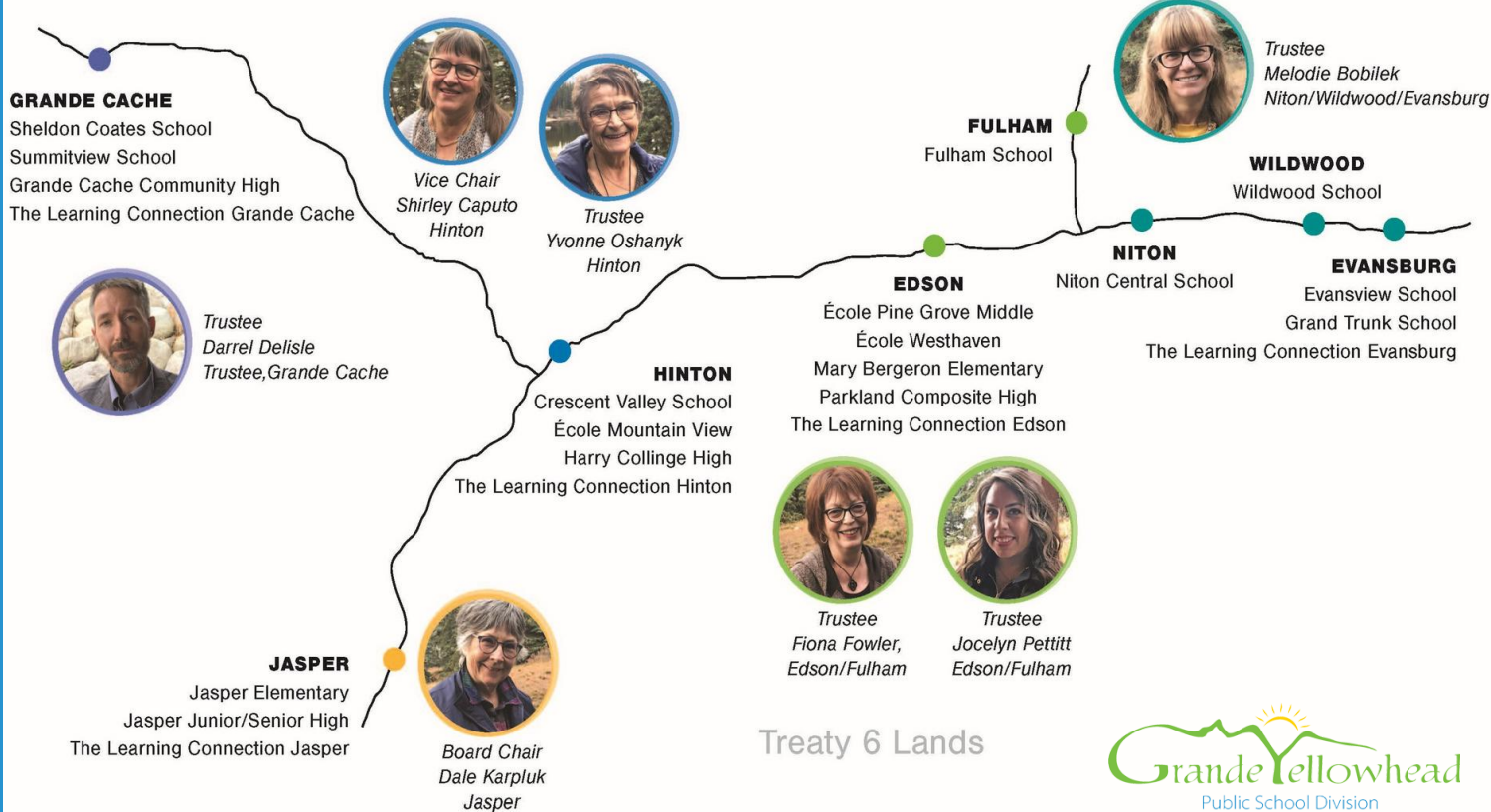


Board Meeting Brief

April 19, 2023

Treaty 8 Lands



Treaty 6 Lands

Board Priority

1

STUDENT LEARNING



Board Chair Karpluk acknowledged the Division's focus on literacy and targeted instruction in literacy skills by reminding everyone that **National Library Week** occurs each April. The Board celebrates both the public and school libraries across GYPSD for the important role libraries play in developing essential reading and comprehension skills while inspiring a lifelong love of reading.

Superintendent Lewis provided an update on the [Superintendent's Youth Council Research Work](#) which was recently shared at [uLead 2023](#) - an international conference for leaders in education. Six students from each of the Division's five high schools have been meeting all year to develop key leadership skills and implement actions to improve their schools.

