

# Board News

October 21, 2015

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

## Student Assistance & Programs

Trustees received a number of reports at today's meeting on the many ways that the division supports student extra-curricular activities as well as the mental health initiatives and programs in place throughout GYPSD schools.

Over the last five years, the Board has provided over \$50,000 in additional funds to assist students attending provincial competitions as well as student-led conferences. Students from Grand Trunk High School in Edson and Parkland Composite High School in Edson both received funding to attend athletic provincial tournaments. Students from across the division participated in a number of leadership and trade conferences such as the Summit on Sustainability, the North West Alberta Regional Skills Canada competitions, the Envirothon North American Championships, SpeakOut and Imagine Conferences, and It's Cool to Know Your Way in a Relationship workshops.

Since 2011, GYPSD has been proud to offer the Mental Health Capacity Building in School Initiative and Bringing Empowered Students Together (BEST) project in three schools in the division: Niton Central, AHDakin in Edson, and Crescent Valley School in Hinton. In an effort to build capacity, the second phase of the project will now focus on three other GYPSD schools until 2017. The project is now proud to call Wildwood School, École Pine Grove Middle School in Edson and École Mountain View School in Hinton home until the end of their funding cycle in June of 2017. BEST representatives are hopeful that a third phase of funding will allow them to continue the project in more schools to ensure the continued promotion of positive mental health initiatives and the prevention of mental illness. Although the BEST program resides in the project schools, BEST supports all GYPSD schools with offering support, presentations and access to a variety of resources when requested including a website that includes program information and classroom strategies that all staff and community members can access.

## Other News in Brief

- The Board approved the Board Chair to be the representative who will attend the official signing ceremony for the West Yellowhead Community Threat Risk Assessment and Intervention Protocol on November 5<sup>th</sup> in Edson on behalf of GYPSD.
- As a regular part of the Board's governance review, trustees received a report on school allocations and expenditures for the 2014-15 school year which included those schools in a deficit as well as those in a surplus position at year end.
- Ken Baluch, Director of Facility Services, discussed the facility upgrade and maintenance schedule under this year's IMR Expenditure Plan which includes an upgrade to the heating and ventilation system at Summitview School in Grande Cache; re-roofing at Fulham, Wildwood, Harry Collinge and Crescent Valley schools; new cardlock systems at Wildwood and École Mountain View; refinishing the gym floor at Crescent Valley and a reconfigured student gathering area at Grand Trunk High School.
- Due to the success of the Thoughtexchange process that was implemented last year, the division will continue to use this survey tool to listen to the thoughts and ideas of both internal and external stakeholders to assist the Board in making informed decisions that represent the needs of their communities and schools. The 2015-16 process will start in November and continue into December.
- 2015-16 student enrolments in a number of schools across the division are lower overall than last year and lower than spring projections. As a significant assumption in projecting the revenues are the actual student enrolments for September 30<sup>th</sup>, all schools are currently revisiting their budgets to reflect actual student counts and possible impacts on their funding. Increases in student enrolments were reported in all Grande Cache schools, AHDakin School in Edson, Evansview School in Evansburg, Jasper Junior/ Senior High School.

