



Northland School Division No.61 (NSD)

Board Highlights Regular Board Meeting – May 24, 2018



Prior to the Regular Board Meeting, Board of Trustees participated in a Round Dance with St. Theresa School students!

Board of Trustees approved the closure of Dr. Mary Jackson School

At the May 24, 2018, Regular Board Meeting, the Board of Trustees approved the closure of the Kindergarten to Grade 12 instructional program at Dr. Mary Jackson School, effective August 31, 2018. The decision was made as per Section 58 of the [School Act](#) and NSD's [Policy 15 – School Closure](#).

Click on the website link to view the news release <https://nsd61.ca/about-us/division-news/post/board-of-trustees-approved-the-closure-of-dr-mary-jackson-school>.

NSD strategies highlighted in Education Quarterly Report

While presenting the Education Quarterly Report, Superintendent of Schools Gord Atkinson highlighted strategies being carried out by administration. The strategies are aligned with [NSD's Outcome Statements](#). For example, Goal 1.1 is to increase student attendance by 2% per year to a target of 88%. The update shows in collaboration with Alberta Education, NSD revised and implemented the [Attendance Improvement "Every Day Counts" Operational Plan](#). NSD also appointed Don Tessier as Director of Student Engagement, Attendance and Completion in May. Mr. Tessier will be responsible for overseeing all aspects of student re-engagement including attendance improvement and school completion efforts. Click on the website link to view the entire report <https://nsd61.ca/download/132026> (Start on page 12).

Board of Trustee approved 2018-2019 Spring Budget

The Board of Trustees approved the 2018-2019 Spring Budget. The division's total budget is \$62.041 million. The projected enrolment for next school year is estimated at 2207; a reduction of 493 students. This is due to Peerless Lake, Kateri and Little Buffalo Schools transitioning to Kee Tas Kee Now Tribal Council Education Authority. The budget will continue to fund student attendance improvement, literacy, land-based learning, student and staff wellness, family wellness workers, professional development and leadership training. Click on the website link to view 2018-2019 Spring Budget <https://nsd61.ca/download/132887>.

Policies approved by the Board

The Board of Trustee approved:

- The second reading of Policy 21 Appendix B Elder Guidelines <https://nsd61.ca/download/132887> (Start on page 33).
- Housekeeping changes to Policy 20 – Housing <https://nsd61.ca/download/132887> (Start on page 149).

AdHoc Committee formed for Student Scholarships and Bursaries

The Board of Trustees approved an Adhoc Committee for Student Scholarships and Bursaries. Ward 9 (Fort Chipewyan) Trustee Ruby Sakeskanip will represent the Board on the committee. The committee will also include administration membership.

NSD to seek Ministerial approval to combine Wards 6 & 7

In early May, the Board asked administration to research what it would take to combine Ward 6 (Demarais-Sandy Lake) and Ward 7 (Wabasca-Chipewyan Lake). Instead of one trustee per ward, the Board would like to see one ward with two trustees. In the Northland Act, section 4(3) states one trustee is to be elected in each ward. At May 24th Regular Board Meeting, the Board of Trustees received as information from Alberta Education and directed administration to begin the process of seeking Ministerial approval to combine the wards.

Board of Trustee approved transfer of land to Northern Gateway Public Schools

The Board of Trustees approved a request from Northern Gateway Public Schools for the following lands for school purposes: TWP 58/RGE 15, 15, 16, 17, TWP 59/RGD 14, 15, 16, 17, TWP 60/RGE 14, remainder of 10, 15, 16, 17, TWP 61/RGE 11, remainder of 10 ,12 ,13 ,14 ,15 ,16 ,17. The request is subject to Ministerial approval.

Long Service and Recognition Awards highlighted in Board Chair Report

Maddy Daniels thanked everyone who helped with organizing the Long Service and Recognition Awards while presenting the Board Chair Report. The Board honoured 26 staff at the awards on May 10th. The event recognized NSD's Edwin Parr nominee, retirees and staff who achieve 20, 25, 30, 35 and 40 years of service. Daniels said a plan is in the works to gather feedback from recipients and staff about Long Services and Recognition Awards. Click on the website link to view the Board Chair Report <https://nsd61.ca/download/132887> (Start on page 166).

Administrative Procedure Changes mentioned in the Superintendent's Report

Superintendent of Schools Gord Atkinson shared Administrative Procedure changes to the Board of Trustees while presenting the Superintendent's Report. One change is [AP 300 – School Admittance Age](#). The procedure states any child who is six before September 1, must be admitted into grade one and any child who is under six as of September 1 may be entered into an Early Childhood Services Program. NSD's health profile from Alberta School Employee Benefit Plan (ASEBP) was included in the report. The profile includes information about the health of NSD employees and their dependents.

Atkinson also shared a letter from the Urban Rez Society who is hosting the “Renewing Our Spirit Conference” in Wabasca this August. Gord Gladue, Urban Rez Society Chair, thanked NSD for the in-kind usage of Mistassiniy School, equipment and technology support. Click on the website link to view the entire report <https://nsd61.ca/download/132887> (Start on page 173).

Susanne Jones presented the Transportation Department Report

Transportation Manager Susanne Jones provided an overview of transportation at NSD. The department manages 64 school buses that service 38 routes. They also oversee 36 fleet vehicles used by division staff. The report includes a transportation SWOT (Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats) analysis and goals the department developed to improve transportation at NSD. Jones shared that 16% of the bus drivers have been employed with NSD for over 20 years. Another 51% have driven for 5-19 years. To improve school bus route management, the transportation department purchased RouteFinder Pro. Integrated with our student information system, Jones said Routfinder Pro allows them to align students easier to a school bus route. Click on the website link to view the report <https://nsd61.ca/download/132026> (Start on page 84).

Regional Ed the Area 1 Associate Superintendent Report

Area 1 Associate Superintendent Shelley Willier provided a Regional Education Program Review (REPR) update while presenting the Area 1 Associate Superintendent Report. The review, which took place at Grouard, Gift Lake, Hillview (East Prairie Métis Settlement) and Bishop Routhier Schools from February – May, 2018, looked at school programming and operational procedures. REPR helped NSD determine if students are achieving defined program standards and outcomes. The review included community engagement session with parents and community members. A final report will be presented to the Board in August.

Willier updated the division’s focus on Numeracy. A numeracy work group was formed earlier this year. Since March, the group has set a foundation with an Indigenous lens and discussed curriculum and assessment. The next step is finalizing a five-year strategic plan.

The final part of the report highlights NSD’s continued partnership with Kee Tas Kee Now Tribal Council Education Authority (KTCEA). In 2012 a partnership agreement was signed between KTC and NSD to share knowledge and explore best practices that will improve education outcomes for First Nation and Métis students. Since September 2017, KTCEA and NSD have formed a transition team to support the transfer of Little Buffalo, Kateri and Peerless Lake Schools from NSD to KTCEA. The schools will be part of KTCEA as of September 1, 2018. Click here to view the report <https://nsd61.ca/download/132026> (Start on page 90).

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 June 21, 2018 at Elizabeth School

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.