



GYPSD Kicks Off Another Great Year of Learning

Immediate Release: August 28, 2019 - The Board of Trustees from Grande Yellowhead Public School Division (GYPSD) hosted the second annual Kick-Off event for over 600 staff in Edson on August 28, 2019. Staff from across the division enjoyed a full day of professional development as well as an engaging keynote by motivational speaker Jody Urquhart. As an important part of the division's employee recognition program, the Board also recognized almost 100 employees who have served GYPSD from five to 40 years of continuous long service commitment to public education.

Board Chair Brenda Rosadiuk shared the importance of bringing all of the division's staff together to welcome back returning and new staff as well as offer meaningful PD to kick-off another year of successful learning. "Our board is committed to teaching and leadership excellence at all levels, thus it is important that we support staff with opportunities to keep them continually and actively engaged in their own learning throughout their career." GYPSD staff who were willing to share their knowledge and best practices with others led the majority of the workshops.

Superintendent Carolyn Lewis shared her excitement about starting a new school year especially as the division has improved its financial position and division schools' Accountability Pillar results have increased significantly. The Superintendent spoke about the importance of literacy and numeracy as well as hope and purpose.

Kick-Off events center on GYPSD's theme *One Vision, One Team, One Goal: Literacy across the Curriculum*. Superintendent Lewis shared, "Over the last two years, there has been a strong emphasis on building teacher capacity regarding literacy curriculum which has resulted in significant student growth. Providing educators with innovative tools and supporting them to effectively develop their skills has a direct impact on student achievement. However, these resources and their impact on student achievement is only as effective as the PD provided to the educators using them. There are great things happening in classrooms throughout our division; I applaud our staff in stepping up to share their best practices with each other, and nurture the lifelong learning model of successful educators."

Workshops on new technology tools, transportation updates, and refreshers on various subjects outside of the classroom were also available to address the learning needs of non-school based staff including bus drivers, central division staff, and facility services staff.

The Board of Trustees would like to thank the local dignitaries for joining GYPSD for the 2019 Kick-Off event: MP Jim Eglinski, MLA Martin Long, Deputy Mayor Janet Wilkinson, Mayor Gerald Soroka, Councillor Trevor Bevan and CAO Mike Derricott. In addition, special thanks go to Elder Dorothy Courtereille, who began the day of celebration and learning with a blessing.

To view more pictures from the day's event, please visit the division's Facebook page at www.facebook.com/gypsd. Welcome back to another successful year of learning for all!