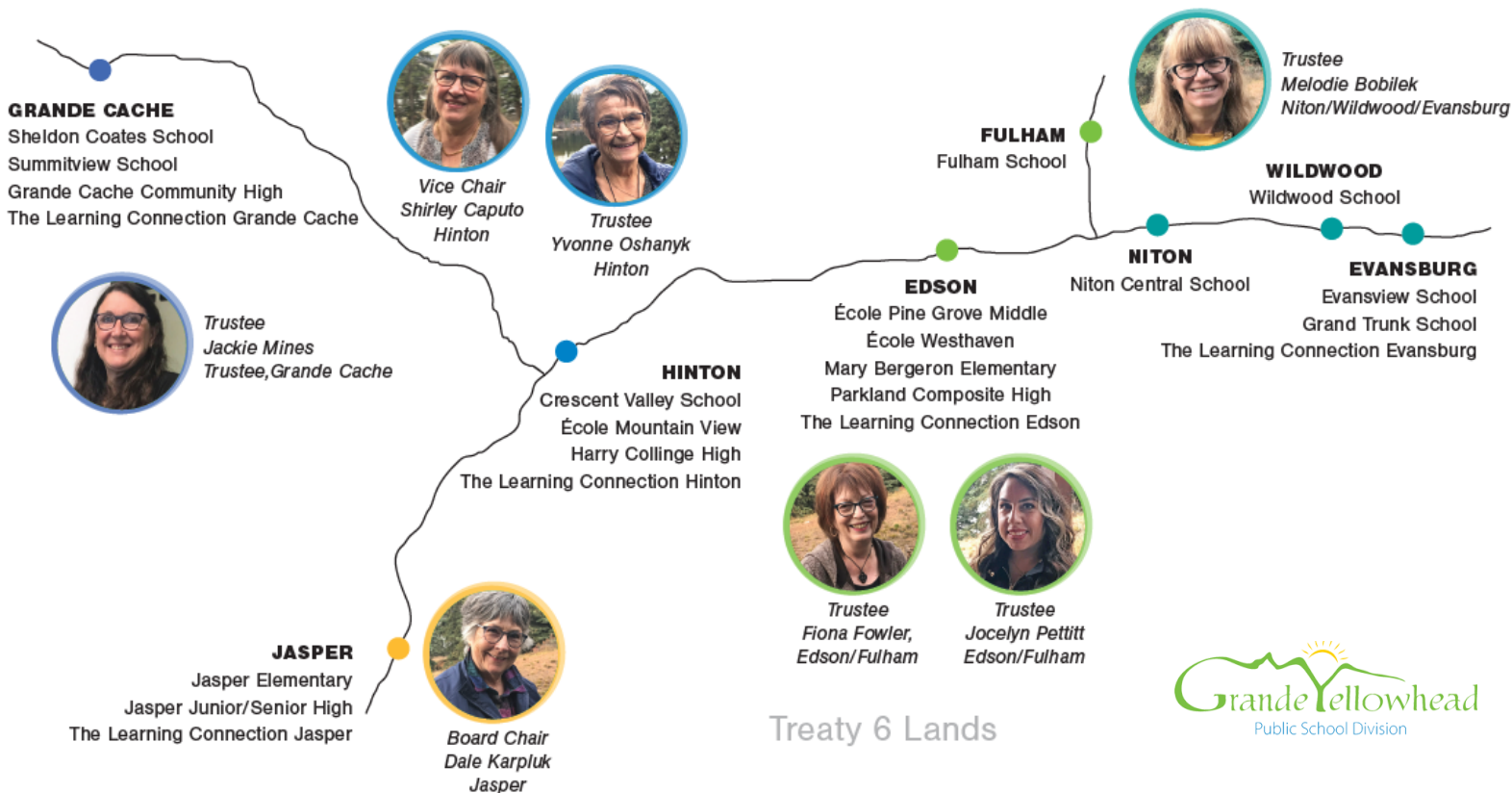


# Board Meeting Brief

May 22, 2024

## Treaty 8 Lands



## Treaty 6 Lands

# Board Priority 1

## STUDENT LEARNING

The Board approved the **2024/25 Budget** and the **2024-2027 Education Plan** submissions to Alberta Education.

Once submitted to the Education Ministry, the documents will be posted to the Division's website.



Jazlynn Mochniuk describes her experience meeting and learning alongside students from across the province.

The Board enjoyed performances from [Niton Central School](#) students and Ms. Kelly's Grade 3 students from [Sheldon Coates](#); [Grand Trunk](#) student, [Jazlynn Mochniuk](#), shared her experience serving on the Minister's Student Advisory Council this past year. The musical performances and Jazlynn's report can be viewed on the [Board's live stream channel!](#)



Niton Central students with the Board of Trustees, Principal Bailey Benson, Teacher Leanne DeLeeuw, and Superintendent Lewis.



Introduced by Principal Jillian Hammer, Grade 3 students from Sheldon Coates perform an original song written with teacher, Brenda Kelly.

