



The Northland School Division (NSD)

Board Highlights Regular Board Meeting – February 21, 2020



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

Board of Trustees unanimously approved to disqualify Ward 1 Trustee

The Board of Trustees unanimously approved to disqualify Ward 1 Trustee Maddy Daniels. The Board's motion to disqualify Daniels as a trustee was due to the fact she has missed three consecutive Board Meetings as outlined in the Education Act, Section 87(1)i. A by-election will be held in the spring.

Memorandum of Understanding between the Board's Local Bargaining Committee and Northland ATA Local

The Board of Trustees accepted the recommendation of the Board's Local Bargaining Committee to ratify the Memorandum of Understanding with the Alberta Teachers' Association (ATA) Local.

Board Retreat Location Finalized

A location has been finalized for the 2020 Board Retreat. The Board approved the Wingate by Wyndham Hotel in Edmonton. The Board Retreat is taking place March 18th and 19th.

Professional Improvement Leave approved

The Board of Trustees approved the Professional Improvement Leave Committee recommendation of Mario Fafard for the 2020-2021 school year. Mr. Fafard currently serves NSD as an Itinerant Substitute.

Policies approved

- Policy 10 – Policy Making

Board approve the sale of a skid mount lavatory

The Board of Trustees approved the sale of the 2006 12 x 32 skid mount lavatory. The lavatory trailer was originally purchased during the construction of the new Gift Lake School.

Every Season Learning Calendar Update

Superintendent of Schools Dr. Nancy Spencer-Poitras updated trustees on the plan for sharing the “Every Season Learning Calendar concept with school communities. Meetings took place at J.F. Dion School and Father R. Perin School earlier this month. The school councils for both schools are interested in further conversations about the concept. For upcoming meetings, School Councils or Principal Advisory Committees will be including a standardized “Every Season Learning Calendar” presentation on upcoming agendas to gauge interest from parents and community members. The trustees originally presented the idea at the Council of Schools Council Meeting on April 26, 2019.

MLA visit in the latest edition of Board Chair Highlights



In the latest edition of Board Chair Highlights, Chair Guild highlighted a visit Vice-Chair Jules Nokohoo had with MLA for Fort McMurray-Lac La Biche Laila Goodridge on February 4, 2020. Vice-Chair Nokohoo shared success stories and discusses challenges we face in NSD. The Board will be meeting more MLAs on March 20, 2020. Chair Guild shared an updated trustee expense summary and stressed the importance for the Board and for school division departments to stay within budget.

Superintendent congratulated Northland ATA Local on a successful Induction/Teacher Appreciation Night



Superintendent of Schools Dr. Nancy Spencer-Poitras started the conversation by discussing the Northland ATA Local Induction/Teacher Appreciation Night. Dr. Spencer-Poitras thanked Northland ATA Local President Kristel Laderoute and the committee for organizing such a special event. She said she saw a lot of happy faces, especially a group from Fort Chipewyan. The evening included a centerpiece competition and an official welcoming for first year teachers. They received certificates to recognize their entry into the education profession.

Dr. Spencer-Poitras talked grade promotion for students. She said it’s important for principals and teachers to have regular conversations with parents and guardians about student progress.

A conversation about advocating challenges and improving community engagement took place during the presentation. The trustees emphasized the importance of educating the provincial government about the social challenges in NSD school communities and how it impacts parental involvement and student success. To overcome these challenges, NSD is working with schools to use a variety of technology tools to visually showcase student work and Family Wellness Workers provide services to students and families in order to support emotional, behavioural and social wellbeing.

Northland Education Quarterly Report

Superintendent of Schools Dr. Nancy Spencer-Poitras presented the Northland Education Quarterly Report. The report highlights the progress made by the division in relation to the Board priorities. Click on the website link to view the report <https://www.nsd61.ca/download/234710> (page 54).

Acting Area 2 Monitoring Report - A conversation about deeper learning

Within the Board Positive Path Forward Action Plan, the third priority is students achieve their potential in literacy and numeracy. To support this work, Acting Associate Superintendent Joe Pearce unveiled a three-year initiative called “Inspiring Achievement through Deeper Learning”. In partnership with SMARTLearning, educators are learning a teaching strategy to help students improve current skills and comprehend information easier. Click on the website to view the report in more detail <https://www.nsd61.ca/download/234710> (page 47).

Student Services Monitoring Report – Creative approach to service delivery

Area 1 Associate Superintendent Dermod Madden presented the Student Services Report. Mr. Madden spoke to the Board about the importance of being creative with respect to service delivery in NSD school communities. A creative approach is taking shape in one NSD community. The alternative model will see NSD launch a pilot project in partnership with Children’s Autism Service (CASE). The project is going to begin with piloting this alternative approach with Paddle Prairie School. Instead of costly visits once a month, service providers would meet at the beginning of year and again in May to assist with year-end reports. In between, service providers will utilize video conferencing options for greater access and quicker response times.

Madden also informed the trustees that as of January 2020, all schools are required to have at least one EpiPen in the school. The department purchased 37 Epi Pens and have been distributed to the schools. Click on the website to view the report in more detail <https://www.nsd61.ca/download/234710> (page 71).

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, March 20, 2020

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.