

Board News

November 4, 2015

Our Board of Trustees is comprised of Brenda Rosadiuk, *Chair*, John Stitzenberger, *Vice Chair*, Shirley Caputo, Betsy DeClercq, Carol DeMong, Ken Fate, and Joan Zaporosky

Student Achievements

Results from the previous year's Provincial Achievement Tests (PATs) and Diploma Exams (DIPs) were recently released from Alberta Education which are used by school divisions to determine how well students are learning within a division compared to their peers across the province, and to determine how successful students are in achieving what they are expected to learn. GYPSD's five year trend data indicate that the various learning strategies being implemented in Grande Yellowhead schools will assist students at all grade levels to be successful in their learning. Although some results were on par or comparable to provincial averages, the division excelled in a number of areas especially in student learning achievements for FNMI students, and for the graduation rates for our FNMI students which were over 20% above provincial norms over the last three years average.

Since 2012, summer school programs offered through the Learning Connection Centres continue to be a popular learning opportunity that students take advantage of. During the summer of 2015, over 300 students registered for summer courses from core academic to work experience sessions and received a total of 1125 credits. Summer programs are just one example of the wider variety of programming available to students which has led to a steady increase in high school completion rates over the last few years. Success for all our kids!

Other News in Brief

- Trustees held their annual Organizational Meeting prior to the start of today's Public Board meeting. Lobstick Trustee Brenda Rosadiuk was elected as Board Chair for the upcoming school year and John Stitzenberger from Edson and area was elected to the Vice Chair position. New Chair Rosadiuk sincerely thanked Trustee Stitzenberger for 'his great leadership over the last few years as the division's Chair, and looks forward to his mentorship over the upcoming year.' During the meeting, trustees also re-established their committee assignments for the upcoming year.

- Trustees gave their approval to support two of the three proposals for changes to Alberta School Boards' Association (ASBA) policies. The Board did not support the proposed motion from ASBA that would remove local bargaining rights from school divisions.
- Superintendent Gray received support from trustees to attend the National Conference on Education in February in Phoenix, Arizona. The conference's schedule of events aligns well with current divisional priorities in addition to Superintendent Gray's professional growth plan.
- A new Administrative Procedure, AP317-Service Dogs for Students with Special Needs, was recently developed to outline the procedures that need to be followed for admittance of a service dog into a school.
- The Board was pleased to receive updates from Ken Baluch, Director of Facility Services, on two school facility projects currently moving forward in the division: the modernization of Grande Cache Community High School and the AHDakin/ Evergreen Replacement School (AHDERS) in Edson. Contractor Monteith Building Group has moved onsite in Grande Cache with the installation of site fencing, placement of construction trailers and preliminary excavation. The Grande Cache Project is scheduled for completion in September of 2017. On October 7th, 2015, the Province announced that the AHDERS project would be fully funded with an opening capacity of 450 students with future accommodation of up to 500. Over the last several weeks, the project's Design Planning Committee, members who include parents, staff, both schools' and division administrators, local trustees, provincial representatives and approved architect, have met to discuss initial design needs and concepts. The next design meeting is scheduled for November 13th.

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