



Northland School Division No.61 (NSD)

Board Highlights Regular Board Meeting – October 19, 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).

Attendance Improvement Initiative ‘Every Day Counts’ Recognition and Awards Program presented to the Board

Director of Student Engagement, Attendance and Completion Don Tessier presented a list of strategies within the Attendance Improvement Initiative ‘Every Day Counts’ Recognition and Awards Program. The program will support the local strategies already implemented at each NSD school. The strategies are aimed to recognize excellent student attendees, attendance improvement, student achievement and efforts made by parents and schools. Click on the website link to view the division-wide recognition and awards program

<https://nsd61.ca/programs/attendance-improvement-initiative/resources>.

Locally Developed Forensic Science courses approved by the Board

Mistassiniy School (Wabasca-Desmarais) students will have the option to take a forensic science course if they so choose. The Board of Trustees approved the Locally Developed courses Forensic Science 25-3 and 35-3 from Edmonton Public Schools and 35-5 from Pembina Hills Public Schools. In Forensic Studies 25-35, students will investigate and evaluate the processes involved in the collection and preservation of crime scene evidence. As students delve into forensic studies, they will investigate and analyze the strengths and limitations of forensic evidence analysis. This course will focus on the ethical considerations involved in the use of forensic evidence. As well, students will explore a variety of occupations and potential career opportunities in the field of forensics.

The Board re-affirms a request from Fort McMurray Public Schools to expand transportation boundaries

A request from Fort McMurray Public Schools to expand its transportation boundaries has been re-affirmed by the Board. This was approved by the Official Trustee at the Feb. 23, 2017 Regular Board Meeting. However, the Minister of Education requested that Fort McMurray Public Schools administration receive a re-affirmation of the request from Northland School Division, due to the election of the new board.

Audit Planning Letter reviewed and approved by the Board

Secretary Treasurer Trudy Rasmuson shared and answered questions from the Board regarding the audit planning letter from Metrix Group. The letter explains the scope of work taking place in relation to the financial statements for the year ending August 31, 2018. The letter also asked the Board to address areas of concern from an audit perspective. Click on the website link to view the letter

<https://nsd61.ca/download/142423> (page 23).

Board receives student enrollment update

Associate Superintendent of Human Resources Wes Oginski presented the Student Enrollment Report as of September 30th. The total student count for NSD is 1992; 713 fewer than 2017-2018 school year. Of the 713, 432 attended Kateri, Little Buffalo and Peerless Lake Schools. Those three schools transferred from NSD to Kee Tas Kee Now Tribal Council Education Authority (KTCEA) as of September 1, 2018.

NSD's administration will be presenting NSD's student enrollment on a monthly basis moving forward.

Click on the website link to view the student count chart <https://nsd61.ca/download/142423> (page 31).

Draft Fall Budget presented to the Board

Secretary Treasurer Trudy Rasmuson shared a draft 2018-2019 fall budget in preparation for the November revised budget. The draft budget reflects a change to the overall revenue for NSD. The revenue fell from \$62 million in the spring budget to \$58.9 million in the draft fall budget. This is due to a decrease in student enrollment and overall funding from the provincial government. Click on the website link to view the draft fall budget <https://nsd61.ca/download/142423> (page 33).

Policies approved by the Board

The Board of Trustees approved:

- Housekeeping changes to Policy 7 – Governance and Operations. Click here to view the revisions <https://nsd61.ca/download/142423> (page 153).
- 2nd reading of Policy 7 Appendix B - Board Professional Development Plan & Guidelines. Click here to view the policy <https://nsd61.ca/download/142423> (page 149).
- 1st and 2nd reading of Policy 10 – Policy Making. New information has been included to explain when the circulation period can be waived for a policy. Click here to view the revisions <https://nsd61.ca/download/142423> (page 166).

Ward 4 Trustee appointed ASBA Ad Hoc Committee



Ward 4 Trustee Jesse Lamouche will be representing the Board on the Alberta School Board Association's (ASBA) Zone 1 Ad Hoc Committee Professional Support Advocacy Project. The Board of Trustees approved Jesse's appointment to the committee.

