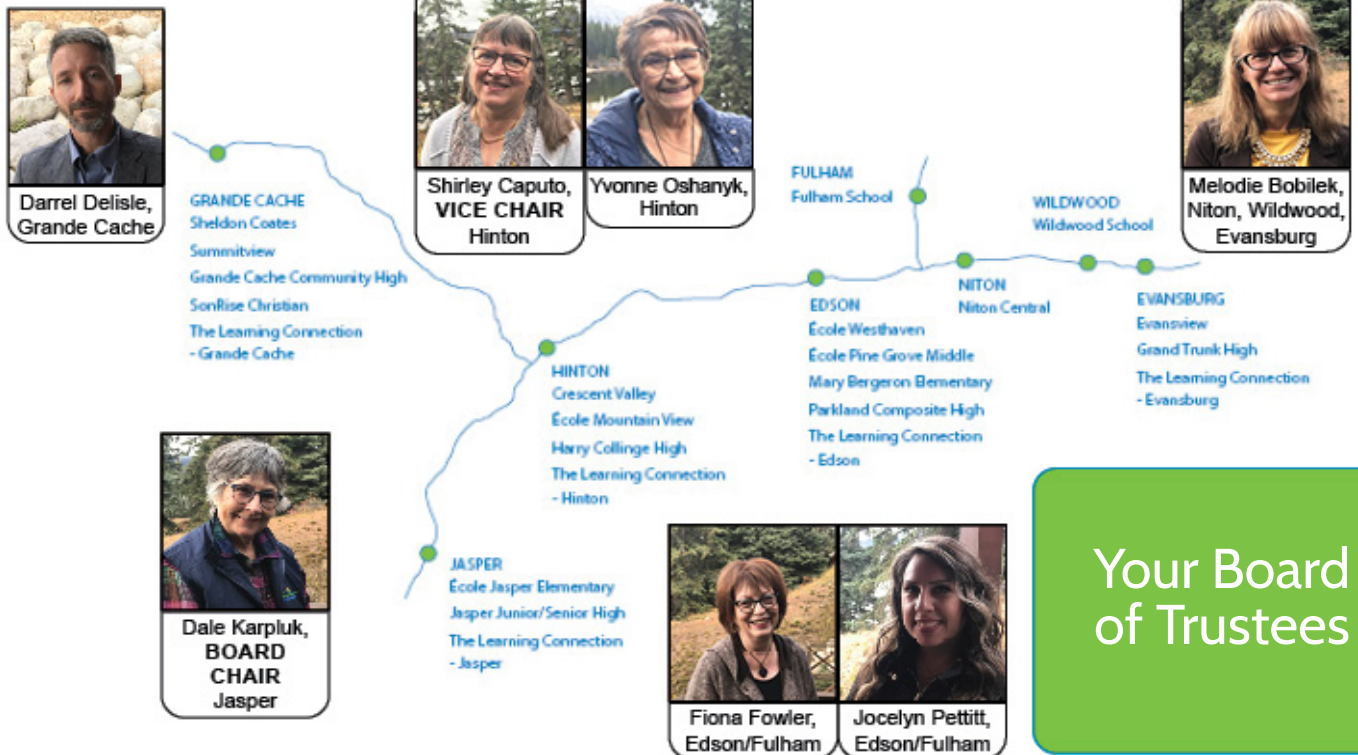


# Board Meeting Brief

October 19, 2022



## 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](http://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 acknowledged the critical work carried out by teachers in the first two months of school - assessing students' literacy skills - so that they can build their instructional plans and approaches. Students in Grades 2-12 take part in a screening tool that assesses their ability to understand what they are reading, relate to the information in the text, and reflect on that information or idea in context.

Principal Darran Lorne and Grade 7 student Kaylee Leis spoke to the Board on Ecole Pine Grove Middle School's health and wellness plan for the 2022-23 school year, including a new leadership initiative that will be led by Pine Grove students. Kaylee Leis shared her entrepreneurial passions as a means to support her community, illustrating the powerful connection between purposeful work to help others and positive self-identify. Kaylee recently won 2nd Runner Up in the National [Lemonade Day](#) competition, using proceeds from her business' success to support the Edson Food Bank and the Toy Drive!

Kaylee's  
Little  
LEMON MAKES



## Board Priority

2

### TEACHING AND LEADERSHIP EXCELLENCE

Trustee Fowler provided an overview of the Public School Boards' Association of Alberta (PSBAA) Fall Conference and General Meeting. The keynote address was provided by [Alberta's Lieutenant Governor, Her Honour, the Honourable Salma Lakhani](#), who shared the critical role education played in her journey from stateless person to community volunteer and leader. Board Chair Karpluk received a gift of books from the Lieutenant Governor, which the Chair then gifted to Kaylee to donate to the Ecole Pine Grove School library.

Assistant Superintendent of Learning Services, Carra Aschenmeier, shared staff feedback on Kick Off 2022, acknowledging the generous support of Evergreen Local #11 to provide the honorarium to GYPSD's teachers who led learning sessions. Ms. Aschenmeier shared that the majority of GYPSD staff found the keynotes, session options, and blended platform for the PD relevant and engaging, and thanked the many staff from different employee groups for leading sessions. The Kick Off Planning Committee will be exploring new ideas for the PD event for 2023!

Superintendent Lewis shared her highlights [report](#), and the Board received an update from each [department](#) head outlining the Division's work recently completed or in progress for October and November. The Inclusive Learning Team provided an extensive report describing how the Division's strategic plan integrates in-school wrap around supports and [initiatives](#), staff, and [resources through AHS](#) to address [Health and Wellness in GYPSD](#).

Superintendent Lewis voiced her appreciation for the partnership between Parkland Composite High School and Ecole Pine Grove to collaborate in the development of the [Football Program](#) which, with its inclusive lens, invites any student interested in playing to join in!

Assistant Superintendent Dr. Kelly Harding, who oversees Board Relations, Communications, and Transportation, provided a ride times report to the Board. The new registration timelines made a significant improvement in establishing bus lists for school start up. Dr. Harding spoke to the challenges of providing service to other boards and shared her appreciation for everyone who works in the Transportation and Communication Departments for the incredible amount of work they have accomplished over the last year.

## Board Priority

3

### COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Board Chair Karpluk shared the Board's appreciation for those who sit on [School Councils](#), stating, "Serving on the school council is a rewarding way to support a child's school as well as public education in our communities. I want to thank all the parents, guardians, grandparents, and staff who dedicate time and energy to serve on school councils in GYPSD." Chair Karpluk also encouraged everyone who is able to attend Remembrance Day events taking place on November 11th across the Division.

The Board approved motions to send a letter of congratulations to new Premier Danielle Smith, to approve the addition of a new public member to the Audit Committee, and to rescind the motion from February to close Sheldon Coates in Grande Cache, and redistribute the grades into a designated K-6 at Summitview and 7-12 at Grande Cache Community High School. The Board heard from Grande Cache Delegation representatives, Erin Barter and Bailey Li, who spoke to the uniqueness of the Pre-K - Grade 3 program provided at Sheldon Coates, and the success of the focus on early literacy, empathy, relationships, and the teaching strategies targeted to the age grouping. The data collected from an in-person event and an online survey showed the community's value of the outdoor learning spaces provided by the wooded areas at Sheldon Coates, and a significant stakeholder preference for a primary (Pre-K - 3), middle (4-8), and senior (9-12) school program grouping model.

