

Board Brief

September 18, 2024

Treaty 8 Lands

GRANDE CACHE

Sheldon Coates School
Summitview School
Grande Cache Community High
The Learning Connection Grande Cache



Trustee
Jackie Mines
Trustee, Grande Cache



Vice Chair
Shirley Caputo
Hinton



Trustee
Yvonne Oshanyk
Hinton

HINTON

Crescent Valley School
École Mountain View
Harry Collinge High
The Learning Connection Hinton



Board Chair
Dale Karpluk
Jasper

JASPER

Jasper Elementary
Jasper Junior/Senior High
The Learning Connection Jasper

FULHAM

Fulham School

EDSON

École Pine Grove Middle
École Westhaven
Mary Bergeron Elementary
Parkland Composite High
The Learning Connection Edson



Trustee
Fiona Fowler,
Edson/Fulham



Trustee
Jocelyn Pettitt
Edson/Fulham



Trustee
Melodie Bobilek
Niton/Wildwood/Edson

WILDWOOD

Wildwood School

NITON

Niton Central School

EVANSBURG

Evansview School
Grand Trunk School
The Learning Connection Evansburg

Treaty 6 Lands

Board Priority

1

STUDENT LEARNING

September marks [Orange Shirt Day](#) across Canada. Board Chair Karpluk encouraged attendees at the PBM to learn about the "inter-generational impacts of Residential Schools" and promote "every child matters." GYPSD schools are engaging students in lessons and activities leading up to the [National Day for Truth and Reconciliation](#) on September 30th - a non-instructional day approved by the Board two years ago. Students and school-based staff are invited to attend local, regional, and national events addressing the wrongful treatment of Canada's First Peoples. The National Centre for Truth and Reconciliation at the University of Winnipeg offers a range of [lunch and learns](#) - all open to the public.



The Board enjoyed a presentation from Principal Boos, teachers Von Breen and Rutley, and École Westhaven Elementary School students. Teachers at ÉWES are implementing the UFLI program across all grades. The program was developed by the [University of Florida Literacy Institute](#) and incorporates the most effective strategies within The Science of Reading research. The staff at EWES began implementing the program in all classrooms last year in support of the [school's vision](#) - all Grade 5 students reading at or above grade level. The evidence of its impact from its first year is compelling: on average students advanced 5.3 reading levels. Alberta Education requires all students to be screened on standardized assessments for reading and numeracy skills in early elementary. Specific data for each student is shared back with the teacher to inform an intervention plan if needed.

Board Priority

2

TEACHER, SUPPORT STAFF, AND LEADER EXCELLENCE



The Board of Trustees shared their appreciation for departing superintendent Dr Carolyn Lewis, noting that even in the face of a global pandemic and wildfire evacuations, ***Student Learning*** and ***research-informed practice*** was always at the forefront of her leadership.

Inclusive Learning Director Amy Corser described the extensive screening, assessment, and planning she is leading in collaboration with school Learning Support Teachers and members of the [Inclusion](#) team to put IPPs in place for children with [PUF](#) designations and students with special needs.

ATA Local Evergreen #11 President Jessica Smeall joined the meeting to wish Dr. Lewis well in her next position and to introduce herself and the union to the incoming [interim superintendent, Dr. Dennis Parsons](#). Ms. Smeall spoke of the strong relationship between the Board and the local ATA, and her pride that so many Edwin Parr First Year Teacher Award winners came from GYPSD. Following the Jasper fire, Ms. Smeall organized a resource donation for the Jasper teachers, using her horse trailer to deliver the supplies the afternoon before the schools opened to students.

October 5th is [World Teachers' Day!](#)

In her report, Dr Lewis shared her many conversations with principals and department heads in getting schools launched, and her work to hand-off GYPSD to Dr. Parsons, which included touring 12 schools in only a few days; she once again acknowledged the leadership of **Director Brian Orge** to have the Jasper schools ready to open on September 17th.





Board Priority

3

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Board Chair Karpluk and Dr. Parsons are meeting with the Minister of Education, Demetrios Nicolaides, in Calgary. The **Alberta School Boards Association** has arranged for school board chairs and superintendents to meet with the minister.

The Board has confirmed it will be meeting with Fulham stakeholders on **October 10th**. The Board wants to hear from the Fulham area residents - the event will take place at Fulham Community School at 6:00 pm, in the gym. More details will be posted on the Division website closer to the event.

The Board approved an extension to the Grande Cache Library's operating hours. The Library - located within the Grande Cache Community High School will now be open until 5 pm on Saturdays. Trustee Caputo noted "libraries do an amazing job supporting literacy in communities."



Board Priority

4

SYSTEM HEALTH and WELLNESS

The Board approved the annual borrowing resolution. Every fall, the Board approves the administration to acquire a line of credit in case of a shortfall. The line of credit has not been needed in over 8 years.

Bonnie Randall, consultant for the Centre for Trauma-Informed Practice, was once again acknowledged for lending her support and insights to the Jasper staff.

The Inclusive Learning Team held wellness drop-in sessions for students in Jasper and Hinton; the events provided space for students to connect with peers, and for parents to raise concerns or ask questions or the Division's Inclusive support team. The team also hosted a [Parent Information Event and posted the video to the website](#).

Superintendent Lewis shared that principals have implemented the new [cellphone](#) and [social media](#) restrictions in their schools.

LOOKING AHEAD...

- September 20: ASBA Zone 2/3 General Meeting
- September 25: ASBA Board Chairs/Superintendents Engagement Meeting
- September 30: National Day for Truth and Reconciliation
- October 1-2: Hinton, Grande Cache School Tours
- October 5: World Teachers Day
- October 8: TEBA
- October 10: Fulham Engagement

