

Board Brief

October 23, 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/Evansburg

WILDWOOD

Wildwood School

NITON

Niton Central School

EVANSBURG

Evansview School
Grand Trunk School
The Learning Connection Evansburg

Treaty 6 Lands

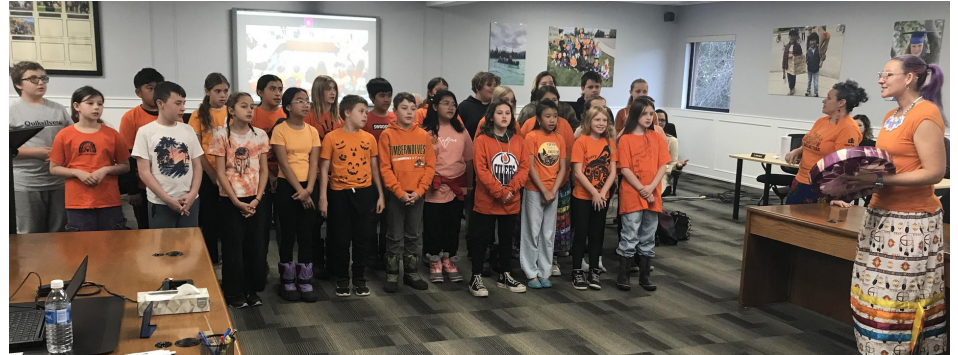
Board Priority

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STUDENT LEARNING



[Grade six students from Ecole Mountain View Elementary School in Hinton performed 3 songs in Cree for the Trustees.](#) Under the direction of teachers Jessie Smeall and Kelly Mackay, the students sang "Sakihitowin", a song of love, "Sohkimowin", a song of courage, and the "Children's Blessing Song", a song of protection while Ms. Smeall accompanied them on the drum. The students had performed the songs during Hinton's [Tri-School Truth and Reconciliation Event](#) held on September 27th.



Board Chair Karpluk shared responses she received to two [advocacy letters](#) the Board previously sent to the Minister of Education: one requesting an increase to Special Learning Supports grant allocation and the other requesting a change to how dual credit programs are funded. As a notice of motion, Chair Karpluk indicated she would be bringing forward a request for the ministry to review the granting process and timeline for school boards to receive needed student support funds, as well as the length of time and the additional staff required to administer mandatory screens.

Assistant Superintendent Aschenmeier shared that Grade 12 students at PCHS are participating in the Alberta Post Secondary Options Project as a pilot school. Advanced Education is gathering feedback from students participating in the pilot to ensure the [APOP platform](#) is effective in its goal to increase student awareness of Alberta's post-secondary institutions and the career opportunities supported through educational pathways.

Ms. Aschenmeier also provided an update on Alberta Education's mandatory literacy and numeracy screens students in Grades 2 and 3 wrote in September. In addition, and in preparation for the October 25th Division-wide PD day, teachers will be analyzing student achievement results from the PAT and Diploma exams written in May and June alongside this Fall's results from the Alberta Education and Division's screens to finalize their School's Continuous Improvement Plan.

Secretary-Treasurer Jun Lin shared that student enrolment increased by 1.7 percent over last year. As of the September 27th, 2024, count, there are 4474 students enrolled in GYPSD schools.



Board
Priority

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TEACHER,
SUPPORT
STAFF, AND
LEADER
EXCELLENCE



Interim Superintendent [Dr. Dennis Parsons presented his report to the Board](#) - highlighting his commitment to relationships and service. He shared his appreciation for the warm and supportive welcome he has received since taking on the CEO role on October 1; *"Our collective purpose is to establish optimal environments for the success of all students, and in that purpose, we are committed to the spirit of collaboration, teamwork, and innovation."*

Board Chair Karpluk shared the process the Board is taking in their search for the new superintendent. They have secured an external consultant, Mr. Brian Callaghan, through the Public School Boards' Association of Alberta. Mr. Callaghan will be meeting with student, parent, and staff stakeholder groups to gather input on a preferred candidate profile. Once the candidate profile is established, it will be used to guide the recruitment and hiring process for the future superintendent.

The Division's **DATA DAY occurs October 25th**. Every principal will be working with their teachers to review and analyze their student achievement results in a wide range of assessments and screens, and their Assurance Measures Results - collected from student, parent, and teacher responses collected in the February Assurance Measure Survey. The analysis of the data will inform the school's goals and approach plan in their **School Continuous Improvement Plan** - or SCIP - which is posted on every school's website site and shared with parents at the end of November. PD for the Division's Educational Assistants includes workshops on math - at both the elementary and secondary levels - and building perspectives for struggling learners. The Inclusive Learning Team - including the BEST, Wellness Navigators, FSLCs, OT, SLP, and team leads will be meeting in Hinton.

Board Priority

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COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT



The Board approved three motions in support of this priority:

- to send a letter of appreciation regarding construction of 250 modular units and ongoing advocacy for Jasper school staff housing
- a letter of support for the Northern Rockies Museum in Hinton
- to post the complete Public Board Meeting package on the Division's website at least 24 hours in advance of the PBM

The Board held a Fulham community stakeholder engagement event on October 10th. The session was in response to a request from the school council for a conversation specific to Fulham. The Board shared information and the attendees had an opportunity to post questions to the Trustees. Following the event, the Trustees met to review the feedback they received in May and October and discuss various options moving forward. The information and questions from the October 10th event will be posted on the [Division's website](#) before the end of the month.

The **Council of School Councils** meeting with the Board of Trustees will take place **virtually** on November 13th, 7 pm. School principals will share the details with their school council members closer to the event.

Board Priority

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SYSTEM HEALTH and WELLNESS



In recognition of School Bus Safety Awareness Week, Board Chair Karpluk shared the Board's appreciation for **GYPSED's bus drivers and the critical role they play in the safe transportation of students to and from school every day.** She shared a 'Fun Fact': GYPSED buses cover 1, 440, 000 km in the school year - equal to just under 36 times around the Earth! Assistant Manager of Transportation Services, Katelynn Kendall, confirmed that students at all GYPSED schools have practiced the emergency bus evacuation process; the parents of bused students also received an email with bus safety reminders for them to review with their children.

Inclusive Learning Director Amy Corser shared new staff members in the Wellness Navigator and BEST positions in Jasper, Grande Cache, and Edson.

The Board approved two motions in relation to the Jasper Wildfire Restoration and Recovery work for Jasper Elementary and Jasper Junior/Senior: one to move funds into Capital from the Board's Reserves to pay the insurance deductible; and two, to transfer funds received from the province to the restoration company as a progress payment. In a notice of motion, Trustee Caputo (Hinton), indicated she will be bringing forward a request that the Federal Ministry of Environment and Climate Change reimburse the Board for the insurance deductible.

Inkblot, GYPSED's health and wellness benefits service provider, will be onsite for Jasper staff during the October 25th PD day.

LOOKING AHEAD...

- October 25 - ASBA Zone 2/3 AGM and PSBAA Session
- November 7 and 8 - Fall Break: Schools Closed
- November 11 - Remembrance Day: Stat Holiday
- November 13 - Council of School Councils Virtual Meeting
- November 15 and 16 - PSBC Meeting
- November 17 - Rural Caucus Meeting
- November 17 - 19 - ASBA Fall General Meeting
- November 19 - Budget Committee Meeting

