



The Northland School Division (NSD)

Board Highlights Regular Board Meeting – October 24, 2020

Ward 11 Trustee By-election dates set by the Board

The Board of Trustees set November 10, 2020 at noon as the nomination date and December 8, 2020 as the By-election date. Visit our website for more information <https://www.nsd61.ca/about-us/division-news/post/have-your-voice-heard-ward-11-trustee-by-election>.

Ward Renumbering approved by the Board

At the September 19, 2020 Regular Board Meeting, the Board approved changing the Electoral Wards of Northland School Division (Bylaw 01- 2020). The approved motion resulted in 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.

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 geographical area will be added to Ward 7 (Peerless/Trout Lake/Little Buffalo/Wabasca/Chipewyan Lake) and the number of trustees will be reduced from 11 to 10 for the 2021 election.

At the October 24, 2020 Regular Board Meeting, Secretary-Treasurer Douglas Aird proposed to renumber Ward 11 to Ward 5 so that the 10 wards are sequential from 1-10. The Board approved the recommended renumbering Ward 11 to be Ward 5 effective for the October 2021 election.

2021 Budget Update

Secretary Treasurer Douglas Aird provided a Budget 2021 status update. The budget will continue to see NSD invest in technology to meet software and hardware needs. With a reduction in travel expenses throughout the division, utilizing technology to support student learning will be the norm; which aligns well with NSD's goal of enhancing and leveraging the use of technology, as well as continuing to engage students in meaningful learning experiences.

The update notes the Fall Budget will be impacted by COVID-19, staff changes and insurance costs. The Fall Budget will be presented at the November 28, 2020 Regular Board Meeting.

Capital Maintenance Renewal Projects Report

Superintendent of Schools Dr. Nancy Spencer Poitras and Secretary-Treasurer Douglas Aird 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 repair of playgrounds.	Not started yet.

Board approved changes presented by the Policy Committee

The Board of Trustees approved housekeeping changes to the following policies:

- [Policy 2 Appendix B - Facilitated Board Self-Evaluation Process](#)
- [Policy 11 - Board Delegation of Authority](#)
- [Policy 12 Appendix A Superintendent Evaluation Process, Criteria and Timelines](#)
- [Policy 12 Appendix B - Superintendent Performance Assessment Guide](#)

Board Chair Highlights – Meetings with school councils and education partners



During the month of October, Board Chair Robin Guild attended the following events:

- October 7th: St. Theresa School Council Meeting.
- October 15th: PSBAA Annual General Meeting.
- October 20th: Career Pathways School Council Meeting and reciprocal tuition agreement meeting with the Mikisew Cree First Nation, Athabasca Chipewyan First Nation and the Fort Chipewyan Metis Local.

Superintendent Highlights - Media interview showcases good news stories



Superintendent of Schools Dr. Nancy Spencer-Poitras informed the trustees of changes made to [NSD's re-entry plan](#). The changes include new information about Diploma Exams and staff cohorts. The highlights provided a breakdown of students participating in in-school learning vs at-home learning:

- In-school learners: 1464.
- At-home learners: 463.

On October 8th, [Spencer-Poitras spoke to River Country/Kix FM \(Peace River Broadcasting\)](#). The station reaches the following NSD school communities:

- Paddle Prairie
- Hillview
- Grouard
- Gift Lake
- Bishop Routhier

During the interview, she talked about the new ward boundaries, NSD's Friends of Education nominee Cenovus Energy and how NSD is utilizing technology to support at-home learners.

Associate Superintendent Report - Teachers becoming more comfortable with technology

As mentioned in the Budget Update, NSD's investment in utilizing technology to support student learning is the new norm; which aligns well with NSD's goal of enhancing and leveraging the use of technology, as well continuing to engage students in meaningful learning experiences. To support this vision, it is an expectation that every NSD teacher is knowledgeable and skilled in the use of technology tools such as Google Classroom. To ensure teachers can meet or exceed the expectation, NSD hosts regular professional learning via Zoom.

Dr. Tim Stensland, Associate Superintendent, shared survey feedback from teachers to the trustees. From our work on professional learning in the spring, survey results demonstrated:

- The comfort of teachers using technology has grown immensely.
- 94% indicate a very high comfort.
- 92% of teachers indicate a comfort with online learning. Previously this was measured at 47%.
- 79% of teachers from March 15 to June last year indicated they supported students through online learning.

This year, the professional learning for staff is housed in the Northland School Division Professional Learning Portal. The opportunities within the portal are customized according to our current needs. For example, we are working with EdTechTeam Canada to provide engaging learning ideas for in-school learning and at-home learning. NSD is also working with the Telus World of Science to help teachers understand the science of air quality and ways to bring the topic into the classroom through hands-on activities. Click on the website link to view the entire report <https://www.nsd61.ca/download/308313> (page 55).

First Nations, Métis and Inuit Department Report - Plans in place to support language development and integrating land-based learning into all aspects of the curriculum

Supervisor of First Nations, Métis and Inuit Language and Culture and Land Based Learning Debbie Mineault updated the Board on what the department is doing to support language instruction and land-based learning. For Cree/Dene language instruction, Connie Twin Yellowknee, Assistant Supervisor of First Nation, Metis and Inuit Culture and Language Programming, has been hired to support Cree instructors with implementing the Cree Language and Culture Twelve-year Program Kindergarten to Grade 12 and Guide to Implementation. A Dene cohort and a consultant will be developing culturally appropriate images and learning activities for the syllabic and sound blocks that were developed last year.

For land-based learning, the department's plan includes working with principals, teachers, local Elders, Knowledge Keepers and artisans to connect land based learning into curriculum and resources. Small cohort group of teachers across NSD schools will be working together to integrate land based learning into all curricular subject areas. During the presentation, Mineault shared an example from St. Theresa School. Click on the website link to view the project <https://www.nsd61.ca/download/308313> (page 58).

Facilities Department Report to Board

The Facilities Department Report provided an update on the following topics:

- COVID-19 preparation.
- Capital Maintenance and Renewal (CMR) projects (visuals).
- Calling Lake School playground.
- Work request statistics.
- Energy management plan.
- Priorities for 2020-2021

Click on the website link to view the report <https://www.nsd61.ca/download/308313> (page 68).

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, November 28, 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.