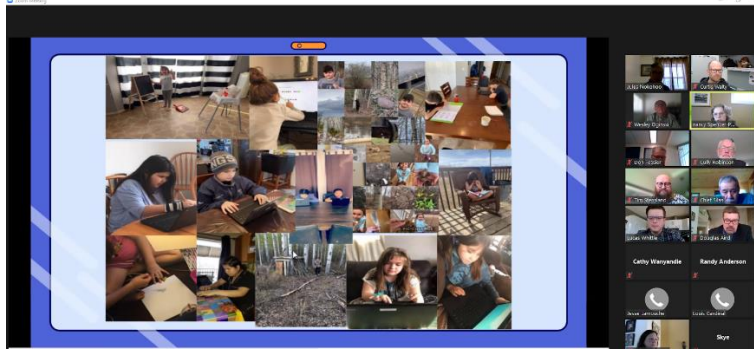




The Northland School Division (NSD)

Board Highlights Regular Board Meeting – May 29, 2021

Paddle Prairie School Principal showcases student success with technology

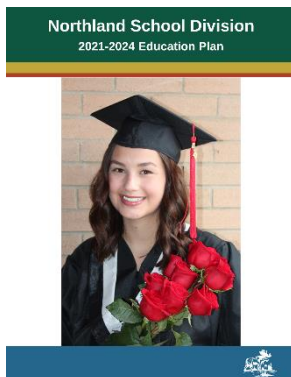


The Board celebrated the success Paddle Prairie School has had with leveraging the use of technology to support student learning. Principal Lucas Whittle organized a presentation highlighting accomplishments:

- Opportunities as a result of using technology:
 - Connecting with Elders during the pandemic.
 - Connecting with the TELUS World of Science - Edmonton.
 - Tutoring through Frontier College.
 - Virtual field trips.
 - Presentations from experts all over the world.
 - Presentation with an actor originally from the community.

While leveraging the use of technology, Whittle said the school continues to organize land-based learning activities. He also shared statements from staff sharing positive experiences with using technology to improve their professional practice.

Board approved 2021-2024 Education Plan



The Board of Trustees approved the 2021-2024 Education Plan, as presented. The Education Plan outlines Northland School Division's priorities, outcomes, strategies and measures. The priorities, outcomes, strategies and measures have been identified as a result of conversations with staff and school communities. During the 2021-2022 school year, NSD will continue and increase engagement with the communities we serve using video-conference, face to face when it's safe to do so and utilizing a new community engagement tool called Bang the Table. Click on the website link to view the Education Plan in full detail <https://www.nsd61.ca/download/348846>.

Superintendent Highlights - Donated Chromebooks, Education Week and Principal Updates



In the latest Superintendent Highlights, Dr. Nancy Spencer-Poitras, highlighted a donation of Chromebooks to NSD students, activities organized to celebrate Education Week and recent principal appointments. Recently, eight NSD students received additional resources to excel in online learning following a recent donation. The United Way of the Alberta Capital Region and ATB donated \$100,000 to get laptops to students in need across the province of Alberta.

In the spirit of celebrating the great things happening in NSD schools, a series of Education Week activities were organized. The following themes were covered:

- Mental Health
- Indigenous strategies for language, culture and land-based learning
- Numeracy
- Literacy
- Digital Citizenship

During the month of May, NSD announced three principal appointments:

- Shelley Stevenson, St. Theresa School. Served as
- Chris Turpin, Conklin Community School
- Tegan Vacheresse, Athabasca Delta Community School

Spencer-Poitras mentioned the fact that NSD has maintained consistent staffing in school leadership with no turnover.

NSD launching an online K-9 school for the 2021-2022 school year



A new learning environment is going to give Northland School Division (NSD) students another avenue to accomplish academic success. NSD is pleased to announce that they will be operating an online school for the 2021-2022 school year. The online school will serve students in grades Kindergarten to Grade 9. The Board authorized Administration to proceed with developing an online school. Click on the website to view the Northland Online School media release <https://www.nsd61.ca/about-us/division-news/post/nsd-launching-an-online-school-for-the-2021-2022-school-year>.

