



Northland School Division No.61 (NSD)

Board Highlights Regular Board Meeting - January 26, 2018

Minister of Education to view KTCEA-NSD land-based learning Marten Lakes Wilderness Campus

Minister of Education David Eggen will be viewing land-based learning in action on February 21, 2018. He is scheduled to visit the Kee Tas Kee Now Tribal Council Education Authority (KTCEA) – NSD Winter Camp located at Marten Lakes Wilderness Campus – Northern Lakes College from 4:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m. At these camps, students are exposed to learning experiences such as dogsledding, trapping, traditional art, Cree Language development and storytelling. This particular camp is supported by the KTCEA-Partnership Agreement <https://goo.gl/uTtmQe>. Members of the Board and NSD staff will be in attendance. Watch for more details on the NSD website and NSD Facebook page.

Notice of motion for possible closure of Dr. Mary Jackson School

The Board of Trustees approved a notice of motion regarding the possible closing of Dr. Mary Jackson School in Keg River. NSD's school closure policy (*Policy 15 - School Closure*), the *School Act*, and *Closure of Schools Regulation* outline a process for possible school closures. This includes hosting a public meeting which NSD has scheduled for March 15, 2018 at the school. The public meeting will help NSD understand the reasons why parents are sending their children to other schools and give parents and community members the opportunity to discuss alternative programs and the preferred future for Dr. Mary Jackson School. The Board will vote on the motion no later than the Regular Board Meeting May 25, 2018.

Before the notice of motion, Superintendent of Schools Gord Atkinson presented the *Dr. Mary Jackson School Viability Report*. The study outlines potential impacts of closing the school. Click on the website link to view the report <https://nsd61.ca/download/123081> (Page 35).

2018-2019 School Year Calendar draft accommodates families and increased division-wide professional development

The 2018-2019 School Year Calendar draft is geared towards accommodating families and creating time to host professional development for all staff. The Board approved the draft calendar in principle and will be brought back to Board in March following feedback circulation from schools. Click on the website link to view the calendar <https://nsd61.ca/download/123081> (Page 32).

First Quarter Finance Report approved

Secretary Treasurer Trudy Rasmuson presented the First Quarter Finance Report. Click on the website link for more information <https://nsd61.ca/download/123081> (Page 48).

Upcoming Regular Board Meeting and Workshop dates approved

The Board of Trustees approved upcoming Regular Board Meeting and Workshop dates. Board Meetings are scheduled on the third Thursday or Friday of each month. Click on the website link to view the dates <https://nsd61.ca/download/123081> (Page 57).

Board received update on NSD's crisis communication strategy

Superintendent of Schools Gord Atkinson updated the Board on improvements made to improve safety and communication across the division. One of those changes included a division-wide launch of *School Messenger Communicate* January 22, 2018 <https://goo.gl/6N7sYX>. This system helps NSD send notifications to parents, guardians and staff for emergencies via phone, text and email.

Board received information about Regional Aboriginal Recognition Awards

The Board of Trustees received information about the Regional Aboriginal Recognition Awards (RARA) <https://raraevent.ca/>. These awards are given out to Aboriginal residents that have made positive contributions to the Regional Municipality of Wood Buffalo. A number of NSD students have been recognized at RARA in past years. The event takes place Saturday, February 10, 2018 at Shell Place Ballroom in Fort McMurray. NSD will have Board and senior administration in attendance for RARA.

Board representatives for Personal Improvement Leave Selection Committee and Quality of Work Life Committee announced

The Board of Trustees announced two committee appointments during the January 26, 2018 Regular Board Meeting. Ward 7 Trustee Robin Guild has been appointed for the Professional Improvement Leave Selection Committee. The committee composed of the Superintendent of Schools, a trustee and a representative of the Northland Alberta Teachers' Association (ATA) Local will recommend applications submitted by eligible educators to the Board. A maximum of two teachers will be granted professional improvement leave annually.

Vice-Chair Randy Anderson will represent the Board on the Quality of Work Life Committee. The committee provides an opportunity for teacher representatives to address concerns related to school affairs, proposed educational policy changes, changes in conditions of professional services and division housing. The committee is a clause within the Collective Bargaining Agreement for teachers.

Board of Trustee form Ad hoc Committee

The Board of Trustees approved the formation of Ad hoc Committee to discuss Mistassiniy School. Dollars have set aside by the province for a modernization of Mistassiniy School or for a new school to be built. Ward 7 Trustee Robin Guild and Ward 6 Trustee Silas Yellowknee have been appointed to sit on this committee. The committee will bring back a recommendation for the next Regular Board Meeting.

