

November 6, 2018

## ► Education Highlights

Grande Yellowhead Public School Division (GYPSD) trustees ensure that jurisdictional priorities (student learning, teaching and leadership excellence, and community engagement) in place for students to achieve their educational goals and meet provincial educational standards. On a regular basis, representatives from Learning Services provide updates to trustees on various student learning initiatives and programs as the board requires accountability from administration to ensure that these learning supports are being effective.

Today's meeting included a report on the current literacy strategies in place across the division: staff professional development opportunities, divisional assessments, and literacy support interventions, as well as information on inclusive education supports that are accessible to all GYPSD students.

### **Other Notes of Interest**

- Trustees attend educational conferences in order to learn about important issues and new initiatives. Trustee Zaporosky was approved to attend the National School Boards Association (NSBA) Annual Conference from March 30 - April 1, 2019, on behalf of the board. Scheduled workshops on advocacy, governance and executive leadership, innovations in district management, board and superintendent partnerships, student achievement and accountability, and technology solutions are just a few of the transformational sessions on the 2019 NSBA Conference's agenda.
- As part of their financial responsibilities, the board received a report from Facility Services about the scheduled maintenance and upgrades for GYPSD buildings over the current school year using Infrastructure Maintenance Renewal (I.M.R.) Expenditure funding. IMR funding from the province is provided to school authorities primarily to upgrade building components to meet health and safety standards, replace failed facility components, or meet municipal requirements based on number of students, area, and age of school facilities. GYPSD received \$1,505,848 in funding for the 2018-2019 school

year: \$242,000 less than the prior school year. Schools in all five zones are scheduled for various upgrades including roofing, replacement LED lighting, and funds to address annual flooring and painting needs.

- Trustees spoke about their recent attendance at various community meetings and events over the last few weeks where they shared key messages about GYPSD with the community-at-large. They also enjoyed their recent school visits in the Edson and Lobstick zones to see schools' focus on the jurisdictional priorities.
- As part of the new pilot calendar, the board wishes everyone a well deserved new Fall Break from November 12<sup>th</sup> to 16<sup>th</sup>, and enjoy their time with family and friends.
- Superintendent Lewis provided highlights from this month's leadership meetings with principals and assistant principals that focused on developing: teacher and leadership excellence skills, instructional focus, and generative dialogue.

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The GYPSD Board of Trustees hold their Public Board Meetings at the Education Services Centre at 3656 1<sup>st</sup> Avenue in Edson, Alberta. Meetings align with the board's responsibilities which include:

- *Approving an annual budget that achieves jurisdiction priorities.*
- *Establishing goals and priorities for the jurisdiction that achieve provincial education standards, meet the needs of students, and reflect their communities' wishes.*
- *Creating and enforcing policies that set out standards and expectations regarding the actions of administration, teachers and students.*
- *Communicating, informing and involving parents, staff and the community-at-large in school board decisions and activities.*
- *Lobbying the municipal and provincial governments on education issues of importance to the jurisdiction.*
- *Adjudicating policy or decision appeals.*



*Lest We Forget: Remembrance Day, November 11, 2018*