



The Northland School Division (NSD)

Board Highlights Regular Board Meeting – September 19, 2020



Carmen Laboucane officially sworn in as Ward 1 Trustee

During the Regular Board Meeting, Carmen Laboucane was officially sworn in as Ward 1 Trustee. Laboucane, a Paddle Prairie resident, was declared the new trustee by acclamation. As Ward 1 Trustee, Carmen will represent the Paddle Prairie Métis Settlement and Keg River.

Carmen Laboucane was born in Manning and raised in the Paddle Prairie Métis Settlement. She attended Dr. Mary Jackson School in Keg River, where she graduated in 1994. Laboucane is a single mother of three children; two of whom currently attend Paddle Prairie School. Her oldest child graduated high school in 2018.

Following high school graduation, Laboucane initially went on to study hairdressing. While learning hairdressing, she started to consider a different career. Laboucane eventually became the Head Cook of the Hot Lunch Program at Paddle Prairie School. She took on that role for several years.

Today, Carmen works with Alberta Health Services as Administrative Support for the Northwest Health Centre in High Level. In addition, she runs a home-based business as an Esthetician. Laboucane is very involved in the community as a volunteer. For many years, she has helped to organize youth hockey and baseball teams.

Carmen has been interested in becoming a school board trustee for quite some time. She cares deeply about education in the north and wants to help students succeed and strive for whatever path they choose to take. Before becoming interested in school governance, Laboucane served as an elected Paddle Prairie Métis Settlement council member for 11 years. Carmen speaks highly about the support of her family. She says they provided the extra push to spread her wings and the confidence needed to try new things.

Ward 11 Trustee tendered resignation



During the Regular Board Meeting, Ward 11 Trustee Karen Telford tendered her resignation. Telford recently became the Fishing Lake Métis Settlement Chairperson and said it has been her “great pleasure to be part of the Northland Board and watch the growth over the past 3 years”. She added that she looks forward to seeing Northland’s future successes. After accepting Telford’s resignation with regret, the Board expressed their appreciation to Karen for the contributions she made while serving as a Trustee.

NSD to hold a By-Election to fill Ward 11 vacancy

The Board of Trustees approved holding a By-election for Ward 11. Details will be shared as they become available. Ward 11 serves the Fishing Lake Métis Settlement and the Elizabeth Métis Settlement.

Board approved Electoral Wards of Northland School Division Bylaw

The Board of Trustees approved changing the Electoral Wards of Northland School Division (Bylaw 01-2020). The approved motion will see boundary adjustments to Wards 5, 6 and 7, a clearer description of the boundaries for Wards 6 and 7 and a reduction in the number of Trustees from 11 to 10. Secretary Treasurer Douglas Aird read the Bylaw aloud.

When the wards were originally created in 2017, NSD operated schools in Peerless Lake, Trout Lake and Little Buffalo. In 2018, the operation of those schools was transferred to the Kee Tas Kee Now Tribal Council Education Authority (KTCEA). The area will be added to Ward 7 (Peerless/Trout Lake/Little Buffalo/Wabasca/Chipewyan Lake) and the number of trustees reduced from 11 to 10.

When Wards 6 and 7 were created in 2017, the boundaries were set in the format of legal subdivision. This format created confusion for eligible voters because it did not use municipal addresses. For the 2021 election, the utilization of landmarks (highways, roads) will be used to more clearly explain the boundaries for Ward 6 and 7.

- Ward 6 - South of Highway 754, south of Airport Road, west of Transport Road, south of Highway 813.
- Ward 7 - North of Highway 754, north of Airport Road, east of Transport Road, north of Highway 813.

The changes will all take effect for the 2021 School Board Elections.

Superintendent updated the Board on Capital Maintenance Renewal Projects

Superintendent of Schools Dr. Nancy Spencer Poitras updated the Board on school maintenance projects supported by the Capital Maintenance Renewal funding NSD received from the province. The table below provides a progress report on the approved projects:

Project Name	Project Description	Additional Comments
Building Envelope Repairs	Partial roof repairs, replace skylights, window, door and siding repairs.	Tender awarded for Calling Lake School and St. Theresa School.
Drainage Improvements	Parking lot and sidewalk replacement or repair with appropriate drainage and cover material.	Work has been completed at Elizabeth School, Mistassiniy School and Pelican Mountain School.

Electrical Upgrades	Continue with energy efficient lighting.	Work has been completed at Hillview School and Susa Creek School Elizabeth School is next on the list.
Mechanical & Controls Upgrade	Replace pneumatic heating controls.	Phase 1 continued at many schools. Father R. Perin School and Conklin Community School are onto Phase 2.
Mechanical Heating Equipment Replacement	Boiler replacements and air conditioning unit installations.	Some piping work completed at J.F. Dion School, and designs for upgrade at Paddle Prairie School and Conklin Community School underway.
Safety & Security	Blind installation, door lock replacement, fire panel upgrade & site security with camera installations	Camera installations nearing completion at nearly all schools. Blind installations complete some schools.
Playground Repairs	Site work, media replacement, border construction and equipment repairs of playgrounds.	Not started yet.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, school furnace filters will be changed more frequently.

