



Northland School Division No.61 (NSD)

Board Highlights Regular Board Meeting – October 26, 2019



Board of Trustees left to right: Back Row – Silas Yellowknife (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).

Mistassiniy School Modernization Moving Forward

The Board passed a motion to move forward with the Mistassiniy School Modernization and also declared their support for a joint high school with Bigstone Cree Nation. Mistassiniy requires modernization to bring it up to today's learning and operating standards.

Before the October 26, 2019, Regular Board Meeting, Northland School Division (NSD) and Bigstone Cree Nation hosted a community meeting on October 22, 2019, at Mistassiniy School. The purpose of the meeting was to gather input from parents and community members about the concept of a joint NSD and Bigstone high school in Wabasca-Desmarais. After discussing the input from parents and community members, the Board approved to move forward with the Mistassiniy School Modernization and support a joint high school with Bigstone Cree Nation in Wabasca-

Desmarais.

“The Board is excited to continue discussions about a joint high school concept with the Wabasca-Desmarais community, Bigstone Cree Nation and MD of Opportunity,” said Jules Nokohoo, Vice-Chair. “The Board also felt it was important to move forward with the Mistassiniy School Modernization. Students and staff in Wabasca-Desmarais have been waiting a long time for a modernized facility that better aligns with 21st-century learning. We didn't want to risk the project being delayed or cancelled altogether.”

The preliminary modernization design includes a new gymnasium, career and technology spaces, and classroom for cooking, better natural light and culture space. Construction is slated to begin in 2021.

Board approved changes to the Susa Creek School Lunch Program

The Board of Trustees approved a change to the Susa Creek Lunch Program. After December 31, 2019, NSD will no longer provide a no cost lunch program to students attending Grande Yellowhead Pubic School Division (GYPSD). In addition, the Board directed administration to address any outstanding operational issues associated with providing hot lunches to students attending GYPSD.

Trustee Expense Claims to be posted on NSD website

The Board approved a motion to increase transparency with NSD school communities. Moving forward, trustee honouraria/expense claims will be posted on the NSD website.

Policies out for feedback:

Policy 5 - Role of Chair. The revised policy states the Board Chair shall always ensure the Vice-Chair and/or another Trustee and/or Superintendent are part of discussions with government staff or elected officials. Policy 3 Appendix B Trustee & Administration Working Relationship Guidelines. The changes strengthen the ability for concerns to be resolved in a respectful manner. Changing the name of the appendix from Trustee Working Relationship Guidelines to Trustee & Administration Working Relationship Guidelines more accurately represents it is a two-way street.

Policies approved:

Policy 16 - Recruitment and Selection of Personnel as amended. The changes clarify the role of the interview committee and next steps after the committee makes their recommendation.

Policy - 20 - Housing.

Policy 8 - Board Committees, as amended. The membership for the general public now states that two members of the general public who have financial experience.

Northland School Division Strategic Plan for Board Priorities 2019-2020 approved

The Board of Trustees approved the Northland School Division Strategic Plan for Board Priorities 2019-2020.

Excellence in Leadership	Excellence in Relationships	Excellence in Learning	Excellence in Financial Practices
Priority 1: Through excellent leadership practices by everyone, everyone feels welcome and valued.	Priority 2: Actively develop and purposefully work to maintain healthy relationships.	Priority 3: Students achieve their potential in literacy and numeracy.	Priority 4: Northland has a balanced budget for 2020-2021.

Calling Lake Playground tender approved

The Board of Trustees award the tender for the construction of the Calling Lake Playground to Blue Imp in the amount of \$196,475 plus GST.

Co-Management Education Agreement with Fort McKay First Nation Renewed

The Board of Trustees approved the amendments and three-year extension to the Co-Management Education Agreement with Fort McKay First Nation (FMFN). The agreement would see NSD and FMFN continue to work in collaboration to reinforce the importance of First Nations language, culture and

traditions in the education of students. For example, NSD and FMFN would continue to develop support materials in relation to FMFN history, traditions, language and culture and identify resource people to facilitate cultural workshops, ceremonies and events.

