



YELLOWKNIFE EDUCATION DISTRICT NO. 1
BOARD of TRUSTEES
Regular Board Meeting
MINUTES

May 14, 2024 - 7:00 PM

In-person and online via Google Meet

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

Regrets: Barbara Bell

Administration
Present: Shirley Zouboules, Landon Kowalzik, Graham Arts,
Jean-Marie Mariez, Jordan Martin, Pat Thagard and Bronwyn McPhail

Meeting Chairperson: David Wasylciw

Meeting Recorder: Pat Thagard

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 7:02 PM

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 gave a special welcome to the students from École Sir John Franklin High School (SJF) who had come to do a presentation on their trip to Europe (slides attached).

4. Declaration of Conflict of Interest

None

5. Adoption of Agenda

Motion #: 01/05-14/23-24

I move that Yellowknife Education District No. 1 Board of Trustees adopt the May 14, 2024, Regular Board Meeting agenda as amended.

Moved by: Trustee Brookes Seconded by: Trustee Shortt **Carried**

(amendment: addition of item 11.8 - Appointment to the Audit Committee)

6. Delegations & Presentations

- 6.1. École Sir John Franklin High School (SJF) students Hannah Vu, Kat Saunders, Mark Lingard, Millie Strachan-Legere, and chaperone Kirstin Prescott of the Sir John Europe Trip (SJET) presented a slideshow (attached) about the places they visited on their trip. They were all very grateful for the learning experiences and were happy to answer questions from Trustees.

Action: The board will send them a thank-you note.

7. Review and Approval of Minutes

Motion #: 02/05-14/23-24

I move that Yellowknife Education District No. 1 Board of Trustees adopt the April 9, 2024, Regular Board Meeting minutes as presented.

Moved by: Trustee Brookes Seconded by: Trustee Shortt **Carried**

No discussion or changes.

8. Business Arising from the Minutes

8.1 Action Items

The list was reviewed and updated.

Action: administration to add action items from April 9th meeting to the list.

Motion #: 03/05-14/23-24

I move that the Yellowknife Education District No. 1 Board of Trustees approve the updated Board's Action Items list as discussed.

Moved by: Trustee Brookes Seconded by: Trustee Shortt **Carried**

9. Trustee Statements

None

10. Unfinished Business

10.1. Wellness & Mental Health Program Update

The final draft of the handbook is included in the agenda package. The handbook and posters have been sent to be professionally finalized and printed.

Motion #: 04/05-14/23-24

I move that the Yellowknife Education District No. 1 Board of Trustees adopt and approve the Mental Health & Wellness Framework as presented.

Moved by: Trustee Brookes Seconded by: Trustee Shortt **Carried**

11. New Business

11.1. Bill 11 - Amendments to Academic Year & School Attendance Regulations

Chairperson Wasylciw reviewed the request from Education, Culture and Employment (ECE) for feedback on Bill 11.

Administration noted the changes may have implications for and expectations on staff across the NWT.

One of the items involves the process of making changes to school calendars. Currently, there is no mechanism in place. This item was introduced to provide a mechanism for making changes to school calendars.

Motion #: 05/05-14/23-24

I move that the Yellowknife Education District No. 1 Board of Trustees approve the draft reply to the request for comments from the Minister of Education, Culture and Employment.

Moved by: Trustee Snaggs Seconded by: Trustee Shortt **Carried**

11.2 District Data Results Report

The report was included in the agenda package.

Trustees congratulated the Education Services team for all their work in creating such a fantastic presentation. Trustees look forward to improvements in future Middle Years Development Instrument (MDI) results.

Administration was very happy to announce that YK1 applied for some outside funding and has been approved for enough funding to hire three Speech-Language Pathologists for the 2024-2025 school year. However, there is no guarantee that the funding will continue beyond the 2024-2025 school year. Trustees indicated the continuity of this funding for these positions would be a good item to highlight at the future meeting with MLAs.

11.3 Draft 2024-2025 Operating Plan

The Plan is due to be submitted on Thursday, May 16th.

