

# MINUTES

## Northern Gateway Public Schools Board of Trustees

### Regular Board Meeting

Division Office Board Room – Whitecourt, Alberta

April 15, 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 April 15, 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, Christine Peck, Deb Koloski, Judy Muir, Linda Wigton, Barb Maddigan, and Les Urness; and Administrators Kevin Bird, Superintendent; Leslee Jodry, Deputy Superintendent; Tamara Spong, Secretary-Treasurer; and Nancy Whittaker, Recording Secretary.

Communications Officer Lisa Bakos was absent from the meeting. Tammy Davis, Director of Learning was present at this time and there was one guest in the gallery.

##### O Canada

##### 2. O Canada

A recording of O Canada was presented by Whitecourt Central School students.

##### 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

- PSBC meeting added to Information and Reports by Trustee Peck.
- ASBA item added to Closed Session by Trustee Wigton.

The April 15, 2025, Regular Public Board Meeting Agenda was accepted as amended.

**Acceptance of the Minutes**

**5. Acceptance of the Minutes of the March 18, 2025, Regular Public Board Meeting**

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

**DELEGATIONS**

**B. DELEGATIONS**

Nil

**STAFF/ADMINISTRATION  
REPORTS/PRESENTATIONS**

**C. STAFF/ADMINISTRATION REPORTS and PRESENTATIONS**

**Draft Three-Year Education  
Plan**

**1. Draft Three-Year Education Plan**

Tammy Davis, Director of Learning gave a verbal and slideshow presentation on the Draft Three-Year Education Plan. Leslee Jodry and Tammy Davis answered questions and gave further details regarding supports for staff, increased use of qualitative data, the focus on collaboration and the uniqueness of the Division's plan. Trustees and Administration had roundtable discussion regarding the 'governance' domain and how it ties into Policy 1. Further discussion will take place in the May 20 GSD Meeting and the Plan will be brought forward for approval at the Regular Board Meeting on May 27, 2025.

*Tammy Davis left the meeting at 10:55 a.m.*

**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**D. BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS**

Nil

**ACTION ITEMS**

**E. ACTION ITEMS**

**Joint Elections**

**1. Joint Elections**

Tamara Spong requested a motion by the Board authorizing the Returning Officer to enter into agreements with municipalities to conduct joint elections for 2025.

5109-25

Moved that the Returning Officer be authorized to enter into an agreement with any municipality located within the boundaries of The Northern Gateway School Division for the conduct of the upcoming election in accordance with the Local Authorities Election Act.

Motion Carried

## **Substitute Returning Officer**

### **2. Substitute Returning Officer**

Tamara Spong requested a motion by the Board authorizing the appointment of Nancy Whittaker as Substitute Returning Officer for the upcoming election.

5110-25

Moved that the Board appoint Nancy Whittaker as the Substitute Returning Officer for the Northern Gateway School Division for the 2025 School Board Election.

Motion Carried

## **Bylaw 1-25 Voting Stations First Reading**

### **3. Bylaw 1-25 Voting Stations**

Tamara Spong presented *First Reading* of Bylaw 1-25, relating to the provision of more than one voting station in wards and/or subdivisions and the locations of those voting stations.

5111-25

Moved that Bylaw No. 1-25 Voting Stations receive First Reading by the Board.

Motion Carried

## **Bylaw 2-25 Voting Hours First Reading**

### **4. Bylaw 2-25 Voting Hours**

Tamara Spong presented *First Reading* of Bylaw 2-25, establishing voting hours at voting stations within the Division.

5112-25

Moved that Bylaw No. 2-25 Voting Hours receive First Reading by the Board.

Motion Carried

## **INFORMATION/REPORTS**

## **F. INFORMATION AND REPORTS**

### **ASBA and Zone 2/3**

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

Trustee Wigton reported that Parkland School Division is seeking information from Boards on challenges with student behaviour and collection of data on suspensions, including governance strategies to address these issues.

ASBA is requesting that they be notified of any advocacy work Boards are doing for Jordan's Principle funding.

## PSBAA/PSBC

### 2. Public School Boards' Association of Alberta

Trustees Peck and Muir attended the MLA reception and PSBC meeting April 9 – 11. Trustee Peck gave a summary of the reception and professional development sessions. The proposed PSBAA budget was presented in the business session of the meeting and includes an increase in membership fees of up to 5%. Trustees were provided with a fee schedule for further discussion prior to their vote at the SGA. PSBAA is requesting that their website be shared with candidates for election information.

