



# The Northland School Division (NSD)

Board Highlights Regular Board Meeting – April 24, 2021

## Excellence in education recognized virtually



A virtual celebration highlighted the April Regular Board Meeting to recognize three teachers for nominations and awards. First, the Board recognized and congratulated Tessa Dagenais from Bill Woodward School, who won the Co-op Student of the Year award from the [University of Victoria \(UVic\)](#). Tessa is completing her Master's degree in Education and is a physical education and science teacher, coach, and athletic director at Bill Woodward School. She was selected as the Co-op Student of the Year for the Optional and

Professional Co-op Program - Coaching Studies!

The Board also celebrated Andrew Belsheim, Anzac Community School and Dallon Perry, Mistassiniy School. They were selected as the top two finalists from a group of five nominations for the Edwin Parr Teacher Awards. The Edwin Parr Award recognizes first-year teachers that demonstrate exemplary dedication and commitment.

“Our students deserve teachers who will go the extra mile to help them succeed,” said Robin Guild, Board Chair. “All three teachers have impacted so many students in a positive way. The Board is very proud of Tessa, Andrew and Dallon.”

## Edwin Parr Teacher Award nominee approved by Board of Trustees



The 2021 Edwin Parr Teacher Award nominee from NSD is an educator from Anzac Community School! The Board of Trustees approved the nomination submitted for Andrew Belsheim.

“On behalf of the Board of Trustees, we congratulate Andrew as the 2021 Edwin Parr Teacher Award nominee for NSD,” said Robin Guild, Board Chair. “Andrew’s dedication to the profession as a first-year teacher is evident. We appreciate the effort he puts in to support student success.”

Click on the website link to view the media release

<https://www.nsd61.ca/about-us/division-news/post/anzac-educator-selected-as-nsd-s-edwin-parr-teacher-award-nominee>.

## **Board Chair Highlights - Engaging with community leaders about the draft K-6 curriculum**

Board Chair Robin Guild's report highlighted NSD's position with respect to the draft K-6 Curriculum. Given the pandemic and the fact that wildfires impacted learning in the year prior, we will be supporting the modernization of the curriculum by engaging with our communities on the draft. The entire statement is available on the NSD website <https://www.nsd61.ca/about-us/division-news/post/statement-regarding-draft-k-6-curriculum>. On April 13, 2021, NSD announced that they will not be piloting the draft K-6 curriculum for the 2021-2022 school year.

Chair Guild and Administration were invited to meet with Arthur Noskey, Treaty 8 Grand Chief, Billy Joe Laboucan, Treaty 8 Grand Chief of Education and Lubicon Lake Band Chief, Silas Yellowknee, Treaty 8 Grand Chief of Health and Bigstone Cree Nation Chief and Margo Auger, Treaty 8 Chief Administrative Officer to discuss how NSD can work with the communities to gather input into the new curriculum.

Guild also talked about a recent professional learning opportunity with the Public School Boards Association of Alberta (PSBAA). The professional learning focused on what Boards can do to help students, parents/guardians and community members feel more welcome at public board meetings.

## **Principles and Assumptions for 2021-2022 Budget given the go-ahead**

The Board of Trustees approved the Principles and Assumptions for the 2021-2022 Budget. These are used by the Administration to develop the detailed annual budget. The financial management cycle includes monthly financial reviews, the annual budget in May and the fall update to the budget in November for actual enrollments and emerging priorities. The principles include a fair, transparent and equitable allocation model; site-based budgets maximizing funding for schools, and a collaborative and consensus-based approach to financial decisions.

Some of the key financial assumptions for next year include:

- COVID-19 impacts are forecast to be minimal.
- The hot lunch program provided by School Food Services will continue. Although targeted funding was not received from the provincial government the Board passed a motion supporting this
- Continued support for online/remote learning.
- Low inflation in Alberta will continue; Teacher and support salary costs will be unchanged

The 2021-2022 Budget will be presented for approval at the regular Board Meeting in May.

## **Superintendent Highlights - New Mistassiniy School Project and staff and student participation in Minecraft for Education learning opportunity**

In the latest Superintendent Highlights, Dr. Nancy Spencer-Poitras updated the Board on a unique learning opportunity for students and staff, a new community engagement platform and progress with the new Mistassiniy School. The new Mistassiniy School Project is currently in the design development phase. A team from NSD is working with Alberta Infrastructure and Alberta Education to finalize specific details such as colours and finishing. The team is very excited with the open entry and the spaces for the Career and Technology programs.

Students and staff participated in a two-part session on how to integrate Minecraft for Education into the classroom. Minecraft for Education is an open-world game that promotes creativity, collaboration, and problem-solving in an immersive environment where the only limit is your imagination. During the sessions, students staff unleashed their creativity by building a local landmark of their choice and working on applying what they learned to core subjects such as English Language Arts, Math, Science and Social Studies.

Spencer-Poitras also spoke about a community engagement tool called Bang the Table. Bang the Table is a web-based platform that is designed to support organizations with creating purposeful conversations. The division has reviewed the platform and will provide more details to students, parents/guardians, staff and community members in the coming weeks

### **Student Attendance Report highlights positive attendance growth**

Director of Student Engagement, Attendance and Completion Don Tessier provided information to the Board regarding student attendance for the months of February and March. The report highlights include:

- Recognizing Bishop Routhier, Chipewyan Lake and Conklin Community School for positive attendance growth.
- Percentage of students attending between 90-100%

Tessier noted that the COVID-19 pandemic has impacted the attendance rates. Click on the website link to view the entire report <https://www.nsd61.ca/download/342073> (page 116).

### **Transportation Report - New Bus App coming soon for NSD families**



Transportation Manager Susanne Jones briefed the Board on the Transportation Department's strategy, goals and key measures. She also unveiled a new bus app called StopFinder. The engagement app allows parents and guardians to see their children's bus schedules in real-time and receive bus cancellations or changes immediately. Click on the website link to view the

entire report <https://www.nsd61.ca/download/342073> (page 154).

### **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, May 29, 2021**

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.