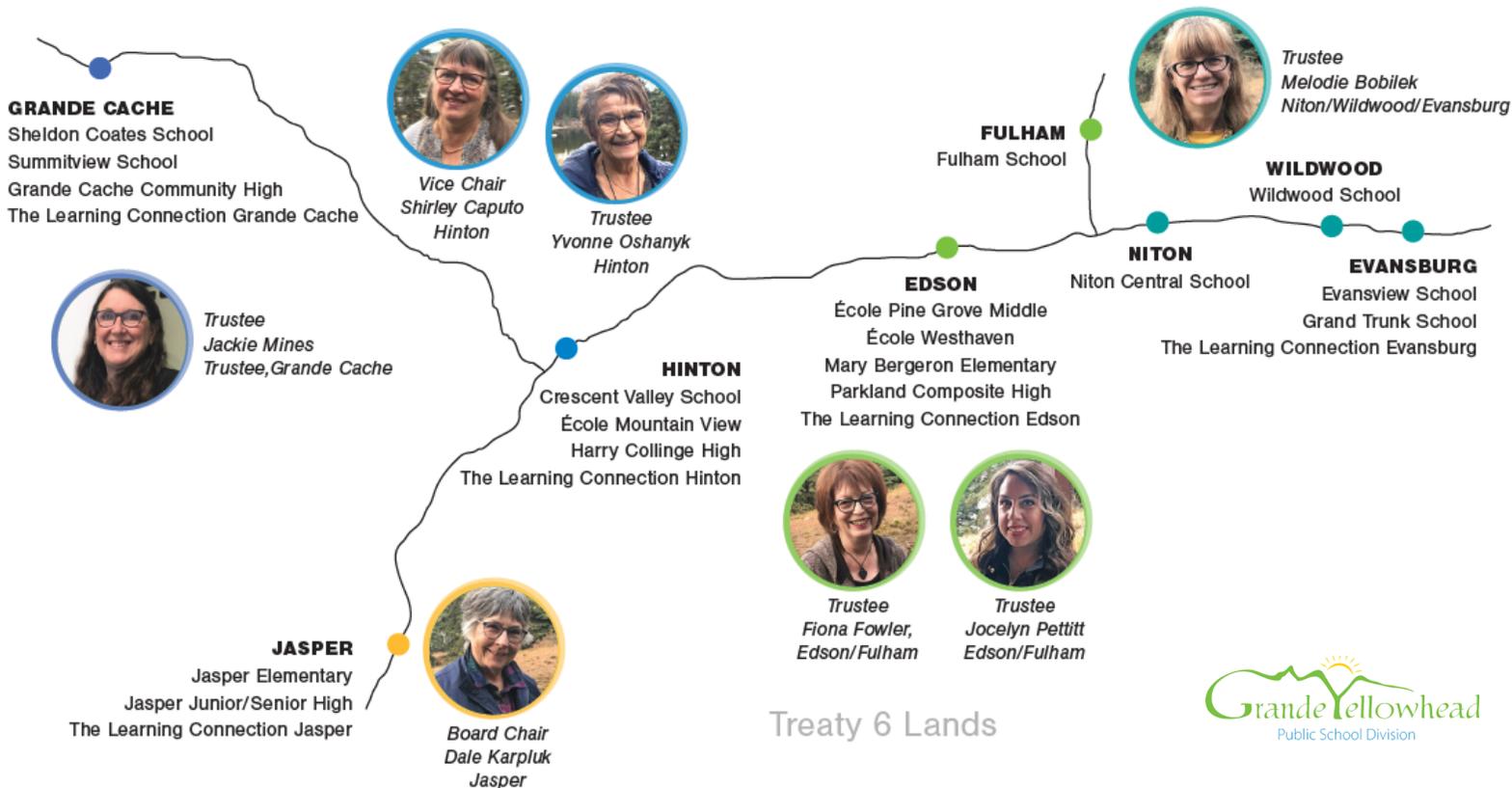


Board Meeting Brief

March 20, 2024

Treaty 8 Lands



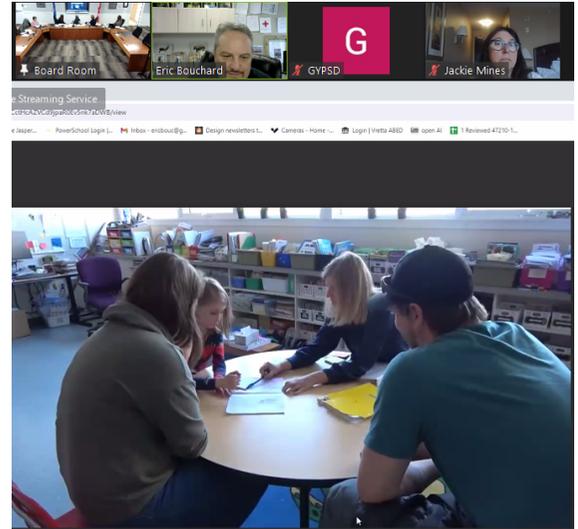
Treaty 6 Lands

Board Priority 1

STUDENT LEARNING



The Board heard from Principal Eric Bouchard who shared École Jasper Elementary's approach to 'Parent-Teacher Interviews': The "Student Success Meetings". In the lower grades, students 'lead' their parents through a variety of subject-specific activities to illustrate their learning over the term. The **Student-Led Conference** empowers students to describe their work to their parents, providing in-time evidence of their skills and knowledge.



How can parents be involved?

- **Active Involvement:** Parents can actively participate in school events and School advisory committee.
- **Communication:** Regular communication between parents and teachers is essential. Parents can stay informed about their child's progress, assignments, and school activities by attending student success meetings, checking newsletters or communication platforms, and contacting teachers when needed.
- **Volunteering:** Volunteering at school events, fundraisers, or in the classroom can significantly benefit the school community. Parents can assist with activities such as field trips, book fairs, or classroom projects, providing valuable support to teachers and students.
- **Supporting Learning at Home:** Parents can create a supportive learning environment by establishing routines, providing encouragement, and showing interest in their child's education. They can help with homework, engage in educational activities, and promote a love for reading and learning.
- **Advocacy:** Parents can advocate for resources, policies, and programs that benefit students and enhance the quality of education.
- **Promoting Positive Behavior:** Reinforcing positive behavior and values at home can complement the school's efforts in fostering a positive learning environment. Parents can teach respect, responsibility, and empathy and support the school's disciplinary policies.

