

**Elmer Elson Elementary School Council Meeting
March 31, 2025**

Attendance:

Deb Koloski	Jill Stoney	Falon Boll	Dana Crossland
Leanna Feser	Nadine Szybunka	Diane Hagman	Meagan Black
Kevin Bird			

I. Meeting Called to Order @ 5:04pm

II. Attendance – Sign in Sheet

III. Approval of Agenda

- a. Dana Crossland moves to approve agenda

IV. Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes

- a. Dana Crossland moves to approve the minutes from January 27/25 meeting.

V. School Report:

- a. Track Team
 - i. Teams competed in Edmonton at the Butterdome.
 - ii. EEE sent four teams; Girls A&B & Boys A&B
 - iii. Girls A qualified to come back March 8 to run again.
- b. School Skating
 - i. Each grade went skating twice at the Mayerthorpe arena.
 - ii. Parent fundraising society paid for the costs associated.
- c. Assurance Survey
 - i. Sent out to grades 4,7&10 parents, students and staff.
 - ii. Deadline extended to March 28/25.
- d. Music Festival
 - i. Speech arts – March 12&13 @ EEE
 - ii. Vocals – March 14 @ Ecole St. Anne
 - iii. Prestigious awards went to many individuals and groups for their performances.
- e. Provincial Music Festival
 - i. Choral speaking groups for both Grades 1-3 and 4-6 were asked to virtually submit for provincials.
 - ii. Recorded on March 20 and sent away for adjudication.
- f. Parent Teacher Interviews
 - i. March 19-20
 - ii. Book fair coincided and was very successful.
- g. Pre-Service Teachers
 - i. Jorja Werenka is in grade 1
 - ii. Anika Kuhric is in grades 5&3
- h. Student Council Executive Training
 - i. April 1
 - ii. Discuss roles of the executive and help current council figure out how to support students.

- iii. School council meeting followed.
- i. 2025-2026 ECS Registration
 - i. April 3, 2025
 - ii. Preliminary numbers look like a smaller group for the upcoming year.
- j. House leagues
 - i. Grades 4-6 participating
 - ii. Art competition current week
 - iii. Dodgeball tournament following week
- k. Education Week
 - i. Week of March 31
- l. After school Badminton Athletics
 - i. Grades 5&6
- m. Easter egg hunt and raffle
 - i. April 16
 - ii. Exciting time for the students to participate in a school wide egg hunt.
 - iii. Raffle historically has raised money for the local food bank.
- n. Alberta Musical Theatre Company
 - i. Comes to EEE end of April
 - ii. The show is Rapunzel
 - iii. Families are welcome to attend.
 - iv. Cost approximately \$1000
- o. Staffing
 - i. Recent staffing changes include Mrs. Darla Masterson and Mrs. Sheryl Daws taking over Grade 2 for the remainder of the year.
 - ii. Mrs. Feser acting principal until the end of the year.

VI. Other Business

- a. March 10 Online School Council Meeting
 - i. EEE had 4 attendees
- b. ASCA Symposium
 - i. Online meeting this year.
 - ii. Jill Stoney is attending on behalf of EEE.

VII. Trustee Report

Northern Gateway Public Schools Trustee Report

Date of Report: March 26, 2025
 Submitted by: Trustee Deb Koloski (deb.koloski@ngps.ca)
 Trustee Diane Hagman (diane.hagman@ngps.ca)

Highlights from Board Meeting - March 18, 2025

2026 - 29 Three-Year Capital Plan: was presented by Facilities Director, Randy Lovich and approved by the Board. There are no changes to capital priorities. Year One 2026-27 - Modernize Whitecourt Central School & Pat Hardy Elementary; Year two 2027-28 - Modernize Darwell School & Grasmere School; Year three 2028-29 - Modernize Sangudo Community School and Elmer Elson Elementary.

2025 - 26 Board-Directed School Fees: were presented by Superintendent Bird. The Board approved keeping the Transportation Fees for Grant-Ineligible Students, Tuition Fees for non-Alberta students, and Technology Access/Maintenance Fees the same as the 2024-25 school year. Of note: school bus transportation service continues to be a challenge for rural school divisions with many school boards charging additional fees to families for both regular and supplemental bus service. NGPS continues to offer regular bus service to students at no cost and supplemental services as low as it can be.

New Transportation Walk Distance for K-6 Students - Effective Sept 1, 2025, the walk distances for students in Kindergarten through Grade 6 who ride school buses will increase from 1.0 km to 1.6 km as per the proposed new Alberta Government regulations. There is no change to the 2.0 km walk distance for students in Grade 7-12. This means that students in K-6 who live less than 1.6 km from their school will now have to apply for busing (if needed). Students in K-6 who will no longer be funded under the new ride limit will be informed of the changes via school councils and NGPS Transportation. Current Bus Fees can be viewed at ngps.ca.

