



Board News

October 30, 2019

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

Investigating New Program Options

- The Board received a delegation from the Edson Aeros Junior A hockey team inquiring about the Division's interest in establishing a local hockey academy to provide educational opportunities to highly skilled players with an affiliation to the local Junior 'A' hockey teams. There are currently junior A hockey teams in Edson and Hinton with a possible third team in Jasper for the 2020/2021 year. Trustees approved administration to move forward with a feasibility study on setting up hockey academies in each of the five high schools.

Transportation Update

- Trustees received a quarterly update from Transportation Services which, addressed the status in of student ridership, the number of ineligible students transported, wait lists, and ride times. For the 2019/2020 school year, there are 2,669 students registered on 53 school bus routes. The number of ineligible students transported are 289, which make up 11 per cent of the total ridership. GYPSD also has busing agreements with neighboring school divisions to transport students from Parkland School Division, Living Waters Catholic Separate School Division, Yellowhead Koinonia Christian School, and Northland School Division.

Budget

- With the new provincial budget released on October 24, 2019, the GYPSD Finance Team is investigating the financial impact to the Division's overall budget. Transition grant funding was announced in replacement of three prior grants; however, this amount is considerably less than last year's allocation. Insurance premiums have also significantly increased for all jurisdictions, adding to the financial pressure school boards are facing. More information on the provincial funding model will be available to boards in February 2020.

Seclusion Rooms

- Ministerial Order #42/2019 – Seclusion and Physical Restraints in Alberta School Standards and Guidelines for Time-Out in Alberta Schools - comes into effect on

November 1, 2019. GYPSD schools do not operate any seclusion rooms under the Order's definition. In order to build understanding and clarity of the new Ministerial Order, the Division has implemented a number of steps including the creation of a handout for families providing the definitions of seclusion, seclusion rooms, physical restraints, and time-outs, and providing on-going professional development opportunities for staff on de-escalation strategies and defusing situations.

Teacher Mentorship

- Since 2016, GYPSD has provided additional supports and resources to teachers beginning their career with the Division. The 2019/2020 Teacher Mentorship Program includes strategies as collegial support, collaborative learning and reflective practice, with a PD focus on the implementation of the Teaching Quality Standards, classroom management, instructional planning, foundational knowledge of concept-based teaching, meeting the needs of all students, balanced assessment practices, communication strategies, mental health, and stress management.

Superintendent's Update

- Superintendent Lewis updated the Board on her recent attendance at various provincial and local meetings on behalf of the Division. She recently completed school visits with the trustees and commended staff on the exemplary instructional practices observed in classrooms. At the latest administrators' leadership meetings, Ms. Lewis and the senior team worked collaboratively with school leaders to prepare for upcoming instructional rounds: a process that brings groups of educators together to reflect on their instructional practice as a means of improving student learning. The superintendent also participated in the Board's planning seminar where the trustees discussed Board priorities, key issues facing school divisions and the important work carried out by trustees and administration.

New Crosswalk Lights Installed

- The Board received a report from the Mary Bergeron School Principal, Mr. Darcy Reynolds and the Assistant Director of Facilities, Mr. Brian Orge, regarding the

recently installed crosswalk lights which were a part of the final construction phase of the new facility. The location of the crosswalks and lights resulted from consultations with school staff, school council members, GYPSD Facilities staff, and employees from the Town of Edson. In addition, traffic flow observations carried out over the last two years identified the safest location for crosswalk installations.

Trustee Reports

- Trustees shared their appreciation for the student learning and teaching excellence observed during school visits, and thanked Superintendent Lewis and the administrative team for organizing these valuable opportunities to visit classrooms and meet with each school leadership team who presented key information about each school's budget, staffing, Accountability Pillar Results, programs, goals, and expectations.
- Trustee representatives on the Policy Committee are currently reviewing all Division policies to ensure alignment with the new Education Act.
- Each trustee shared highlights from their recent attendance at monthly school council meetings, Public School Boards Association of Alberta Fall General Meeting, Alberta School Boards Association's Zone 2/3 meeting, and school awards ceremonies.
- Trustees in each zone will be representing the Board during upcoming wreath laying ceremonies in recognition of Remembrance Day events at local schools.
- Board Chair Rosadiuk reiterated concerns over the current financial uncertainties and the possible expectation of the Board having to make some tough decisions in the future for a balanced budget while still focusing on the best interests of students.

The next Public Board Meeting is November 20, 2019.