

# Board News

September 11, 2019

Our Board of Trustees is comprised of Brenda Rosadiuk, *Chair*, Joan Zaporosky, *Vice Chair*, Ellen Aust, Shirley Caputo, Ken Fate, Fiona Fowler and Dale Karpluk

On September 11, 2019, Grande Yellowhead Public School Division (GYPSD) held their Public Board Meeting. In attendance was Jessie Smeall - Alberta Teachers' Association (ATA), Cassie Kushniruk - The Weekly Anchor, and community members from Niton. Highlights from the Public Board Meeting:

- 2019 Kick Off was held August 28, 2019, at Parkland Composite High School. More than 600 staff across the Division were joined by the Board of Trustees and Superintendent of Schools, Carolyn Lewis. Joining in the festivities were MP Jim Eglinski, MLA Martin Long, Deputy Mayor Janet Wilkinson, Mayor Gerald Soroka, Councillor Trevor Bevan and CAO Mike Derricott. Elder Dorothy Courteille began the celebrations with a blessing. Jody Urquhart was the keynote speaker to begin a day of professional learning opportunities offered to GYPSD staff. Feedback from GYPSD was exceptional as 95 per cent of staff rated the professional development a success.
- ATA President, Jessica Smeall discussed a letter campaign that will be implemented in the coming weeks asking teachers to write letters to their MLAs, parents and community members discussing class sizes, the composition of classes and instructional time. The purpose is to advocate to the Minister of Education on behalf of students. Superintendent Lewis suggested there be a focus on changing the funding formula for rural schools in Alberta. In addition, Board Chair Rosadiuk noted that GYPSD Trustees are tirelessly advocating for funding for rural schools and there will be more influence with a united front and momentum from the community.
- The Edson and District Recycling Society ran a recycling audit on École Pine Grove Middle School in June 2018 and June 2019, where the results revealed a 90 per cent reduction in waste materials. An audit was also performed at Parkland Composite High School and Wildwood School with similar outcomes. École Pine Grove has been invited by the Recycling Council of Alberta to present at its annual conference Sea Change: A Waste Production Conference on October 2 – 4, 2019 in Jasper, Alberta. In addition, CBC Radio featured an interview on August 27, 2019 titled "Edson Schools are going waste free with a new recycling program", which highlighted Pine Grove's success with the recycling program.
- Harry Collinge High School hosted their annual Ken Prosk Memorial Pancake Breakfast on Friday September 6, 2019. Trustee Caputo and Trustee Aust were in attendance with Superintendent Lewis. MLA Martin Long and Mayor Marcel Michaels joined the students and GYPSD staff for the annual breakfast.
- A Junior Kindergarten (JK) Information session was hosted at GYPSD Central Office on Monday September 9, 2019. Trustee Zaporosky and Board Chair Rosadiuk were in attendance along with parents and Principals from Westhaven, Niton and Fulham schools. Parents listened to Learning Services Director Kim McConnell present on the JK curriculum as well as had the opportunity to speak with Superintendent Lewis and Board Chair Rosadiuk following the session.
- On August 15, 2019, Adriana LaGrange, Minister of Education, pursuant to Sections 77, 112, 260(10) and 260(10.1) of the Education Act, made the order in the Continuance of the School Divisions and The Board of Trustees name change of Grande Yellowhead Public School Division (No. 77) to The Grande Yellowhead School Division, effective September 1, 2019. This name change will be in effect immediately on all legal documentation moving forward, however, the Division will continue to display GYPSD on existing signage as well continue to use the word Public in the Division name as an identifier of Grande Yellowhead existing as a Public School Division.
- Correspondence from the Minister of Education, Adrianna LaGrange, revealed that the government will maintain funding of 15.5 million for the Alberta School Nutrition Program, matching the grant money from previous years. This initiative provides daily nutrition to more than 35,000 elementary students across the province.