

Board Meeting Brief

September 21, 2022

Darrel Delisle, Grande Cache
GRANDE CACHE
Sheldon Coates
Summitview
Grande Cache Community High
Sunrise Christian
The Learning Connection - Grande Cache

Shirley Caputo, VICE CHAIR, Hinton
Yvonne Oshanyk, Hinton
HINTON
Crescent Valley
Ecole Mountain View
Harry Collinge High
The Learning Connection - Hinton

Dale Karpluk, BOARD CHAIR, Jasper
JASPER
Ecole Jasper Elementary
Jasper Junior/Senior High
The Learning Connection - Jasper

Fiona Fowler, Edson/Fulham
Jocelyn Pettitt, Edson/Fulham
FULHAM
Fulham School

Melodie Bobilek, Niton, Wildwood, Evansburg
WILDWOOD
Wildwood School

EDSON
Ecole Westhaven
Ecole Pine Grove Middle
Mary Bergeron Elementary
Parkland Composite High
The Learning Connection - Edson

NITON
Niton Central

EVANSBURG
Evansview
Grand Trunk High
The Learning Connection - Evansburg

Your Board of Trustees

We are excited to be our community's representative and advocate for the children under our care, with supporting another four years of educational excellence. Please visit www.gypsd.ca/OurBoard to learn more about governance and information on public board meetings.
Thank you for your support for public education!

Board Priority

1

STUDENT LEARNING



Board Chair Karpluk reminded everyone that **September 30th is a non-instructional day** in schools so staff and students can participate in [National Day for Truth and Reconciliation](#) events taking place across the [province](#). School staff and students will be acknowledging [Orange Shirt Day](#) and engaging in a [range of learning activities](#) in the days leading up to the 30th.

Niton Central Principal Steven Ripkens, Assistant Principal Alan Stoyles and Grade 8 student Emily Cronin presented on the success of their recently established Drama Troupe. Mr. Stoyles encouraged students in the junior high art program to participate in the Junior One Act Play Festival held last spring in Barrhead. The students won first place, and as a result of the experience, Performing Arts will be integrated across the Arts at Niton Central for all junior high students.

Board Priority

2

TEACHING AND LEADERSHIP EXCELLENCE



"**Thank You Teachers!**" In advance of the 28th anniversary of [World Teachers' Day](#), celebrated on October 5th, Board Chair Karpluk recognized GYPSD teachers for "creating classroom environments that encourage success for all our students." She encouraged families to take time on October 5th to share their appreciation for GYPSD teachers.

Evergreen Local #11 President Jessica Smeal encouraged everyone who is able to attend an [Education Rally](#) planned for October 22, 2022, at the Alberta Legislature. [Access details here.](#)

Superintendent Lewis spoke about her work and shared a highlight [report](#), and the Board received an update from each [department](#) head outlining the Division's work recently completed or in progress for September and October. The Board approved their annual Borrowing Resolution - a pre-approved bank loan that provides the Division access to funds in case of a transfer delay from Alberta Education.

Assistant Superintendent of Learning Services, Carra Aschenmeier and Teacher Consultants Adam Fragomeni and Jennifer Albrecht shared the success of the annual New Teacher Orientation and PD Event, which welcomed a total of 16 new and new to GYPSD teachers. Manager of OH&S, Jackson Kendrick provided a report describing how changes to OH&S legislation have been addressed in each school site and as a system. Inclusive Learning Director, Erin Murphy and Manager of Human Resources, Meghan Auriat provided the Board with a comprehensive report on the mental health and wellness initiatives and supports in place for students and staff.

The Board moved to approve the creation of an Ad Hoc committee to review the Board's Health and Wellness Policy - [Board Policy 20](#), and the Division's range of [wellness initiatives and supports](#) for students, [families](#), and staff. The new committee will be led by Trustees Pettitt (Edson) and Bobilek (Lobstick), with Trustee Oshanyk serving as an alternate (Hinton). Chief Deputy Superintendent Kastros and Meghan Auriat, Manager of HR, will round out the group.

Board Priority

3

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT



Board Chair Karpluk shared the Board's appreciation for the Division's annual Kick-Off Event. Trustees joined their local school staff to join in to keynote presentations from acclaimed leaders [Dr. David Irvine](#) and [Connie Jakob](#).

The Trustees toured schools in four of the five zones that make up GYPSD. The Board visited staff and students in classrooms and met with principals to hear how their school improvement plan focuses on student learning, with targeted strategies in literacy and numeracy.

The Trustees held a public meeting in Grande Cache to discuss the proposed closure of Sheldon Coates Elementary School. Currently, there are three GYPSD schools in Grande Cache. Sheldon Coates offers Kindergarten to Grade 3 programming, as well as Junior Kindergarten. The public meeting was a first step in exploring the proposed closure.