

OUR MISSION

We nurture each student's education and well-being within an inclusive rural learning community.



Board Brief: August 26, 2020

### District Priority 1: Student Learning

- ✓ Board Chair Rosadiuk spoke to the new [Ministerial Order on Student Learning](#), appreciating the focus on literacy and numeracy, as well as the alignment of the order's student learning outcomes to GYPSD's [three \(3\) board priorities](#).
- ✓ GYPSD's [Learn-at-Home option](#) provides families the opportunity for students to learn from home for the 2020-21 school year. After informing the school principal, the school will ensure families have the resources, materials and teacher support they need to have a successful learner at home.
- ✓ School principals released their school's re-entry plans on August 24<sup>th</sup>. Teachers will begin the school year by assessing students' needs and developing learning plans to address any gaps. Schools have health and safety protocols in place to minimize the risk of spreading the virus. Each school's plan is posted to their website.
- ✓ In addition to providing the learn-at-home option (that offers print and/or online access and in-person supports), principals agreed that students could return to in-school learning if needed. Families will give the school one week's notice and work with their school principal to re-enter the classroom.

### District Priority 2: Teaching and Leadership Excellence

- ✓ Superintendent Lewis and the Board of Trustees praised the work of Division principals and central services leadership for their work over the summer to implement the [2020-21 School Re-Entry directive from Alberta Education](#). In particular, school principals were applauded for their response to parents wanting a learn-at-home option.
- ✓ On August 21<sup>st</sup>, Principals and Senior Leadership participated in a full-day *Division Leadership Team* (DLT) meeting to share best-practices, school re-entry plans, and discuss leadership development within their schools.
- ✓ The [Board of Trustees](#) approved an adjustment to the in-person aspect of the retirement celebration plan for the 2019-2020 retiree cohort, praising the retirees for their dedication and commitment to GYPSD while acknowledging AHS mandates, and putting the health and safety of staff, students, families, and communities at the forefront.
- ✓ *Kick Off 2020*, set for September 2<sup>nd</sup>, will see a total of 61 sessions offered by 42 presenters. The Division encourages and provides professional development that is focused, systemic, and contributes significantly to staff's on-going professional growth and engagement in career-long learning.
- ✓ Teachers new to GYPSD participate in a *Welcome Orientation and Professional Development Workshop* prior to start-up. This year, 18 new teachers are joining the Division!

### District Priority 3: Community Engagement

- ✓ [Board Chair Rosadiuk, Vice Chair Zaporosky, Trustees Fate, Karpluk, Aust, Caputo and Fowler](#) are committed to leading advocacy for strong public education, building collaborative relationships and developing solutions-focused partnerships to ensure success for our GYPSD students and community. Highlights include:
  - ✓ Multiple conversations throughout the summer with provincial leaders to discuss [COVID concerns](#), School Re-Entry processes and provincial Transportation regulations.
  - ✓ GYPSD Board representation at [Public School Boards' Association of Alberta](#) (PSBAA) meeting.
  - ✓ School Council Chair and Principal meetings within each of the five (5) GYPSD communities. Council Chairs were invited to share their concerns and offer insights into learning options and re-entry plans.
  - ✓ GYPSD senior administration, with the Board Chair observing, hosted a press meeting with representatives from community newspapers to discuss the [Division's Re-Entry Plan](#) and [FAQs](#).
  - ✓ Board Chair Rosadiuk continues to meet with [MLA Shane Getson](#) to advocate for GYPSD schools.