



MEMORANDUM

March 11, 2025
Regular Board Meeting

TO	Board of Trustees
FROM	Lorraine Stewart, Board Chair
ORIGINATOR	Lorraine Stewart, Board Chair
RESOURCE	Board of Trustees and Executive Team
GOVERNANCE POLICY	Board Policy 8: Board Committees and Representation Board Policy 12: Role of the Superintendent
ADDITIONAL REFERENCE	BP 8: Appendix 8.1 Governance and Planning Committee
SUBJECT	GOVERNANCE & PLANNING SESSION (GPS)

PURPOSE

For information. No recommendation required.

BACKGROUND

The purpose of the Governance and Planning Committee is to provide an opportunity for all Trustees to engage in dialogue on generative governance, strategic planning, advocacy, student engagement and operational understanding. The Superintendent reports directly to the corporate Board and is accountable to the Board of Trustees for the conduct and operation of the Division. The following report shares the unapproved Minutes from the February 18, 2025, GPS Meeting.

REPORT SUMMARY

On February 18, 2025, the Governance and Planning Committee met to discuss a number of topics chose in advance by both the Board of trustees and the Executive Team. The following report is a record of this meeting.

LS:kz



MINUTES OF THE GOVERNANCE & PLANNING SESSION (GPS)

Meeting held at the Centre for Education, Boardroom, in Stony Plain, Alberta
On Tuesday, February 18, 2025, at 9:00 AM

Attendance:

Lorraine Stewart, Board Chair
Aimee Hennig, Vice-Chair
Aileen Wagner, Trustee (*via videoconferencing*)
Paul McCann, Trustee
Eric Cameron, Trustee
Jill Osborne, Trustee
Shauna Boyce, Superintendent
Mark Francis, Deputy Superintendent
Scott Johnston, Associate Superintendent
Scott McFadyen, Associate Superintendent
Dr. Meg Miskolzie, Associate Superintendent
Jordi Weidman, Director of Strategic Communications
Keri Zylla, Recording Secretary

Guest Presenter:

Dr. Charmaine Brooks, Public School Boards' Association of Alberta

Regrets:

Anne Montgomery, Trustee

1. WELCOME & LEARNING MOMENT

- 1.1. **Call to Order:** Board Chair Stewart called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.
- 1.2. **Land Acknowledgement:** Board Chair Stewart acknowledged Treaty Territory.
- 1.3. **Changes to the Agenda:** There were no changes to the agenda.
- 1.4. **Approval of the Agenda:**
MOVED by Vice-Chair Hennig that the Board of Trustees accept the agenda as presented.
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY
- 1.5. **Approval of the January 14, 2025, GPS Minutes:**
MOVED by Trustee Cameron that the GPS Minutes of January 14, 2025, be approved as presented.
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

2. PRESENTATION: Artificial Intelligence in School Board Governance – by Dr. Charmaine Brooks

Trustee Cameron introduced Dr. Charmaine Brooks from Public School Boards' Association of Alberta (PSBAA), who made a presentation featuring "AI in School Board Governance".

Presentation Summary:

AI in School Board Governance February 18, 2025 Dr. Charmaine Brooks

Overview: Artificial Intelligence (AI) has the potential to address significant challenges in education and innovate teaching and learning practices. However, rapid technological developments bring risks and challenges that surpass policy debates and regulatory frameworks. System education leaders and policymakers need to leverage opportunities and address risks presented by the growing connection between AI and education. Trustees play a crucial role in ensuring the responsible and ethical integration of AI by setting the vision, establishing policies, and overseeing AI initiatives to benefit all students and stakeholders.

AI Overview:

- What is AI? AI mimics human intelligence, performing tasks like learning, problem-solving, and language interaction. It's integrated with social relations and adapts by finding patterns in large datasets.
- What can AI do well? AI excels in solving complex problems (e.g., protein folding), providing real-time feedback (e.g., AI tutors), and supporting tasks like idea generation, research, and summarization.
- What are the risks? Concerns include data privacy, misinformation, bias, and over-reliance on AI, which may hinder critical thinking. The potential for AI to foster disengagement in learning is also a worry.
- Implications for education: AI can enhance accessibility, reduce teacher workload, and provide constant feedback. However, issues like academic integrity, bias, and equitable access need to be addressed.

AI in School Board Governance:

- Effective Use of AI: Use AI with transparency, accountability, and community engagement. Focus on improving the quality and uniqueness of work, not just productivity. AI should augment human potential and not replace workers.
- Next steps: Provide professional learning on ethical AI use, prioritize data privacy, and engage the community. Encourage sharing practices and use division-licensed tools, ensuring transparency in AI initiatives.

Board Chair Stewart called a recess at 10:28 a.m. Meeting resumed at 10:37 a.m.

