



Northland School Division No.61 (NSD)

Board Highlights Regular Board Meeting – September 21, 2018



Board of Trustees left to right: Back Row – Silas Yellowknee (Ward 6), Randy Anderson (Ward 3), Robin Guild (Ward 7), Maddy Daniels (Board Chair, Ward 1), Jules Nokohoo (Vice-Chair, Ward 10), Louis Cardinal (Ward 5), Jesse Lamouche (Ward 4).

Front Row - Rubi Sakekanip (Ward 9), Loretta Gladue (Ward 8), Karen Telford (Ward 11), Cathy Wanyandie (Ward 2).

NSD to explore and develop a plan for a learning calendar and instructional program

An exciting circle of learning journey is ahead for NSD. The Board of Trustees approved a motion directing Gord Atkinson, Superintendent of Schools to explore and develop a plan for a learning calendar and instructional program. The development will include a community engagement strategy honouring Indigenous Ways of Knowing and Ways of Being.

The motion stems from a discussion at the board workshop (September 5-7, 2018) about learning cycles and calendars better reflecting students and communities NSD serves. A strategic plan for this work will be presented in early 2019.

Policies approved by the Board of Trustees

The Board of Trustees approved:

- First reading to Policy 7 Appendix A - Signing Authority
- Housekeeping changes to Policy 7 Appendix A – Schedule of Rates
- First Reading to Policy 7 Appendix B Board Professional Development Plan & Guidelines
- Housekeeping changes to Policy 12 – Role of the Superintendent

Board approves NSD transferring school codes to KTCEA

Another step to finalize the transfer of three schools (Peerless Lake, Kateri and Little Buffalo Schools) from NSD to Kee Tas Kee Now Tribal Council Education Authority (KTCEA) received approval from the Board of Trustees. The approved motion finalizes a required step of transferring school codes from NSD to KTCEA.

Locally Developed Courses approved by the Board of Trustees

The Board of Trustees approved the Locally Developed Courses Learning Strategies from Calgary Catholic School District, Learning Strategies 15, 25, 35. As per Administrative Procedure 219 – Locally Developed Courses, clause 7; all locally developed courses must be approved by the Board prior to implementation. These courses will be offered as part of the high school course offering at Athabasca Delta Community School and Mistassiniy School for the 2018-2019 school year. Click on the website link for more information <https://nsd61.ca/download/141397> (See page 16).

Superintendent to meet with the Board to discuss PAT and Diploma Exam results

On Thursday, October 4th, the Board of Trustees will be participating in an in-camera teleconference with Superintendent of Schools Gord Atkinson. The meeting allows Atkinson to present Provincial Achievement Test and Diploma Exam results before they're made public October 18th. The analysis of the results will be prepared as part of the Annual Education Results Report (AERR) process; which will be presented at the November 30th Regular Board Meeting.

ASBA Zone 1 Falls Awards Ceremony featured in Board Report

It has been a busy month for Board Chair Maddy Daniels. In early September, Daniels participated in the board workshop with trustees and NSD's senior administration. On September 12th, she attended the Alberta School Board Association (ASBA) Zone 1 Fall Awards Ceremony. Daniels and Ward 4 Trustee Jesse Lamouche presented NSD's Friends of Education and Edwin Parr Teacher Award nominees to everyone in attendance. NSD nominated Ever Active Schools (<https://goo.gl/m4Jkgq>) for Friends of Education and Hannah Wiltzen, St. Theresa School (Wabasca) was nominated for the Edwin Parr Teacher Award. On September 14th, Daniels met with the Athabasca Chipewyan First Nation and on September 18th, she participated in a meet and greet with the Regional Municipality of Wood Buffalo Mayor and Council. Click on the website link to view the entire report <https://nsd61.ca/download/141397> (See page 34).

Labour Relations Update highlighted in Superintendent's Report

Superintendent of Schools Gord Atkinson started out by updating the board about a meeting with NSD's lawyers to discuss labour relations. On September 20th, NSD attended the Teachers' Employer Bargaining Association (TEBA) General Meeting and Central Bargaining Discussion. Topics included TEBA staffing, TEBA process amendments, and 2018 central bargaining and status of local bargaining. Ward 11 Trustee Karen Telford is the TEBA representative for the Board of Trustees.

The next topic discussed was the board workshop. Atkinson said it was exciting to be a part of a discussion about a balanced calendar model. This has since lead to a motion approved by the Board of Trustees (see article #1 on page 1). He attended the Alberta School Board Association (ASBA) Zone 1 Fall Awards Ceremony on September 12th. Atkinson congratulated our nominees for the Friends of Education Award (Ever Active Schools) and the Edwin Parr Teacher Award (Hannah Wiltzen).

Vice-Chair Jules Nokohoo and Atkinson met with the Athabasca Tribal Council Board of Directors. He said the meeting was very productive and looking forward to future meetings. The board of directors also expressed their thoughts about education in the region. Click on the website link to view the entire report <https://nsd61.ca/download/141397> (See page 38).

Area 1 Associate Superintendent's Report

Associate Superintendent Shelley Willier shared priority initiatives for Area 1 schools (**Paddle Prairie, Bishop Routhier, Gift Lake, Hillview, Grouard Northland and Susa Creek Schools**). 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 Leadership Quality Standard and Curtis Linton's Equity Framework since 2017-2018. The Equity Framework focuses on leadership, teaching practice and school culture.

Willier said the framework helps principals create a collective culture as opposed to everyone working individually; which results in a more effective learning environment for students. With a better understanding of the framework, Willier said principals will be using the knowledge to implement and strengthen goals and strategies for their Annual Education Results Report.

Click on the website link to view the entire report <https://nsd61.ca/download/141397> (See page 42).

Staffing Levels Update in the Personnel Report

Associate Superintendent of Human Resources Wes Oginski provided a staffing update to the Board of Trustees. As of September 5, 2018, NSD hired 25 new staff members. The division is looking to fill a few vacant positions, however, Oginski said NSD is in a better position this year in comparison to last year. With respect to career fairs, once dates are confirmed, teams consisting of human resources staff, principals, teachers and community representatives will be put together. Oginski also showed a five-year staff comparison chart. Click on the website link to view the entire report <https://nsd61.ca/download/141397> (See page 45).

Communications Report

Communications Coordinator Curtis Walty shared NSD's strategic communications plan for the 2018-2019 school year and 2017-2018 accomplishments. The strategic plan, which aligns with NSD's Policy 1- Foundational Statements and Outcome Statements, includes goals and strategies to strengthen communication between the trustees and their local schools, supporting key priorities such as student attendance and recruitment and maintaining strong relationships with stakeholders. Some of accomplishments highlighted include the School Board Elections, organizing a celebration for the newly elected trustees, schools hosting Northland Day events in unison, launching School Messenger and presenting a Community Engagement Framework through an Indigenous Lens at the Canadian Association of Communicators in Education Conference (CACE) in Edmonton. The report also includes social media and website results. Click on the website link to view the entire report (See page 48) <https://nsd61.ca/download/141397>. The strategic communications plan can be viewed on page 60.

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, October 19th.

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.