

# Board News

December 16, 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

***On behalf of all of us at Grande Yellowhead Public School Division, we wish everyone a safe and merry Christmas break! Last day of classes is Friday, December 18<sup>th</sup> and schools reopen on Monday, January 4<sup>th</sup>, 2016.***

## Facility Project Updates

The Board received two reports on the current capital projects taking place within the division: one on an update of Grande Cache Community High School's (GCCHS) modernization project, and on the final design for a replacement Edson School Facility which was approved by the Board at today's meeting.

The renovation for GCCHS's modernization is proceeding on schedule and the community was pleased to receive the classroom modulars on-site which will be ready for occupancy towards the end of January. The project continues to move forward with the planned completion during the 2016-17 school year.

Trustees approved the final design and layout for the replacement Edson School Facility that will be built on the current A.H.Dakin School site. Since September 2015, the Design Committee, consisting of representatives from many stakeholder groups including parents, staff, and school and division administration, have been meeting every two weeks to develop the current design that was presented at today's meeting for final approval by the Board. Edson trustees will also be meeting with local stakeholders about possible names for the replacement facility. *Please see the separate press release for more information on this project.*

### **OTHER News in Brief**

- The Board ratified the changes to the C.U.P.E. Collective Agreement that will be applicable for September 1, 2015 to August 31, 2018 which included a 2/1/1 per cent increase in remuneration as well as access to health spending accounts over the next three years. The division's C.U.P.E. members ratified the Agreement earlier with 86% approval received from their voting membership. Please review the board report from today's meeting for details of all changes made to the Agreement.
- Statements of support from GYPSD's Board will be provided for

the development of a Wellness Foundation in Alberta, and to the Hinton Historical Society in support for their Community Initiative Program operating grant application.

- Trustees accepted the Audited Financial Statements for the year ending August 31, 2015 which noted the division had a deficit of \$672,424 planned from the use of operating reserves or use of undesignated net assets. Annual financial statements are posted on the division's website under Explore/Documents/ Business Services/ Audited Financial Statements.
- Reports on the various activities, minutes and financial information supported by local school councils were provided to trustees. School councils play an important role in the success of schools and GYPSD strongly encourage the formation and growth of our wonderful partners in education including membership to the Alberta School Councils' Association each year.
- Although GYPSD continues to support international field trips and the many learning benefits that these experiences provide for our students, the division will be approving all future scheduled trips on a case-by-case basis due to the changing international political environment. *Please see the separate press release for more information.*
- Supt. Gray advised the Board on the results of a school zone study conducted by Alberta Transportation in 2014 in regards to the speed zone designation for the section of Highway 32 in front of Fulham School. The study was requested by Fulham community members who desired to have the road speed designation changed from 'school area' to 'school zone'. After their study, Alberta Transportation denied the request based on a number of factors that were included in the report provided to the trustees. The board will be looking into other avenues available to appeal this decision including a discussion with the local MLA.
- Trustees discussed their position in regards to amendments to the proposed Bill 8. They were pleased to see the formation of the Teachers Employer Bargaining Association (TEBA) which will include all school boards. TEBA will select a Board of Directors from their members to be part of the collective bargaining process in the future with representatives from the province and the ATA. This new structure helps to ensure that boards have a voice at the negotiating table between all affected stakeholders on matters of central interest as well as addressing local needs.