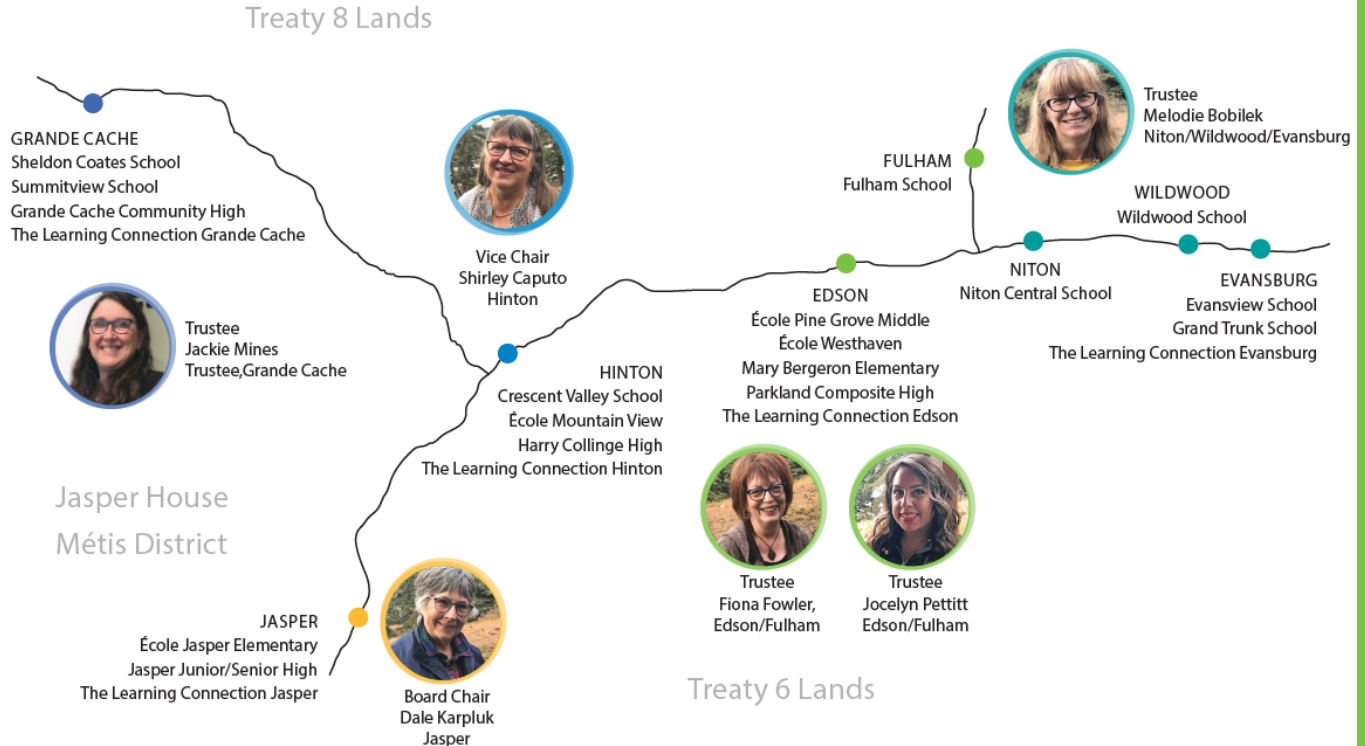


Board Brief

January 29, 2025



welcome • bienvenue • tawâw

Grande Yellowhead Public School Division, a welcoming place for peoples from around the world. We acknowledge that this land includes Treaty 6 and Treaty 8 Territories, and is a traditional meeting ground, gathering place, travelling route, and home for many Indigenous peoples.

Board Priority

1

STUDENT LEARNING

Mark your February Calendar!



The registration window for **Pre-Kindergarten and Kindergarten programming** opens in February.

Follow [GYPSD's Facebook](#) for the exact date announcement!



Check your mailbox - if you're a parent of a student in Grade 4, 7, or 10, Alberta Education wants to hear from you. Contact your school principal for more information about the Assurance Measures Survey!

Students from Ecole Pine Grove Middle School performed a number from their musical drama *Beetlejuice Jr.* EPGMS offers a strong drama program where students can develop confidence and teamwork skills while enjoying their passion for the arts and music - that passion carries them across the parking lot to PCHS, where they can continue to perform and explore the fine arts!



