

February 6, 2018

After a detailed discussion on the benefits and possible challenges in the implementation of a division-wide junior kindergarten program, the Board of Trustees approved administration to move forward with the program in all GYPSD elementary schools where viable, effective the 2019-20 school year. The division has been investigating the establishment of a junior kindergarten program over the last few months after inquiries from several communities. With today's approval, administration will begin conversations with local playschools societies across the division to determine where the new programs are needed. For more information, please read the accompanying [press release](#).

The board put forward a Notice of Motion at today's meeting proposing a transfer of the junior high program (Grades 7-9) from Wildwood School to Grand Trunk High School in Evansburg, effective September 3, 2019. In order to consider the potential transfer of a program, there are a number of legislative requirements that must be met under Section 58 of the [School Act](#) and sections 3 and 4 of the [Closure of Schools Regulation](#), as well as steps under [Board Policy 15](#).

Other Key Notes of Interest

- The board reviewed an updated report on the division's Occupational Health and Safety (OHS) Program. The health and well-being of all GYPSD staff, students and visitors is a priority for the board. The division has implemented OHS committees at all school facilities thus trustees receive regular reports on the division's compliance status with all applicable safety and compliance regulations.
- A report was presented to the board on the cleanliness of schools. All GYPSD schools have formal cleanliness inspections following each school break as well as regular spot inspections. The board appreciates the diligent work of the facilities department ensuring the excellent cleanliness of division schools.
- The board approved an amendment to [Policy 7 - Board Operations, Appendix A - Public Comments and Delegation Protocol](#) to align with the language in [Administrative Procedure 151-1 Public Questions and Delegation Protocol](#). The amendment outlines the procedure to speak at a public board meeting.
- Trustees approved a request for a leave of absence for Trustee Zaporosky effective February 27, 2019, for an undetermined amount of time.
- Information was shared with trustees about the division's new nomination and evaluation process for the [2019 Edwin](#)

[Parr Teacher Award](#) sponsored by the Alberta School Boards' Association that recognizes excellence in first year teaching. GYPSD trustees will nominate one of their first year teachers for this annual award by March 15, 2019.

- GYPSD schools are activity hubs in each of the division's communities. The number of community organizations that use GYPSD school facilities was noted in a report at today's meeting. The board fully supports the community use of school facilities for educational and recreational activities and has no desire to implement cost recovery user fees.
- Building collaborative partnerships with local municipal districts in all GYPSD communities is a priority for the board, and appreciates these positive working relationships that support what is best for the students of GYPSD.
- Trustees shared information from various stakeholder meetings, school council meetings, and conference events that they attended. Some of the highlights included:
 - Trustees Aust and Caputo joined Superintendent Lewis at the Evergreen Local No. 11 Alberta Teachers Association (ATA) Induction and Retirement Ceremony in Hinton honouring teachers both beginning and ending their careers with the division.
 - Trustee Fowler and Board Chair Rosadiuk enjoyed Ninton School's student hosted Carnival event. They also attended the Alberta School Boards Association's Winter Leadership Academy where session included:
 - Strengthening board and superintendent relations
 - Avoiding public engagement pitfalls
 - Utilizing social media in times of crisis
 - Trustee Fate recognized the 100 Caring Hearts organization for their funding contribution to Grande Cache Community High School's breakfast program.
 - Trustee Caputo also attended an informative inter-agency meeting in Hinton as the board's representative.
 - Trustee Fowler noted the excellent production of Peter Pan that she recently viewed which was performed by École Pine Grove Middle School.
 - Trustee Aust shared some key health and wellness strategies from her recent attendance at the annual [Shaping the Future Conference](#) that brings together educators, health and wellness professionals and researchers to discuss aspects of comprehensive school health. She also shared that one of the speaker's presentation on his journey from the Philippines to Canada was particularly moving and inspirational.