Board Chair Report

Board Chair Maddy Daniels highlighted the APPLE Schools 10 Year Anniversary Celebration while presenting the report. APPLE Schools is an innovative school-focused health promotion initiative that improves the lives of more than 19,000 students annually in 63 schools across northern Alberta. Seven of the 63 APPLE Schools are from NSD. Daniels said the board of directors for APPLE Schools complimented the work taking place at NSD schools and mentioned they would like to visit the schools.

Superintendent's Report

Superintendent of Schools Gord Atkinson highlighted notable meetings and agreements and a grant supporting First Nation students. He started by discussing staff meetings at Peerless Lake, Kateri and Little Buffalo Schools in January. Staff received updated information about the transition of these schools from NSD to Kee Tas Kee Now Tribal Education Authority (KTCEA) effective September 1, 2018. Staff had the option to book one on one sessions to address questions or concerns with NSD, KTCEA and Alberta Teachers' Association. Atkinson said staff complimented NSD and appreciate the communication.

He met with the Gift Lake Métis Settlement on January 23, 2018. Atkinson noted the settlement wants to know how they can help NSD and Gift Lake School. While visiting the school, he said grade 1 students demonstrated how to make patterns using chrome books.

Atkinson informed the Board of Trustees about Alberta Government's draft standards for Education Services Agreements. He asked them to review the document and send feedback. Atkinson also talked about the Innovation in First Nations Education Grant Program. The grant supports collaborative partnerships between First Nations and provincial school jurisdictions. NSD is submitting a *Proposal for Literacy Enrichment* in partnership with Athabasca Tribal Council and Kapawe'no First Nation.

Area 1 Associate Superintendent's Report

Associate Superintendent Shelley Willier shared priority initiatives for **Area 1 schools (Paddle Prairie, Dr. Mary Jackson, Bishop Routhier, Gift Lake, Hillview, Grouard Northland, Susa Creek, Little Buffalo and Peerless Lake Schools)**. As NSD works together to ensure NSD students are strong in identity, healthy and successful, Willier says Area 1 is working on building capacity of principals and teachers so they can improve teaching and learning in classrooms, schools and communities. To support this work, principals have been developing a better understanding of the *Principal Leadership Quality Standard* and *Curtis Linton's Equity Framework*.

A Regional Education Program Review is taking place at Grouard, Hillview, Bishop Routhier and Gift Lake Schools. The review helps NSD determine if students are achieving defined program standards and outcomes. The Regional Education Program Review begins February 5-7, 2018 at Grouard Northland School. The report concluded with Willier explaining NSD's focus on numeracy. Alberta Education defines numeracy as the ability, confidence and willingness to engage with quantitative and special information to make informed decisions in all aspects of daily living. One of the key areas of focus for NSD is creating common understanding of effective teaching and learning. Click on the website link to view the report <https://nsd61.ca/download/123081> (Page 89).

Policy updates

The Board of Trustees approved:

- Changes to **Policy 9 - Board Representatives** and to the **Terms of Reference for Board Representation**. The Policy now includes a clause stating if a designated trustee or alternate is unable to make a meeting, the Board Chair or designate will attend the meeting. The terms of reference clarifies how often a trustee meets with organizations they are appointed to. Each trustee may also attend meetings or functions of any organization identified under Policy 9 to a total of five per year.
- Changes to **Policy 8 – Board Committee**; specifically the Student Expulsion Committee. The policy ensures all members of the committee are well briefed on the process of an expulsion hearing; their legal and other responsibilities.
- New rates for meal expenses and Elder compensation for **Policy 7 - Appendix A Schedule of Rates**. Lunch and dinner rates have increased to reflect inflation costs (Lunch \$15.00 to \$20.00, Dinner \$20.00 to \$30.00). The updated policy says an Elder will be paid if invited by the Board to attend a Board, School Council, Ward Council and Council of School Council Meetings.
- The Board Work Plan is no longer listed as an appendix to **Policy 2 – Role of the Board**. The Board Work Plan is a living document and requires constant change to ensure it is working properly. When it was in policy, it required a board motion for every change. Taking it out allows for required changes to happen as needed. The Board Work Plan will be posted on the NSD website as information.

View Board Schedule, Agendas, Minutes, Highlights and Attachments on our website at:

<http://nsd61.ca/governance/board-meeting-agenda-minutes>

Next Corporate Board Meeting is February 23, 2018

Note: These writings do not constitute the official record of the Northland School Division No.61. They are however, provided as general information relating to action taken at board meetings. For further information, please call 780-624-2060 or 1-800-362-1360.