

November 28, 2018

## ► Representing Their Communities

Grande Yellowhead Public School Division (GYPSD) trustees shared key messages from their attendance at various school events and provincial conferences at today's meeting. School board trustees represent both the division and their communities at different functions to help build understanding and advocate in the best interest of K to Grade 12 public education. Their active involvement also assists the board to stay abreast of trends within education, and position GYPSD to anticipate the needs of our schools for all students to be successful in their educational goals. Over the last couple of weeks, trustees have participated in community and school Remembrance Day services; audit committee meetings; local chamber of commerce meetings; school council meetings; Public School Board of Alberta and Alberta School Board Association's (ASBA) Fall General Meetings. Trustees were proud to share that the division was recognized at the ASBA Fall General meeting with an Innovation and Excellence Award for their 2018 GYPSD Kick Off Event. The board also recently met with MLA Rosendahl to discuss jurisdictional concerns including transportation funding, at a MLA function hosted by the ASBA.

### **Other Notes of Interest**

- Trustees approved the completed audited financial statements for the year ending August 31, 2018, after its review from the division's Audit Committee. GYPSD had projected a \$2 million deficit budget, and with strategic internal controls, the 2017-18 school year closed with a smaller deficit than anticipated. Superintendent C. Lewis thanked Secretary-Treasurer C. Wang and her financial services team for their diligence and careful planning to ensure that the division's assets and accounting records were properly administered so that the board's jurisdictional priorities could be met.
- The final draft of the 2018-21 Three-Year Education Plan and 2017-18 Annual Education Results Report was presented and approved by the board. This important publication outlines the board's focus on educational goals and priorities for the current school year as well as provides the results of the provincial Accountability Pillar Survey results on the division. Assistant Superintendent K. Shipka was commended for her work on its creation and informative content. The document, including all survey results, will be posted on the division's website by November 30, 2018.

- A new five-year electrical energy contract was a good news story at today's meeting with the announcement that savings to the division is anticipated to be over \$150,000 in total. The new contract will guarantee a competitive rate for the next five years that is within GYPSD's current budget allocation for electricity.
- The board ratified the Memorandum of Agreement for changes to the Collective Agreement between the board and the Canadian Union of Public Employees Local #1357 (CUPE). The previous Agreement expired August 31, 2018. Along with a number of changes to the Agreement to clarify language, wage increases of zero per cent for 2018-19, 0.5 per cent for 2019-20, and one per cent for 2020-21, were agreed to. Superintendent C. Lewis and Board Chair B. Rosadiuk thanked the CUPE Negotiation Committee for their efforts and hard work in collaborating together to bring forward a Memorandum of Agreement and a revised CUPE Collective Agreement.
- The board reviewed the school councils' annual reports for the 2017-18 school year which provided an overview of the activities of each school council. Over the past years, the board has encouraged the formation and growth of school councils across the division and provides each school council with complimentary membership to the Alberta School Councils' Association.
- Deputy Superintendent E. Murray provided an update on current staffing levels across the division for the 2018-19 school year. Thirty three new contracts have been offered, including seventeen to teachers with less than two years experience.
- A detailed report from the technology department included information on the many innovative and timely technology tools, training and support available across the division to enhance student learning and teacher pedagogy. Some of these include access to a robust digital lending library, as well as access to a fully functional Makerspace and a diverse number of software programs and learning suites. Please see the separate [press release on Tech Day](#) for more information.
- The board will be issuing invitations to stakeholders to join them at the upcoming [2019 Alberta Rural Education Symposium \(ARES\)](#) on March 3-5, 2019, in Edmonton, Alberta. This year's theme is *Schools and Communities: Partners in Action*. These meetings provide elected representatives with opportunities to discuss issues of mutual interest, and to share information regarding strategic planning, with the goal of coordinating activities and ensuring that community needs are met with the limited public resources available.