



The Northland School Division (NSD)

Board Highlights Regular Board Meeting – September 17, 2021

Moment of silence to remember NSD staff members



In memory of two beloved Northland School Division staff members, the Board of Trustees held a moment of silence. [Kathryn Walmsley](#), who served as a teacher at Elizabeth School, passed away on Wednesday, August 11th. Kathryn's teaching career with Northland School Division began in 2001. Over a 20-year period, she taught at Atikameg School, J.F. Dion School and recently at Elizabeth School. In addition to teaching, Kathryn played an integral role in implementing literacy-based strategies across Northland School Division. She was also an active member of the Northland Alberta Teachers' Association (ATA) Local No.69. As a member, Kathryn served on the Northland ATA Local's Diversity, Equity and Human Rights (DEHR) Committee. The committee promotes diversity, equity and human rights in Alberta schools.



On August 31, 2021, we announced the passing of [Christine Janvier](#). Christine was a staff member at Father R. Perin School. When the school needed an Educational Assistant, who was willing to receive Autism training, Christine stepped up with enthusiasm. When the school needed an Educational Assistant to help with speech therapy, Christine stepped up and volunteered for training. Christine did everything with a smile and with great enthusiasm.

Board of Trustees hosting in-person Long Service Awards

The Board of Trustees approved a motion to host an in-person Long Service Awards on Thursday, October 14, 2021 at the Chateau Nova in Peace River. The Long Service Awards will be following [public health restrictions](#) such as wearing a mask. The Chateau Nova Hotel is participating in the Restriction Exemption Program. This means guests will be required to provide a proof of vaccination or a proof of a privately-paid negative rapid test result taken within 72 hours of service, or documentation of a medical exemption.

During the Long Service Awards, Northland School Division recognizes retirees, and staff who have achieved 20, 25, 30, 35, and 40 years of service.

Bishop Routhier School students recognized by the Board for earning attendance awards

The Board of Trustees celebrated Bishop Routhier School and a couple of their students for outstanding attendance achievement. In August, NSD announced the division's Attendance Recognition and Awards Program recipients for the 2020-2021 school year. The program strategies are aimed to recognize excellent student attendees, attendance improvement, student achievement and efforts made by parents and schools. The following awards celebrated include:

- Bishop Routhier School was recognized for achieving the highest overall attendance of 86%.
- Kashis L'Hirondelle, Bishop Routhier School, Grade 4, achieved an overall attendance between 90% - 100%. At year-end, names of all students whose attendance is between 90%-100% are placed in a random draw for a \$500 Family Gift Card. Kashis was announced the winner in August.
- Cianna Mearon Cunningham, Bishop Routhier School, achieved an attendance improvement of 15% or more over the previous year. At year-end, names of all students whose attendance growth has improved by 15% or more over the previous school year will be eligible for a \$250 Family Gift Card. Cianna was announced the winner in August.

During the presentation, Bishop Routhier School Principal read a letter on behalf of Kashis L'Hirondelle. The grade 4 student thanked the Board and Administration for the attendance award and explained that it has impacted their family in a positive way.

Successes at Board level



The Board completed their annual evaluation with the Alberta School Boards Association Consultant Terry Gunderson. There were many successes to celebrate such as online learning throughout the entire division, partnerships with MacEwan University and the TELUS World of Science - Edmonton. During the 2020-2021 school year, students had the opportunity to complete dual credit courses. Despite the challenging year due to COVID-19, students, staff and community members

were kept safe with measures that exceeded provincial guidelines. Great governance was evident in the evaluation of the Board of Trustees of Northland School Division.

Board of Trustees pleased with Superintendent leadership



The Board recently completed an evaluation of Superintendent of Schools Dr. Nancy Spencer-Poitras. The trustees expressed how impressed they were with the overall leadership and direction of Northland School Division. They specifically discussed how Spencer-Poitras has:

- Effectively addressed many challenges due to COVID-19. This included organizing COVID-19 communication with staff, families and community members.

- Organized and hosted virtual wellness specific activities to boost staff morale. Hundreds of staff have attended the planned activities.
- Organized professional learning opportunities for staff. For example, supporting school staff and students on leveraging the benefits of technology for in-school and online learning.
- Focused on how to improve housing for teachers.
- Supported the Board when meeting with community leaders virtually to keep them informed about good news stories related to student learning and COVID-19 updates.
- Supported the Board when meeting with the Minister of Education.
- Helped NSD develop new partnerships with MacEwan University and the TELUS World of Science - Edmonton.

Board Chair Robin Guild said it's an honour to work as a cohesive team with Nancy to support the successes of students and staff.

Next Regular Board Meeting is Friday, October 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.