

Board News

March 7, 2018

Our Board of Trustees is comprised of Brenda Rosadiuk, *Chair*, Joan Zaporosky, *Vice Chair*, Ellen Aust, Shirley Caputo, Ken Fate, Fiona Fowler and Dale Karpluk

2018-2019 Pilot Calendar #TrySomethingNew

GYPSPD's board is always looking for innovative and reflective strategies that assist our students' in meeting their academic goals, pursue opportunities that support our students', our staff's, and our families' health and well-being, and ultimately align with our core value of 'one vision, one team'. At today's meeting, trustees voted to move forward with a pilot calendar for the 2018-2019 school year that is the same schedule for all schools, and includes both a one-week spring break and a one-week fall break. Board Chair Brenda Rosadiuk shared her appreciation with both the board and administration for their work and support to #TrySomethingNew. The intent of the pilot is to assist the division with improving student results and supporting our staff's, students' and families' health and wellness. She also emphasized the purpose of a pilot is to #TrySomethingNew. The board will be seeking stakeholder voice throughout the year on what are the pilot's successes and challenges which will greatly assist the board in developing the next calendars, moving forward. Please see the accompanying press release to learn more, and go to <http://bit.ly/2H-hzo7H> to view the pilot calendar on our website.

Other News in Brief

- March 12th to 16th is Substitute Teacher Appreciation Week and the board wishes to extend their sincere appreciation to these hard working and dedicated staff members who are such an important part of our GYPSPD team.
- Trustees approved an amendment to Policy 19 - Recognition of Staff, to change the number of annual welcome back celebrations to one event held prior to the first instructional day of a school year. A new committee with representatives from various employee groups in the division will be established to design an agenda for the day.

- The board reviewed their monthly schedule that serves as a guide for activities for trustees to attend as representatives of GYPSPD. They also each shared their individual highlights from these events including their recent attendance at the Rural Education Symposium in Edmonton.
- The monthly financial update ending January 31, 2018, noted that revenues and expenditures for the division are currently within expected projections.
- The division's annual Class Size Initiative Report was also presented by Financial Services as GYPSPD receives specific funding to reduce the average class size across the division in kindergarten to Grade Three, as well as to enhance funding to address safety and teacher/student ratios for specific Career and Technology Studies (CTS) courses.
- Karen Shipka, Assistant Superintendent of Learning Services, updated trustees on the inclusive learning supports and services implemented over the current year-to-date. She also included information on mental health programs, the development of specific school action plans around quality inclusive learning environments, and the resources provided from this year's Classroom Improvement Fund grant.