

# MINUTES

## Northern Gateway Public Schools Board of Trustees

### Regular Board Meeting

Division Office Board Room – Whitecourt, Alberta

March 18, 2025 – 10:00 a.m.

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#### OPENING

##### Call to Order and Roll Call

#### A. OPENING

##### 1. Call to Order and Roll Call

The March 18, 2025, Regular Board Meeting was called to order by Board Chair Gerry Steinke at 10:00 a.m.

Present at this time: Board Chair Gerry Steinke, Vice-Chair Diane Hagman, Trustees Jim Hailes, Judy Muir, Barb Maddigan, Deb Koloski, Les Urness, Linda Wigton, and Christine Peck; and Administrators Kevin Bird, Superintendent; Leslee Jodry, Deputy Superintendent; Tamara Spong, Secretary-Treasurer (via Zoom); and Nancy Whittaker, Recording Secretary.

Communications Officer Lisa Bakos and Randy Lovich, Director of Facility Services were present at this time.

##### O Canada

##### 2. O Canada

A recording of O Canada was presented by Hilltop High School student Addison Watson.

##### Truth and Reconciliation Statement

##### 3. Truth and Reconciliation Statement

Vice-Chair Diane Hagman read the Truth and Reconciliation Statement.

##### Acceptance of the Agenda

##### 4. Acceptance of the Agenda

The Agenda for the March 18, 2025, Regular Public Board Meeting was accepted as presented.

## Acceptance of the Minutes

### 5. Acceptance of the Minutes of the February 18, 2025, Regular Public Board Meeting

The Minutes of the February 18, 2025, Regular Public Board Meeting were accepted as presented.

## DELEGATIONS

### B. DELEGATIONS

Nil

## STAFF/ADMINISTRATION REPORTS/PRESENTATIONS

### C. STAFF/ADMINISTRATION REPORTS and PRESENTATIONS

#### 2026 – 2029 Three-Year Capital Plan

#### 1. 2026 – 2029 Three-Year Capital Plan

Randy Lovich, Director of Facility Services, presented the Plan to the Trustees for approval, and answered questions as appropriate.

5102-25

Moved that the Board approve the 2026 – 2029 Three-Year Capital Plan, as presented.

Motion Carried

*Randy Lovich left the meeting at 10:09 a.m.*

## COMMITTEE REPORTS

### D. BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS

Nil

## ACTION ITEMS

### E. ACTION ITEMS

#### 2025 – 26 Board-Directed School Fees

#### 1. 2025 – 26 Board-Directed School Fees

Superintendent Bird presented the proposed 2025 – 26 Board-Directed School Fees to the Trustees for approval. Administration recommended no changes from the current fees. Superintendent Bird answered questions from Trustees regarding cameras on busses and mandated walk distance changes for students. *It was noted that NGPS does not charge fees for grant-eligible students.*

5103-25

Moved that the Board approve the 2025 – 26 Transportation Fees for Grant Ineligible Students as follows:

- Grades 1–12 Annual Pass: \$371.00 per student
- ECS Pass (half day): \$185.00 per student
- ECS Pass (full day, every day): \$371.00 per student
- Family Pass: \$927.00 maximum per family
- Replacement Pass: \$6.00 per pass
- Alternate Seat Pass: \$200.00 per student
- Alternate Seat ECS Pass (half day): \$100.00 per student
- Alternate Seat ECS Pass (full day every day): \$200.00 per student
- Alternate Seat Family Pass: \$500.00 maximum per family

**Motion Carried**

Superintendent Bird answered questions from Trustees regarding the technology recycling program and will investigate the possibility of extending the program to parents/families.

5104-25

Moved that the Board approve the 2025 – 26 Technology Access/Maintenance Fees as follows:

- Grades 1 – 12: \$32.00 per student
- ECS Student (half day): \$16.00 per student
- ECS Student (full day every day): \$32.00 per student

**Motion Carried**

Trustees had round table discussion regarding the charging of tuition fees for non-Alberta students.

5105-25

Moved that the Board approve the 2025 – 26 Tuition Fees for Non-Alberta Students as follows:

- Half Year Tuition: \$5,500
- Full Year Tuition: \$11,000

## INFORMATION/REPORTS

### ASBA and Zone 2/3

## F. INFORMATION AND REPORTS

### 1. Alberta School Boards Association and Zone 2/3

Vice-Chair Hagman attended the ASBA Zone 2/3 meeting on March 14, 2025, in place of Trustees Wigton and Hailes. Written and verbal reports were provided. Bill 13 will be added to Topics for Future Discussion at a future Board meeting.

## **Honouring Spirit: Indigenous Student Award/Edwin Parr Teacher Award**

### **2. Honouring Spirit: Indigenous Student Award and Edwin Parr Teacher Award**

Deputy Superintendent Leslee Jodry reported that ten students were nominated for the Honouring Spirit Award. The teacher nominated for the Edwin Parr Award is Makayla Chamzuk from Pat Hardy Elementary School. Special recognition was given to Lorna Vardy for organizing the submissions.

