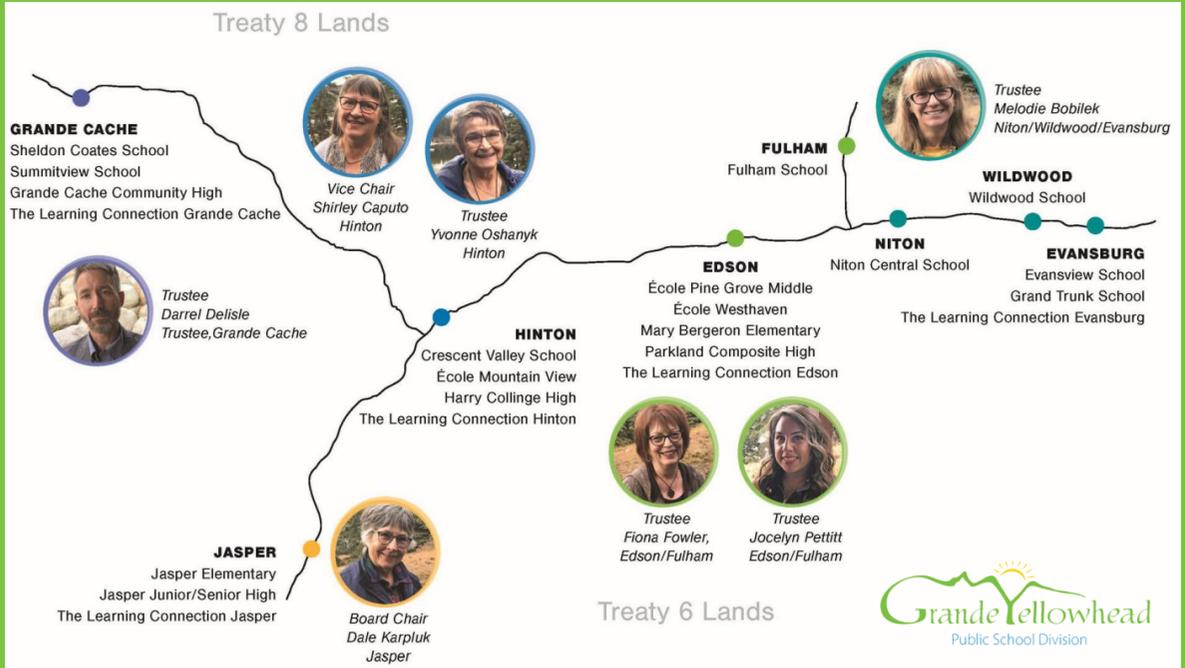


Board Meeting Brief

August 23, 2023



Board Priority

1

STUDENT LEARNING

Superintendent Lewis and members of the senior team attended the five graduation events in the Division, acknowledging the resilience of this particular cohort of graduates; they began high school in a pandemic and ended grade 12 in wildfire evacuations and floods. Despite these challenges, the students remained committed to their learning and career goals and will be starting their post-secondary plans in the next few weeks!



Board Priority

2

TEACHER, SUPPORT STAFF, AND LEADER EXCELLENCE

The Board approved both the Superintendent and Board goals for 2023/24. As per [Board Policy 2](#) and [12](#), the Board and Superintendent participate in a facilitated review of their work every June and set goals for the next school year.

The Board recognized [Harry Collinge High School Principal Glen Allen](#) for receiving the *Alberta Distinguished Leadership Award* from the [Alberta Teachers' Association's Council for School Leadership](#). [Superintendent Lewis](#), [ATA Local President Jessica Smeall](#), and [Crescent Valley School Principal Ryan Maghun](#) shared their appreciation for Mr. Allen for his successful career, mentorship, and educational leadership in Hinton.

Members of the Board spent the summer learning. Trustees attended the [Canadian School Boards Association Congress](#) in July, the focus of which was Indigenous Education. In August, Trustees attended the [Public School Board Council](#) professional learning event in Medicine Hat, where they participated in the [Blanket Exercise](#) and visited the [Saamis Tepee](#).



Superintendent Lewis shared [highlights from her summer work](#), including her and members of GYPSD's Division Leadership Team attendance at the [College of Alberta School Superintendents' Summer Learning Conference](#). Superintendent Lewis spoke about her appreciation for the principals across GYPSD for their work in their schools to support student growth and achievement.

All GYPSD staff will be coming together for **Kick-Off 2023** on August 30th. The annual professional learning event will begin with a relevant and practical Keynote address from [Dr. Shimi Kang](#), after which staff will spend the rest of the day in specific, targeted learning sessions created/facilitated by their team leaders to address their contextual professional development needs.

Department Heads from central services shared a few of their summer projects, including the final work done in preparation for the roll-out of the [Digital Reporting platform](#) being introduced across GYPSD's elementary schools beginning this fall and the launch of [GYPSD's First Rider Program - Buddy's Grande Yellow Adventure!](#)

Board Priority

3

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Board Chair Karpluk acknowledged the date for the National Recognition of [Treaty Six](#), pointing out the importance of treaty recognition within Truth and Reconciliation. In September, GYPSD schools will recognize [Truth and Reconciliation](#) and [Orange Shirt Day](#) to ensure past trauma and the rich histories of Indigenous peoples are taught and understood, and that Indigenous culture, language, and teachings are valued and embedded in education.

The Board Chair also acknowledged the theme for this year's Kick Off Event: **We've Got Your Back**. The theme reflects the Division's pride for GYPSD employees' commitment to their communities over the past year of wildfires and floods - so many GYPSD staff stepped forward to help within their communities.

Board Priority

4

SYSTEM HEALTH and WELLNESS

GYPSD high schools will be welcoming a new member to their staff this fall - their Wellness Navigator. Wellness navigators will be working alongside administration, Family School Liaison Counselors, and other student support specialists to ensure every high school student is supported through their academic and social/emotional journey.

The initiative is possible through the Mental Health in Schools Grant the Division received last spring and is a welcome addition to the Division's [Pyramid of Supports](#).

Through their advocacy focus, the Board continues to urge the province to address gaps in services and supports for rural students and their families.



LOOKING AHEAD...

- September 5: [First Day of Classes for the 2023/24 School Year](#)
- [September 20: Public Board Meeting](#)
- September 25-29: Truth and Reconciliation Education Week
- September 29: Orange Shirt Day in Schools