



# Northland School Division No.61 (NSD)

Board Highlights Regular Board Meeting – November 30, 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 Shirley (Ward 9), Loretta Gladue (Ward 8), Karen Telford (Ward 11), Cathy Wanyandie (Ward 2).**

members and school division partners. While presenting the report, Superintendent of Schools Gord Atkinson acknowledged the work by the Board of Trustees to develop a Policy 1 – Foundational Statements and highlighted the division-wide literacy results, which shows positive growth over a three-year period.

The 3YP outlines the Board Priorities and how they align with the outcome statements for NSD. The AERR portion highlights annual results from the Accountability Pillar Survey. The survey uses a set of 16 indicators. Data on these indicators consist of surveys of students, parents, guardians, and teachers on various aspects of education quality, student outcomes such as dropout and high school completion rates, provincial assessments of student learning and parental involvement. Specific areas where NSD experienced increases include education quality and parental involvement. Click on the website link to view the 2018-2021 3YP/2017-2018 AERR <https://nsd61.ca/download/145109>.

## **Board approves the 2018-2019 Fall Budget**

NSD schools are receiving additional support to ensure the learning environment reflects and honours First Nation and Métis language and culture. The approved 2018-2019 Fall Budget includes targeted funding for classroom improvement and land-based learning. In 2017-2018, a number of NSD schools upgraded indoor classrooms and started developing outdoor classrooms. Increasing the number of students participating in land-based learning (trapping, dog sledding, skinning, rattle making, setting a net, storytelling) is a priority for NSD. Schools are able to use the funding to offer and/or develop land-based learning with the support of Elders, Knowledge Keepers, parents, guardians and community members.

## **Board approves 2017-2018 Audited Financial Statements**

The Board of Trustees approved the 2017-2018 audited financial statements, as attached. The financial statements have been prepared by the Finance Department and the audit was conducted by Metrix Group LLP. Click on the website link to view the Audited Financial Statements

<https://nsd61.ca/download/145660>.

## **Board approves 2018-2021 Three Year Education Plan and 2017-2018 Annual Education Results Report**

Northland School Division's 2018-2021 Three Year Education Plan and 2017-2018 Annual Education Results Report (3YP/AERR) received support from the Board of Trustees. The 3YP/AERR is one way NSD communicates accomplishments, division priorities and student achievement results to students, parents, community

The fall budget shows a change to student enrolment. The enrolment for 2018-2019 is 1992, 713 fewer than last year and 215 fewer than the 2207 budgeted in the spring. Of the 713, 432 were attending Little Buffalo School, Peerless Lake School and Kateri School, which were transferred this fall to the Kee Tas Kee Now Tribal Council Education Authority (KTCEA). The enrolment change impacts the amount NSD receives in base funding and from the 5-year Investment Grant. Click on the website link to view the 2018-2019 Fall Budget <https://nsd61.ca/download/145113>.

### **Policies approved by the Board**

The Board of Trustees approved:

- Housekeeping changes to Policy 3 – Role of Trustee, Policy 5, Role of the Board Chair, Policy 8 – Committees and Policy 9 – Board Representatives. All these policies will now include statements about trustees informing the Board Chair of sensitive issues in a timely manner and trustees informing the Board Chair and Executive Secretary to the Board and Corporate Services if they're unable to attend a meeting.
- Third reading for Policy 10 – Policy Making. The policy has been updated to explain when the circulation period may be waived for a policy.
- Third reading for Policy 7 Appendix B – Board Professional Development Plan and Guidelines.
- Second reading for Policy 5 Appendix A – Signing Authority Chart.

### **Red Cross supporting Athabasca Delta Community School with donation**

Athabasca Delta Community School (Fort Chipewyan) is receiving a \$232,000 donation from the Red Cross. The donation is going to support a series of activities to support students and families impacted by the Fort McMurray wildfires. With support from family coordinators, they will help encourage regular school attendance, advocate for the academic, social, spiritual and emotional well-being of students and help plan land-based learning and fire-fighting courses. The Board would like to thank the Red Cross for supporting students and families in Fort Chipewyan.

### **Viability studies to be conducted**

NSD is going to be conducting viability studies on Hillview School, Pelican Mountain School and the Calling Lake Outreach School in accordance with Policy 15 – School Closure <https://nsd61.ca/download/101463>. As per Policy 15, section 2, the Superintendent of Schools is required to inform the Board prior to December 31 of each year of any school viability studies to be undertaken.

