

**Elmer Elson Elementary School Council Meeting
September 25, 2023**

Attendance:

Nolan Andriuk	Falon Boll	Lana Bohnet	Christina Gilroy
Leanna Feser	Jill Stoney	Meghan Black	Maureen Polack
Deb Koloski	Dayna Crossland	Amanda Benson	Danielle Paris
Emily Wright	Nadine Szybunka	Jody Braithwaite	

Result of Election of Officers for 2023-2024:

Chair: Jill Stoney
Vice Chair: Falon Boll
Secretary: Nadine Szybunka
Vice Secretary: Jody Braithwaite
School Community Member: Lana Bohnet

School Report:

- Enrollment/Class Sizes/Staffing
 - Currently there are 308 students enrolled at EEE.
 - Kindergarten – 40 students
 - Grade 1 – 43 students
 - Grade 2 – 48 students
 - Grade 3 – 41 students
 - Grade 4 – 43 students
 - Grade 5 – 53 students
 - Grade 6 – 38 students
 - The school was recently approved for another teacher to take on a 0.5 position teaching afternoons in a grade five classroom; this allowed grade six to be split into two classes.
 - Currently admin is advocating for more necessary EA resources.
- Technology Fee
 - The current technology fee is \$32/year for full time students and \$16/year for kindergarten.
 - One to one technology is provided to each student.
 - EEE is up for technology to be upgraded next year as per the rotation provided by the school board.
- Terry Fox Run/Walk
 - The school raised \$1675 from the Terry Fox Run completed on September 21, 2023. The funds will be sent to the Terry Fox Foundation.
 - Great parent and community member participation in the event this year!

- Truth and Reconciliation Week/Orange Shirt Day
 - Events happening all week at EEE to signify Truth and Reconciliation Week.
 - Orange Shirt Day will be observed on Friday, September 30, 2023.
 - A school wide bulletin board was created and an assembly and various activities will be held.

- EICS (Elk Island Catholic Schools) Grade 1-6
 - A review has been set up to measure learning loss by the provincial government; this process is somewhat similar to provincial achievement exams to obtain data across the province. The review began last year with screens in literacy and numeracy in September and October 2022 and was repeated this year in September 2023. The data obtained from the review is used to format supports for students in at risk areas in grades 1-6. Feedback from EEE teachers regarding the review was accepted and acted upon by the facilitators of the review.

- Parent/Teacher Interviews
 - November 7&8, 2023 will be the dates for parent/teacher interviews and will be made available to parents both in person and via telephone.
 - The library will be hosting the book fair during the same time period.

- EEE Communication: Facebook, Remind, Website, Monthly Newsletter
 - Please see the office for help with any of these communication platforms.

- Photo Day
 - Picture day is Thursday, September 30, 2023.
 - Class Pictures and Retakes are scheduled for Tuesday, October 24, 2023.

- Playground Beautification
 - Although the playground maintenance is the responsibility of the janitorial staff, extra assistance is needed for some tree pruning and weed eating. Volunteer for this duty was acquired.

Other Business:

- Parent Fundraising Committee First Meeting will be on Wednesday, October 11 @ 1pm at the Crockett House Café.

Northern Gateway Public Schools Trustee Report:

Date of Report: September 25, 2023
 Submitted by: Trustee Deb Koloski (deb.koloski@ngps.ca)

Highlights from Board Meeting - September 12, 2023

Board Chair and Vice-Chair Elected - Valleyview trustee Gerry Steinke was elected as Board Chair and Mayerthorpe trustee Diane Hagman was elected as Vice-Chair for the 2023-24 school year.

28th Annual Employee Recognition & Awards Evening - will be hosted by the Board of Trustees on September 29, 2023 in Whitecourt. The NGPS Employee Recognition Evening brings NGPS staff from throughout the Division together annually to honour the longstanding service of staff and retirees.

Division-wide Professional Learning Day - On August 30 at Whitecourt Hilltop, 550+ staff were welcomed to the 2023-24 school year. Trustees and staff enjoyed an inspiring keynote address from Dr. Robyne Hanley-Dafoe who spoke about the importance of hope, resilience, and perspective, and how we sustain these qualities; in life, as a team, and in understanding and supporting students. Following the keynote, trustees and staff took in professional development sessions from an array of options.

