

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

April 18, 2023 – 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 18, 2023, meeting was called to order by Board Chair Barb Maddigan at 10:04 a.m.

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

Lisa Bakos, Communications Officer, and Leslee Jodry Deputy Superintendent, were absent from the meeting.

Five members of the public and one speaker were present in the gallery.

Treaty Land Acknowledgement

2. Treaty Land Acknowledgement

Vice Chair Christine Peck read the Treaty Land Acknowledgement.

Additions/Deletions to the Agenda

3. Additions/Deletions to the Agenda

Additions:

- Invitation to the New Teachers Induction Ceremony: Action Items (Chair Barb Maddigan)
- Chamber of Commerce: Information and Reports (Trustee Linda Wigton)
- Yellowhead Regional Library: Information and Reports (Chair Barb Maddigan)
- 2023 CSBA Conference: Information and Reports (Trustee Steinke)

Acceptance of the Agenda

4794-23

4. Acceptance of the Agenda

Moved by Trustee Deb Koloski: That the Agenda for the April 18, 2023, Regular Public Board Meeting be adopted as amended.

Motion Carried

APPOINTMENTS AND DELEGATIONS

B. APPOINTMENTS AND DELEGATIONS

1. Jane Elzinga: Learning Environment, Especially for Young Students

Jane Elzinga presented a verbal report and pictures to the Trustees regarding learning environments in the Division's schools. Her main concerns were bullying in LGBTQ groups, all-gender bathrooms, inclusion and safety of all students, and lack of parental access to schools.

Superintendent Bird addressed concerns over the safety of the bathrooms in the Division's schools.

Jane Elzinga and members of the public left the meeting at 10:34 a.m.

DRAFT MINUTES OF THE MARCH 21, 2023, REGULAR BOARD MEETING

4795-23

C. DRAFT MINUTES OF THE MARCH 21, 2023, REGULAR BOARD MEETING

Moved by Trustee Jim Hailes: That the draft Minutes of the March 21, 2023, Regular Board Meeting be approved as presented.

Motion Carried

ACTION ITEMS

2023 – 24 School Calendar

D. ACTION ITEMS

1. 2023 – 24 School Calendar

Superintendent Bird presented the current draft of the school calendar to the Trustees for consideration. The calendar will be used as a draft for the next two years. A lot of feedback was received from stakeholders and key areas of concern were the Wednesday-to-Wednesday Christmas break, and the January 31 mid-week non-instructional day for staff professional development.

4796-23

Moved by Gerry Steinke: That the Board approve the 2023 – 24 School Calendar, as presented.

Round table discussion.

Motion Carried

**Mayerthorpe Health
Attraction and Retention
Committee**

**2. Mayerthorpe Health Attraction and Retention
Committee**

4797-23

Moved by Trustee Jim Hailes: That Trustee Deb Koloski be compensated for her time on the Mayerthorpe Health Attraction and Retention Committee.

Trustee Koloski researched the committee in depth and discussed her potential role with other committee members. This would be an advocacy position looking for information regarding health needs in schools. It is a regional group representing all schools in the Division. The committee meets four times per year.

Motion Carried

**Invitation to the New Teachers
Induction Ceremony**

**3. Invitation to the New Teachers Induction
Ceremony**

The 2023 ceremony will take place on May 17, 2023, at the Whitecourt Golf and Country Club and is organized by the local ATA.

**Canadian School Boards Assoc.
2023 Congress**

**4. Canadian School Boards Association (CSBA) 2023
Congress**

The congress will be held in Banff, Alberta, July 3 to 5, 2023, and the Trustees had round table discussion regarding attendance.

4798-23

Moved by Trustee Gerry Steinke: That the Board support four Trustees to attend the CSBA conference.

Motion Carried

INFORMATION AND REPORTS

**ASBA
ASBA Zone 2/3**

PSBAA

Standing Committee Reports

E. INFORMATION AND REPORTS

**1. ASBA (Board Chair Barb Maddigan)
ASBA Zone 2/3 (Trustee Jim Hailes)**

Nil

2. PSBAA (Board Vice-Chair Christine Peck)

Vice-Chair Peck gave a report on the PSBC meeting in Edmonton that she and Trustee Petryshen attended. Highlights included:

- the community-based Bachelor of Education program
- election readiness
- student engagement with school boards
- PSBA Facebook page for election information
- information that other boards are using for the election (Vice-Chair Peck will share with Trustees)
- professional development costs have increased, and the Association is proposing a 5% increase to fees (\$942.00 for NGPS) that will be introduced in the fall budget
- discontinuation of the MELT program
- 'Backpack Full of Cash' video on Zoom regarding charter school funding

3. Standing Committee Reports

Advocacy Committee

Trustee Wigton reported that the ASBA advocacy documents (election tool kit) have been reviewed by the Committee and distributed to Trustees.

An ASBA election document was reviewed. The Committee will create five questions in a Google document to work on as a group. Specific questions include funding, capital planning, cross ministerial supports, transportation, and board autonomy. The Committee will also be reviewing the advocacy pamphlet and may look at hiring a consultant to revamp it.

