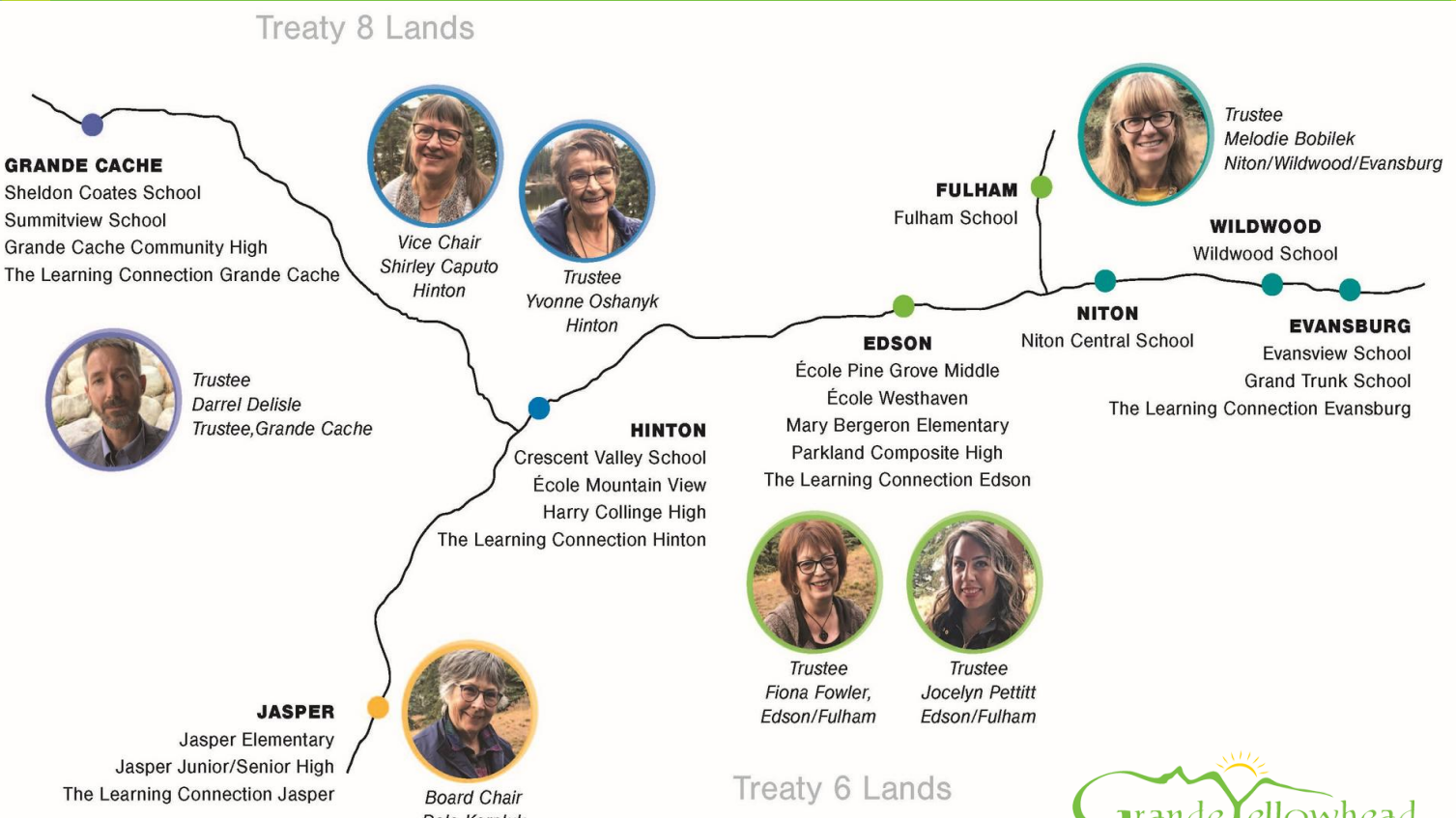


# Board Meeting Brief

March 15, 2023



## Board Priority

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### STUDENT LEARNING

Board Chair Karpluk acknowledged the theme for this year's International Women's Day is **DigitALL** which aligns with the priority theme for the 67th Session of the [Commission on the Status of Women](#): "Innovation and technological change, and education in the digital age for achieving gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls". She also thanked the principals of Jasper, Edson, and the Lobstick zones who shared their collective focus on student learning at the recent community engagement events.

