



HPSD Board of Trustees meeting highlights

For immediate release
Sept. 25, 2009

HIGH PRAIRIE, AB – High Prairie School Division’s Board of Trustees held its most recent board meeting on Sept. 16, 2009 at HPSD’s central office in High Prairie.

Native Cultural Arts Museum request

The Board passed a motion from Trustee Gary Doran requesting that a formal letter be provided to Grouard Native Cultural Arts Museum supporting any future efforts by the museum to apply or lobby for provincial grant funding dollars to help offset annual operating costs.

The decision came after the Board met with Native Cultural Arts Museum representative Louise Myre to discuss an earlier request for funding support from the Board in the amount of \$4,900 to assist with the continued delivery of its outdoor program. The program actively promotes the rich history of Grouard and the diverse heritage of North America’s Aboriginal cultures.

The Board – which was unable to endorse the funding request due to the present economic downturn and recent government funding cutbacks – felt a letter of support would elevate provincial government awareness to the need for increased funding opportunities effectively promoting and preserving the rich cultural and educational value of the museum to the region.

Administrative Procedure 348

The Board reviewed a draft of Administrative Procedure 348 regarding the use, possession and/or distribution of illegal drugs and alcohol at schools or during school-related activities.

“The purpose of this administrative procedure is to further strengthen our wrap-around services in relation to instances of substance abuse within our school division,” says HPSD Assistant Superintendent Margaret Hartman.

Administrative Procedure 348 will be brought before the Board again for further discussion at its October meeting.

Policy 3 – Role of the Trustee – ratified

The Board endorsed a motion from Trustee Karin Scholl to amend and ratify Policy 3 – Role of the Trustee – as HPSD policy. The amendment to the policy focused on two additions (familiarity of the *School Act* and attendance expectations).

Prairie River School field trip approved

The Board provided approval in principle to a proposed national field trip by Prairie River School to Ottawa from Feb. 11 to 14, 2010.

All of the school’s 60 Grade 9 students will be involved in fundraising as a group to offset the expense of the classroom-based educational field trip, which focuses on Science and Social Studies curriculum and includes visits to Parliament Hill and the National Science & Technology

Museum.

The Board, which acknowledged two days of missed classroom instruction, was satisfied with the strategies adapted by the school to make up for the missed class time in other core subjects.

October Board meeting

The next HPSD Board of Trustees meeting is scheduled for Thursday, Oct. 15 at 10 a.m. (as opposed to the regular meeting day which falls on the third Wednesday of each month) from central office in High Prairie and will include the Board's annual Organizational Meeting.

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Monthly board meeting highlights are available on the HPSD website at www.hpsd.ab.ca under "News Releases."

For additional information contact HPSD Superintendent of Schools Mrs. Laura Poloz at 780-523-3337 or HPSD Communications Officer Kevin Laliberte at 780-837-2114.

High Prairie School Division's Board of Trustees held its most recent board meeting Aug. 19, 2009, at Central Office in High Prairie.

HPSD hires Division Counselor/School Culture Coach

HPSD Superintendent Laura Poloz announced the addition of Chester Auger of Slave Lake to the position of Division Counselor/School Culture Coach, effective Aug. 25, 2009.

Auger is a former graduate of Roland Michener School and has been a teacher and vice-principal for the Bigstone Band School for the past 11 years.

The Superintendent also announced Kim Barker-Kay as acting principal for Prairie View Outreach School for the 2009-'10 school year. She replaces Dan McDonald.

Board supports request to change date of North Country Fair

The Board passed a motion from Trustee Karin Scholl supporting a request from Kinuso School Vice-Principal Brian Hay to have the annual North Country Fair date moved ahead to July as opposed to June. The request was made in an effort to help ensure that students' remain focused on their academic studies, including final exams.

Draft of Administrative Procedure 348 tabled until next meeting

Trustees endorsed a motion from Board Chair Joyce Dvornek to table discussion of Administrative Procedure 348 until next month's Board meeting. The draft policy deals with guidelines and procedures in reference to the prohibited use of illegal drugs and alcohol by students within the division.

Terms of reference for finance committee approved

The Board approved the terms of reference in relation to the formation of a finance committee comprised of the Board of Trustees. The intent of the committee is to monitor, evaluate, advise or make recommendations on matters affecting the financial and operational control policies and practices relating to the division, including external, internal or special audits.

Roland Michener field trip requests approved in principle

The Board gave its approval in principle to two resubmitted requests for proposed field trips by Roland Michener School in Slave Lake; one to Italy/Greece and the other to Egypt in April of 2010. The proposed field trip to Italy and Greece is from April 2 to 10, 2010, while the Greece field trip is from April 2 to 11. No classroom time will be missed.

E. W. Pratt field trip denied

The Board defeated a motion to support a proposed field trip (in principle) by E.W. Pratt High School to participate in the 65th Anniversary Celebrations of the Victory Tour In Europe (Holland) from April 29 to May 10, 2009. The Board's decision was based upon non-compliance to HPSD field trip guidelines which stipulate that all international field trips be planned outside of class time.

The Board was fully cognizant of the educational value of HPSD students being directly

involved in the 65th Anniversary celebration but was not prepared to remove the requirement that the trip take place outside of class time.

“It’s important to point out that we’re not opposed to the trip per se,” Trustee Karin Scholl explained, “it’s the missed class time.”

Board Chair Joyce Dvornek added “there’s no question in my mind that this experience would be beneficial to students, however, it can’t come at the expense of student achievement.”

Board meeting date location changed

The Board endorsed a motion to change the location of the September 16, 2009, board meeting from Kinuso School to Central Office. The meeting commences at 10 a.m.

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