

Board Brief

December 18, 2024

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Board Priority 1

STUDENT LEARNING



Students in Grade 12 will be writing their first set of **Diploma exams** from January 13th - 27th. Some Grade 9 students will also be writing their **PATs** if they are on a semester schedule for their core classes.

Students in the early years and kindergarten will be writing **Alberta Education mandatory screens in literacy and numeracy**.

Board Chair Karpluk shared highlights from the Division's [2023/24 data results](#) which included a five percent increase in the number of students graduating high school in three years, an overall increase in the achievement rates on both the Grade 6 and Grade 9 PATs, and a significant improvement in Diploma exam achievement results, both in acceptable and excellence standards!

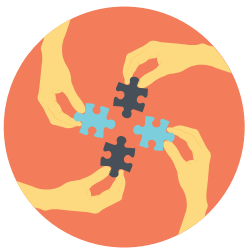
The Board for GYPSD approved a motion advocating that the Ministry of Education fund full-time kindergarten programming for Alberta's children. Significant research identifies the first five years of a child's development as critical to their progress. The Board has allocated funds to expand kindergarten programming in GYPSD since 2007.

Assistant Principal **Kristin Basaraba** and a group of students from **Parkland Composite High School** [presented the Board with their course project and engaged the Trustees in a round of a game](#) they designed in the Fantast/Sci-Fi Appreciation Class, illustrating their collaboration, critical thinking, decision-making, and leadership skills.



Board Priority 2

TEACHER, SUPPORT STAFF, AND LEADER EXCELLENCE



Chair Karpluk shared another finding from the 2023/24 Assurance Measure Results worthy of celebrating: GYPSD teachers continue to exceed the provincial average in their assessment of the professional development and in-servicing they receive, as "focused, systematic, and contributing significantly to their ongoing professional growth."

Interim Superintendent **Dr. Dennis Parsons** [presented his report to the Board](#) highlighting his focus, "to support our staff and to help build capacity in our administrators and staff for the purpose of fulfilling their educational roles. One major aspect of our shared learning responsibility, and my responsibility in terms of leading learning, is to ensure that all instruction in our school authority addresses learning outcomes and individual learning needs."

Congratulations to **Hinton Trustee Shirley Caputo** for receiving the [King Charles III Coronation Medal](#) for her outstanding contribution to her community!

The Board of Trustees has posted the application package for a [new Superintendent of Schools](#). The Board approved the creation of an **Ad Hoc Committee** to review applications and create a shortlist. The deadline for submissions is January 30, 2025.

The Board approved two trustees to attend the [National School Board Associations Annual Conference in April](#) to hear and participate in important public education topics affecting boards across North America.

Teacher-consultant Terri Miluch provided a brief update on the Division's [Annual Indigenous Education Camp](#) in Jasper for 2025. For over a decade, GYPSD has offered educators across the province this valuable professional learning opportunity in the beauty of Jasper. Ms. Miluch confirmed [Jason Bigcharles](#) will be the keynote speaker.

Board Priority 3

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT



The Board approved the following motions:

- amend Bylaw 2024-024 to stipulate that the criminal record check be processed through the RCMP and fall within 30 days of submitting the nomination papers
- provide a letter of support for the Jasper Tennis Club's community grant application

As part of her reflection on 2024, Chair Karpluk highlighted some of the Board's initiatives to support and engage communities since this time last year, which included:

- engaging Lobstick stakeholders to review attendance area boundaries for Niton Central School and Grand Trunk School;
- inviting Fulham and Niton community stakeholders to consider possible changes to address shrinking enrollments;
- supporting the implementation of the Ministerial Order limiting cellphone use and social media access on school property;
- supporting Jasper students and their families following the devastating wildfire in July;
- implementing a second bus route in Grande Cache to provide bus service within the anticipated new distance criteria Alberta Education has mandated for September 2025; and,
- advocating for an increase in Special Needs Funding and when funds are provided to school boards.

Board Priority 4

SYSTEM HEALTH and WELLNESS

The Board approved a motion to advocate to the **Ministers of Health, Education, and Children and Family Services for an increase of funds for school food programs, and for the province to collaborate with the federal government to set policy and a framework that ensures funding is adequate to sustain quality programs**. At the November PBM, the Board heard the current School Nutrition Program allocation is approximately \$59 per student per year. The Board has [previously advocated for increases](#) to the funding as well as [support for a National School Food Framework](#).

Board Chair Karpluk requested information on the number of school bus "Fly-bys" GYPSD drivers experience. The **Alberta School Boards Association** is asking Boards to share this data as concerns around this issue grow. GYPSD's school buses are equipped with cameras to capture the license plate information when a vehicle doesn't stop which is then given to the RCMP.

BEST and Wellness Navigators are providing activities and events for kids during the Christmas Break; principals have shared the information with parents!

LOOKING AHEAD to 2025...

- December 21 - January 5, 2025: Christmas Break
- January 4: National Ribbon Skirt Day
- January 9: Monthly TEBA Engagement Meeting
- January 17: ASBA Zone 2/3 Meeting
- January 20: Edson and Lobstick Principals SCIP Presentations
- January 21: Hinton, Grande Cache, and Jasper Principals SCIP Presentations
- January 24: Bell Let's Talk Day
- January 27: Family Literacy Day
- January 29: Public Board Meeting

