



Yellowknife Education District No. 1 (YK1) Regular Board of Trustees Meeting MINUTES

May 9, 2023 @ 7:00PM

District Office Boardroom & Video Conference

Trustees Present: Allan Shortt, David Wasylciw, Jason Snaggs (video conference), Michelle Peters, Terry Brookes and Tina Drew

Absent: none

Regrets: Barbara Bell

Administration Present: Jameel Aziz, Shirley Zouboules, Landon Kowalzik, Tram Do, Jordan Martin, and Pat Thagard

Guests present: David Abernethy

Meeting Chairperson: Chairperson Wasylciw

1. Call to Order

Meeting called to order at 7:13PM. Six Trustees were present, quorum was met.

2. Land Acknowledgement

Chairperson Wasylciw respectfully acknowledged that we live, work and, learn on Chief Drygeese Territory in the Akaitcho region, the traditional territory of the Yellowknives Dene First Nation.

3. Chairperson's Opening Remarks

Chairperson Wasylciw welcomed everyone to the meeting and invited Trustee Peters to do a safety talk.

Trustee Peters noted the large number of wildfires currently in Alberta. The NWT has known wildfires. She reminded everyone to have a bugout bag containing essentials such as water and snacks for a few days, medications, important documents. She recommended everyone keep an eye/ear on fire and air quality reports and health advisories.

4. Declaration of Conflict of Interest - none

5. Approval of Agenda

Motion #: 05-01-22/23

I move to accept the agenda with friendly amendment to remove item "10.1 Sacred Feather Award" thereby making "2023/2024 Budget Approval" item 10.1.

Moved by: Trustee Brookes Seconded by: Trustee Shortt

Carried

6. Delegations & Presentations - none

7. Review and Adoption of Minutes

Motion #: 05-02-22/23

I move that the YK1 Board of Trustees adopt the minutes of April 11, 2023 with amendments suggested by Chairperson Wasylciw.

Moved by: Trustee Wasylciw Seconded by: Trustee Brookes

Carried

8. Trustee Statements - none

9. Unfinished Business

9.1 Bussing

- Closures remain and YK1 Administration is not confident they will reopen soon
- Providing refunds will be challenging because funds do not all come from the parents
- École It'ò has arranged with the YWCA for additional aftercare spots due to Route 5 closure
- Board and Administration agree that refunds should be provided to parents that paid a bussing fee for a service they are not receiving
- Administration reviewed how bus payments work and YK1 involvement
- Administration to attend meeting with Transdev (new owners) on May 19th
- Weekly bussing update posted on website, communique sent to schools to share with parents

9.2 Education Act Amendments

- Public consultation scheduled for May 24th and written submissions due June 9th
- YK1 will present at consultation on May 24th
- Trustees asked to review proposed amendments and provide feedback asap
- High cost of being required to provide bussing for all students (including JK) would significantly increase costs. The current cost of bussing is approximately \$600K and estimates for all students are at a minimum \$2.2M based on 2021 First Transit Proposal
- Concern about splitting families with separate buses for JK
- Bus company is concerned about safety related to providing JK bussing

9.3 Policy 5-Board By-Laws (2nd Reading)

Motion #: 05-03-22/23

I move that the Yellowknife Education District Board of Trustees vote on both 2nd and 3rd readings to approve Policy 5-Board By-Laws during this Board meeting.

Moved by: Trustee Drew Seconded by: Trustee Peters

Carried

Motion #: 05-04-22/23

I move that the Yellowknife Education District No. 1 Board of Trustees approve the second and third readings for the changes made to Policy 5 – Board By-Laws as presented at the April 11, 2023 Board meeting.

Moved by: Trustee Brookes Seconded by: Trustee Drew

Carried

9.4 COVID-19 Update

- Efforts are being made to ensure all funding is used before deadline
- A tender is in place for furniture
- Air filters to be purchased for school ventilation systems
- Attendance at schools is returning to historical norms with many great activities planned
- Students are very happy about return of sporting activities. A lot of good sportspersonship stories have been brought to Administration's attention

10. New Business

10.1 2023-2024 Budget Approval

Motion #: 05-05-22/23

I move that the Yellowknife Education District No. 1 Board of Trustees approve the 2023-2024 Draft Budget as presented by the Finance Committee.

