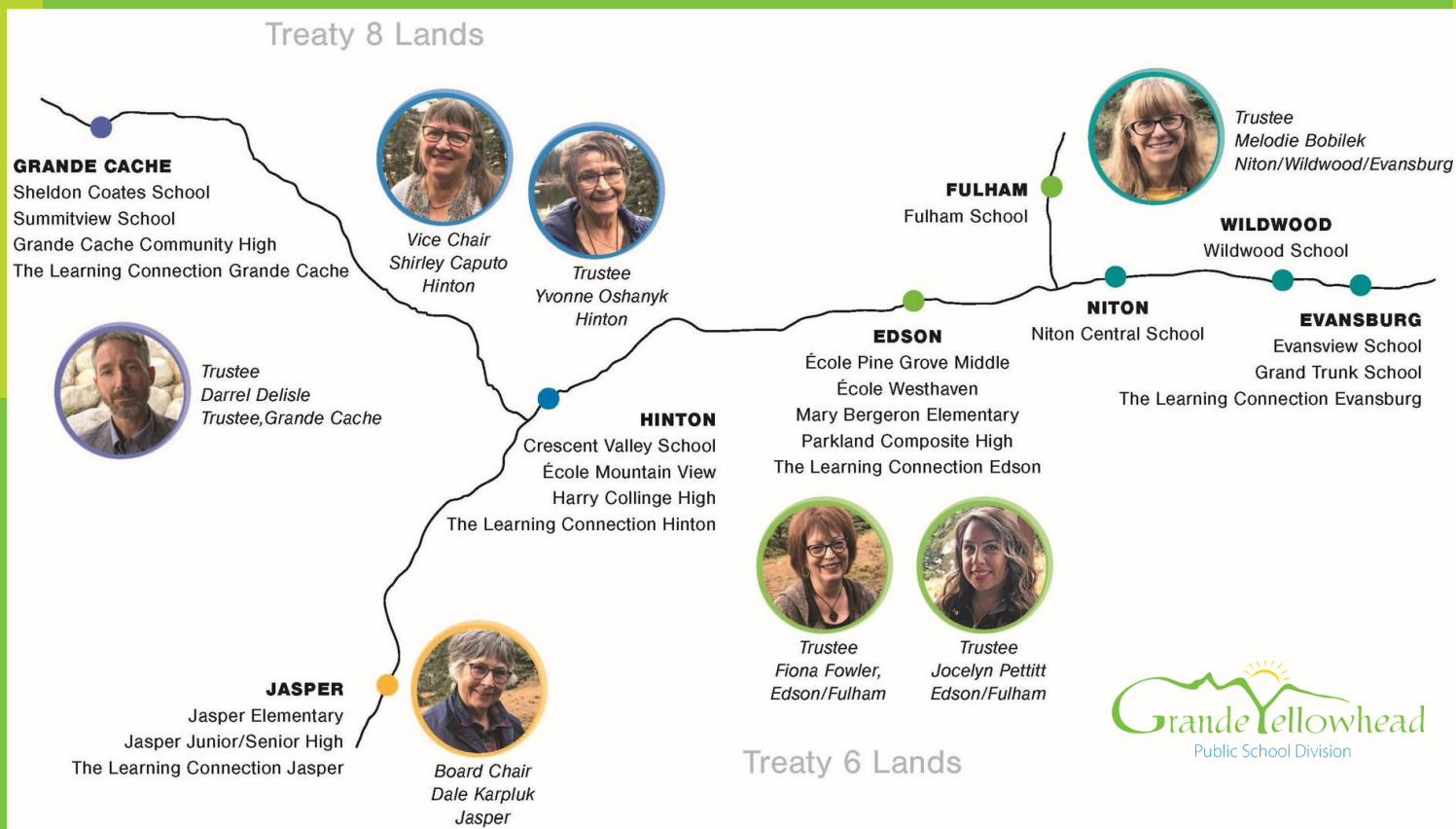


Board Meeting Brief

September 20, 2023



Board Priority

1

STUDENT LEARNING

Parkland Composite High School Grade 11 student **Rylen Davidson** joined GYPSD's Transportation Team this summer for Work Experience, confirming for him that he has chosen the right career path. Rylen shared the story of his summer placement with the Board and also voiced his goal to one day work as a **heavy equipment mechanic**...possibly taking care of GYPSD's fleet of school buses and vehicles one day!

Rylen plans to begin his [registered apprenticeship program \(RAP\)](#) journey while enrolled at PCHS, earning both his credits for the high school diploma and working towards his First Period Apprentice credentials. [Apprenticeship](#) is a wonderful post-secondary plan for students who love to work with their hands and problem-solve. There are over 50 registered Trades in Alberta - essential to innovation, industry, and a thriving province!

Also on her way to a meaningful post-secondary plan is Grand Trunk Grade 11 student **Jazlynn Mochniuk**. Jazlynn shared her work as a member of the Superintendent's Youth Council and her school's leadership project to create welcoming spaces for her peers at school. Jazlynn has a passion for combating obstacles to opportunities and developing platforms for equity on a global scale. Jazlynn has been appointed to sit on the [Minister's Youth Advisory Council](#) for this upcoming school year and is excited to begin her journey in leadership.



