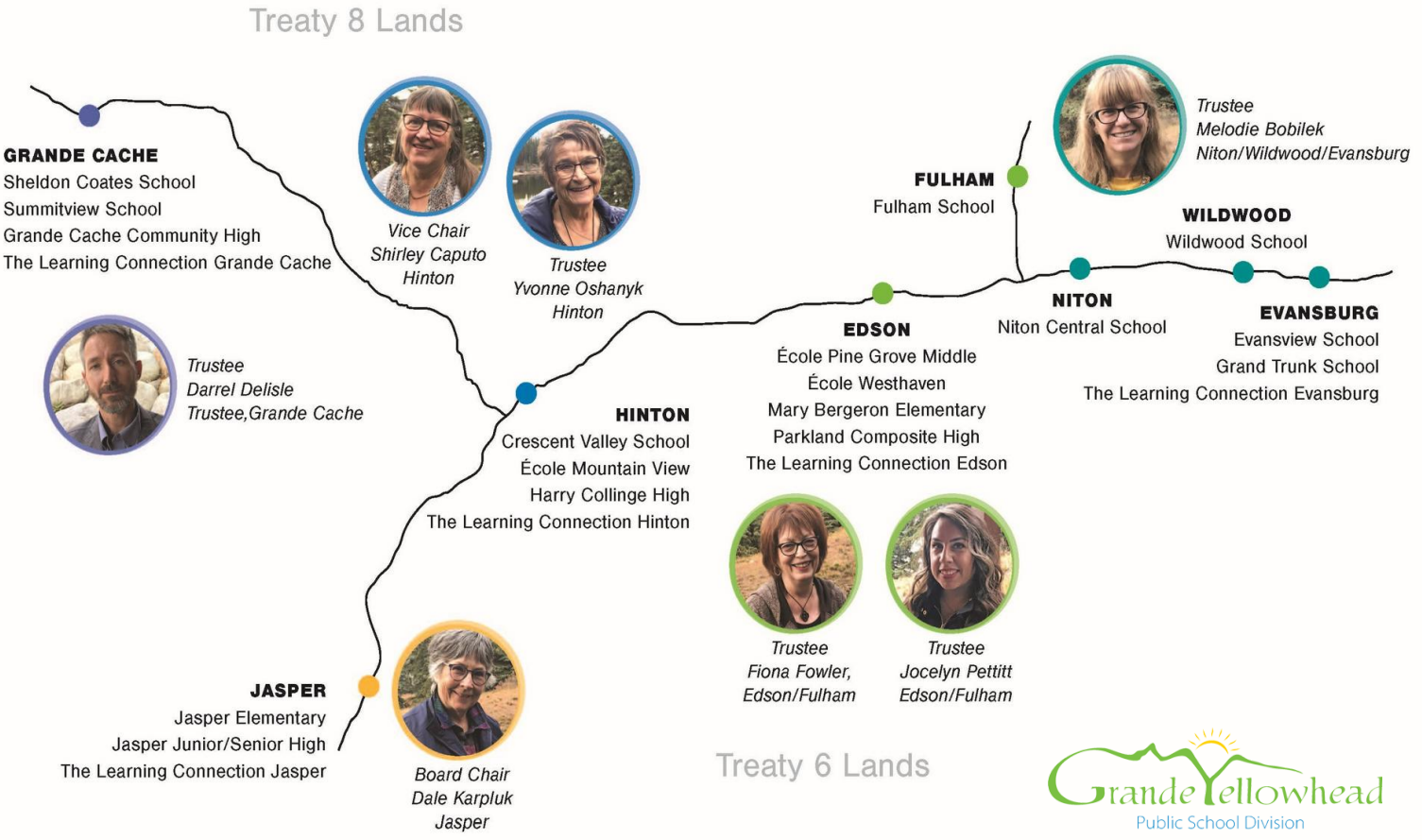


Board Meeting Brief

June 14, 2023



Board Priority

1

STUDENT LEARNING

Board Chair Karpluk shared the Board's pride for this year's graduation cohort - acknowledging their **very** atypical high school experience and their committed focus on their learning.

Superintendent Lewis and Learning Services consultants Adam Fragomeni and Jennifer Albrecht shared the success of their presentation at the Public School Boards' Association of Alberta's Sping Learning Conference in Calgary. This year, the students participating in the [Superintendent's Youth Council learned how to conduct action research within their schools](#). They concluded this year's work by presenting their project ideas to their principals. The projects are all designed around improving their high school culture and environments.



Board Priority

2

TEACHER, SUPPORT STAFF, AND LEADER EXCELLENCE

Chair Karpluk repeated the Board's appreciation for the work of GYPSD staff during the ongoing emergency wildfire situation, saying "Despite every curve ball we experience, GYPSD has regrouped and remains focused on our first priority – *student learning*. We are able to do so because of our incredible staff and leaders. We are very appreciative of how everyone - through the many communities that make up our Division - worked together in support of our students, our families, and our neighbours."

Deputy Superintendent Kastrinos shared the ongoing success of the professional growth funds the Division provides to [ATA](#) and [CUPE](#) staff.

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

- Managing Edson's most recent emergency evacuation;
- Celebration of GYPSD's Edwin Parr nominee;
- Meeting with Superintendent colleagues from across the province at the PSBAA, ASBA, and CASS Zone 2/3 events.



The monthly report from GYPSD's central department heads identified the many significant projects scheduled across the Division for July and August, including the beginning of [construction for the Grand Trunk School modernization](#) at the end of June.

Board Priority

3

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

The Board approved:

- the [schedule of public board meetings for 2023/24](#);
- sending letters of congratulations to Premier Smith, new [Education Minister, Demetrios Nicolaidis](#), and MLAs Getson and Long;
- sending a letter of appreciation and advocacy to [Yellowhead MP Gerald Soroka](#) for the Government of Canada's support for the [KIDS HELP PHONE organization](#);
- updates to [Policy 12, Role of the Superintendent](#), along with appendices [A](#) and [B](#);
- the addition of two belief statements for employees in [Board Policy 20, Health and Wellness](#);
- reaching out to secure an external consultant to support the Board's strategic planning [work for 2023/24](#);
- the payment of an invoice to address the cost of repairs required to Ecole Jasper Elementary School following last winter's flood.

Members of the Board, Superintendent Lewis, and central office consultants attended the spring annual meetings and professional learning conferences for the [Public School Boards' Association of Alberta](#), the [Rural Caucus of Alberta School Boards](#), and the Alberta School Boards Association. Participants at the conferences benefit from hearing from a range of experts and governance leaders.



Board Priority

4

SYSTEM HEALTH and WELLNESS

In response to encouragement from [EdCan's Well at Work leadership](#) to identify what 'systemic change' made a difference to employees' work environment, the Board Policy Committee re-engaged in their review of [Board Policy 20, Health and Wellness](#). A national conversation is taking place on how to promote [positive well-being](#) at work, and protect staff from information overload, unreasonable work demands, and negative interactions with members of the public. The Board has added the following belief statements:

- *The Board of Trustees believes that GYPSD staff have the right to disconnect from email in the evenings and weekends unless in the case of an emergency or emergent issue that requires immediate action to ensure student and/or staff safety.*
- *The Board of Trustees believe that GYPSD staff have the right to be protected from harassment and bullying in their workplace.*

During the 2022/23 school year, an Ad Hoc Committee reviewed the Division's supports and services for students and staff. Deputy Superintendent Kastrinos provided a comprehensive summary report of the [work completed this school year](#), including the summer programming provided through the [BEST](#) coaches within the five zones of GYPSD.