Moved by: Trustee Snaggs Seconded by: Trustee Shortt

Motion #: 05-06-22/23

I move to amend the motion by adding that the Yellowknife Education District No. 1 Board of Trustees create a new surplus line item for the funds from the sale of Nordic Arms.

Moved by: Trustee Snaggs Seconded by: Trustee Peters

- Establishing a Nordic Arms Education Reserve as an internally restricted reserve line item suggested to ensure the use of those funds are separate from normal operations.
- It was noted that ECE turned down a request to have a restricted Nordic Arms Reserve
- An overview was given of the past request made to ECE
- Creating a separate line item is basically an internal intent to recognize the funds separately so that the funds are not used for O&M

- Trustee opposition to making the change now was shared along with a suggestion to only hold a vote to approve the 2023-2024 Budget at this meeting
- Having a separate surplus budget line would allow the Board to clearly see where surplus funds are and formalizes how the different surplus funds are already verbally addressed
- Administration indicated the budget could be approved at this meeting and amended at the June meeting with only the amended budget going to ECE

Motion 05-06-22/23

Carried

Motion 05-05-22/23

Defeated

Motion #: 05-07-22/23

I move to have a 5-minute recess.

Moved by: Trustee Wasylciw Seconded by: Trustee Drew

Carried

11. Reports

11.1 Chairperson Wasylciw's Report – in agenda package

No questions

11.2 Standing Committee Reports

11.2.1 Finance

Committee Chairperson Snaggs indicated the Committee reviewed and recommended approval of the 2023-2024 Budget. No questions

11.2.2 Public Relations – in agenda package

In Committee Chairperson Bell's absence Trustee Snaggs shared:

- the Committee is working to amalgamate the current version and suggestions for the communications plan. This will be reviewed at the next meeting in an effort to have a draft plan finalized for approval by the Board
- Trustees were happy to see the Business Luncheon is being brought back.

Administration indicated current staff capacity will impact if/when this event is held

11.2.3 Policy – in agenda package

Committee Chairperson Brookes indicated the Committee is working on updating a number of Board Policies. Chairperson Wasylciw suggested that when the Committee is working on policies fundamental to the operation of the Board the Committee bring their recommendations to a Committee of the Whole meeting for discussion.

No questions.

11.2.4 Audit Committee – no meetings as of yet

11.2.5 Committee of the Whole (CoTW)

Committee Chairperson Brookes indicated the CoTW minutes in the agenda package were approved at the CoTW held earlier in the day

Trustee Drew noted that items discussed in camera during Board Retreat meeting should not be included in meeting minutes.

11.2.6 Facilities

Committee Chairperson Drew indicated the Committee is working to bring the 5-year Plan to the June Meeting.

11.2.7 NWTTA Teacher-Board Committee – Trustee Brookes indicated the April meeting was cancelled.

11.3 Ad Hoc Committee Reports

11.3.1 Strategic Plan Committee - information to follow in the future

11.3.2 Negotiations Committee – no updates available until USW members ratify the agreement

11.4 Superintendent's Report

- Trustees happy to see the Debate Club at SJF is active again
- Students not being identified in District materials is for children's protection. Trustees indicated it would be nice to somehow recognize students' achievements
- YK1 will have a booth at the Trade Show. Trustees encouraged to visit the booth
- Trustees gave Administration kudos for student and parent surveys and look forward to seeing results

- Analysis of survey responses will allow Administration to compare YK1 against other jurisdictions

11.4.1 Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum and Learning Report

in agenda package

- Trustees were encouraged to attend Moose Hide Camp at MHS
- Administration provided an overview of Cobblestone Collective and Now play 2
- Days of Pink at museum went very well with a lot of great feedback
- Trustees would like Administration to ensure YK1 is compliant with language requirements on all signage.
- Trustees thanked Ed. Services for the presentation on April 29th

