

Northland School Division No.61

Board Highlights

Corporate Board Meeting – March 27-28, 2015

“Every student is a lifelong learner and successful in life”



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Literacy Initiative Update

Schools across Northland School Division are showing continuous improvement in students achieving reading level growth. That's according to Division-wide Literacy Initiative Lead Gail Sajo. She presented mid-year results through assessment tools PM Benchmarks and Jerry Johns to the Northland Board. Both assessment tools have been used by NSD61 teachers for three years.

Sajo shared a power point slide illustrating reading growth between November 2014 and February 2015. Statistics say that 428 students achieved one level of reading growth and 13 schools have over 60 percent of their students achieving increased results. Sajo says she is pleased because it indicates more students can comprehend what they are reading. The Northland Board was pleased to see positive year to year results during this presentation. For example, from last year to this year (February 2014-February 2015), Bill Woodward School experienced an 18 percent increase in the number of grade 4-6 students reading at grade level.

Kindergarten students are making waves when it comes to reading! All kindergarten students at Hillview School are reading at grade level and 88 percent are doing the same at Kateri School! Another good news story is happening at Paddle Prairie School. 85 percent in grade 7-9 are reading at grade level! The third and final round of results for 2015 will be presented at the June Board Meeting.

Attendance Improvement Initiative – ‘Every Day Counts’ Update

The *Attendance Improvement Initiative* continues to gain momentum as we approach the month of April. Don Tessier, Associate Superintendent, presented an updated Attendance Improvement Initiative – ‘Every Day Counts’ Planning Document to the Northland Board. The document describes two phases of implementation and reporting periods. The first phase focusses on building school capacity, establishing community engagement and the first reporting period for schools in June. Community Engagement sessions have taken place at J.F. Dion School, Fort McKay School and Conklin Community School. Athabasca Delta Community School in Fort Chipewyan and Chipewyan Lake will be hosting sessions in April and more meetings will be scheduled before the end of June.

The second phase outlines the next three reporting periods for schools to Central Office. These reporting periods will occur in September, mid-February and June 2016. The final

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piece to the planning document is designed to help schools prioritize targets and strategies in line with the [Attendance Improvement Initiative – ‘Every Day Counts’ Report](#). It also allows schools to delegate responsibilities, organize timelines and report what is working and what is not working.

May 1-2, 2015 Board Meeting Cancellation

The Northland Board approved the cancellation of the May 1-2, 2015 Regular Board Meeting. The dates will be used to discuss the 2015-2016 Budget.

Pelican Mountain School Closure

Northland School Division has started the process of looking into the closure of Pelican Mountain School in Sandy Lake. This after a recommendation was made by the Northland Board in accordance with the *School Act*. The enrolment at the kindergarten to grade 6 school has had low enrolment for the past five years. Currently, Northland provides transportation from Sandy Lake to St. Theresa School for 24 elementary students. 18 students are registered this year at Pelican Mountain School and St. Theresa School can accommodate those students for the 2015-2016 school year.

The School Act and Closure of Schools Regulation outline a specific process for Boards to follow in the closure process. These steps include notifying parents and the community of the Board’s intention to host a public meeting to discuss the closure.

Once a community meeting takes place, the Board will make a decision in late May or early June. See page 37 in the [Board Agenda Package](#) for more information.

Procedure and Policy Approval Highlights

- Procedure 206 – Early Childhood Services Programs passes first reading.
- Procedure 437 – School Volunteers passes second reading.
- Procedure 435 – Criminal Record Checks passes second reading
- Northland Board recommends the position of ECS Instructor be eliminated to align with changes in Alberta Childhood Regulations.
- Northland Board approved Policy 15 – School Lunch Programs



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Important Dates to Remember

May 29-30 2015

Board Meeting, Peace River, Alberta

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.