

# Board News

March 2, 2016

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

## Community Feedback on Draft LGBTQ+ Policy

Grande Yellowhead's Board of Trustees discussed the feedback received from school community members on the proposed new policy for the division, Policy 24 - Sexual Orientation, Gender Identity and Gender Expression. The draft was proposed by a committee consisting of staff and administration who collaboratively developed the draft that supported the division's recognition and understanding of the additional resources that may be needed in respecting those with diverse sexual orientations, gender identities and gender expressions.

As per the divisional guidelines for the development of all new policies, the Board requested feedback by February 26<sup>th</sup> on the draft for discussion at today's meeting. In response to some of the concerns noted, the division also released a Frequently Asked Questions document on the 26<sup>th</sup>. Community feedback included: why the need for a stand alone policy vs an amendment to existing documents; definitions in the Appendix A-Glossary of Terms; clarity on use of washrooms/changerooms at school facilities, and requests to use more inclusive language in the Policy. Approval of the Policy including any adopted changes to the draft is scheduled for the Public Board Meeting on March 16<sup>th</sup>, 2016 to meet the Province's deadline of March 31<sup>st</sup>.

### OTHER News in Brief

- Trustees ratified a new three year contract with the Yellowhead Contractors Association (YCA) that takes effect retroactively from July 1, 2015 and ends on July 31, 2018. The YCA contract is for school bus contractors within the division.
- Four guiding principles for upcoming negotiations with the Alberta Teachers Association were adopted by the

Board: ongoing communications; a fair, reasonable and balanced settlement; retaining and regaining management rights, and maintaining and improving programs and services to students.

- Assistant Superintendent of Learning Services, Leslee Jodry, was pleased to present a letter of commendation from Alberta Education to the division who not only met, but 'exceeded the requirements in place for School Board Planning and Results Reporting in its creation of a thoughtful and detailed plan and report.'
- Simon St. Onge, a first year teacher at Parkland Composite High School in Edson, has been nominated as the division's nominee for the Alberta School Boards Association's 2016 Edwin Parr Award for excellence in first year teaching. Winners will be announced at the Fall AGM meeting.
- A report on the Family School Liaison (FSL) Counsellor program was presented by Ramona Munkler, FSL Counsellor Coordinator. The Board proudly supports this valuable program which offers a wide diversity of supports and resources for GYPSD students and their families.
- The quarterly update on Transportation Services outlined current ride statistics and future impacts on bus routes dependent on current graduates and new kindergarten students anticipated in the fall.
- Trustees made a motion to request Ministerial approval to reappoint Cory Gray, Superintendent of Schools, for a three year term as his current contract ends on August 14, 2016. Vice-Chair Stitzenberger thanked Supt. Gray on behalf of the Board for his wisdom and guidance to the Board over the last few years.
- AP 500 - Division Budgeting was amended to include a timeline for financial planning for the 2016-17 school year.

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