From left: Trustees Oshanyk and Caputo (Hinton), Grand Trunk Principal Zaddery, Board Chair Karpluk (Jasper), Jazlynn Mochniuk (GTHS), Trustees Fowler and Pettitt (Edson), Morgan Szautner (GTHS student and SYC member), Trustee Bobilek (Lobstick), Rylen Davidson (PCHS), Assistant Principal Basaraba and Principal Ripkens (PCHS)



Grand Trunk High School is launching a new **Dual Credit Career Pathway in Construction**. Students can achieve both high school credits and RAP credits on their path to become Construction Tradespersons. GTHS student Morgan Szautner, also a member of the SYC, and who came to support her best friend Jaxlynn's presentation to the Board, is a student in the new career-pathway program.



The Board of Trustees received an update on how schools will support learning of Indigenous histories, languages, and cultures in preparation for **September 30th - the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation and Orange Shirt Day**. GYPSD schools will be recognizing the national day on **September 29th**, with many schools, staff, and communities taking part in [learning](#) events and [activities](#) throughout the [week](#) and [month](#) of September.

GYPSD's [Michif and Northern Cree Language](#) program launched this week in participating elementary schools across the division. Ms. Sandra Davenport, a social studies and language teacher at École Pine Grove Middle School, has been committed to teaching Cree and Michif across the Division for over two decades: "language and culture are inextricably related...language is related to all features of human life in society."



Board Priority

2

TEACHER, SUPPORT STAFF, AND LEADER EXCELLENCE



Board Chair Karpluk reminded meeting attendees that October 5th is [World Teachers' Day](#), encouraging "all our families to take some time this October 5th to **thank** the educators that have worked so hard throughout the challenges of these last few years, and who continue to focus on creating classroom environments that encourage success for all our students."

Superintendent Lewis shared [highlights from her work at the end of August and the beginning of September](#), including visits to Jasper, Hinton, Edson, and Lobstick schools, and the focused work of principals to develop 90 day improvement plans based on research related to improving student learning.

Department Heads from central services shared a few of their summer projects, including the final work done in preparation for the roll-out of the [Digital Reporting platform](#) being introduced across GYPSD's elementary schools beginning this fall and the launch of *GYPSD's Bus Safety Visits in Kindergarten classes*- part of [Buddy's Grande Yellow Adventure!](#)

Policy Committee Chair Bobilek (Lobstick) shared the extensive work the policy committee did reviewing Board Policy 10 - *Policy Making*. The committee will bring recommended changes forward at the next PBM. Board Planning Seminar Committee Chair Fowler (Edson) will be working alongside Board Chair Karpluk to begin board strategic planning work in December. Members of the Division's TEBA committee will be entering into ATA negotiations at the beginning of October.

Board Priority

3

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Board Chair Karpluk acknowledged the important historical events occurring in September, encouraging everyone who is able to participate in [Truth and Reconciliation](#) and [Orange Shirt Day events](#) occurring locally or [provincially](#). Chair Karpluk also praised the participation of GYPSD schools in local Terry Fox events, ensuring students know about [Terry's life and legacy for Cancer Research in Canada](#).

Board Chair Karpluk shared parts of a letter from the Minister of Education, Demetrios Nicolaidis, [inviting input on the draft elementary social studies curriculum](#). The Board was pleased by the minister's attention to feedback previously received on the draft and his department's approach to re-engage in the curriculum writing process.

Trustees and Superintendent Lewis visited **Fulham** and **École Westhaven** schools as part of their annual school visit. Trustees met with a member of the school council and heard the school results at Fulham from Principal Marshall and at École Westhaven from Principal Boos. Both principals shared their school results exceed provincial averages across all [assurance domains](#). The Trustees were pleased to hear how each leader developed their school's first [90-day improvement plan](#), and what topics they could support in their advocacy work on behalf of the school.

The Board approved the following action items:

- clarify criteria related to trustee eligibility
- hold a [Trustee By-Election](#) to fill the seat representing the stakeholders in Grande Cache
- write a letter of support for the Mountain Métis [Youth Connection Program](#) grant application to the MD of Greenview.

Board Priority

4

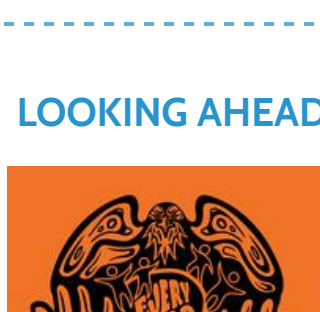
SYSTEM HEALTH and WELLNESS

GYPSD staff and the Board of Trustees welcomed Dr. Shimi Kang as this year's Kick Off keynote speaker. Dr Kang is hosting a one-hour information session on October 12th for parents and teachers called [Tech Solutions with Dr. Shimi Kang](#). The workshop will describe:

- How technology is impacting the human brain, body, and behaviour
- How to differentiate between healthy, stressful, & addictive tech experiences.
- How to reset tech habits toward more balance
- Guidelines for your home/school, including how to successfully advocate for cell phone limits in schools and the greater community.

Participants will receive free reset resources from [The Tech Solution book](#).

LOOKING AHEAD...



- September 25-29: [Truth and Reconciliation Education Week](#)
- September 29: [Orange Shirt Day](#) in Schools
- October 5: [World Teacher Day](#)
- October 9: Thanksgiving [Holiday](#)
- October 10: [World Mental Health Day](#)
- October 20: Division [Professional Development Day](#)
- October 25: [Public Board Meeting](#)