Older students participate in a **Teacher-Led Conference**. While the teacher is part of the conversation, the student is the 'lead'. Through a discussion model, students answer questions from the teacher and talk to their parents about their strengths and accomplishments. The questions and conversation help the student identify areas for growth or more effort. As the parents are part of the conversation, they are included in the 'growth plan' providing critical support to the student's success.

At the end of the conference, parents provide their child '**2 Stars and 1 Wish**': 2 specific comments recognizing their success, and 1 targeted goal for growth. Principal Bouchard emphasized the critical role parents play in ensuring their child's success at school.

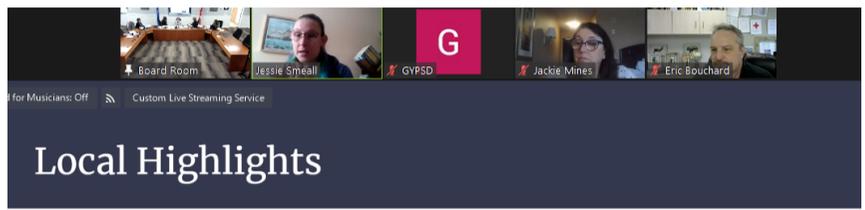
Board Priority

2

TEACHER, SUPPORT STAFF, AND LEADER EXCELLENCE



The Board received a presentation from **Evergreen Local #11 ATA President Jessica Smeall**. Ms. Smeall, also a teacher at École Mountain View Elementary in Hinton, shared the work of the union at both the provincial and local levels; she also noted her appreciation for the strong working relationship the local holds with the Division.



Professional Development

- We're awesome
- Additional funds for coursework (2023/24)
- Continual use
- Investment in our staff



Diversity, Equity, and Human Rights

- Start up packs
- Provincially recognized
- Birthday Bags (year 3)
- DEHR week
- Literature and lessons for all schools (year 5)
- Looking into care packs for all schools



The Board heard how teachers provided over 200 'Birthday Bags' to the Edson local Foodbank to ensure that no child went without special recognition on their birthday and the local's commitment to the development of Hygiene Packs at schools to address obstacles young people experience accessing personal products.

