

► GYPSD Kicks Off!

During the 2017/2018 school year, the board of trustees approved a change to the format of the welcome back events that traditionally took place in the last week prior to school start-up. The intent of the new design was to bring all Grande Yellowhead Public School Division staff to one location to celebrate the beginning of a new school year by offering a day of exceptional professional learning activities, as well as recognize long service recipients.

On Tuesday, August 28, 2018, almost 600 staff members attended this year's 2018 Kick-Off Event which was held at Parkland Composite High School and École Pine Grove Middle School in Edson. The event featured 108 sessions offered by 48 GYPSD staff and 15 invited speakers. The day included a variety of sessions including the keynote speaker, Dr. Jody Carrington, and sessions from literacy expert, Irene Heffel. Trustees expressed their appreciation for the work that went into this very successful day. Please see the full [press release](#) to learn more about this exciting event that 'kicked-off' another great year at GYPSD!

Other Notes of Interest

- The board approved a new location for the special public board meeting scheduled for September 27, 2018, to discuss the division's current [Three-Year Capital Plan](#). The meeting will begin at 10 a.m. at the Joe Wynne Royal Canadian Legion in Edson. [Information](#) on upcoming engagement sessions is also posted on the division's website. The first hands-on workshop is Thursday, September 13, 2018, in Wildwood.
- Trustee Zaporosky received approval from the board to withdraw her candidacy application to be a trustee representative on the Alberta School Boards Association Teacher Salary Qualifications Board.
- Superintendent Lewis received approval from the board to attend an international conference on education in Hawaii from January 5-8, 2019, as part of her professional development plan. She has also applied to the conference board to present a session on educational programs and resources offered at Grande Yellowhead.

- Trustees voted to keep trustee honorarium for the 2018/2019 school year at the same rate as the prior school year.
- The board discussed the board annual work plan for events and celebrations to recognize over the coming weeks.
- Stacey Dickerson, Prevention and Engagement Coordinator from [Options, HIV West Yellowhead](#), spoke to the board about their services and student presentations offered throughout the regions of Jasper, Hinton, Edson and Whitecourt.



Classroom Improvement Fund Renewed

GYPSD was pleased to have the [Classroom Improvement Fund](#) (CIF) grant renewed for the upcoming school year from the province. The fund was originally designed as a one-time grant of \$594,000 for the 2017/2018 school year, and was distributed based on student enrolment. Funds were allocated towards professional learning supports, classroom resources and additions to the digital lending library.

For the 2018/2019 school year, the division will receive another \$594,000 to offer teachers additional resources that focus teaching and learning on literacy, as well as provide additional supports for administrators to focus on instructional excellence.