## **PSBAA/PSBC**

### **3. Public School Boards' Association of Alberta**

PSBAA is asking Boards to provide student success stories to add to their Promote, Elevate and Protect program for the election. The stories would be shared on their website and possibly social media.

## **Rural Caucus General Meeting**

### **4. Rural Caucus General Meeting**

Round table discussions took place with the following topics: advocacy, transportation, relationships with community and municipal partnerships, classroom complexity and mental health, rural small school funding, and student governance and leadership. Executive will condense the notes and share the results through their website and newsletter.

## **Superintendent's Report**

### **5. Superintendent's Report**

Superintendent Bird reported on a bus accident that recently occurred in the Sangudo area – the injuries were minor and mental health supports were put in place. The Auditor General's report on Education was released and better assurance data is needed, which might translate into more assessment. Bills 33 and 34 (FOIP) increase in penalties for exchange of information may be a concern. Superintendent Bird presented his written report to the Trustees for information.

## **Financial/Enrolment Reports**

### **6. Financial and Enrolment Reports**

The financial and enrolment reports for February were presented by Secretary-Treasurer Tamara Spong.

## **Board Work Plans**

### **7. Board Annual and Term Work Plans**

The Work Plans are up to date.

## **Motion Review Cycle**

## **Trustee Reports**

Trustee Hailes

Trustee Peck

Trustee Koloski

Trustee Muir

Vice-Chair Hagman

Trustee Maddigan

Trustee Urness

Chair Steinke

## **8. Motion Review Cycle**

The Motion Review Cycle is up to date.

## **9. Trustee Reports**

Fox Creek School's long-service celebration for secretary Janice Hailes was well-attended and appreciated.

Attended provincial events, Rural Caucus and Rural Education Symposium. School councils have been cancelled due to weather and/or lack of attendance. The Onoway Children's Health Fair has been postponed until May due to conflicts.

Attended Rural Caucus meeting and Rural Education Symposium, community of councils via Zoom, Sangudo council, volunteered at Elmer Elson speech arts festival.

Attended Rural Caucus meeting and Rural Education Symposium, participated in the community of councils via Zoom, attended council meetings at Rich Valley and Darwell.

Attended Rural Caucus meeting and Rural Education Symposium, parent meeting at Mayerthorpe High School. Attended ASBA Zone 2/3 meeting and volunteered with Trustee Koloski at the speech arts festival at Elmer Elson.

Attended Whitecourt Central School parent council – new medicine wheel announced. Crosswalk sign at Central School continues to be an issue (the Town is aware). Attended YRL meeting – auditors report was presented.

Attended the Growing the North Conference. The Maskwa Medical Centre is being built beside the Grande Prairie hospital and will train 12 doctors per year. Attended CUPE negotiations. Attended Rural Caucus Meeting and Rural Education Symposium.

Attended one day of Growing the North Conference – refreshing to see Northwest Polytechnic's efforts to reach out to rural Alberta students in every field.

## Upcoming Events

## 10. Upcoming Events

- April 7 to 11 – Education Week
- April 15 – Regular Board Meeting
- April 14, 24, 25 – School Visits
- April 26 – ASCA Spring Symposium
- May 1 – GSD Meeting following School Visits
- May 2 – School Visits
- May 20 – Finance/Education Plan Meeting
- May 23 – ASBA Zone 2/3 Awards Banquet
- May 27 – Regular Board Meeting
- June 2, 3 – ASBA Spring General Meeting
- June 3, 4, 5 – PSBAA Spring General Assembly
- June 3 – Rural Caucus (RCAS) General Meeting

## TOPICS FOR FUTURE DISCUSSIONS

## G. TOPICS FOR FUTURE DISCUSSIONS

- ASBA – Bill 13: Real Property Governance Act

## REQUESTS FOR INFORMATION

## H. REQUESTS FOR INFORMATION FROM ADMINISTRATION (BY BOARD MOTION)

Nil

## MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

## I. MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

- Approval of the 2026 – 29 Three-Year Capital Plan
- Approval of 2025 – 26 Board-Directed Fees
- Honouring Spirit and Edwin Parr Awards Nominees
- ASCA Spring Symposium (virtual)

## CLOSED SESSION

5106-25

## J. CLOSED SESSION

Moved that the Board move to Closed Session at 12:15 p.m.

Motion Carried

Superintendent Kevin Bird, Deputy Superintendent Leslee Jodry and Secretary-Treasurer Tamara Spong were invited to stay.

*Electronic recording was stopped at 12:15 p.m.*

5107-25

Moved that the Board move out of Closed Session at 2:28 p.m.

Motion Carried

5108-25

Moved that the Board write a letter of concern to the Commissioner in regard to the length and process of an investigation involving one of our school principals.

Motion Carried

## ADJOURNMENT

## K. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 2:31 pm.

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Board Chair

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Secretary-Treasurer