Administration to make changes suggested to the organization chart on page 8 before the 2024-2025 Operating Plan is submitted.

11.4 National Food Funding

This item is for information purposes. The program delivery information is currently being developed.

Administration noted that the current food funding figures indicate only what YK1 receives from ECE. It does not include any funding the schools apply for directly.

Trustees suggested Administration brainstorm with school leadership to determine "what a good food program would look like?". It was also suggested to look at what successful food programs outside of Canada look like.

11.5 Accessibility Report

The Director of Operations made a presentation about the state of accessibility at YK1. It was suggested that YK1 needs to make accessibility a higher priority. This could be accomplished by having an accessibility audit done by experts in the field and then incorporating the recommendations into the capital budget.

Trustees pointed out that the Rick Hansen Foundation does these kinds of audits. It was suggested that the Board advocate for funds for accessibility improvements by writing to the Minister and including the current assessment and the ECE assessment done years ago during which a policy was drafted but not adopted. It is felt that history and the recent review would allow the Board to request funding to have the Rick Hansen Foundation do an audit and request the Department of Infrastructure to do an accessibility assessment, at a minimum, for our schools.

Motion #: 06/05-14/23-24

I move that the YK1 Board of Trustees refer the Accessibility Report prepared by staff to the Finance and Facilities Committee for consideration.

Moved by: Trustee Drew Seconded by: Trustee Brookes **Carried**

Motion #: 07/05-14/23-24

I move that the YK1 Board of Trustees write to the Minister of ECE regarding the state of accessibility in YK1's buildings and the need for funding to improve the state of accessibility.

Moved by: Trustee Snaggs Seconded by: Trustee Drew **Carried**

11.6 Community Gym Rentals

Administration recently met with the Yellowknife Catholic School Board (YCS) and Commission Francophone Scolaire de les Teritoires Nordwest (CFSTNO) about school gym rentals. There is a desire among all the school districts to restart the practice of renting gyms to individuals. This practice stopped due to COVID-19. The school districts would like this to start up for the month of June only and then start up again in September.

Motion #: 08/05-14/23-24

I move that the Yellowknife Education District No. 1 Board of Trustees direct administration to take the necessary steps to once again enable rentals of school gyms by community members.

Moved by: Trustee Brookes Seconded by: Trustee Peters **Carried**

11.7 YK1 Montessori Program

Recruitment and retention for the Montessori program have been difficult for some time. Also, it was noted that quality training is often only available in the US. The school leadership, YK1 administration and the Montessori Society all agreed that the program has not been done justice for some time. It was pointed out that staff continue to use the Montessori best practices and the Montessori materials. The school will be asked what happened to the materials the Montessori Society fundraised for and provided at the outset.

11.8 Appointment of Member to the Audit Committee

Motion #: 09/05-14/23-24

I move that the Yellowknife Education District No. 1 Board of Trustees appoint Mr. Walter Mupedziwa as a public member of the YK1 Audit Committee.

Moved by: Trustee Brookes Seconded by: Trustee Snaggs **Carried**

12. Reports

12.1 Chairperson's Report

Included in the agenda package. No questions.

12.2 Standing Committee Reports

12.2.1 Finance & Facilities

A meeting is scheduled for tomorrow at 12:10 PM

12.2.2 Policy & Governance Committee

The committee report is included in the agenda package.

A review of Policy 26 is nearing completion. No comments were

Received about this policy. The committee will mark it as reviewed.

At the next Board meeting, the committee will be recommending, YK1 hire a consultant to review policies and administrative procedures.

12.2.3 Public Engagement & Advocacy Committee

The deadline for nominations for the Sacred Feather Indigenous Student Awards is tomorrow (May 15th).

The community Luncheon was very successful. The YK1 Trade Show booth was well attended and very productive.

12.2.4 Audit Committee

Nothing to report.

12.2.5 Committee of the Whole

Nothing to report.

12.2.6 NWTTA Teacher-Board Advisory Committee

The committee has not met yet.

12.2.7 USW-Board Advisory Committee

The committee has not met yet.

