

Board News

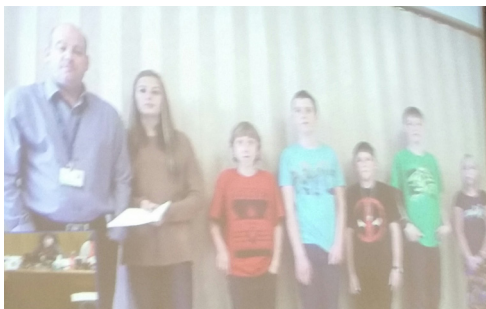
Nov. 2, 2016

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

Today is 'Take Your Kids to Work Day' and on behalf of the division, we offer a sincere thank you to all the businesses and volunteers who have opened their workplaces to our Grade 9 students who will be spending the day with them to learn more about the world of work.

School Highlights - Hinton

All three schools in Hinton joined today's Public Board Meeting by video conference. Five students from Crescent Valley Elementary spoke about a new CTF project-based class being offered to all Grade 5 to 7 students on Friday afternoons with several options to choose from including drama, foods and environmental education. Principal Scobie had an additional guest with him: his daughter Claudia who joined him for Take Your Kids to Work Day.



École Mountain View students who participate in a green club showed a video and answered questions from trustees on the various recycling initiatives that they have implemented at the school including composting and a tiered community garden on the school grounds. HCHS teacher Vicky Hamplas discussed the high school's House Teams that encourage school spirit activities as well as a new 'Pay it Forward' second hand store at the school which offers clothing, toiletries and school supplies for those students in need.

Learning Updates

The Learning Services department provided key updates for the Board on a number of initiatives and strategies taking place throughout the division such as implementing strategies for elementary students on self-regulation. This year's focus on literacy started with data analysis of students requiring specific needs and increased collaboration sessions for staff on developing sustained reading and vocabulary acquisition skills. The dual credit program for students has expanded new opportunities for those wishing to pursue a career as a Oil and Gas Pipeline operator with GYPSD's new partnership with NAIT. Reviewing technology trends and creating policies is underway with a new group of stakeholders taking part in a Learning and Technology Advisory Committee who held their first meeting in October.

Other News in Brief

- Trustees approved their 2015-16 Board Self-Evaluation document which was a self-evaluation questionnaire used to review the board's past year performance and to align with future goals. The four areas of equal focus were increasing partnerships with local businesses/industries for benefit of students; improving apprenticeship opportunities; developing community citizenship skills in students and what schools are currently doing and how trustees can expand those opportunities; and increasing literacy/numeracy and links to lifelong learning.
- An amendment to Policy 6 - Role of Board Chair was approved.
- An overview of the division schools' budgets for the 2015-16 school year was presented by J. Karén, Asst. Supt. - Business Services.

- The Board received an update in regards to the school naming process for the new replacement school in Edson that is currently under construction. A total of 135 names were submitted and will be forwarded to the School Naming Committee for consideration at their first meeting on Wednesday, November 9th. As per the process approved on September 7th, The School Naming Committee is to review all name submissions and forward three names in order of preference by Wednesday, November 30, 2016 to the COTW for consideration at their meeting on December 14, 2016. The COTW will forward their recommendation for the Board's approval at the Public Board Meeting on January 11, 2017.
- Nikki Gilks, GYPSD's Communication Manager, shared news about two communications awards received at this year's annual conference for the Canadian Association of Communicators in Education (CACE) on October 23-25, 2016 in Ottawa. (see separate press release).
- A preliminary review of the 2015-16 Provincial Achievement Tests (PATs) and diploma exam results were discussed. High school graduation rates were also reported for Grande Yellowhead which showed a slight decline in areas hit by an economic downturn in communities where families have relocated out of the jurisdiction or province. Noted Sandy Axmann, Supervisor of Learning Services, "We have had families struggle this past year, and the stress this has had on our students is demonstrated with these results. On a more positive note, the division's Indigenous graduation rates continue to be well above provincial norms."
- Trustee Zaporosky recently attended the opening of a new mosque in Edson which was very well attended by community members including many local GYPSD staff.