Board approved the 2021-2022 Spring Budget

The Board approved the 2021-2022 Spring Budget. The budget is aligned with NSD's priorities listed in the 2021-2024 Education Plan and includes the following investments:

- Technology to support student learning. This investment supports student engagement in meaningful learning experiences and aligns with NSD's goal of enhancing and leveraging the use of technology.
- A dedicated Cree and Dene instructors at every school.
- A common professional learning calendar to leverage system priorities in numeracy and literacy.
- The School Food Services hot lunch program.
- Housing for teachers. The capital improvement plan, changes to both the maintenance approach and utility recoveries will help with retention, attraction and sustainability.
- Dedicated investments to address learning loss due to COVID-19.

Click on the website link to view the 2021-2022 Spring Budget in detail <https://www.nsd61.ca/download/347422>.

Ward 3 Trustee Report - ASBA Zone 1 Meeting & Edwin Teacher Award Update



Ward 3 Trustee Randy Anderson provided a verbal report during the Regular Board Meeting. Anderson attended the Alberta School Boards Association (ASBA) Zone 1 Meeting on May 12, 2021. During the meeting, trustees had an opportunity to discuss and ask questions about the draft K-6 curriculum with Deputy Minister of Education Andre Tremblay. Anderson also provided an update about his role on the Edwin Parr Teacher Award Committee. He said the committee will be reviewing nominees submitted by Zone 1 school divisions in June. The Edwin Parr Teacher Award winner for Zone 1 will be announced in September.

Student Attendance Information presented to the Board

Director of Student Engagement, Attendance and Completion Dr. Don Tessier provided an April student attendance update to the Board. The attendance report includes:

- September to April Year to Year comparison. The overall student attendance percentage is lower this year due to COVID-19.
- Information that compares student attendance for in-school and at-home learners.
- Shared data comparing in-school vs at-home student attendance.
- Student attendance percentages for each school.
- Strategies NSD schools have implemented to engage students.

Click on the website link to view the report in more detail <https://www.nsd61.ca/download/348378> (page 39).

Locally developed courses approved by the Board

The Board of Trustees authorized Administration to proceed with acquiring Competencies in Math (15-5), Content Literacy 15 & 25 and History of War and Warfare courses. The Board also approved the following locally developed course for a one-year extension:

- Film and Media Art 15-5, 15-3, 25-3, 25-5, 35-3, 35-5
- Forensic Studies 25-3, 35-3
- History Through Film: Fact and Fiction 25-3
- Reading 15-5, 15-3, 25-3, 25-5
- Workplace Essential Skills 25-3

NSD submitted nominees for PSBAA awards

Superintendent of Schools Dr. Nancy Spencer-Poitras announced that NSD recognized two individuals for Public School Boards' Association of Alberta (PSBAA) awards. First, Ward 9 Trustee Dr. Rubi Shirley has been nominated for the PSBAA award for promoting and advancing one or more of the Calls to Action of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada in relation to education within Alberta. Dr. Shirley completed a thesis exploring the phenomenon of low high school graduation rates of First Nation students in Canada and the perceptions of First Nation chiefs.

Secondly, NSD nominated Regional Municipality of Wood Buffalo Ward 4 Councillor Jane Stroud for the PSBAA Special Contribution to Public Education Award. Jane helped NSD with the following:

- Internet (2020 municipal budget dedicated 7 million dollars to increase internet capabilities in Anzac, Janvier and Conklin. Includes support from the federal government as their belief is capable internet services are an essential service.
- Helping members of the Conklin, Janvier and Anzac Communities to get TELUS hubs and internet access in their homes. Families expressed how excited and pleased they were.
- Answers the calls when invited to NSD events, graduations and special celebrations/concerts.

Jane's efforts have created a significant difference for those students /families during this challenging time. Her efforts have supported equitable access to learning for many families.

Next Regular Board Meeting is Friday, June 25, 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.