



Northland School Division No.61 (NSD)

Board Highlights Regular Board Meeting – August 23, 2018

Student attendance strategies highlighted in the Education Quarterly Report



Progress to improve student attendance and numeracy across Northland School Division highlighted the latest Education Quarterly Report. Gord Atkinson, Superintendent of Schools, informed the Board of Trustees about the hiring of Don Tessier as Director of Student Engagement, Attendance and Completion. Atkinson said Don is going to oversee all aspects of student re-engagement including attendance improvement and school completion efforts across NSD. He will be providing guidance to schools in their attendance initiatives and school completion efforts, but also the schools' and division's data management systems. The director of student engagement, attendance and completion was a recommendation within the ["Every](#)

[Day Count" Attendance Improvement Operational Plan.](#)

Another strategy to support student attendance is hiring Family Wellness Workers (FWW). Family Wellness Workers (FWW) are certified social workers who will be available to provide services to students and families in order to support emotional, behavioural and social wellbeing. Atkinson added schools are redesigning programs to increase student engagement. At Mistassiniy School (Wabasca) and Bill Woodward School (Anzac), students will be able to participate in week long outdoor learning experiences. In Wabasca-Desmarais, a dual-credit health care aid program is going to be offered this school year; which allows a student to earn high school and post-secondary credits at the same time.

The report also includes articles about the Northland Games, our Summer Reading Program, high school graduation ceremonies, central office staff participating in First Nations, Métis and Inuit knowledge training and NSD and Northern Lakes College working together to offer educational opportunities for students. Click on the website link to view the Education Quarterly Report <https://goo.gl/mmYo5d> (Page 18).

2018-2019 Board Meeting Schedule approved by the Board of Trustees

The Board of Trustee approved the 2018-2019 Regular Board Meeting schedule. The Regular Board Meetings will take place once a month on a Friday in Edmonton; except December. These are the approved dates: 1) September 22, 2018, 2) Friday, October 19, 2018, 3) Friday, November 30, 2018, 4) Friday, January 18, 2019, 5) Friday, February 15, 2019, 6) Friday, March 22, 2019, 7) Friday, April 26, 2018, 8) Friday, May 24, 2019, 9) Friday, June 14, 2019, 10) August 23, 2019.

Changes to Policy 19, Appendix A – Student Code of Conduct approved

The Board of Trustee approved housekeeping changes to Policy 19, Appendix A Student Code of Conduct. The changes made ensure NSD is in compliance with the requirements outlined in the School Act to support Gay-Straight Alliances, formerly known as Bill 24. The policy now includes the sentence, "Support will be provided for students who are impacted by inappropriate behaviour, as well for students who engage in inappropriate behaviour. Also, all of our policies related to Policy 19 – Welcoming, Caring, Respectful, Safe, Healthy Learning and Working Environments are easy to access on the NSD website homepage <https://goo.gl/idzWWP> (Page 48).

Agreement reached to repair roof at Elizabeth School

The Board of Trustees approved entering into an agreement with Dunrite Roofing Limited in the amount of \$139,500 to repair the roof at Elizabeth School.

Student celebrations highlight the Board Chair Report



Celebrating student success is the central theme of the Board Chair Report. Board Chair/Ward 1 Trustee (Paddle Prairie and Keg River) Maddy Daniels attended the year-end award ceremonies for Paddle Prairie School and Dr. Mary Jackson School. Daniels said the event at Dr. Mary Jackson School was emotional because of the school closure. She then attended the graduation ceremony at Paddle Prairie School. The school celebrated Kaylee Cardinal and Steven Auger.

Daniels met with Minister of Education David Eggen in Peace River on June 30th. Maddy and Eggen discussed recent successes and the Dr. Mary Jackson School closure. On June 28th, she participated in a meet and greet with Minister of Indigenous Relations Richard Feehan. During the meet and greet, Feehan shared news about a provincial mental health committee. Feehan told Daniels he wants to see an NSD representative on the committee.

Daniels and Ward 9 Trustee Ruby Sakeskanip attended the Treaty 8 Gathering in High Prairie. Both met with Grand Chief Rupert Meneen to discuss how NSD and Treaty 8 can work together. Daniels also spoke with Northern Lakes College Board Chair Daniel Vandermeulen. They discussed the possibility of working on a Memorandum of Understanding; which signals intent and empowers NSD and NLC to form a partnership. Click on the website link to view the Board Chair Report <https://goo.gl/mmYo5d> (Page 52).

Meeting with KTCEA featured in the Superintendent's Report

Superintendent of Schools Gord Atkinson updated the Board about a June meeting with Kee Tas Kee Now Tribal Council Education Authority (KTCEA). The purpose of the meeting was to discuss final details before Little Buffalo, Peerless Lake and Kateri Schools transferred from NSD to KTCEA for the 2018-2019 school year. Atkinson said NSD is working with KTCEA to help with any challenges they have along the way.

Atkinson met with Northern Lakes College President Ann Everatt to discuss a partnership. He said there's work to be done; but mentioned a Memorandum of Understanding would be a good start. On June 29, Atkinson met with Alberta Education, Alberta Infrastructure and representatives from Edmonton Public Schools to discuss a plan to evaluate NSD schools. School visits will begin in September. Click on the website link to view the Superintendent's Report <https://goo.gl/mmYo5d> (Page 59).

Definition for substantive budget adjustments, External Auditors and Chipewyan Lake School renovations

Secretary Treasurer Trudy Rasmuson presented a definition to the Board of Trustees with respect to budget adjustments. Within [Policy 2 – Role of the Board](#), it states the Board will "Approve substantive budget adjustments when necessary." Moving forward, the Secretary Treasurer will obtain approval from the Board of Trustees for budget adjustments over \$125,000.

Rasmuson updated the Board about external auditors. NSD is entering the second year of a three year contract with the firm Hawkings, Epp, Dumont. The Board also received an update about Chipewyan Lake School renovations. Rasmuson said the renovations are on hold because more discussions need to take place with Bigstone Cree Nation.

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 Friday, September 22, 2018 in Edmonton.

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.