BOARD HIGHLIGHTS

Board of Trustees Meeting October 27, 2026

Trustee Resignation
At its October 27 meeting, the Prairie Land Public School Division Board of Trustees accepted the resignation of Gemma Norburn, Trustee for Ward 2, Subdivision 1, representing the Town of Hanna. The Board extends its sincere appreciation to Gemma for her service to public education, her contributions to the Board and her commitment to representing the Hanna community. Trustees thank her for the time and dedication she has given to Prairie Land and wish her well in her future endeavours.

Under Section 81 of Alberta's Education Act, a school board with six or more trustees is not required to hold a by-election when a single vacancy occurs within the first three years following a general election. While Prairie Land currently has seven Trustees serving, the Board welcomes interest from individuals in the Town of Hanna who may wish to serve their community in this capacity.

Anyone interested in learning more about the role of a Trustee or the possibility of a by-election is encouraged to contact Mark Nikota, Secretary-Treasurer, at the Prairie Land Public School Division Central Office. Should there be no interest in pursuing a by-election, the Board may continue to operate with seven Trustees until the next general election.

Sale of Surplus Properties
The Board of Trustees approved the proposed sale of two surplus properties within Prairie Land: the former Hanna Primary School property, located at 602 1st Street East in Hanna, for $150,000, and the former teacherage at 121 1st Avenue in Cessford, for $90,000. Both sales remain pending completion of the necessary agreements and closing requirements.

These properties are no longer required for the Division's educational operations. Under Alberta's Real Property Governance Act, surplus school division properties must first be offered to the Government of Alberta to determine whether they are required for provincial purposes. Both properties went through this process, and the Province identified no further use for them, allowing Prairie Land to proceed with their sale following the required approvals.

The Board believes that disposing of properties no longer serving an educational purpose is a responsible use of public resources. Proceeds from the sales will support the Division's capital needs while reducing ongoing maintenance costs associated with properties that are no longer required.

Revisions to Board Policies 2 and 3
The Board of Trustees approved revisions to Board Policy 2, Safe and Caring Learning and Work Environments, and Board Policy 3, Role of the Board, to reflect recent amendments to Alberta's Education Act, including changes introduced through Bill 25, the Act to Remove Politics and Ideology from Classrooms.

The revisions to Policy 2 reinforce the Board's responsibility to provide safe and respectful learning environments while reflecting provincial requirements concerning student rights, freedom of

expression, parental involvement and the impartial delivery of educational programming. The policy continues to emphasize that all students and staff deserve to be treated with dignity and respect.

Changes to Policy 3 clarify the Board's responsibilities for ensuring that educational programming aligns with provincial legislation, that decisions remain focused on student learning and that the Board exercises appropriate oversight of its statutory obligations. The revisions also reinforce expectations regarding political neutrality and the importance of keeping the Board's work connected to its responsibilities under the Education Act.

Together, these changes ensure Prairie Land's governance policies remain aligned with provincial legislation while maintaining the Board's commitment to quality public education for all students

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For additional information please contact: Cam McKeage, Superintendent of Schools, Prairie Land Public School Division 403.854.4481