

March 13, 2019

- At today's Public Board Meeting, trustees selected Domonic Lodge, a first year teacher from Ecole Pine Grove Middle School in Edson, as this year's division finalist for the Alberta School Boards Association's (ASBA) 2019 Edwin Parr Teacher Award, recognizing excellence in first year teaching. Three teachers were selected as semi-finalists: Domonic, Kyle Murray from Mary Bergeron Elementary, and Mary Andreassen from The Learning Connection. All three nominees were invited to present to the board who then selected the finalist. The six final zone winners will be announced at the ASBA's November General Meeting.
- The board approved the 2020/2022 Three-Year Capital Plan and the 2020/2029 Ten-Year Facilities Plan. School jurisdictions are required to submit plans annually to the province by April 1, 2019. The Three-Year Capital Plan identifies the division's highest priority school facility/infrastructure needs for a three-year period. GYPSD's 2020/2022 Plan identifies the same priorities that were submitted after a special board meeting in September. Both plans are subject to financing approval by Alberta Education.
- Before its approval, the board participated in an in-depth discussion on the proposed 2019/2020 Budget Allocation Model. Alberta Education provides funding to school boards through the Education Funding Framework. Funding is allocated primarily on a per-student basis for instruction, transportation, and facilities operations and maintenance. Superintendent C. Lewis extended her appreciation for the financial services team's work in preparing the current model to the board for their consideration.
- A report on the Family School Liaison Counsellor (FSLC) program noted that GYPSD currently has nine full-time positions supporting schools and families across the jurisdiction. The work of the Family School Liaison Counsellor is to support and counsel students and their families on barriers to a successful education and healthy lifestyles, including anxiety and mental health concerns. Trustees reaffirmed their full support of this valuable program that offers targeted supports and services.
- GYPSD currently has a number of joint use agreements with municipalities that outline a reciprocal agreement for community use of school facilities free of charge, and for schools to access municipality facilities for various activities.
- The board is pleased to learn that many municipal and school facilities continue to be accessed under these mutual agreements.
- Trustees shared information from various stakeholder meetings, school council meetings, and conference events that they attended together as part of their governance role. Two highlights from the last few weeks included:
 - Attendance at the Alberta Rural Education Symposium in Edmonton
 - Trustees advocated for a number of rural challenges including inequity of transportation funding and difficulty of providing wrap-around services in small communities. Some municipal councilors from the Town of Edson and Hinton also attended the conference with the GYPSD board.
 - 2019 Share Your Voice: Strategic Planning Community Engagement Sessions facilitated by the Superintendent's Youth Council members in all five zones. All trustees were appreciative of the thoughtful feedback provided by participants and noted the excellent leadership skills of the student facilitators.
 - MLA meeting with Honourable O. Carlier
- Trustees also provided individual reports. Trustee E. Aust spoke about an upcoming health and wellness initiative presented by students at Harry Collinge High School. She also spoke of the value of the symposium in discussing with key government elected officials about rural challenges for boards. Trustee S. Caputo attended the Rural Caucus of Alberta School Boards meeting, and was part of the Edwin Parr selection committee. Trustee D. Karpluk attended local school councils' meetings in Jasper. Trustee F. Fowler highlighted some upcoming current school events in Edson for March, as well as her participation in the Edwin Parr committee. Trustee K. Fate found the community engagement sessions in each zone provided very unique and valuable feedback on the current education strategies. Trustee J. Zaporosky shared some information from the Rural Education Caucus Meeting on funding challenges.
- Board Chair B. Rosadiuk extended congratulations to the Facility Services department and the architects at The Workun Garrick Partnership for their second place award for the full modernization design of Grande Cache Community High School, at the annual Association for Learning Environments Conference. She spoke of the importance of trustees continuing to advocate with government elected officials on the current challenges facing rural boards to ensure that rural students have equitable access to necessary supports and services.
- Superintendent C. Lewis provided an update on current activities including an upcoming strategic planning workshop with central office staff on March 15, 2019, and her senior administrative team's work with school principals on deepening instructional leadership skills and engagement in reflective dialogue with staff.