Policy 1 - NGPS Foundational Statements - The Board shared new NGPS Foundational Statements for the Division. The guiding statements reflect the collective Vision, Mission, Values and Motto of Northern Gateway Public Schools.

Trustee By-Election called for Valleyview Rural - Nominations for the Valleyview Rural Trustee By-election are being received until September 25, 2023. By-Election day is October 23.

Next meeting of the Board: is scheduled for **October 17, 2023**, at the Division Office in Whitecourt commencing at 10:00 a.m.

Next School Council Meeting:

- Monday, ~~October 23~~, 2023 @ 5:30pm

October 30

Northern Gateway Public Schools

Trustee Report

Date of Report: October 30, 2023
Submitted by: Trustee Deb Koloski (deb.koloski@ngps.ca)
Trustee Diane Hagman (diane.hagman@ngps.ca)

Highlights from Board Meeting - October 17, 2023

NGPS Vision, Mission and Values - The Board began the meeting by recollecting our NGPS Mission: *"Northern Gateway Public Schools provides a dynamic and safe learning environment that promotes connection and the authentic application of learning."*

Presentation: from Alana Simpson speaking in opposition to the deferred Board Motion to revise transportation policy for Gr 7-9 students in the Sangudo catchment area, enrolled at Mayerthorpe Jr/Sr High School.

Presentation: from MHS Principal Beth Jager on the success and popularity of the Career Exposure Summer Boot Camps held at Hilltop Jr/Sr High School in July. There were just under 200 student registrations from numerous NGPS communities and other school divisions. The camps were open to students in Grades 9-12 and offered an array of career options via week long learning experiences. Students also earn high school credits participation in these camps. Thank you to the many Camp sponsors: RBC Foundation, Brogan Safety, Pembina Pipeline, Booster Juice, the Town of Whitecourt, the Town of Mayerthorpe, Woodlands County and Careers Next Generation.

Sangudo/Mayerthorpe Transportation - Superintendent Kevin Bird presented the Board with information relating to the impact of proposed Motion 4879-23: *"That the Northern Gateway Board of Trustees approve transportation provision for students who live in the Sangudo Community School catchment area and who are presently enrolled at Mayerthorpe Jr/Sr High School, Grade 7-9 program."* There are currently 17 students in Grades 7-9, representing 13 families, who are seeking transportation to Mayerthorpe from the Sangudo catchment area. The Board discussed Transportation policy, best practice across the Division, and Sangudo Community School revitalization. The motion was defeated.

Sangudo Community Engagement Ad Hoc Committee Meeting - Trustees on the Ad Hoc Committee updated the Board on their last meeting with community members, sharing that SCS enrollment has increased to 122 students. This year's school budget

and enrollment numbers has helped the school shift back into a viable status. The Committee indicated that there is no need for additional meetings at this time.

28th Annual Employee Recognition Evening - The Board of Trustees honoured 100 staff at this year's event, recognizing staff with long-standing service awards, the Division's Edwin Parr nominee, and retirees. We are fortunate to have so many talented and passionate professionals working for our students.

New K-12 School in Valleyview - Update - project planning is progressing and a Community Roundtable discussions will be held in Valleyview on November 16 to discuss ideas around the new facility.

Rural Valleyview By-Election was on October 23 - The Board welcomes newly elected Trustee Leslie Urness.

Next meeting of the Board: is scheduled for **November 7, 2023**, at the Division Office in Whitecourt commencing at 10:00 a.m. Members of the public are invited to attend or watch the meeting live on our YouTube channel, NGTV.

Questions???

PSBAA Fall Conference and AGM - October 18,19,20 - Our Board of Trustees all attended. Wednesday evening started us out with the Lois Hole Dinner with keynote speaker, Honorable David Hancock (15th premier of Alberta elected in 2014 & serving as a judge of the Provincial Court since 2017). Thursday, was a Professional learning day hosted by Glenn Tecker who is widely acknowledged as one of the world's most famous experts on leadership and strategy development. Glen touched on how Boards can ensure governance, operations, and culture are all aligned to support the Boards business strategy. Friday, was the Annual Gen. Meeting. Members elected the new executive for the Association, approved the 2022 year end financial statements, and approved the 2024 fee schedule and budget. Trustees value and appreciate this opportunity to learn, and engage with Public School Boards across the Province.