inform the Board once more information is available.

Motion Carried

Upcoming Events

12. Upcoming Events

Trustees can contact Michelle McMichael for hotel bookings and registrations for upcoming PSBAA and ASBA meetings.

Additional Report Items

13. Additional Report Items

Rural Caucus Virtual Spring General Meeting

Trustee Diane Hagman presented her report to the Trustees for information. Highlights included transportation and insurance costs, learning loss, curriculum, private/charter school funding and child wellness. The Rural Caucus executive is asking school boards to share stories with other boards and the Ministry regarding Tiers 4 and 5 crises.

Round table discussion.

4619-22

Moved by Trustee Jim Hailes: That the Board accept Information/Reports E1 – E13 as information.

Motion Carried

Topics for Future Discussions

F. Topics for Future Discussions

- ASBA Budget Video (In-closed session during lunch break, May 10 Board Meeting)

Requests for Information

G. Requests for Information

Round table discussion regarding money for school councils. Superintendent Bird will verify.

Meeting Highlights

H. Meeting Highlights

- Locally developed courses
- Calendar approval
- Onoway school Easter art project
- COVID update
- Diploma exam update
- Onoway Mental Health Capacity Building approved
- Valleyview school update
- Letter to Minister re: curriculum
- Rural Caucus Report from Trustee Hagman

In-Closed Session

4620-22

I. In-Closed Session

Moved by Trustee Sally Petryshen: That the Board move to in-closed session at 2:17 p.m.

Motion Carried

4621-22

Moved by Trustee Jim Hailes: That the Board move out of in-closed session at 3:41 p.m.

Motion Carried

Adjournment

4622-22

J. Adjournment

Moved by Trustee Sally Petryshen: That the meeting be adjourned at 3:42 p.m.

Motion Carried

Board Chair

Secretary-Treasurer