11.4.2 Assistant Superintendent of HR and Curriculum and Learning Report

in agenda package

- Administration expects to fill all staff positions required for next year
- Student enrolment numbers are expected to remain stable with the exception of JK, which will not be known until the start of the school year
- COVID has resulted in a high number of students showing as being enrolled in Grade 10 (this is because if a student has even 1 grade 10 class they are considered a grade 10 student for enrolment purposes)

11.5 Director of Corporate Services Report - in agenda package

- Mill rate legislation along with other legislation impact how mill rate is determined
- Timeline from the City to request an increase in the mill rate is difficult as it is late April while the budget is being developed. It was therefore deferred to next year for consideration and changed planning.
- Ratepayers should be consulted before requesting an increase
- Optics of having a surplus and asking the City for more funds could be negatively received
- Lower than estimated deficit of \$300K is a result of our investments doing well
- Administration gave overview of staff positions still on reserve

11.5.1 Director of Operations Report – in agenda package

- Trustees happy to see no roofs were leaking this spring
- It will be a busy construction season

11.6 Trustee Reports

11.6.1 Trustee Brookes – in agenda package

In addition to his report, Trustee Brookes also indicated he and Trustee Bell attended the Days of Pink at the museum

11.6.2 Trustee Drew

Trustee Drew was honoured to represent the Board of Trustees at the recent Long Term Service Awards (LTS) on behalf of Chairperson Wasylciw and Vice-Chairperson Brookes. She would like to recommend future LTS events occur on a weekday (possibly on a STIP day) so as not to impact staff family time

11.7 Trustee PAC Meeting Reports

11.7.1 École Itl'ò - attended by Trustee Snaggs

- getting parents to attend meetings was recognized as a concern; PAC is working to come up with some incentives to encourage parents to attend

11.7.2 Mildred Hall School – attended by Trustee Drew

- School accessibility was brought up as a concern (Trustee Drew will visit school with Director of Operations and add this item to Facilities Committee meeting agenda)
- City laneway connected to school has poor signage. Administration to follow up with the City
- The school has a very involved PAC group
- It was noted that the school gym is now too small for their music concerts

11.7.3 NJ Macpherson School – attended by Trustee Peters

- A total of 6 people were in attendance
- Concerns about bussing were raised
- The school has a thriving wellness program and they recently hosted an Aurora College practicum
- Many school activities have been held and many more are scheduled to the end of the school year

11.7.4 Range Lake North School

- Chairperson Wasylciw reminded everyone, on behalf of Trustee Bell, about Family Fun Night happening on May 12th and encouraged everyone to attend the caribou video presentation that would be happening at the school over the lunch hour on the 10th to celebrate Elders and students in the video

11.7.5 École Sir John Franklin High School – attended by Trustee Brookes – report attached

11.7.6 École William McDonald Middle School – attended by Trustee Peters on behalf of Trustee Shortt

- The unveiling of the WMS mural project will take place in June
- Students are looking forward to attending the Hay River track meet
- No issues to bring forward

12. Announcements – calendar in agenda package

Trustee Brookes stated he is making a Notice of Motion. At the June Board Meeting he will bring a motion forward requesting that the 2023 increase to the Trustee honorarium be the same as the recently negotiated [USW] labour agreement.

Everyone was reminded about Bear Witness for Jordan’s Principle Day tomorrow (May 10th)

13. Date and Time of Next Meetings:

May 23, 2023	12:00 PM	Board Meeting
June 14, 2023	12:00 PM	CoTW Meeting
June 14, 2023	6:15 PM	Executive Session – in camera
June 14, 2023	7:00 PM	Regular Board Meeting

14. Chairperson’s Closing Remarks

Chairperson Wasylciw wished all mothers a happy Mother’s Day, encouraged everyone to check out the YK1 booth at the Trade Show this weekend, and to go to the ASBA website to see talks, and the learning portal available (all Trustees have a login). He also encouraged everyone to take in at least 1 talk before the next meeting.

15. Motion #: 05-08-22/23

I move that this board meeting of the YK1 Board of Trustees be adjourned

Moved by: Trustee Brookes; Seconded by: Trustee Shortt

Carried

The meeting adjourned at **9:45PM**

Patrizia Thagard, Secretary

Signed after update, as required and approval:

Chairperson Wasylciw

Director of Corporate Services