- Hillview School: 16 students registered,
- Pelican Mountain School: 15 students registered,
- Calling Lake Outreach School: 1 student registered.

The studies will involve conversations with parents, guardians, community members and school staff to pin point why enrolment is down.

## Board approves Superintendent of School's Evaluation Report

The Board of Trustees approved the Superintendent of School's Evaluation Report. The evaluation, which was completed by Alberta School Boards Association Consultant Terry Gunderson, is for the period of July 1, 2017 to August 31, 2018. Click on the website link to view the report **(pages 144-157)** <https://nsd61.ca/download/144909>.

## How to better serve students in care highlighted in the Board Chair Report



**Left to right: Jules Nokohoo, Vice-Chair, Maddy Daniels, Board Chair, Honourable Danielle Larivee, MLA for Lesser Slave Lake, Robin Guild, Ward 7 Trustee, Karen Telford, Ward 11 Trustee, Debbie Jabbour, MLA for Peace River, Gord Atkinson, Superintendent of Schools**

The trustees received the Board Chair Report as information. The report shows Board Chair Maddy Daniels attended the ASBA Fall General Meeting from November 18<sup>th</sup> – 20<sup>th</sup>, 2018. She participated in a community group session in Fort Chipewyan and met with Honourable Danielle Larivee to discuss ways to better serve students in care. During the meeting, they talked about connecting caseworkers to NSD Family Wellness Workers as a way to ensure students in care are attending school regularly and achieving academic success. Larivee is the Minister of Children Services. Click on the website link to view the entire report **(pages 168-170)** <https://nsd61.ca/download/144909>.

## NSD school playgrounds highlighted in the Superintendent's Report



While presenting the Superintendent's Report, Gord Atkinson told the trustees that NSD submitted three applications (Athabasca Delta Community School, Paddle Prairie School and St. Theresa School) for a Government of Alberta pilot playground project. The project is focused on playgrounds that are aging and in need of replacement. On November 23<sup>rd</sup>, he met with the First Nations, Métis and Inuit Directorate of Alberta Education. Atkinson said they shared respective work and priorities and discussed grants to support Indigenous language.

Atkinson also highlighted the WE Schools Outreach Tour Spring 2018 report, division-wide student attendance and enrolment. With respect to attendance, Atkinson noted the improvement made by Father R. Perin School. The school went from a 70% overall attendance in September to approaching 90% in October. Click on the website link to view the entire report **(pages 172-178)** <https://nsd61.ca/download/144909>.

## Land-based Learning and High School Redesign success stories highlighted the Area 3 Associate Superintendent's Report



Associate Superintendent Tim Stensland presented an updated report for Area 3 schools (Athabasca Delta Community School, Fort McKay School, Anzac Community School, Bill Woodward School, Father R. Perin School, Conklin Community School,

Elizabeth School and J.F. Dion School). Stensland began by sharing how schools are enhancing land-based learning. He said schools are involving students, Elders, parents, school council and community members to plan land-based learning opportunities. In Anzac, they are piloting a land-based learning course <https://nsd61.ca/about-us/division-news/post/a-school-in-anzac-piloting-a-land-based-learning-course>. Bill Woodward School is planning to submit the locally developed land-based learning course to Alberta Education for the 2019-2020 school year.

Stensland transitioned to sharing student attendance strategies in Area 3. He said student attendance celebrations at the schools are a big deal and students don't want to miss the assemblies. At Athabasca Delta Community School for example, they showcase students who achieved excellent attendance on a PowerPoint presentation. NSD is in process of implementing myBluePrint; software designed to help students plan their future. Stensland said the software is another strategy to help schools improve student attendance.

The report delves into progress made by schools involved with High School Redesign. Bill Woodward has been focusing on providing a variety of programs such as Amatrol's Science, Technology, Engineering, Math (STEM) curriculum <https://amatrol.com/program/stem-training/>. Students learn about automation, electrical, machining, etc. Two Bill Woodward School educators have been trained to teach the courses.

To enhance the focus on relevant and personalization of learning, Athabasca Delta Community School switched high school teacher roles from generalist positions to more subject specialization. 10 Conklin Community School students who are now high school age are continuing high school in the community through the Flexible Learning Program <https://nsd61.ca/programs/flexible-learning-pilot-program>. The division offers the program in partnership with Career Pathways School <https://careerpathwaysschool.ca/>.

