

Grande Prairie and
Catholic Schools District

Friday, April 7, 2017

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

GPCSD and GPPSD announce urban transportation partnership
Serving Grande Prairie students better, together

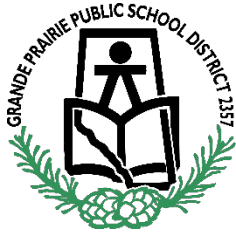
Grande Prairie, Alberta – Grande Prairie and District Catholic Schools (GPCSD) and Grande Prairie Public School District (GPPSD) are pleased to announce that they will once again collaborate in a partnership for urban transportation services that aims to serve Grande Prairie students better, together starting in the 2017-2018 school year.

The agreement follows the Government of Alberta's 2017 Budget, which provided a 15% increase in transportation funding for school districts who collaborate in order to improve bus services for students. Through this partnership, the urban transportation system in Grande Prairie has been improved to be more efficient and more cost-effective.

"This is one of many examples of how our two boards can work together for the benefit of our students," said John Lehnert, Board Chair for the Grande Prairie Public School District.

"We are pleased to continue our cooperative venture with the Grande Prairie Public School District to provide the best services to our students," said Eldon Wyant, Board Chair for Grande Prairie and District Catholic Schools.

It is estimated that the two districts will experience a combined benefit of over \$100,000. These benefits come as a result of receiving additional funding and savings generated by staged school openings and closings, and sharing bus routes. A component of the partnership that ensures a cost-effective system is the staging of school openings and closings. The staging of openings and closings reduces the complexity of combining students from separate districts on one bus while ensuring they arrive to each of their schools on time. Sharing buses ensures that buses are running at or are near full capacity.



Grande Prairie and District Catholic Schools

GPPSD: For more information and any specific questions, please contact Jeff Olson, Associate Superintendent - Secretary-Treasurer, at the Grande Prairie Public School District: 780-532-4491

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