

# Board News

October 9, 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 October 9, 2019, Grande Yellowhead Public School Division (GYPSD) held their Public Board Meeting. In attendance was Jessie Smeall - Alberta Teachers' Association (ATA), and a community member from Niton.

## School Visits

- The Superintendent of Schools led the Board of Trustees on school visits in Jasper, Grande Cache, and Edson. Trustees met with principals, teachers, educational assistants, school council chairs, and elected officials in all of the zones, formulating connections with staff and community members. The Board enjoyed visiting classrooms observing literacy instruction in core subjects and meeting with the school principals to discuss enrolment, budgets and Accountability Pillar results.

## 2019 Imagine Conference

- The Board denied a request to provide transportation to and from the 2019 Imagine Conference for students and teachers, as well as \$1,400 towards venue rentals and lunch. Although the Board recognized the value of the conference, the Division is limiting expenditures for initiatives and projects with the funding uncertainty that all school jurisdictions are currently facing from the province.

## Orange Shirt Day

- Schools from across the Division held various events in support of Orange Shirt Day, promoting awareness of the Residential School System and the impact this system had on Indigenous communities in Canada. Trustee Caputo attended the Orange Shirt Day assemblies held at both Crescent Valley and École Mountain View schools, and highlighted how much she appreciated the dance presentation from the Hinton Friendship Centre.

## Curriculum Update

- Learning Services provided a report to the Board on the current status of the provincial work on curriculum. Recommendations from the provincial advisory panel are expected to be publicly shared in December 2019. The Division implemented working and advisory committees in the 2018/2019 school year, and continues to provide professional development opportunities to support the implementation of future curriculum.

## Summer School Program

- A significant number of students took advantage of the wide variety of programs offered through summer school at Parkland Composite High School in Edson and The Learning Connection; for example, more than 140 students registered in the Career and Life Management (CALM 20). Other summer school options included: Art, Abnormal Psychology, Aboriginal Studies, Biology, CALM, Chemistry, English, Math, Environment Science, Forensic Science, French, Learning Strategies Math, Personal Psychology, Physical Education, Physics, Science, Social Studies, and Work Experience. Outdoor experiential learning opportunities were also offered through the Palisades Stewardship Education Centre in Jasper National Park to GYPSD students and students from across the province.

## Dual Credit Program

- Parkland Composite High School (PCHS) provided welding dual credit courses during the 2018/2019 school year through the Alberta Dual Credit Framework grant funding. Six students completed the Pre-Employment Welding Program and received applicable credits through PCHS and Grande Prairie Regional College. All students were eligible to challenge the first period Alberta Apprenticeship welding exam.

## Work Experience Program

- Work experience courses provide off-campus experiential learning activities for students to discover their career interests and aptitudes while applying knowledge and skills from other course work. In the 2018/2019 school year, approximately 200 students from five GYPSD high schools and The Learning Connection participated in the program.

## Enrolment

- The Board of Trustees was pleased to receive the 2019/20 student enrolment numbers which are up 1.5 percent from last year, and over two percent from spring projections. As of September 30, 2019, 4,567 students registered in GYPSD schools across the jurisdiction.