

Board News

October 5, 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

What's New in the Learning Toolbox?

All students in Grande Yellowhead have access to supports and services they need to be successful regardless of where they live or which class they are assigned. To ensure that we continue to meet the needs of our students and they receive one year's growth in their learning, GYPSD has put into place a number of initiatives over the last year which include:

- the successful implementation of a School Linked Team (speech language pathologist, occupational therapist, mental health coordinator, technology lead teacher, literacy lead teacher and assessment and mentorship lead teacher)
- formal learning support teachers in every school
- family school liaison counsellors
- adoption of the Collaborative Response Model
- development of a specific division-wide learning plan
- school-based instructional coaches.

Other News in Brief

- Over \$6,000 of additional funds by the Board were provided to schools in support of provincial competition travel during the 2015-16 school year. Students from Grande Cache Community High School competed in New Brunswick for a National Skills Canada Competition; both the boys and girls' senior basketball teams from Grand Trunk High School travelled to Provincials; and Parkland Composite High School students journeyed to compete provincially for drama and badminton.
- Trustees received a detailed report on off campus learning experienced by GYPSD students last year. These invaluable opportunities for students include work experience terms, registered apprenticeships and participation in the Green Certificate program.

Over 300 students took part in one of the programs and the division continues to be truly appreciative of the many businesses and individuals who partner with our schools in providing these important educational opportunities for our students.

- A number of international field trips have been proposed from various schools for the upcoming school year, subject to current political and environmental conditions at time of departure.
- Trustees were given some preliminary background to consider on acknowledging Treaty Lands at official meetings and school functions as per other Alberta school divisions.
- September 30th student enrolments saw a decrease of 3.2% across the division from spring projections; most notably in the Grande Cache zone where enrolments have declined over 10% since last year.
- Members from the Division's Leadership Team recently participated in a Blanket Exercise to better understand the impact that residential schools had on Indigenous peoples.

