

Board Meeting Brief

February 28, 2024

Treaty 8 Lands

GRANDE CACHE

Sheldon Coates School
Summitview School
Grande Cache Community High
The Learning Connection Grande Cache



Vice Chair
Shirley Caputo
Hinton



Trustee
Yvonne Oshanyk
Hinton



Trustee
Melodie Bobilek
Niton/Wildwood/Edson/Evansburg

FULHAM

Fulham School

WILDWOOD

Wildwood School

NITON

Niton Central School

EVANSBURG

Evansview School
Grand Trunk School
The Learning Connection Evansburg

EDSON

École Pine Grove Middle
École Westhaven
Mary Bergeron Elementary
Parkland Composite High
The Learning Connection Edson

HINTON

Crescent Valley School
École Mountain View
Harry Collinge High
The Learning Connection Hinton



Trustee
Jackie Mines
Trustee, Grande Cache

JASPER

Jasper Elementary
Jasper Junior/Senior High
The Learning Connection Jasper



Board Chair
Dale Karpluk
Jasper



Trustee
Fiona Fowler,
Edson/Fulham



Trustee
Jocelyn Pettitt
Edson/Fulham

Treaty 6 Lands

Board Priority

1

STUDENT LEARNING



The Board Chair highlighted the important topics students explore in their classes during February: Black History Month, Pink Shirt Day, and [Random Acts of Kindness](#). In addition, students celebrated '100 Days of Learning' - an important milestone for students to acknowledge how much they have grown since the beginning of the school year.

The Board's *Spotlight on Students* agenda item illustrated the commitment and talents of teacher Danette Dickson who puts on a production every year. The [drama students from Parkland Composition High School performed a song from their production of *The Lightning Thief - The Percy Jackson Musical*](#), which they performed at the Red Brick in mid-February.



Board Priority 2

TEACHER, SUPPORT STAFF, AND LEADER EXCELLENCE

The Board of Trustees heard presentations from GYPSD's first-year teacher nominees for the [Edwin Parr Award](#): Mack Holden from Sheldon Coates Elementary in Grande Cache, and Paige Ekdahl from Mary Bergeron Elementary School in Edson.



(Standing, from left: Trustee Oshanyk, Vice-Chair Caputo, Principal Jill Hammer, Trustee Bobilek, Board Chair Karpluk, Principal Darcy Reynolds, Trustee Mines, Trustee Fowler, Trustee Pettitt. Seated left, Mack Holden, seated right, Paige Ekdahl).

Both presentations were outstanding and received praise from the Board for their commitment to student learning. Congratulations to **Paige Ekdahl** who is this year's Board of Trustees' selection for the ASBA Zone 2/3 Edwin Parr Teacher Award for GYPSD. Board Chair Karpluk shared her deep appreciation for the extensive efforts of the candidates and their principals to carry out the work of the nomination process.

In her [report to the Board, Superintendent Lewis](#) highlighted the one-on-one carousel meetings she is hosting for the Division's principals. Principals met with Dr. Lewis to share their leadership work, growth plans, and school goals. They then met with other members of the senior team to discuss their literacy and numeracy work, staffing and budget files, and needed Division Services and Supports. Dr Lewis also arranged for the Division's principals to attend a [Restorative Culture](#) Workshop with trainer Sue Hopgood.



The Board representatives for ASBA (Chair Karpluk) and PSBC (Trustee Fowler) shared their appreciation for the exceptional PD provided by the two educational organizations that support trustee learning in the province. Board Chair Karpluk applauded the presentation by [Sixties Scoop Society of Alberta](#), and noted the engaging, relevant learning topics provided throughout the year. Board Chair Karpluk and Trustee Fowler (Chair of the Committee of the Whole) will be attending the National School Boards' Association Conference in April.

Board Priority **3**

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

The Board of Trustees and GYPSD staff received recognition from **RCMP Staff Sergeant Chris Murphy**. S/Sgt. Murphy shared his appreciation to the Board, staff, and Superintendent Lewis for participating in a training exercise and review process that took an entire year to prepare and complete. Principal Kurt Scobie and school staff in Hinton, Assistant Principal Ryan Hall in Edson, and staff at Central Office - including Division bus drivers - contributed to a comprehensive learning experience - the first of its kind in the area.



From left: S/Sgt. Murphy with Board Chair Dale Karpluk, Assistant Principal Ryan Hall, and GYPSD Superintendent Lewis.



The Board of Trustees received a report from Indigenous Pathways' Team Consultant Jenn Albrecht. Each year, school boards are invited to nominate students for the Alberta School Boards' Association **Honouring Spirit: Indigenous Student Awards**. This year, 22 GYPSD students have been nominated for the award.

The Board approved updates to **Policy 11, Delegation of Authority**. The Board Policy Committee reviews and updates the Board's policies every two years. Amendments to policy reflect changes to legislation and regulations, as described through the *Education Act* and other legal references that direct the work of school boards in Alberta.



SYSTEM HEALTH and WELLNESS

The Board received a comprehensive report from Inclusive Learning Consultant Amy Corser who provided an overview of this huge team of specialists. The Inclusive 'umbrella' includes the High School Wellness Navigators, the Family School Liaison Counsellors, the BEST coaches, the Division's Psychologist, and the therapists and external consultants the department accesses to ensure students receive the specialized supports they need to be successful at school. Additionally, the report provided an update on the School Nutrition Program which saw a recent boost from Alberta Education in light of food costs. In support of equitable access to school nutrition, the Board moved to send an advocacy letter to MP Soroka, encouraging his support for [Bill C322 - which proposes a framework for a national food in schools' program.](#)



The Board received a report on the work carried out by the Occupational Health and Safety Team to ensure the safety of GYPSD's staff and students, particularly in light of last year's **wildfire situation**, this team will be working with school and central leaders to refine plans and communication processes. Additionally, the Board discussed the **Northern Student-Teacher Bursary** program. Until recently, the bursary program provided funds to students in teacher education programs to pursue practicum placements in rural communities. The Board is committed to increasing awareness of, and interest in, wonderful careers in rural education opportunities and will be bringing forward an advocacy action at the March Public Board Meeting.

Finally, the Board received a report on the new Professional Conduct and Competency Commission's Complaint Process. Implemented in January 2023, the complaint process intended to improve the timelines to receive and address concerns regarding teacher conduct and professional practice. The number of complaints that can and should be resolved at the local level take up the resources of the commission and may cause a delay to address genuine cases of concern. The Board has identified this issue will be an additional advocacy discussion at the March Public Board Meeting.

LOOKING AHEAD...



- March 1: Division PD
- March 3: Rural Caucus of Alberta School Boards' Meeting
- March 3 - 5: Alberta Rural Education Symposium
- March 12: Meeting with MP Soroka
- March 12: Board Policy Committee Meeting
- March 18 - 19 Board Appeal Hearings
- March 18: ASBA Speakers' Corner
- March 20: Public Board Meeting
- March 25-April 2: Spring Break

