

# Board News

October 4, 2017

Our Board of Trustees is comprised of Brenda Rosadiuk, *Chair*, Joan Zaporosky, *Vice Chair*, Shirley Caputo, Betsy DeClercq, Carol DeMong, Ken Fate, and John Stitzenberger

*We are deeply saddened by the recent horrific event in Las Vegas over the weekend which has greatly impacted so many families. On behalf of our board, administration, staff and students, we wish to extend our thoughts and prayers to all, especially to the Medig family, whose daughter Calla graduated from Jasper Junior/ Senior High School in 2007.*

## News in Brief

- Chair Rosadiuk recognized that this Thursday is World Teachers' Day. Since 1994, over 100 countries celebrate World Teachers' Day annually on October 5<sup>th</sup>. On behalf of the Board, she thanked all Grande Yellowhead's teachers who work so passionately for their students to succeed both in and out of the classroom, each and every day.
- Trustees were very pleased to hear that kindergarten enrolment is up significantly with an over 20% increase in new students registered in all zones.
- Learning Services provided an update on areas identified as priorities by Alberta Education in the area of curriculum for six subject areas: Language Arts, Math, Science, Social, Wellness and Art. Discussions on changes desired are projected to be completed by the spring of 2018. Other areas of interest include competency development, literacy and numeracy progressions, career and technology foundations programming, expansion of dual credit offerings and student learning assessments.
- Schools took part in a number of international field trips during the 2016 - 17 school year. Trustees support the invaluable learning opportunities and enhancements that these experiences afford our students to develop their leadership capacity, cultural awareness and global citizenship skills.
- Grande Yellowhead is pleased to offer support to beginning teachers with the implementation of a division mentorship teacher whose role is to support, collaborate with, advise and coach new teachers. On August

28<sup>th</sup>, the division hosted a New Teacher Orientation Workshop where almost half of the participants were new to the profession. Ongoing and easily accessible support from a mentor for beginning teachers is key to a successful first year of teaching. Chair Rosadiuk believes that providing this support is critical. "This continued support will greatly assist in retaining the division's new teachers within our rural division, and aligns with the division's priorities of improving communications, and succession planning."

- On behalf of the division, Carolyn Lewis offered her sincere appreciation to the current Board of Trustees for their dedication and commitment over the last four years to champion our students and their learning needs. She wished those retiring from their position the very best, congratulated the three acclaimed trustees, and looks forward to working with the new board to be formed after the election on October 16<sup>th</sup>.

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