Alberta School Board Association's Honouring Spirit: Indigenous Student Awards- 12 First Nations, Metis, or Inuit students (K-12) across the province who model strength and commitment in pursuit of their personal education paths will be recognized at a banquet in Edmonton in April. The Division is pleased to nominate ten students from our school communities: Cougar Desjarlais, Raylene Aginas, Paisley Potts, Bhodon Mercredi, Madison Cardinal, Janelle Cardinal, Taezen Johnson, Lyla Turner, Riley Mitchell, and Amy Goertzen.

2025 Edwin Parr Nominee - NGPS is pleased to announce our 2025 Edwin Parr Nominee, Makayla Chamzuk. Ms. Chamzuk is a passionate first year educator at Pat Hardy Elementary School who goes above and beyond to ensure every student achieves success. We look forward to honouring Ms. Chamzuk at the ASBA banquet this Spring.

NGPS Council of School Councils and ASCA Spring Symposium - School Council representatives from throughout the Division met virtually on March 10 to connect, ask questions, and learn more about the role of school councils in Alberta. NGPS Administration received valuable feedback from participants. This April, school councils across the province have the opportunity to attend the Alberta School Council Association's (ASCA) virtual Spring Symposium. As an opportunity for NGPS school councils to come together, NGPS will register school councils with interested members to participate in the Symposium at the Division Office on April 26, 2025.

Next Board Meeting - will be April 15, 2025, at the Division Office in Whitecourt @ 10:00 a.m. Members of the public are invited to attend.

VIII. Announcements/Correspondence

- a. ATA Gift
 - i. ATA sent post its and pens for school council members

IX. Next Meeting Date

- a. April 28, 2025 at 5pm

X. Adjournment

- a. 6:00pm

Northern Gateway Public Schools Trustee Report

Date of Report: April 28, 2025

Submitted by: Trustee Deb Koloski (deb.koloski@ngps.ca)

Trustee Diane Hagman (diane.hagman@ngps.ca)

Highlights from Board Meeting - April 15, 2025

Things We Value: Joy in learning. Humility in achievement. Satisfaction in giving. Gratitude in receiving. Dedication to personal responsibility.

Draft Three Year Education Plan - Presentation from Leslee Jodry, Deputy Superintendent and Tammy Davis, Director of Learning. The draft three year plan was presented and accepted as information which will be discussed and finalized at our next board Meeting.

Bill 51: Education Amendment Act 2025 -The Alberta Government introduced Bill 51 in the Legislature last week. The Bill contains several proposed changes, including:

- Removes the ability for school boards to disqualify or remove a trustee for breaching the Board's code of conduct
- Changes to JUPA (Joint Use and Planning Agreements)
- Changes to the teacher discipline process
- Changes new school ownership from School Divisions to Alberta Infrastructure

Bill 13: Real Property Governance Act - Alberta's Bill 13 will ensure consistent handling of public property sales and transfers. Key changes include:

- the government managing a centralized inventory of public property
- granting the Ministry of Infrastructure the ability to purchase surplus school division property at book value and enables the Ministry of Infrastructure to own all new K-12 schools and their properties and lease these back to the school authorities who operate and maintain them.

Exceptional Indigenous Students Honoured: Twelve exceptional Indigenous Students from across Alberta were honoured by the Alberta School Boards Association on April 14 with an Honouring Spirit: Indigenous Student Award. The Award recognizes First Nations, Métis and Inuit students from across Alberta who model strength and commitment in the pursuit of their personal education paths. We are proud to announce that NGPS had two recipients this year! Congratulations Cougar Desjarlais, Gr. 6 from Elmer Elson School and Riley Mitchell, Gr. 2 from Pat Hardy School!

Emergency After Hours Number - NGPS now has an after-hours "Emergency" line that can be used for urgent or emergency issues involving student, staff or building safety outside of regular business hours. After-hours: 780-706-8222.

Trustee School Board Visits 2025 - The Trustees have been busy visiting the schools, so far we have visited all of our schools from Whitecourt, east to Onoway. These visits allow the Principals to showcase some of the wonderful things that are happening in their buildings. Later this week will be visiting all of the schools in the Fox Creek and Valleyview area.

Next Board Meeting - will be May 27, 2025, at the Division Office in Whitecourt @ 10:00 a.m. Members of the public are invited to attend.

QUESTIONS????

*Nominations
for School Board
Trustee Election
- October 2025*