Board Evaluation 2017-2018 Final Report approved

On September 22, 2018 the Board of Trustees participated in a self-evaluation with Alberta School Boards Association (ASBA) Consultant Terry Gunderson. During the evaluation process, the trustees were asked a series of questions about how the governance level of the Board can be improved. The report also highlights accomplishments made by the Board in 2017-2018 such as drafting and approving new foundational statements for NSD. The trustees identified the following priorities for 2018-2019:

1. Model a welcome and caring environment and support its development throughout the division.
2. Enhance community engagement and school council operations.
3. Enhance political advocacy.
4. Ensure quality education is delivered to our students.
5. Honour the Indigenous ways of knowing and ways of being of each local community.

Click on the website link to view the entire report <https://nsd61.ca/download/142423> (page 173).

Board Chair attends Commonwealth Women Parliamentarians Regional Outreach



In this edition of the Board Report, Board Chair Maddy Daniels shared her experiences while attending the Commonwealth Women Parliamentarians (CWP) Regional Outreach event October 9th – 12th in Edmonton. Daniels was invited to the event by MLA for Peace River Debbie Jabbour. Created in 2005, the CWP-Canadian Region is composed of women parliamentarians of the provincial and territorial Canadian legislatures and the federal parliament. One of the objectives for CWP is increasing female representation in government. As part of the event, Daniels along with participants met members of the University of Alberta Students' Union and participated in discussions on gender and governance on university campuses and beyond.

The Board Chair attended the Paddle Prairie School Council establishment meeting. She said three community members attended. Daniels also announced she was chosen to be an observer for the Alberta School Employee Benefit Plan Board. She will sit on the board for two years. After two years, Daniels could be chosen to sit on the board. As an observer, Daniels said she will have the opportunity to provide an NSD perspective and highlight challenges employees have with using their benefits. Click on the website link to view the Board Chair Report <https://nsd61.ca/download/142423> (page 185).

Attendance vs Achievement correlation highlighted in the Superintendent's Report.



In this edition of the Superintendent's Report, Superintendent of Schools Gord Atkinson presented a graph showing the correlation between attendance and achievement. Overall, the results show the majority of students who attend regularly achieved better in school. Atkinson highlighted a couple of meetings of note. He will be involved in the kick-off session for the Mistassiniy School modernization and a meeting to review a report on NSD school facilities from consultants with Edmonton Public Schools. Click on the website link to view the Superintendent's Report <https://nsd61.ca/download/142423> (page 203).

CAREER: the Next Generation and Health Care Aide Program highlighted in Area 2 Report to the Board

Area 2 Associate Superintendent Nancy Spencer-Poitras updated the Board regarding number of graduates in Area 2 (Calling Lake, Chipewyan Lake, Career Pathways, Pelican Mountain, Mistassiniy and St. Theresa Schools). 20 students graduated high school from Mistassiniy, four from Career Pathways and one from Calling Lake School. After sharing the graduation news, Nancy talked about the potential benefits for students involved with CAREERS: the Next Generation. The non-profit organization helps students discover career options by connecting them to employers. 14 students in Area 2 completed the program in 2017-2018 and three students participated in the Indigenous CAREERS Explorer Academy summer program which operates out of Slave Lake.

Nancy also spoke about the dual credit health care aide program housed at Northern Lakes College. The grand opening for the program was October 9th and Spencer-Poitras said she is working with Area 1 Associate Superintendent Shelley Willier to have NSD students participate in the program. Click on the website link to view the Area 2 Report to the Board <https://nsd61.ca/download/142423> (page 211).

First Nations, Métis and Inuit Report to the Board

Director of First Nations, Métis and Inuit (FNMI) Learner Success Lorraine Cardinal-Roy presented a report about how NSD is a leader for First Nations, Métis and Inuit Education Excellence. The report highlights professional development (PD) for teachers and staff and Indigenous Language Instructors, collaborative partnerships and a balanced learning calendar concept for NSD. The FNMI team have been hosting workshops for teachers and staff to increase their First Nations, Métis and Inuit foundational knowledge over the past year. One of the strategies is exposing staff to NSD's adaptation of the KAIROS Blanket Exercise. The exercise is an interactive learning experience that covers 500 years of Indigenous history.