Stensland also announced that a Google Cohort was formed to increase the skills and knowledge at the school level and division level. The goal is to utilize Google education tools more effectively to enhance learning. 20 NSD staff participated in the learning session. They will meet face to face two times during the year and will meet virtually on a monthly basis. Click on the website link to view the entire report (pages 180-184) <https://nsd61.ca/download/144909>.

## Director of Student Engagement, Attendance and Completion provides update to the Board about student attendance efforts



Director of Student Engagement, Attendance and Completion (DCEAC) Don Tessier updated the Board about progress made with Attendance Improvement Operational Plan strategies. Tessier said he has been maintaining regular dialogue with schools to address students who are chronically absent. One way he is doing that is asking principals to keep track of students who miss three or more days of school on a Google Doc. On the document, principals identify the reasons why they're absent and what actions have been taken to return the student to school. This helps the division see if any trends arise.

Hiring Family Wellness Workers to support all NSD schools was implemented this school year. Tessier said they are great assets to NSD and are available for schools for helping students and families. To enhance parent and community engagement, the DSEAC has been attending school council meetings and involved in student focus groups. Students have been asked: 1) What are your current barriers to school success? 2) What are a few of your school successes? 3) What would make you happier and more successful in school?

The Attendance Improvement Initiative 'Every Day Counts' Recognition and Awards Program launched in October. The program supports the local strategies aimed to recognize excellent student attendees, attendance improvement, student achievement and efforts made by parents and schools <https://nsd61.ca/programs/attendance-improvement-initiative/resources>.

Tessier mentioned regular communication is occurring internally and externally. The communication includes attendance charts, announcing monthly "Eagle Excellence in Attendance Club" members and showcasing school-based attendance strategies. He also noted the importance of students attending WE Day in Edmonton October 12, 2018 <https://nsd61.ca/about-us/division-news/post/nsd-students-celebrate-making-a-difference-at-we-day-alberta>. The event is an example of creating a culture of learning that engages students. Click here to view entire report (**pages 186-191**) <https://nsd61.ca/download/144909>.

## Ward 4 Trustee presents the ASBA Zone 1 Report



Ward 4 Trustee Jesse Lamouche presented the Alberta School Boards Association (ASBA) Zone 1 Report. Click on the website link to view the report <https://nsd61.ca/download/144909> (**page 193**).

## Committees and Information Updates

- Advocacy Committee: <https://nsd61.ca/download/144909> (page 195).
- Teaching and Learning Committee: <https://nsd61.ca/download/144909> (page 197).
- Attraction and Retention Committee: <https://nsd61.ca/download/144909> (page 199).
- Mistassiniy School Modernization Update: <https://nsd61.ca/download/144909> (pages 202-204).
- Revision to Administrative Procedure 163 – Alcohol and Recreational Cannabis on Division Premises <https://nsd61.ca/download/144909> (pages 205-206).
- Revision to Administrative Procedure 413 – Employee Benefits: <https://nsd61.ca/download/144909> (pages 207-2011).
- Revision to Administrative Procedure 414 – Staff Leaves and Absences <https://nsd61.ca/download/144909> (pages 212-220).

## Trustee Reports from Ward 3, 4 and 7

Ward 4 Trustee Jesse Lamouche attended school council meetings at Grouard Northland School and Hillview School. He also attended the Inspire Conference in Edmonton November 7<sup>th</sup> and witnessed Hillview students jiggig at the Métis Settlements General Council office in Edmonton.



Ward 3 Trustee Randy Anderson helped judge Halloween costumes at Gift Lake School on October 31<sup>st</sup>. On November 6<sup>th</sup>, Anderson participated in a meeting with the Peavine Métis Settlement Chair and Council. They talked about integrating Métis culture into the curriculum at Bishop Routhier School. He was also involved in a meeting with the Gift Lake Métis Settlement Chair and Council.



Ward 7 Trustee Robin Guild attended the Teachers' Employer Bargaining Association (TEBA) mediation meeting on October 31<sup>st</sup>. In November, he attended school council meetings at St. Theresa School and Career Pathway School, the Teacher and Learning Committee, the Attraction and Retention Committee and a Public School Boards Association of Alberta (PSBAA) conference.

Click on the website link to view the Trustee Reports <https://nsd61.ca/download/144909> (221-225).

**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, January 18, 2019 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.