

## New Staffing Announcement Interim Superintendent of Schools

**Immediate Release: August 27, 2024** - Following a review of available candidates and in consultation with the [College of Alberta School Superintendents](#)' members, the [Grande Yellowhead Public School Division](#) (GYPSD) Board of Trustees is pleased to announce the appointment of Dr. Dennis Parsons to the position of Interim Superintendent of Schools and CEO for the Division.

Commenting on the appointment, Board Chair Dale Karpluk said, "We are pleased to welcome Dr. Parsons to our leadership team. He brings a wealth of experience, ability, and a deep commitment to our mission of preparing students for a lifetime of success. With his Alberta based superintendent experience and thoughtful leadership, we are confident that he will support the Board during these challenging times and aid us as we search for a permanent superintendent in the coming months. We are confident that his proven record of executive leadership with Fort McMurray Public Schools, Calgary Board of Education, and the University of Calgary will bring to our Division the steady presence of one who has had a career marked by service with integrity, vision, a focus on community engagement, and communication."

Dr. Parsons is an innovative educational leader and enthusiastic about ensuring that all students have access to high quality learning opportunities. With over 40 years of experience in education, he has a proven record of leading successful initiatives that drive academic achievement and create opportunities for all students to thrive. He has served Alberta School Boards in senior leadership roles as well as on special contract. His work has involved school district leadership, leading teams across school operations, policy, school board governance, student support services, information technology services, and digital literacy. He holds a Bachelor of Arts, a Bachelor of Education, a Master degree, and a Doctorate in Education from the University of Calgary.

As the interim leader of GYPSD, Dr. Parsons is excited to work collaboratively with the Board of Trustees, staff, families, and community members to support their well-being and advance student achievement and success as expressed in the Division's Education Plan.



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“I am honoured to have been selected with the confidence of the Board of Trustees as the Division’s Interim Superintendent,” expressed Dr Parsons. “I look forward to collaborating with our entire school division to build on current successes, and continue to develop a culture of excellence grounded in our core values. I could not be more excited to begin this new chapter in such a wonderful and vibrant school district. Together, we will ensure that all students have access to an education that uplifts, and that gives them the knowledge, tools, and competencies to succeed in life. I am also looking ahead to collaborating closely with the community of Jasper at this time of need.”

Dr. Parsons will step into the role on October 1, 2024, as Superintendent Dr. Carolyn Lewis leaves to pursue future opportunities. In the short term, he will serve as a special consultant to the Board of Trustees and get to know the Division. While serving in this role, Dr. Parsons and his wife, Joanne, will assume residence in Edson.

The Board of Trustees extends its sincere gratitude to our Education Consultant, Mr. Brian Callaghan from the [Public School Boards’ Association of Alberta](#) for his support during the recruitment process, having provided unique insights and valuable input. Mr. Callaghan served as an Alberta School Superintendent for 25 years and assisted schools boards for the past 12 years as a consultant. In the new school year, he will aid the Board in the permanent executive search process.