



Northland School Division No.61 (NSD)

Board Highlights Regular Board Meeting – August 23, 2019



Board of Trustees left to right: Back Row – Silas Yellowknee (Ward 6), Randy Anderson (Ward 3), Robin Guild (Board Chair, Ward 7), Maddy Daniels (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).

The Board of Trustees approved:

- The housekeeping changes to **Policy 13 - Appeals and Hearings Regarding Student Matters.**
- The first reading to changes to **Policy 16 - Recruitment and Selection of Personnel.** For the second reading, the administration will craft a statement to clarify the next steps after the interview committee makes their recommendation.
- The first reading to changes to **Policy 20 - Housing.** The revised policy says the division's teacher housing services will move towards becoming a separate financially self-sufficient entity, as soon as financially viable.
- The first reading of **Policy 8 - Board Committees.** A sentence has been revised to ensure the superintendent is involved in the calling of additional Committee of the Whole meetings (COTW).
- The sale of five Palm Harbour mobile homes by auction or tender, with no reserve amount, and the proceeds to be used for renovating the teacher housing in the Wabasca/Desmarais area.
- The Alberta Health Services Extension and Amending Agreement for the provision of Addiction and Mental Health Services. The projects within NSD include Helping Hands in Fort Chipewyan and When We Are Healthy in the Peavine Métis Settlement, Grouard and Gift Lake. The projects are services provided by Alberta Health Services within NSD to help build healthy communities.
- Administration entering into an agreement with Grande Yellowhead Public School Division (GYPSD). The agreement will see GYPSD continue to transport students that reside in Wanyandie Flats East but now will be able to claim transportation funding for them from Alberta Education.

2019-2020 Northland School Division Calendar Revised

The Board of Trustees approved changes for the month of February on NSD's 2019-2020 Calendar. Instead of hosting a division-wide professional development on February 12, 2020, NSD is going to host school-based professional development. Students will still be on winter break from February 10, 2020 - February 17, 2020. Click on the website link to view the updated calendar <https://www.nsd61.ca/download/178851>

Policy Updates

The Board of Trustees tabled Policy 7 Appendix C Trustee Expense and Corporate Credit Card Guidelines. Revisions to the policy will be brought to the Regular Board Meeting on September 20, 2019.

Board of Trustees received letter from Urban Rez Society about Renewing Our Spirit Conference

The Board of Trustees received a request from the Urban Rez Cultural Society asking if NSD would support their upcoming Renewing the Spirit Conference in Wabasca-Desmarais. The conference features workshops about culture, language, violence, addictions and residential schools. The Board of Trustees supported the request from the Urban Rez Cultural Society by approving the in-kind donation of use of school facilities, with administration to implement.

Year-end Audit Plan approved by the Board of Trustees

The year-end audit work plan has been approved by the Board of Trustees. Under Policy 2 - Role of the Board, the trustees must approve the annual audit plan. An auditor from Metrix Group explained the plan during the Regular Board Meeting. Initial fieldwork is August 28-29, 2019 and year-end fieldwork is October 21-25, 2019. The audited financial statements will be presented at the November Regular Board Meeting.

Conversation with Minister of Education highlighted in the Board Chair Highlights



It has been a busy few months for newly appointed Board Chair Robin Guild. On June 26, 2019, Guild met with the Honourable Adrianna LaGrange, Minister of Education to provide clarity on staff turnover and graduation rates at Athabasca Delta Community School in Fort Chipewyan and Conklin Community School. LaGrange recently visited Athabasca Delta Community School, Conklin Community School and Fort McKay School.

Guild attended the New Principal/Teacher Orientation on August 21, 2019 at Bill Woodward School in Anzac. During his welcome address, he encouraged new principals and teachers to get involved in the community and to make efforts to develop extra-curricular activities for the students.

In July, Robin attended the Canadian School Board Association's (CSBA) Annual Congress and National Trustee Gathering on Indigenous Education. While attending the conference, Guild learned that Keewatin Patricia District School Board, a district quite similar to Northland, achieved a significant milestone as they recently met the provincial standard for graduation rates. Chair Guild and administration will be following up with Keewatin to learn more about this.

Schools impacted by wildfires ready for the 2019-2020 school year

Acting Superintendent of Schools Nancy Spencer-Poitras provided an update about the schools impacted by the wildfires. Seven schools were impacted by the wildfires near the Paddle Prairie Métis Settlement and in the Wabasca-Desmarais area (Paddle Prairie School, St. Theresa School, Mistassiniy School, Calling Lake School, Career Pathways School, Chipewyan Lake School, Pelican Mountain School). Six of those schools were closed in June for the remainder of the 2018-2019 school year due to health and safety reasons. Calling Lake School was opened for the remainder of the 2018-2019 school year.

Since the closures, our insurance adjusters assessed the smoke damage to the schools and contractors have been working throughout the summer to repair the damages. Spencer-Poitras announced that repairs to Paddle Prairie School, St. Theresa School, Mistassiniy School, Career Pathways School, Chipewyan Lake School, Pelican Mountain School will be completed before the first day of school on September 3, 2019.

Attendance Improvement results shared with the Board of Trustees



Director of Student Engagement, Attendance and Completion Don Tessier presented positive news regarding efforts to improve overall student attendance. In 2018-19, without including February, which was the coldest February in 70 years and school buses did not run for a number of weeks, NSD exceeded its two percent target with a 2.2 % improvement in attendance (80.9%). Including February, there was an improvement of 1.4%. For 2019-2020, the overall attendance target is 82.4%, a 1.5% increase.

View Board Schedule, Agendas, Minutes, Highlights and Attachments on our website at

<https://www.nsd61.ca/governance/board-meeting-agenda-minutes>

Next Corporate Board Meeting is Friday, September 20, 2019 at the Métis Settlements General Council Office (10335 172 Street, 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.