Policy Committee

The Policy Committee has been reviewing Policy 1 and will send a report of the progress with a draft of the amended Policy.

Superintendent's Report

4. Superintendent's Report

Superintendent Bird presented his report to the Trustees for information. Special recognition was given to the transition team for Whitecourt realignment, including Tammy McKeever, Anne Martens, the Assistant Principals, as well as David Turcotte who has provided invaluable assistance. Arnold Marira and Deputy Superintendent Leslee Jodry were also recognized for their expertise and hard work. The Division will strive to maintain consistencies in programs at both schools involved in the realignment.

Changes to transportation include the school realignment, walking distance guidelines, and the elimination of the MELT program requirement. Superintendent Bird recognized the hard work of the transportation department in dealing with the changes.

4799-23

Moved by Trustee Linda Wigton: That the Board of Trustees affirms the process used for grade reconfiguration consultation in Whitecourt and that the Board approve the realignment of Whitecourt Central and Pat Hardy Schools, effective the 2023 – 24 school year.

Round table discussion.

Motion Carried

Financial Reports

5. Financial Reports

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

Questions regarding expenses, fees and surpluses were answered by Secretary-Treasurer Spong.

Trustee Hailes asked if the Board has received a response to the letter to the Minister regarding funding inequities.

4800-23

Moved by Trustee Jim Hailes: That the Board write a follow-up letter regarding inequity in funding (Motion 4731-22) as this is an important issue and a response would be valuable to our budgeting process.

Round table discussion.

Motion Amendment: Moved by Trustee Jim Hailes: That the Board write a follow-up letter (if we have not yet received a response) regarding inequity in funding (Motion 4731-22) as this is an important issue and a response would be valuable to our budgeting process.

Amended Motion Carried

Rural Education Symposium

6. Rural Education Symposium

Trustee Petryshen gave a report on the Rural Caucus SGM and the Rural Education Symposium.

Annual and Term Work Plans

7. Board Annual and Term Work Plans

Amendments to the Board Annual and Term Work Plans recommended by the Policy Committee will be presented at the next Board meeting.

Motion Review Cycle

8. Motion Review Cycle

The Motion Review Cycle is up to date. Pending motions include the past Trustee recognition which will be actioned by the Community Engagement Committee.

Trustee Reports

9. Trustee Reports

Trustee Petryshen

Attended PSBC meeting and Advocacy Committee.

Trustee Wigton

Attended Percy Baxter council meeting which coincided with the visit to the Chamber of Commerce. The school has developed a marketplace where products created by the students are marketed and sold. Trustee Wigton suggested that the school share this with the Chamber of Commerce.

Vice-Chair Peck

Attended PSBC as reported.

Trustee Muir

Attended school council meetings at Grasmere and Rich Valley. Rich Valley school council used the \$500 grant

money to bring in a speaker to talk about nutrition. Attended the PSBA Special Recognition Committee meeting and Advocacy Committee meeting.

Trustee Hagman

Attended the Policy Committee meeting.

Trustee Hailes

ATA negotiations went well.

Upcoming Events

10. Upcoming Events

- May 8 – Finance Committee Meeting
- May 9 – Regular Board Meeting
- May 17 – New Teacher Induction Ceremony
- May 23 – Regular Board Meeting
- June 1 to 3 – PSBAA 2023 Spring General Assembly
- June 5 to 6 – ASBA 2023 Spring General Meeting
- June 20 – Regular Board Meeting

Additional Report Items

11. Additional Report Items

a) Chamber of Commerce

Trustee Wigton presented information about the Chamber of Commerce meeting in Whitecourt where the chief economist of the Business Development Bank talked about the state of the economy of the world, country, and province.

b) Yellowhead Regional Library

Board Chair Maddigan attended the executive meeting. Items included the director's performance review, Ukrainian refugees and support, and support services grants for Alexis and Paul First Nations.

4801-23

Moved by Trustee Linda Wigton: That the Board accept Information and Reports E1 – E11 as information.

Motion Carried

TOPICS FOR FUTURE DISCUSSIONS

F. TOPICS FOR FUTURE DISCUSSIONS

Nil

REQUESTS FOR INFORMATION

G. REQUESTS FOR INFORMATION FROM ADMINISTRATION (BY BOARD MOTION)

Nil

MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

H. MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

- New Teacher Induction Ceremony
- Approval of the 2023 – 24 School Calendar

CLOSED SESSION

I. CLOSED SESSION

4802-23

Moved by Trustee Sally Petryshen: That the Board move to Closed Session at 1:35 p.m.

Motion Carried

Superintendent Kevin Bird and Secretary-Treasurer Tamara Spong were invited to stay.

Electronic Recording stopped at 1:35 p.m.

4803-23

Moved by Trustee Linda Wigton: That the Board move out of Closed Session at 3:11 p.m.

Motion Carried

4804-23

Moved by Trustee Judy Muir: That the members of the Community Engagement Committee be the members who fulfill Motion 4787-23.

Motion Carried

ADJOURNMENT

J. ADJOURNMENT

4805-23

Moved by Trustee Diane Hagman: That the meeting be adjourned at 3:19 p.m.

Motion Carried

Board Chair

Secretary-Treasurer