12.3 Ad Hoc Committee Reports

12.3.1 Strategic Plan Committee

Nothing to report.

12.3.2 Negotiations Committee

Nothing to report.

12.4 Superintendent's Report

The report is included in the agenda package.

Administration went over the RISE program at SJF which is geared towards grade 9 students.

Discussions were held about supporting students for future success, smartphone use, inclusive education, clarification about school bus applications and City taxes.

12.4.1 Interim Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum & Learning Report

The report is included in the agenda package.

12.4.2 Assistant Superintendent of HR & Learning Report

The report is included in the agenda package.

Interest in working for YK1 has increased substantially this year. Approximately 60% of applicants are local or from the surrounding communities. Active recruitment has made a big contribution to the increased interest along with very competitive salaries and benefits. New teachers are already being trained in the competency-based

curriculum. More information will follow next month after the majority of hiring is complete.

12.4.3 Secretary-Treasurer

This position is currently vacant.

Motion #: 10/05-14/23-24

I move that the Yellowknife Education District No. 1 Board of Trustees direct the Chair to work with Administration to request a 30-day extension to the June 30th budget deadline.

Moved by: Trustee Snaggs Seconded by: Trustee Shortt **Carried**

Trustees would like the letter to include the reason for the extension request is because we do not have a firm budget yet. It is unreasonable to expect a good budget to be created in 2 weeks.

12.4.3.i Director of Operations Report

The old IT portable has been removed and the portable at École William McDonald Middle School (WMS) is being dismantled. Once the portable at WMS is removed the area it currently sits on will be levelled and a basketball court will be reinstalled. Trustees asked that Maintenance confirm with the City that water and sewer lines will be taken back to the water and sewer mains. Clarification on page 201 - the broken cable was on the basketball net. Trustees would like to see all YK1 building drawings updated and digitized.

12.5 Trustee Reports

Trustee Brookes spoke about courses he took through the Alberta School Board Association (ASBA). Risk management is becoming more of a Board concern. Trustee Brookes indicated that ASBA offers many great courses and encouraged other trustees to look into what is offered.

Trustee Brookes also took the opportunity to thank staff for all the volunteer work they do with students outside of working hours.

Trustee Drew indicated the Long Term Service Awards (LTS) event was great. She would like to suggest it be moved to a workday, possibly on a STIP or PD day so that staff do not have to give up their weekend time.

12.6 Trustee PAC Meeting Reports

12.6.1 École Iṯ'ò

The report is included in the agenda package.

12.6.2 Mildred Hall School

The report is included in the agenda package.

12.6.3 N.J. Macpherson School

Trustee Shortt indicated the meeting focus was on year-end activities.

12.6.4 Range Lake North School

Trustee Drew indicated the meeting focus was Family Fun Night.

12.6.5 École Sir John Franklin High School

The SJF PAC meeting is scheduled for tomorrow.

12.6.6 École William McDonald Middle School

The meeting was attended by Trustee Bell.

13. Announcements

The upcoming events calendar is included in the agenda package. SJF Grad, awards ceremonies and other school events are to be added to the Trustee Google calendar.

14. Date and Time of Next Meetings

The next regular Board and COW meetings have been moved to June 25, 2024, to allow time for work to be done on the budget.

Trustees asked about when Chris Smeaton would be in to work with the Board, and when the Rate Payer meeting is to be held. The latter item will be discussed by the Finance & Facilities Committee.

15. Chairperson's Closing Remarks

Chairperson Wasylciw thanked everyone for attending and for a very productive meeting. He also thanked everyone for all the work that went into the recent YK1 great events.

16. Adjournment

Motion #: 11/05-14/23-24

I move that the Yellowknife Education District No. 1 Board of Trustees adjourn the May 14, 2024, Regular Board Meeting.

Moved by: Trustee Shortt

Seconded by: Trustee Snaggs

Carried

The meeting adjourned at 9:30 PM

Chairperson Wasylciw

Shirley Zouboules, Acting Superintendent/CEO
(in place of Secretary-Treasurer,
vacant at the time of approval)