Chair Karpluk shared the Board's deep appreciation for the Division's Substitute Teachers and also acknowledged **The United Nations International Women's Day** efforts to raise awareness on the ongoing issues facing women and girls around the planet.

The Board approved motions to send letters to advocate for the expansion of the Northern Student-Teacher Bursary to **include rural and remote schools**, as currently, only Grande Cache falls within a qualifying location, and for a review of the Alberta Teaching Profession Commission. The Board also updated Board Policy 19 - Recognition of Staff, and Board Policy 8 - Committees of the Board to reflect current trustee committee roles and positions.

In the **Superintendent's Report, Dr. Lewis shared highlights of her work**, including a special meeting she attended with Board Chair Kapluk. They met with the Education Minister's Chief of Staff to discuss the literacy and numeracy work occurring in the Division, and the establishment of an Incident Command Team in advance of the spring wildfire season. The Board approved the Division's 3-Year Capital and 10-Year Facilities plan - which identifies the modernization of Niton Central School as the Board's first priority. The documents are submitted to Alberta Education which determines annually the project submissions that will be approved. The **documents are updated annually** on the Division's website.

Dr. Lewis and the Board also met with MP Gerald Soroka to discuss their advocacy and support for the **Kids Help Phone**, **Settlement Workers in Schools**, the **National Framework for a School Nutrition Program**, expansion of the **Northern Living Allowance**, rebating the Carbon Tax to School Divisions, and **Noah's Law**.



The Board received the monthly status report from each of the central team leaders, including highlights from HR and Finance as these two departments prepare for staffing and school budgets for the 2024/2025 school year; the Inclusive Team is planning screening sessions for all new Jr. Kindergarten and Kindergarten registrants and shared that the **Division's Annual Indigenous Education Camp**, which takes place every spring in Jasper, is **sold out!** The Board also heard the various Professional Development Sessions taking place across the Division - highlights included specialized training for Support Staff and FRIM teachers. Members of the Division's Tech Team are planning an internal 'share fair' to reveal and showcase the incredible (and hidden) tech skills of each individual on the team.

Board Priority

3

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

The Board is moving forward with its review of the Lobstick Zone's school attendance areas and transportation service routes. A report summarizing a conversation that occurred with the Niton Junction and area community, as well as a follow-up report with answers to the questions collected at the event were made [public on the Division's website](#).

The Board approved updates to Policy 15, School Closures, and its appendix, to align with changes to the Education Act and the dissolution of the former regulation. The Board also approved an update to Policy 18, School Calendar. The Board Policy Committee reviews and updates the Board's policies every two years. Amendments to policy reflect changes to legislation, regulations, and other legal frameworks that direct the work of school boards in Alberta.

The Board attended both the [Rural Caucus of Alberta School Boards'](#) spring meeting and the [Alberta Rural Education Symposium \(ARES\)](#). The two events bring stakeholders from across rural Alberta to discuss and explore solutions for the challenges rural schools face; the conversations also highlight the unique, land-based, agricultural programming opportunities that small schools can offer when everyone in the community supports the school.

(Right: GYPSD Board Chair Dale Karpluk asks questions of Education Minister Nicolaides at ARES)



Take Note! The Board will be traveling east on the Yellowhead Highway to host its April 17th Public Board Meeting in Evansburg, at the [Tipple Park Museum](#). The Hamlet of Evansburg marks the outer-east community of the school division boundary.



Board Priority

4

SYSTEM HEALTH and WELLNESS

BEST and the Wellness Navigators planned a range of events and activities to support students during Spring Break - each community has a different schedule of events.

The **Incident Command Team** is working with school leaders to ensure their evacuation plans are up to date - this includes ensuring all parent and emergency contact information is accurate and they have a plan. The team is also meeting with municipal and county leaders to coordinate communication and evacuation plans to mitigate confusion and stress in preparation for wildfire season. Command Lead, Brian Orge also reminded **everyone to 'firesafe' their properties**.





LOOKING AHEAD...

- April 5-8: National School Board Association Conference
- April 11-12: PSBC Professional Learning Event
- April 15: ASBA Speakers Corner
- April 16: Trustee Generative Discussion & Board Policy Committee Meeting
- April 17th: PBM in Evansburg
- April 19: ASBA Zone 2/3 Meeting
- April 24-26: CASS First Nations, Métis & Inuit Gathering
- April 26: Division Professional Development Day