## Superintendent's Report

### 3. Superintendent's Report

Superintendent Bird presented his report to the Trustees for information. Trustees had roundtable discussion on Bill 13 and potential ramifications this legislation will have on Boards.

Superintendent Bird reviewed the 2025 – 26 Funding Profile and answered questions from Trustees about nutrition and mental health funding and grants. Trustees expressed their concerns about the changes to the pilot project for mental health supports and its effect on Division schools.

5113-25

Moved that the Board write a letter to the Minister of Education expressing its concerns about the ownership provisions and fiduciary duties of Trustees in Bill 51 and/or Bill 13.

Motion Carried

5114-25

Moved that the Board write a letter to the Minister of Education expressing its concerns about the change in the budget for mental health supports that are moving from pilot project funding to formula-based funding, and the effects this change will have specifically in rural areas where local supports are not available.

Motion Carried

The Division is pleased to announce two recipients of the ASBA Honouring Spirit: Indigenous Student Awards this year: Congratulations to Riley Mitchell, Grade 2 student at Pat Hardy Elementary; and Cougar Desjarlais, Grade 6 student at Elmer Elson Elementary!

## Financial/Enrolment Reports

5115-25

## Board Work Plans

## Motion Review Cycle

## Trustee Reports

Trustee Urness

Trustee Maddigan

Trustee Wigton

Vice-Chair Hagman

Trustee Muir

## 4. Financial and Enrolment Reports

The financial and enrolment reports for March were presented by Secretary-Treasurer Tamara Spong. The system administration budget has been reduced for next year.

Moved that the Board requests that Administration prepares a report on the costs incurred by Trustees for all major events that the Board is attending.

Motion Carried

## 5. Board Annual and Term Work Plans

The Work Plans are up to date.

## 6. Motion Review Cycle

The Motion Review Cycle is up to date.

## 7. Trustee Reports

Attended Oscar Adolphson School Council and participated in Whitecourt school visits.

Attended Hilltop HS Council, they are hosting the Grade 9 Party Program on May 1, where students become informed about the hazards of drinking and driving.

Attended Pat Hardy School Council, attended online meeting on the closing of the Boys and Girls Club. Superintendent Bird clarified provincial grant funding – possible topic for future discussion. Attended the spring concert 'Pat Hardy on Broadway' with Trustee Maddigan.

Attended Elmer Elson School Council – received positive feedback about Council of School Councils event. Attended the PSBC MLA reception and appreciated discussion with Minister of Immigration and Multiculturalism, shared with him the positive impact of immigrants moving to Mayerthorpe. Participated in school visits and enjoyed learning about pilot projects at Percy Baxter.

Attended School Council meetings at Grasmere and Rich Valley. Rich Valley School Council is working on a new 'vision' which they will share to get better attendance at meetings.

Trustee Koloski

Attended Elmer Elson School Council and the MLA reception – participated in effective conversations with the Ministers.

Trustee Peck

Attended Onoway Elementary School Council, they are offering parent information sessions before meetings which have been well-received. The Elderbeary Tea was extended to two days and was well attended. OES has started a student council at the elementary level.

Trustee Hailes

Attended Fox Creek School Council in April. Need to determine who will attend the ASBA Zone 2/3 Awards Ceremony.

## Upcoming Events

## 8. Upcoming Events

- April 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

Nil

## REQUESTS FOR INFORMATION

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

Nil

## MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

## I. MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

- Draft Three-Year Education Plan Presentation
- Election Bylaws for Voting Stations and Voting Hours
- Honouring Spirit: Indigenous Award Recipients
- Edwin Parr Awards Night

**CLOSED SESSION**

5116-25

**J. CLOSED SESSION**

Moved that the Board move to Closed Session at 2:14 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 2:14 p.m.*

5117-25

Moved that the Board move out of Closed Session at 3:44 p.m.

**Motion Carried**

5118-25

Moved that the Board approve, in principle, the transfer of Valleyview land to Heart River Housing.

**Motion Carried**

5119-25

Moved that the Board approve Trustee expenses for the PSBC MLA reception on April 9, 2025.

**Motion Carried**

5120-25

Moved that the Board defer to the Policy Committee the approval process of attendance at unassigned events.

**Motion Carried**

**ADJOURNMENT**

**K. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 3:48 pm.

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Board Chair

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Secretary-Treasurer