One of the collaborative partnerships NSD has with Athabasca Tribal Council (ATC) and Kapawe'no First Nation is funded by the Innovation in First Nations Education Grant Program (IFNE). This partnership supports literacy enhancement for children entering kindergarten in the fall of 2019 and for junior/senior high students. Lorraine also discussed a balanced learning calendar concept which relates to a motion from the Board. On September 21st, the Board of Trustees directed the Superintendent to explore and develop a plan, for the Board's consideration, a learning calendar and learning program which includes community engagement that reflects and honours Indigenous Ways of Knowing and Ways of Being. To help explain the concept, Lorraine showcased a visual learning calendar aligning with

the four seasons; which honours Indigenous Ways of Knowing and Ways of Being. The circular design is a potential starting point for developing a learning program within a balanced calendar. Click on the website link to view the First Nations, Métis and Inuit Report to the Board <https://nsd61.ca/download/142423> (page 215).

Education Technology supporting student learning

Network Administrator Jason Juneau provided an update to the Board with respect to Information Technology (IT) infrastructure and projects on the go supporting student learning. The report shows NSD is achieving the 1 device to 1 student ratio. This means all students have access to Chromebooks; which supports a 21st Century learning environment. The IT Department is working on launching myBluePrint; a website to help students with school course selections and career planning. Juneau also discussed the content filtering tool GoGuardian. This online tool allows school staff to monitor inappropriate internet usage and receive notifications for behaviour that is identified as concerning. Click on the website link to view the Information Technology Report <https://nsd61.ca/download/142423> (page 221).

A busy year in store for the Maintenance Department

Division Facility Manager David Cox presented a maintenance report to the Board. The report highlights what the department is doing to align with Policy 19 - Welcoming, Caring, Respectful, Safe & Healthy Learning & Working Environments <https://nsd61.ca/download/119355>. 65 Infrastructure Maintenance Renewal projects are scheduled for this year. Projects include upgrading HVAC and school security systems, four Career and Technology shops, lighting and classroom enhancements. Cox said when they were working on school refresh projects, they received input and support from students, parents, staff and community members. The report also includes information regarding NSD's Energy Retrofit Project. Click on the website link to view the report <https://nsd61.ca/download/142423> (page 227).

Trustee Report snippets

- Vice-Chair Jules Nokohoo attended the school council establishment meeting at Father R. Perin School. He also participated in a conference call with Athabasca Tribal Council (ATC). The call was to discuss how ATC could support NSD with hiring Dene Language Instructors.
- Ward 2 Trustee Cathy Wanyandie attended one school council meeting. Fundraising ideas were discussed during the meeting. Cathy also extended an invitation to the Municipal District of Greenview to visit the school and discuss ways they can support student success.
- Ward 3 Trustee Randy Anderson attended the KTCEA Cross Country Run at Gift Lake School. Anderson over 200 students from four schools participated in the event.
- Ward 4 Trustee Jesse Lamouche visited Grouard Northland School to discuss plans for Métis Proclamation Day. Lamouche also said he's planning an upcoming visit with Hillview School.
- Ward 6 Trustee Silas Yellowknee attended a school council meeting at Pelican Mountain School. Yellowknee commended the parental involvement at the school.
- Ward 9 Trustee Rubi Sakeskanip attended Orange Shirt Day at Athabasca Delta Community School (ADCS) in Fort Chipewyan. On October 15th, she represented the Board for the new computer lab unveil at ADCS. She thanked Syncrude for funding the new computer lab. Rubi, who's also a Mikesew Cree First Nation council member, says they're planning to support ADCS with their student attendance efforts.

- Ward 11 Trustee Karen Telford attended a school council meeting at J.F. Dion School on October 2nd and attended Parent/Teacher Night at Elizabeth School October 4th. She also attended the Board Advocacy Committee Meeting in Edmonton October 12th and an inter-agency meeting in the Fishing Lake Métis Settlement October 18th.

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, November 30th at the Star of the North Retreat Centre in St. Albert

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.