The Learning Services Team shared an overview of their work to support student learning: completing a preview of the resource library for kindergarten to grade 6 programs, and completing outcome writing for the new kindergarten to grade 3 curriculum.

Superintendent Lewis provided an update on the Youth Participatory Action Research Project (YPAR) she is supporting with the students in the Superintendent's Youth Council.



## Board Priority

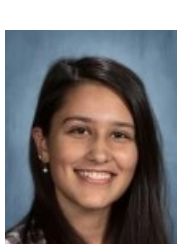
2

### TEACHER, SUPPORT STAFF, AND LEADER EXCELLENCE

The Board received a presentation from each of the three Division candidates for the [Edwin Parr Teacher Award](#): (pictured below with the Board of Trustees, seated in the front row to the right of Trustee Oshanyk) **Sammie Weninger** from **Wildwood Elementary**, **Rayelle Groat** from **Summitview Middle School** in Grande Cache, and **Jaia Sthankiya** from **Grand Trunk High School** in Evansburg.



All three of the presentations were outstanding and received accolades from the Board for their obvious passion and dedication to student learning. After long deliberation, the Board voted. Congratulations to **Jaia Sthankiya** who is this year's submission for the ASBA Zone 2/3 Edwin Parr Teacher Award for GYPSD!



Bus Driver **Harold Hermanrude**, a driver with GYPSD since 1994 was recognized as GYPSD's Bus Driver of the Year by the Board and Transportation Director Christine Van Neck. Mr. Hermanrude was applauded for his outstanding service, commitment to safety, and his invaluable, daily contribution of skills, kindness, and teamwork.



Superintendent Lewis shared highlights from her [report](#), which featured professional learning with the principal and assistant principal group, and multiple meetings with Alberta Education and other provincial leaders following the 2023-2024 budget announced for Education. Chief Deputy Superintendent Constantine Kastrinos will be attending a Teacher Hiring Event in Lethbridge and hopes to inspire new graduates to join the GYPSD team.

The Board heard from Technology Director Lyle Lee and Ed Tech Supervisor Kandis Gilks who shared their work to support the implementation of the new digital report card and their planning for a Division-wide collaboration PD taking place in April.

## Board Priority

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### COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Members of the Board attended the Rural Caucus of Alberta School Board's Spring Meeting and the annual Alberta Rural Education Symposium. In addition to hearing from Premier Smith, the Education Minister, and the Minister of Indigenous Relations, attendees heard from [Dr. Michael Ungar](#) on the keys to student resiliency, [Dr. Emily Milne](#) on establishing positive relationships with Indigenous Families, and [Dr. Clark Banack](#) who invited symposium attendees to consider what rural resilience looked like.

After receiving feedback from GYPSD's Edson area families on a proposed lease request for a cell tower installation on Board-owned land in Edson, the Board voted down the twenty-year lease request. Over 81% of the surveyed stakeholders did not support the land-use proposal.

The Board Chair thanked the stakeholders who attended the [engagement events in Jasper, Edson, and the Lobstick zone](#).

The Board approved the following motions:

- 3-Year Capital Plan and 10-Year Facilities Plan
- [Policy 4, Trustee Code of Conduct](#)
- [Policy 7, Board Operations](#)
- [Policy 7 Appendix B, Delegation Protocol](#)
- [Policy 20, Health and Wellness](#)
- Letter of appreciation to the Minister of Education for increases in education funding and an advocacy request to slow the implementation of the new curriculum to one grade per year
- Letter of advocacy to update the Election Ward description for Grande Cache and the surrounding areas

## Board Priority

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### SYSTEM HEALTH and WELLNESS

In support of the Board's new fourth priority, System Health and Wellness, Superintendent Lewis shared the initial conversations she's been having with Ed Can Wellness Consultants who will be leading work with the Division's principals at their April planning retreat.

Chief Deputy Superintendent Kastrinos and HR Manager Meghan Auriat will be visiting every school to ensure all staff groups, including those at Central Office, are aware of the support available to them and how to access those supports as needed.

Attendees at the recent engagement events were able to hear the Board's focus on student mental health support through the [Pyramid of Supports](#) and the Division's comprehensive support for staff health and wellness. Additionally, stakeholders were asked to identify school-based activities and resources that would best support positive mental health and wellness for students, and what changes they suggest to address the impact of cell phone obsession, technology demands, and social media abuse taking place in schools. GYPSD was recently informed they have received a Mental Health Wellness Grant to hire *Wellness Navigators* within each of the Board's five high schools.