3. OPERATIONS AND INFORMATION

- 3.1. Budget Assumptions:** Associate Superintendent McFadyen shared the draft Budget Assumptions for Parkland School Division (PSD), highlighting the basis for the assumption in various categories and any associated budget risks. Associate Superintendent McFadyen noted that the Alberta Government is expected to release the new budget February 27, 2025. Discussion ensued.

Director of Transportation Services, Gail Lewis, and Director of Financial Services, Jason Krefting joined the meeting for agenda item 3.2 'Fees and Allowances – Transportation Scenarios', at 10:43 a.m. and exited the meeting at 11:26 a.m.

- 3.2. Fees and Allowances - Transportation Scenarios:** Associate Superintendent McFadyen shared the draft schedule for the 2025-2026 fees and allowances, and four transportation scenarios for Board consideration. He discussed the various growth and inflationary cost factors. Grant funding remains unknown but is assumed to have a 3% increase.

Associate Superintendent McFadyen, Ms. Lewis and Mr. Krefting responded to questions. Fees and Allowances, including the Transportation Fees, will come forward at the April 15, 2025, Board Meeting for approval. Discussion ensued.

Director of Facilities Services, Serge LaBrie, joined the meeting for agenda item 3.3 'Capital Plan', at 11:31 a.m. and exited the meeting at 11:52 a.m.

- 3.3. Capital Plan:** Associate Superintendent McFadyen and Mr. LaBrie presented the draft 2025-2028 Three-Year Capital Plan, outlining the rationale behind the proposed requests, highlighting the priority ranking of new construction and modernization projects that will be submitted to the Alberta Government.

The Capital Plan will come forward at the March 11, 2025, Board Meeting. Discussion ensued.

- 3.4. Collegiate and Kindergarten Programming:** Superintendent Boyce shared that PSD has completed their application for the collegiate programming.

The Millgrove School Kindergarten survey for families interested in a possible Nature/Exploratory Kindergarten Program provided valuable feedback. PSD has opened registration for regular Kindergarten programming in the morning and afternoons with nature-centred learning. Costs have been assessed on a cost recovery basis.

- 3.5. Labour Update:** Superintendent Boyce and Deputy Superintendent Francis shared that the Canadian Union of Public Employees (CUPE) 5543 served PSD 72-hour strike notice mid-morning on Friday, February 14, 2025, indicating the initiation of work-to-rule job action.

Board Chair Stewart called a lunch break recess at 12:02 p.m. Meeting resumed at 1:00 p.m.

- 3.6. Jordan's Principle Funding Update:** Superintendent Boyce shared that at this point, the Division still does not know what funds will be coming in for Jordan's Principle.

Associate Superintendent Dr. Miskolzie shared that PSD received some information on January 10, 2025, regarding funding, but it was not very clear. We have applied for approximately 120 students for a variety of levels of support. Discussion ensued.

- 3.7. REAL Programming Considerations:** Associate Superintendent Dr. Miskolzie shared information regarding the REAL (Relating Everyday Academics & Life-Skills) Program. The number of children that identify as having complex needs is growing, as is the number of requests for services for children. There are currently 5 REAL classrooms at École Broxton Park School. PSD is exploring various options for expansion including associated transportation needs. Discussion followed.

4. GOVERNANCE

4.1. Board Policy Revisions:

4.1.1. Revised Board Policy 18: Role of the Student: Board Chair Stewart and Vice-Chair Hennig shared updates to the Revised Board Policy, now named 'Learning and Working in a Welcoming, Caring, Respectful and Safe Environment'. The changes directly reflect language from the *Education Act* and *Human Rights Act* and provides direction for the Superintendent to develop an administrative procedure and robust code of conduct for PSD.

4.2. School Council Updates: Trustees provided governance updates from various School Council Meetings they attended.

5. STRATEGIC PLANNING

5.1. Student Advisory Planning: Trustees discussed hosting Grade 5-7 students to explore and gather feedback on recent trends in student conduct. Discussion ensued.

5.2. Education Planning Day Date & Framework: It was noted that the date for the 2025 Education Planning Day has changed from April 9 to April 16, 2025. Trustees discussed inviting a similar cross-section of stakeholders and using the same format as the 2024 Education Planning Day.

5.3. City of Spruce Grove and Parkland School Division Joint Meeting: A joint meeting between the City of Spruce Grove and Parkland School Division is scheduled for March 18, 2025. Trustees will forward any items for discussion.

6. CLOSING

6.1. Topics to come forward to the next Board Meeting include: Revised Board Policy 18: Learning and Working in a Welcoming, Caring, Respectful and Safe Environment

6.2. Roundtable Discussion: Board Chair Stewart closed the session with a brief roundtable discussion.

6.3. Adjournment: Board Chair Stewart adjourned the meeting at 1:50 p.m.

Next meeting: Tuesday, March 25, 2025, at 9:00 a.m. (**FULL DAY**)