Secretary-Treasurer Sean Nicholson presented the annual budget principles model to the Board, illustrating the Division's focus on student learning through the allocation of resources, supports, and processes to develop and deepen students' literacy and numeracy skills. Additionally, the Board directs funds to support a full-day kindergarten program - beyond the half-day program funds from the province. This decision to allocate funds for full-day learning ensures GYPSD's children have a strong foundation from which to grow their success.

Board Priority

2

TEACHER, SUPPORT STAFF, AND LEADER EXCELLENCE

The Board Chair provided praise and appreciation for the many administrative professionals within the Division in acknowledgment of **National Administrative Professional Day**.

Musical Theatre program teacher (and Evergreen Local President) Jessie Smeall brought 43 students from Grades 4-7 from Ecole Mountain View Elementary School in Hinton to perform songs from the musical *Matilda*. Ms. Smeall and the musical theatre students give up their lunch breaks to practice and rehearse. Look for their performance times for the musical *Matilda* opening June 14th!



Recently, members of the Board attended a professional learning session offered by the [Public School Boards Association of Alberta](#) (PSBAA). They heard from EPSB educators Clarice Anderson and Sheila Williams who shared the historical and current implications and their lived experiences of the [Indian Act](#) in "*Things You Didn't Know about the Indian Act*". Researcher and professor at the University of Calgary, Dr. Sharon Friesen shared her research findings in "*Teacher and Professional Staff Recruitment and Retention for Rural and Northern Alberta*." Board Chair for the Canadian Rockies School Division and former Superintendent, Brian Callaghan provided guidance and insight into the [province mandated professional profile standards](#) in "*Everything You Wanted to Know About Superintendent Performance Reviews and the SLQS*."

Superintendent Lewis shared highlights from her [report](#), which included:

- work with central and school leadership staff to review and analyze the implications of the new Funding Manual for 2023/24;
- preparation for the development of the Division Departments' 18-month Strategic Plans
- preparation for the annual principals' planning retreat.

Assistant Superintendent of Learning Services, Carra Aschenmeier shared her appreciation for [principals Eric Bouchard and Steven Ripkens](#) for their pilot of the Division's new digital report card, for the support provided by Director of Technology, Lyle Lee and Educational Technology Supervisor Kandis Gilks, and to all of the educators who serve on the Division's assessment committee. A survey will be shared with staff and parents for feedback on how to improve the functionality of the platform prior to a whole-Division rollout planned for the 2023/24 school year.



Board Priority

3

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

The Board approved the [minutes of the April 5th Special Board Meeting](#) where the trustees voted to increase their support for the modernization project at Grand Trunk School. Additional support from the Board's Capital Reserves was needed to address unanticipated increases in construction costs for a second gym.

The Board will be hosting a community engagement event for [Niton families regarding the future of the Grade 9 program](#) at Niton (Lobstick Zone). The event will take place at Niton Central School on May 9th, 6-8 pm.

The Board will be hosting its annual **Council of School Councils** event on May 16th from 6-8 pm. Details on the event are available from the school principal and school council chair.

The Board approved the following motions:

- to secure an external consultant for the annual [Board](#) and [Superintendent](#) Evaluation process
- the final version of the [2023/24 school calendar, and the 2024/25 and 2025/26 calendars in principle](#)
- the 2023/24 Budget Principles Allocation Model
- a request to transfer operational funds to Capital Reserves for school bus purchases
- to amend [Policy 17 to reflect recent funding and legislative changes](#)
- to amend [Policy 17 Appendix A Fees](#) to reflect funding and legislative changes
- to [advocate for public education and raise awareness of key issues in public education](#) for stakeholders and candidates for the upcoming provincial election via local newspapers.



Board Priority

4

SYSTEM HEALTH and WELLNESS



Superintendent Lewis and Secretary-Treasurer Sean Nicholson confirmed that GYPSD has received a 1.2 million dollar school [wellness](#) grant from Alberta Education. The Division plans to have *Wellness Navigators* within each of the five high schools starting September 2023.

In the Department's update to the Board, HR shared their on-site PD to inform staff of GYPSD's onboarding program. The program ensures that all new employees are aware of key Board and Division policies, processes, and [supports](#).

Board Chair Karpluk asked that an advocacy item be added to the May PBM to address recent changes to services announced by the Alberta School Employee Benefit Plan (ASEBP).

Superintendent Lewis shared that the Division principals will be connecting with a [Well at Work](#) consultant from Ed Can to explore the development and deepening of their school's health and wellness practices at their annual planning retreat.