

# Board News

October 19, 2016

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

**Celebrating School Bus Safety Week!** *On behalf of the board, Board Chair Rosadiuk thanked all the hardworking bus drivers who ensure our students arrive safely every day to our schools.*

## School Highlights - Jasper

Students from both Jasper Elementary and Jasper Jr./ Sr. High joined today's Public Board Meeting by video conference to share highlights from the great things happening at schools at the west end of the division. Grade six students from Jasper Elementary shared some of their fun projects in math and student debates that they have been involved with this year. Members of the Student Council at Jasper High spoke about their upcoming events at both the school and in their community. A senior student from the recently organized girls' rugby team proudly discussed the development of the team two years ago that has grown from nine members to one senior and two junior teams.



## Mental Health Initiatives

After serving four years in the original project schools, Niton Central, A.H. Dakin in Edson and Crescent Valley in Hinton, the Bringing Empowered Students Together (BEST) project is now in the second year serving three new schools to continue building men-

tal health capacity. The project is now proud to be a part of Wildwood School, École Pine Grove Middle School in Edson and École Mountain View School in Hinton until June 2018, and then will move on to three other schools in GYPSD to continue building capacity. BEST staff offer promote positive mental health in children, youth, families and communities by raising awareness, increasing knowledge, building personal skills (such as self-care and self-regulation techniques), developing interpersonal skills, fostering positive community norms (such as support networks, physical, and psychological safety). Partnering with GYPSD division and school staff, BEST coordinators offer student programming in classrooms, events in the schools and communities, presentations to students and staff members, parent information sessions and professional development opportunities. Looking ahead to the summer of 2017, BEST staff will also continue to partner with our community agencies to ensure students have opportunities for positive physical and psychological activities over the summer months. Stay tuned for more!

## Capital Projects Update

Facility Services provided their regular updates to the Board on two current capital projects in the division: the modernization project for Grande Cache Community High School (GCCHS) and the replacement school in Edson.

Exterior work continues on the GCCHS project with the installation of exterior lights and flag poles. Interior partition walls have been installed in the new administration office area and exterior block work on the new gymnasium and new entrance is in progress.

The pile work has been completed on the Edson Replacement School project and grade beam installation has started along with the concrete block instal-

lation on the gym area. The installation of underground services has also started. Please visit <http://www.gypsd.ca/Capital%20Projects.php> to view photos as the projects move forward.

A schedule of planned maintenance projects for other facilities this year was provided to trustees which includes some re-roofing, asphalt repairs, replacing stairs and refinishing of a gymnasium floor in Hinton. The division receives funding each year in order to upgrade building components to meet health and safety standards, replace failed facility parts or meet municipal requirements.

### ***Other News in Brief***

- Grande Yellowhead will be participating in the Thoughtexchange process for the third year to hear directly from our stakeholders on matters of mutual interest and importance. Information received helps to provide insight into how well the division communicates its goals, and how we can ensure a safe and caring learning environment with one year's growth for all students.
- Trustees approved funding for transportation and for providing a healthy lunch for grade six students attending this year's Imagine Conference in Hinton. This is the 8<sup>th</sup> year that the Board has supported this valuable youth conference. Over the last five years, the Board has approved additional funding of over \$56,000 in support of GYPSD students participating in various youth conferences and provincial or national competitions.
- Amendments to the employment contracts for family school liaison counsellors and the Superintendent of Schools were approved. Trustees noted their appreciation of the valuable work that our counsellors do in our school. In approving Superintendent Gray's contract for the current school year, trustees also expressed their appreciation of his continuing professionalism and dedication in keeping the Board informed on matters of mutual concern.