Children in kindergarten and students in the primary grades completed Alberta Education's mandatory mid-year screens in numeracy and literacy. Teachers use the data from the screens to assess gap areas and provide targeted intervention support.

Family Literacy Day was celebrated across GYPSD. Chair Karpluk acknowledged how families are crucial partners in student success: reading at home, integrating opportunities to build math skills, encouraging daily, regular attendance and punctuality to name a few!

Board Chair Karpluk applauded the Grade 12 students who just completed their first semester's Diploma Exams - in just a few more months, these students will be moving into the next phase of their journey - whether its post-secondary, career/industry training programs, or the world of work - GYPSD strives to create life-long learners!

The Board heard how each school is addressing student learning goals during two full days of principal **School Continuous Improvement Plan (SCIP)** presentations. The Assurance Measures Survey sent out every February provides an opportunity for families to give feedback to their child's school and its focus on quality education. Its a time to celebrate the efforts of the school staff. The feedback from the survey, combined with students' achievement results on Diploma and PAT assessments provides insight into gap areas. The SCIP, posted on every school website, provides a working 'road map' identifying the goals and actions the staff will implement during the school year.



**TEACHER,
SUPPORT
STAFF, AND
LEADER
EXCELLENCE**

Superintendent Parsons shared [highlights from his report](#), which included a meeting with Alberta Education to review the Division's AERR, approved in November, and a Chamber of Commerce tour and presentation at the [Mondi Hinton Pulp Mill](#) which recently announced a significant expansion plan for Hinton.

Dr. Parsons also shared the good news that a GYPSD teacher has been selected by the [Canadian Teachers' Federation](#) in Ottawa to join a team of educators going to Ghana in July to provide PD for teachers.

The Board approved a motion to send a letter of advocacy to the Minister of Education joining the [collective voices](#) urging the province to direct public funds to public schools. The last few years have seen an increase in the public funds for Alberta's K-12 Public School System going to private/independent schools and Charter School expansion. As the Board and Dr. Parsons noted, public funds need to go into funding excellent public education which provides access to all children: "If we fail them now, they are not set up for success in life."

GYPSD's Incident Command Team will be meeting with emergency response leaders from the Division's communities in preparation for the upcoming wildfire season. The Team received [national recognition for their work last year](#).



COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Board Chair Karpluk provided an update to the Board's ongoing discussion of how to protect and support its small rural schools - specifically **Fulham Community School and Niton Central School**. The Board is developing a **new** Board Policy to support school attendance areas. The new policy will provide the foundation for [AP 305](#), the administrative procedure principals are required to follow when approving school registration requests.

A recent announcement from Alberta Education has repealed the previously announced distance criteria for K-Grade 6 student eligibility for bus service. Families **currently** receiving service who will be impacted by the change will be notified by the Transportation Department. See the [GYPSD website for more information on the new distances for eligible bus service](#).

The Board approved a motion that letters be sent to Premier Smith, Minister Nixon, and MLA Martin Long, asking that the [previously promised funding for Jasper Housing be reinstated](#).



Board Priority

4

SYSTEM HEALTH and WELLNESS

The Board approved updates to [Policy 20, Health and Wellness](#), and [Policy 21, Gender Identity, Sexual Orientation and Human Sexuality](#).

The Board approved a request from Jasper Junior/Senior High School Principal Crozier to permanently house the Jasper TLC within the school library. Following the Jasper wildfire and the damage done to the TLC location in the Chamber of Commerce building, the TLC temporarily moved into the school library. Principal Crozier noted an increase in student engagement and requests for support.

The Board plans on sending out a survey to families to get feedback on the school year calendar. [Policy 18](#) identifies key dates during the school year. The survey will be distributed prior to spring break.

LOOKING AHEAD...

- February 7 & 8 - Public School Board Council
- February 19 - Family Day
- February 21 - ASBA Zone 2/3 Meeting
- February 24 - ASBA Speakers Corner
- February 25 - Policy Committee Meeting
- February 25 - Edson School Visits
- February 26 - Pink Shirt Day
- February 26 - Public Board Meeting in Evansburg

