



# The Northland School Division (NSD)

Board Highlights Regular Board Meeting – March 20, 2020



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

## Statement from the Board of Trustees regarding COVID-19

Tansi, Edlána't'e, Hello students, parents, guardians and community members. This has been a challenging time for all of us. The COVID-19 pandemic is something none of us have ever experienced in our lifetime. We have had to adapt to a new normal in a short period of time. Instead of social gatherings at the hockey arena for example, we are asked to practice social distancing.

It has resulted in a new way of learning for all students. On March 15, the province cancelled all K-12 in-person classes indefinitely. Since then, administration went to work on developing a "Continuing Student Learning Plan." The Board of Trustees would like to acknowledge the hard work and dedication Northland staff have exhibited and are continuing to exhibit during this difficult time.

We also want to thank parents, guardians and community members for their patience and support.

We have faced adversity in the past and we will overcome this challenge as well. Please take care of yourself and stay healthy.

## Board of Trustees host first Regular Board Meeting using Zoom Video Conference Technology

During the Covid-19 (coronavirus) pandemic, Northland is following through with recommendations such as social distancing. For the first time, the Board of Trustees hosted a Regular Board Meeting using Zoom (video-conferencing). Northland School Division utilizes Zoom for professional learning with staff and to support student learning.

## Board of Trustees discussed important issues with local MLAs

The Board of Trustees kicked off the Regular Board Meeting via Zoom having a conversation with Tany Yao, MLA for Fort McMurray-Wood Buffalo and David Hanson, MLA for Bonnyville-Cold Lake-St. Paul. The trustees spoke to the MLAs about the division's lunch program, recruitment and retention of staff and funding for staff housing. The constituencies for Yao and Hanson are located within NSD boundaries. The Board appreciated the opportunity to discuss important issues impacting NSD and look forward to having future dialogue.

## **2020-2021 School Year Calendar Approved**

The Board of Trustees approved the Northland School Division 2020-2021 School Year Calendar. The calendar is geared towards accommodating families. A winter break is scheduled during the second week of February (February 8-12, 2021). Principals and teachers will be attending Teachers Convention during that time. Spring break is scheduled March 29 - April 5, 2021. The division's intention is to align with Native Hockey Provincials. A number of NSD students participate in the annual hockey tournament. Orientation for new staff will look different. New teachers will participate in orientation located in their school communities instead of in a central location. A centralized orientation for new principals will take place on Tuesday, August 25, 2020. Click on the website link to view the approved calendar <https://www.nsd61.ca/download/240844> (page 29).

## **Superintendent Highlights - Developing Continuing Student Learning Plan**

Superintendent of Schools Dr. Nancy Spencer-Poitras updated the Board on what's been happening in Northland since the Government of Alberta, Alberta Health Services and Alberta Education cancelled all K-12 classes indefinitely due to Covid-19 (coronavirus). Since the announcement, Spencer-Poitras said the division has been working on a continuing student learning plan. This work includes creating alternative programming through the use of technology. If a family or a community does not have access to technology, alternative programming will be arranged. The division's continuing student learning plan will be communicated to students, parents and community members before March 30th.

**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, April 17, 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.