



Board Meeting Brief

December 15, 2021

Darrel Delisle, Grande Cache

GRANDE CACHE
Sheldon Coates
Summitview
Grande Cache Community High
SonRise Christian
The Learning Connection
- Grande Cache

Shirley Caputo, VICE CHAIR, Hinton

Yvonne Oshanyk, Hinton

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

JASPER
Jasper Elementary
Jasper Junior/Senior High
The Learning Connection
- Jasper

Dale Karpluk, BOARD CHAIR, Jasper

FULHAM
Fulham School

EDSON
A.H. Dakin
Evergreen
École Westhaven
École Pine Grove Middle
Parkland Composite High
The Learning Connection
- Edson

NITON
Niton Central

WILDWOOD
Wildwood School

Melodie Bobilek, Niton, Wildwood, Evansburg

EVANSBURG
Evansview
Grand Trunk High
The Learning Connection
- Evansburg

Fiona Fowler, Edson/Fulham

Jocelyn Pettitt, Edson/Fulham

OUR VISION
Our school division endeavours to provide each student with the opportunity to fulfill their potential and pursue their dreams.

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

The Board of Trustees for Grande Yellowhead Public School Division is committed to thoughtful governance, strong advocacy for strong public education, building collaborative relationships, and developing solution-focused partnerships to ensure success for GYPSD students and communities.

Grande Yellowhead Public School Division

We wish all our staff and students a blissful Christmas break and extend our best wishes and Happy New Year to all our families and community partners. Merry Christmas!

STUDENT LEARNING



Board Chair Karpluk voiced the Board's commitment to student learning by ensuring GYPSD students have access to a wide offering of courses and learning platforms goals through HAPARA, and [CAMPUS GYPSD](#).

The Board received a comprehensive report from Assistant Superintendent (acting) Carra Aschenmeier on the review of the [Draft K-6 Curriculum](#). Chair Karpluk stated, "What students learn and how they are supported in their learning is crucial to their success and inclusion within their local communities and their larger society, and their ability to be successful and competitive within the global community. Alberta's education system has regularly scored at the top of the international rankings. And we want to maintain that for our students." The Board was pleased to hear that the [Minister of Education has listened to feedback from Albertans](#).

Chair Karpluk shared the Board's ongoing work to support literacy and [numeracy in all of GYPSD's classrooms](#), and their goal to update the school attendance areas in Edson and Hinton - necessary to ensure student enrollment balance exists between the elementary schools in order for program equity.

TEACHING AND LEADERSHIP EXCELLENCE



The Board shared their appreciation for the teachers on the Curriculum Working Group (CWG) for their deep-dive analysis of the Draft K-6 Curriculum and their research review of studies done by [other groups](#) and organizations, like the [ATA](#).

- Highlights from [Superintendent Lewis' report](#) included:
- Grande Cache and Hinton Principal presentations to the Trustees on their schools' successes and instructional goals
 - 31 Senior Leadership, Central Leadership, and Principal one-on-ones to support growth and excellence across GYPSD
 - Attendance at meetings with:
 - the Field Experiences Policy Advisory Committee at the U of A
 - the College of School Superintendents
 - Minister of Education and the Deputy Minister of Education
 - the Grand Trunk Modernization Fundraising Committee
 - the Teachers Employer Bargaining Association
 - HR's commitment to the creation of Administrative Procedure 163 to ensure all GYPSD employees have choice in adhering to the Proof of Vaccine Status or Proof of Negative COVID-19 Rapid Antigen Screening Test (RAST) mandate.

[Vice-Chair Shirley Caputo](#) praised the work done by the [Alberta School Councils Association \(ASCA\)](#) in their leadership to support and inform [parents and caregivers on councils](#). She encouraged everyone to attend ASCA's many learning events, and access their website for resources. The Board provides ASCA membership to all GYPSD school councils.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT



Chair Dale Karpluk invited trustees to identify three key advocacy items to submit to the Rural Caucus of Alberta School Boards (RCASB): Internet connectivity, Transportation, and timely access to community Mental Health supports were named. The RCASB represents the voice of 41 rural boards in Alberta who collectively advocate to the Minister of Education and the Premier to support excellence in rural education.

- [The Board](#) approved motions:
- to request advocacy support from [MLA Martin Long](#) for the [recruitment of physicians for Grande Cache](#)
 - to submit the [feedback](#) on the Draft K-6 Curriculum completed by the CWG

Trustee Bobilek and Board Chair Karpluk met with [MLA Getson](#) to discuss the progress on the [amalgamation and modernization project at the Grand Trunk High School in Evansburg](#).

The Board discussed the challenges of opening schools to community groups. Significant barriers noted from the Director of Facilities included cleaning and staffing costs, tracking vaccination status, and managing what groups fit within the REP program. Principals across the Division unanimously agreed that it is too soon to open schools to the public.