Board Chair participated in positive conversations with stakeholders about housing and education



It was a busy October for Board Chair Robin Guild. To begin the month, Robin attended a Career Fair presented by Wabasca and Region Atoske Action Group and Bigstone Education. The career fair took place October 1st and 2nd at the Wabasca Community Hall. Guild also met with the Regional Municipality of Wood Buffalo to discuss housing and with Mikisew Cree First Nation to discuss education in Fort Chipewyan.

Professional Learning for Principals featured in the Acting Superintendent Highlights



Acting Superintendent of Schools Nancy Spencer-Poitras talked about the professional learning principals experienced October 16th and 17th. Susan Close presented a process to enhance teaching and student learning. Principals now have access to a standard teaching strategy to help students improve current skills and comprehend information easier. The Office of Student Attendance and Re-Engagement (OSAR) spoke to the principals about how they can help schools with student attendance. Nancy also met with Mikisew Cree First Nation to review the Tuition Agreement of 1987 and discussed drafting a new Education Services Agreement.

Area 2 schools moving forward after a tough end to 2018-2019 school year



The 2018-2019 school came to an abrupt end due to wildfires for Area 2 schools (**Career Pathways School, Calling Lake School, Chipewyan Lake School, Pelican Mountain School, Mistassiniy School and St. Theresa School**). To bring some measure of closure to last year, schools hosted graduation and awards ceremonies that could not be held in June due to the wildfires. The schools worked hard organizing welcome back events to re-engage with students, parents and community members.

On October 4th, staff gathered at St. Theresa School to participate in a data analysis. Staff examined attendance data as a whole and then reviewed their respective school data. In group discussions, staff noted regular calls home, making lessons engaging for students and meeting with parents and community to discuss the importance of attendance are having a positive impact on attendance rates. The report also highlights land-based learning. Career Pathways School students recently attended a Land-Based Education field trip. During the field trip, students gained valuable lifelong learning knowledge. They learned the traditional dry meat making process, building a shelter, and process of making a fire.

Acting Superintendent of Schools Nancy Spencer-Poitras congratulated the Mistassiniy School volleyball teams. The boys brought home gold and the girls won silver during a tournament at St. Andrews School

in High Prairie. Mistassiniy School also hosted a volleyball tournament. Calling Lake School and Oski Pasikoniwew Kamik (Bigstone Community School) attended the tournament.

NSD staff learning best practices for applying foundational knowledge about First Nations, Métis and Inuit

Area 1 Associate Superintendent Dermod Madden shared an update on the work accomplished by the First Nations, Métis and Inuit Learner Success Team. Since the beginning of the school year, the team (**Lorraine Cardinal-Roy, Director of First Nations, Métis and Inuit Learner Success, Julia McDougall, Pedagogical Supervisor – Indigenous Language and Culture and Terry Lynn Cook, Pedagogical Supervisor – Indigenous Curriculum**) has been working with schools on applying foundational knowledge about First Nations, Métis and Inuit; which is part of the new Teaching Quality Standard.

They have been sharing NSD's Adaptation to the Kairos Blanket Exercises with NSD schools and education partners. The exercise is an interactive learning experience that covers 500 years of Indigenous history. Since the adaptation was created, school staff and central office staff have participated in the blanket exercise.

Maintenance Department showcased Energy Retrofit Project success story



Division Facility Manager David Cox kicked-started the presentation discussing NSD's plan to ensure schools are more energy efficient. Over the past few years, the Maintenance Department has been working on an Energy Retrofit Project (ERP). With support from Rede Energy Solutions Inc., NSD developed a framework for future energy management work. The framework's guiding principles include a balance of efficiency with simplicity, standardization of equipment and remote access. The ERP in Anzac is featured in an Energy Efficiency Alberta success video.

Click on the website link to watch the video <https://tinyurl.com/y64onxza>.

David also shared statistics in relation to maintenance requests and requirements, completed and ongoing projects and unforeseen situations which required immediate response.

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, November 22, 2019

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.