

Board Meeting Brief

October 25, 2023

Treaty 8 Lands



Treaty 6 Lands



Board Priority 1

STUDENT LEARNING

The Board Chair shared her appreciation for the information and guidance high schools provide to support the successful transition of high school students into their after-high school, or 'post' secondary, journeys. Whether students want to attend a degree, diploma, or certificate-granting institution, undertake a career development program, begin their apprenticeship training, or join a business, [every high school student in GYPSD is encouraged to explore and consider a 'post' secondary plan that inspires them.](#)

Superintendent Lewis shared the success of the Superintendent Youth Council's first meeting of the school year at Parkland Composite High School. Carrying on their work from last year, each high school representation team began by reflecting on [the projects they pitched to their principals last June.](#) The school representatives will be deepening and refining their research, needs' analysis, and action implementation skills as they address growth areas in their high schools.



The Board enjoyed a [musical presentation from Mary Bergeron Elementary students](#), performing *Oh! Susanna* on tone chimes and hand drums. These cowboy musicians even took time for a little square dance. *Yeehaw!*



As part of the Division's Department Update, Technology Director Lyle Lee noted the readiness for the PowerTeacher Pro [Digital Report Card](#) all elementary schools will be implementing for the upcoming first reporting period. The new digital reporting platform will ensure parents and guardians can access their child's learning, marks, attendance, and late data at any time. Parents and guardians can also see how their child is progressing through the specific learning outcomes in each subject area. Rather than waiting for official reporting dates, parents can log in, check their child's progress, and reach out to the teacher for conversations on intervention and support.

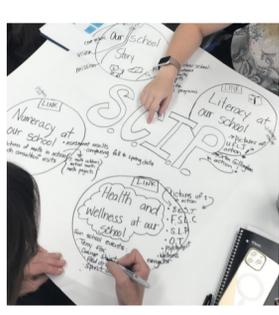
The Assistant Superintendent of Division Services and Supports, Carra Aschenmeier, described the Division's use of provincial and local assessment tools to determine where students may require extra support and resources. The Board shared their appreciation for the [literacy, numeracy, and competency progressions](#) Alberta Education provides to parents, and encouraged families to download and make use of the [resources the ministry provides parents as partners in education.](#)

Board Priority 2

TEACHER, SUPPORT STAFF, AND LEADER EXCELLENCE

The Board received a comprehensive report from the Division's Transportation Director, Christine Van Neck, addressing increases in ridership due to the early adoption of changes to eligibility criteria and a 275% increase in charter trips over the past two years. Additionally, the department has trained close to 27 new drivers over last year and so far this year. Improving access to bus driver road tests will be an upcoming Board advocacy topic.

Superintendent Lewis shared [highlights from her report](#) that included the substantial work school leadership teams are doing around their results review processes and the development of their school improvement plan. Changes to the results review and improvement plan documents intend to improve readership and understanding amongst the school's stakeholders and bring clarity and focus to the core work of teachers.



Board Priority 3

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

The Board welcomed a new Trustee for Grande Cache, **Ms. Jackie Mines.**

The Board approved updates to Board Policy 10 - *Policy Making.*

Board Chair Karpluk and Superintendent Lewis attended a meeting arranged by the Alberta School Boards' Association (ASBA) for Board Chairs and Superintendents to speak with new Education Minister **Demetrios Nicolaides.** Topics included:

- Career Education
- New Curriculum
- Support for Students with Complex Needs
- Capital Planning
- Mental Health

The Board will be attending ASBA's Fall General Meeting in November and has sent formal invitations to GYPSD's MLAs Long and Getson to join them during the annual MLA Breakfast, an important opportunity to connect with local provincial representatives on key educational topics.



Members of the Board attended the Public School Boards Association of Alberta (PSBAA) Fall Conference and General Meeting where in addition to [Minister Nicolaides, they heard from the Honourable David Hancock.](#)

The Trustees will continue their school visits into the Lobstick and Grande Cache Zones in the new year.

Board Priority 4

SYSTEM HEALTH and WELLNESS

The Board received an overview report from **Director of Human Resources, Meghan Auriat,** on the first meeting of the Division Health and Wellness Committee. The committee, co-chaired by Ms. Auriat and **PCHS teacher, Sean Sommerfeld,** includes a diverse representation of staff committed to the Board's newest priority.



Wellness Navigators' **Supervisor Tara Burdock** provided an overview of how wellness navigators will be employed in each high school. The WN will be a key mental health resource for students; additionally, they will attend meetings with community partner organizations to build important relationships and networks that ensure students have access to support beyond what the school can provide. WNs are an important part of the high school's success team - working with students to identify goals, mitigate challenges, and build resiliency habits and skills for success beyond high school.

LOOKING AHEAD...



- October 30/31: CUPE Negotiations
- November 8: Remembrance Day in Schools
- November 9-13: Fall Break
- November 13-17: Day-in-Lieu Holiday
- November 13-17: [Metis Week/Louis Reil Day](#)
- November 17/18: Public School Board Council Meeting
- November 19: Rural Caucus Fall General Meeting
- November 19/21: ASBA Fall General Meeting
- November 21: Auditor Meeting
- November 22: [Public Board Meeting](#)