Chair Karpluk recognized the important deadlines that occur in May - including the Division's Education Plan. The **Education Plan** identified student success goals based on the aggregated data collected from all schools in GYPSD. Provincial Achievement Tests, Diploma Exams, Assurance Measure Survey Results, Early Years Assessments applied in the primary grades, and other local assessment data are collected throughout May and June; the data provides feedback on the effectiveness of the strategies identified in the plan.

Inclusive Learning Consultant Amy Corser shared the school events promoting health and wellness for GYPSD students - all part of May's focus on mental health. Assistant Superintendent Carra Aschenmeier shared her recent attendance at [CASS's Trades and Technologies Summit](#), exploring pathways for students into these important careers, and her work to bring a new math assessment/screening tool for GYPSD's students.

Chair Karpluk shared the Board's pride for the 22 GYPSD students nominated for ASBA's *Honouring Spirit: Indigenous Student Award*. All 22 nominees received an Honourable Mention Certificate for their commitment to education. The nominating schools - Crescent Valley, Mary Bergeron, and Ecole Pine Grove, will be acknowledging the students locally.



# Board Priority

## 2

### TEACHER, SUPPORT STAFF, AND LEADER EXCELLENCE

In the Land Acknowledgment, Board Chair Karpluk shared the Board's commitment to reconciliation, highlighting Trustee attendance and participation at [CASS's First Nations, Métis, and Inuit Education Gathering](#).

Board Chair Karpluk reported on the Trustees' attendance at a ASBA Zone 2/3 Engagement Event for elected officials to connect with school board trustees. The event, attended by Premier Smith, Education Minister Nicolaides, and local MLAs provided an important opportunity for trustees to advocate for key issues in public education.

In her [Superintendent's Report](#), Dr. Lewis shared highlights of her work, including the extensive leadership professional development that occurred in May. Additionally, Dr. Lewis shared her appreciation to the Finance and HR teams led by Secretary-Treasurer Jun Lin and HR Director Meghan Auriat for their work and collaboration to prepare the 2024/25 [budget](#). The budget reflects the Board's first priority - **student learning** - which begins with an allocation to provide full-day (and wherever possible) full-week kindergarten programming.

Dr. Lewis, Principal Reynolds, and members of the Board will be attending ASBA's Zone 2/3 Award Ceremony to support [GYPSP's Edwin Parr Award nominee](#), Grade 3 teacher **Paige Ekdahl**.



Hinton Trustee, and former HFC Executive Director, Yvonne Oshanyk, with former Cowessess First Nation Chief, Cadmus Delorme



Hinton Trustee Shirley Caputo, Board Chair Dale Karpluk (Jasper), and Edson Trustee Jocelyn Pettitt with Premier Danielle Smith and MLA Martin Long



GYPSP Edwin Parr nominee Paige Ekdahl with Principal Darcy Reynolds

## Board Priority

3

### COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT



In their ongoing attendance area reviews, the Board engaged the Lobstick stakeholders to consider various options for school attendance areas following the completion of the K-12 Grand Trunk School. Once completed, the Lobstick Ward will have a K-12 school in the Hamlet of Evansburg and a K-9 school in the Hamlet of Niton Junction. Concerns about shrinking enrolments raised at a January event at Niton Central were also raised by Fulham School stakeholders. This prompted the Board to include options for Fulham in an attendance area review event, held [May 14th](#), in Wildwood. An online survey was also provided to Fulham and Lobstick constituents to consider ideas to address [the small school issues at GYPSD's two small schools: Niton Central and Fulham.](#)

The majority of stakeholder feedback from both Lobstick and the Fulham area respondents revealed a preference for the current attendance areas, and that the Board continue to provide a non-attendance area bus service option. In response to majority stakeholder feedback, the Board amended Policy 17 to maintain the option for parents to apply for out-of-area bus service. The Board also approved the purchase of eight new school buses.





## SYSTEM HEALTH and WELLNESS



In its ongoing advocacy work, the Board shared its awareness of mental health, classroom complexity, and the necessity for educational assistants with the skills needed to support more complex special needs students. Along with the awareness, they will be advocating for an increase for funding for Special Needs Students.

BEST coaches and the Wellness Navigators are preparing a range of summer programming options - opportunities will be shared out through schools.

A partnership between the **Hinton and Edson Friendship Centre Elders** has led to the creation of an Indigenous sacred site on the McLeod River, accessed through the Medicine Lodge Rodeo Grounds. Indigenous Pathways Lead Jennifer Albrecht and approximately 15 IPL teachers will be visiting the site to learn from Elders David Cree, Joe Cardinal, and Dorothy Courtereille on May 31.

## LOOKING AHEAD...

- May 24: ASBA Zone 2/3 Edwin Parr Awards Banquet and General Meeting
- May 30-June 1: PSBAA Spring General Meeting
- June 2: Rural Caucus of Alberta School Boards Meeting
- June 2-4: ASBA Spring General Meeting
- June 6-7: CUPE Negotiations