Salary increase for School Bus Drivers approved by the Board

The Board of Trustees approved a permanent five percent increase to school bus driver salaries. The salary change reflects the increased sanitization requirements drivers have to complete on school buses.

Board Chair Highlights - Re-entry Plan Meetings and Letters from Minister of Education



It has been a busy few months for Board Chair Robin Guild. Following the public release of the NSD 2020-2021 Re-entry Plan <https://tinyurl.com/y8rc7kcz>, Guild, along with other trustees, met with education partners via Zoom or teleconference in August and September to discuss details and answer questions. The meetings have been very productive and have helped NSD enhance the plan. During those meetings, some of the leaders and administration representing First Nations, Metis Settlements, Metis locals, municipalities, or community groups, offered to help improve the safety measures. For example, some schools have received donated desk shields to provide extra protection for students.

The Board Chair Highlights also include a couple of letters Guild received from Adriana LaGrange, Minister of Education. The first letter informs the Board that NSD received approval for funding in the amount of \$2 million to support staff housing renovations. In the second letter, Minister LaGrange asked

to meet with the Board to help NSD strengthen governance, community engagement and relations, staff attraction and retention and teacher housing.

Superintendent Highlights - Re-entry Plan

The Superintendent's report provided information on NSD's re-entry plan. The highlights specifically showed the hard work done in the summer to prepare for fall re-opening. The report outlined the requirement to build contingency plans for each scenario, how schools are now operating and expectations throughout the COVID-19 pandemic. The welcome message from Dr. Nancy Spencer-Poitras to students, staff, parents, guardians, community members and education partners was included in the highlights. Click on the website link to view the message <https://tinyurl.com/ybd4qbpe>.

Associate Superintendent Report - Updates from Schools

In the latest Associate Superintendent Report from Dermot Madden, principals from Bishop Routhier School, Pelican Mountain School, Hillview School, Paddle Prairie School, St. Theresa School, Grouard Northland School and Susa Creek School provided updates on how the new school year is going. Click on the website link to view the entire report <https://www.nsd61.ca/download/301623> (starting on page 60).

Attendance Update from Director of Student Engagement, Attendance and Completion

Director of Student Engagement, Attendance and Completion Don Tessier provided an update on NSD's efforts to improve student attendance. Tessier provided progress with strategies listed in NSD's 'Every Day Counts' Attendance Improvement Operational Plan <https://www.nsd61.ca/download/131791>. He also shared the attendance patterns for 2019-2020. Click on the website link to view the entire report <https://www.nsd61.ca/download/301623> (starting on page 62).

Personnel Report - Positive news on filling teaching vacancies

In the latest Personnel Report, Associate Superintendent of Human Resources Wes Oginski informed the Board that all teaching positions were filled by September. This year, we welcomed 16 new teachers. In August, NSD hosted new teacher orientation via Zoom. Topics covered included introductions to student services & individual program planning, teaching in Indigenous communities, PowerSchool and their benefit plans. The new teachers were officially welcomed to NSD by Board Chair Robin Guild and Superintendent of Schools Dr. Nancy Spencer-Poitras. They were also introduced to the Pedagogical Supervisors that will be supporting them throughout the school year (Michael Maciach, Bev Barca, Joseph Pearce, Karen Lemay and Crystal Colville). Click on the website link to view the entire report <https://www.nsd61.ca/download/301623> (starting on page 70).

A report from the Communications Department

Communications Coordinator Curtis Walty shared NSD's strategic communications plan for the 2020-2021 school year and 2019-2020 accomplishments. The strategic plan, which aligns with NSD's Policy 1- Foundational Statements and Outcome Statements, includes goals and strategies to strengthen communication between the trustees and their local schools, supporting key priorities such as COVID-19

communication, Board advocacy, student attendance, improving specific Accountability Pillar Survey measures and implementing strategies to improve NSD's recruitment and retention strategy.

Some of the accomplishments include communication with staff and communities about COVID-19 and wildfires, developing the Board Positive Path Forward Action Plan, inclement weather communication and work to update the careers webpage on the NSD website. The report also included top social media (Facebook, Twitter) results in 2019-2020 and NSD website usage results.

Click on the website link to view the entire report <https://tinyurl.com/y9d7gm23>.

View Board Schedule, Agendas, Minutes, Highlights and Attachments on our website at <https://www.nsd61.ca/governance/board-meeting-agenda-minutes>.

Next Regular Board Meeting is Saturday, October 24, 2020

Note: These writings do not constitute the official record of the Northland School Division. 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.