

Board News

June 1, 2016

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

- Deputy Superintendent Murray reported on current instructional times for schools in all zones, as per Board Policy 18 - School Calendar. As per provincial guidelines, grade 1-9 students are to have access to a minimum of 950 hours of instruction per year in each grade and grades 10-12 must have 1000. GYPSD requires schools to increase these hours by an extra 10 hours to assist in academic achievement.
- Trustees received a transportation update for the end of the school year in preparation for the 2016-17 school year route reviews. GYPSD currently transports 2,581 students on 57 bus routes travelling 8,502 kms each day. Registration for bus transportation can be done online as of July 4th for the 2016-17 school year.
- One of the division's main areas of focus continues to be leadership development and succession planning. The Board was pleased to learn about the highlights from this year's Leadership Academy and the nine current participants accepted into the two-year program. The Academy program was developed to increase knowledge in a number of different leadership areas such as personnel management and fiscal accountability for those staff members interested in future management positions with the division.
- Leslee Jodry, Assistant Superintendent-Learning Services, provided a brief overview of the 2016 Accountability Pillar Results for GYPSD which were released on Monday by the Province. A more in-depth analysis will be presented at a future meeting after identifying successes and areas of growth for Grande Yellowhead in each of the six areas surveyed: safe and caring schools; student learning opportunities; student learning achievement; preparation for lifelong learning, world of work, citizenship; parental involvement and continuous improvement. Supt. Gray thanked Asst. Supt. Jodry and the Learning Services team for their work over the last year when noting the significantly improved results for the division.
- Mrs. Jodry and Nancy Freedman, Supervisor-Learning Services, presented the five outcomes and strategies for the 2016-19 3 Year Education Plan for the division. Each year, GYPSD reviews information regarding the school division to determine the focus areas for the three year education plan. Data review includes provincial accountability results, provincial achievement test and diploma exam results, accountability surveys, division surveys, symposium and institute information, student voice including Tell Them From Me surveys and Youth Symposium conversations, Thoughtexchange information, and various assessments including Early Year Evaluations, Aimsweb and Testonline progress monitoring of student achievement. Strategies to support student learning are considered through discussion with various stakeholders (Board, students, teachers, administrators, parents).
- The 2016-17 Budget with a planned deficit of \$1.8 million was approved by the Board. The deficit budget will be covered through the



Board's reinvestment of \$640,000 from undesignated reserves, and from school and department operating reserves.

- Sandy Axmann, Supervisor-Learning Services, presented information on the Truth and Reconciliation Report and the UN Declaration of Rights for Indigenous Peoples. Mrs. Axmann discussed on the specific calls to action that affect education strategies and programs put into place to improve the lives of Indigenous students.
- Grande Yellowhead was proud to co-host the fifth Annual FNMI Teacher Camp at the Palisades Education Stewardship Centre in Jasper from April 20-22, 2016. Partnering with the Palisades Centre and the Edmonton Regional Learning Consortium, 50 participants from ten school divisions and representatives from Alberta Education took part in the three day workshop/camp that focused on the Cree language and cultural protocols for smudging, songs and teachings. Participants thoroughly enjoyed the rich story-telling, teamwork, friendship dances and traditional walks led by two dynamic presenters from Maskwacis Cultural College, Elder Jerry Saddleback Sr. and his wife Jo-Ann. Both are also the Spiritual and Cultural Advisors to Dr. Willie Little Child who worked with the Truth and Reconciliation Commission.
- Amendments to Policy 5 - Role of Board Chair, Policy 8 - Committees of the Board and Policy 9 - Board Representatives, were approved.