



# The Northland School Division (NSD)

## Board Highlights Regular Board Meeting – October 29, 2021

### 2021-2025 Board of Trustees sworn in at Organizational Meeting



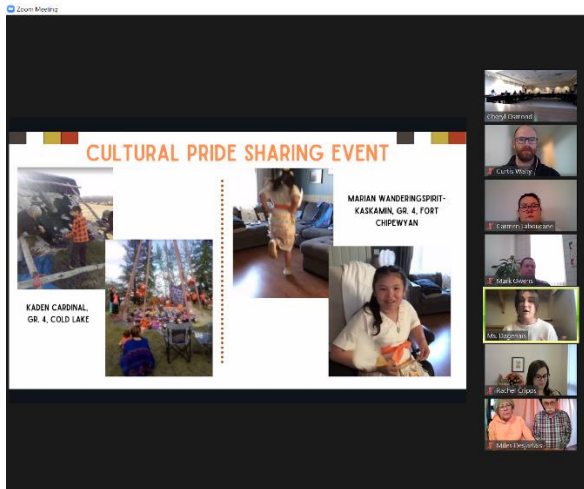
Members of the Board of Trustees of Northland School Division (NSD) were officially sworn in during the Organization Meeting. Following the swearing-in ceremony, trustees filled the position of Board Chair and Vice-Chair.

Ward 7 (Wabasca & Chipewyan Lake) Trustee Robin Guild will once again serve as the Chair of the Board of Trustees. Guild has served as Board Chair since June 14, 2019. Ward 2 Trustee Cathy Wanyandie will now serve as the Vice-Chair. Trustee Wanyandie has served as Ward 2 Trustee (Susa Creek) with NSD since 2017

and this is a new role for her.

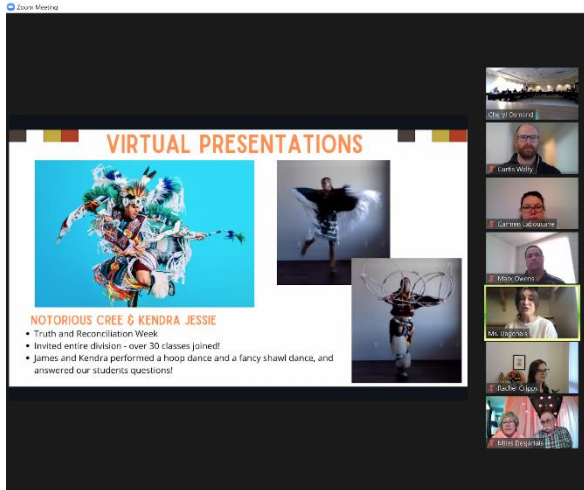
Congratulations to the Board of Trustees for 2021-2025! Visit our website to view photos from the swearing-in ceremony <https://www.nsd61.ca/about-us/division-news/post/2021-2025-board-of-trustees-sworn-in-at-organizational-meeting>.

### Northland Online School experience visually presented to the Board



NSD has a lot to celebrate with leveraging technology to support and improve the student learning experience. During the Regular Board Meeting, the trustees learned more about the early success story of Northland Online School. Acting Principal Tessa Dagenais, who was accompanied by students (Dani Hearn, Alarik Bouvier, Izzy Daniels and Zoey and Miles Desjarlais) and grandparents (Cecil and Joanne Desjarlais), virtually painted the trustees a picture of what a typical day looks like for students, the learning resources they use and how they incorporate local language and culture into a virtual environment.

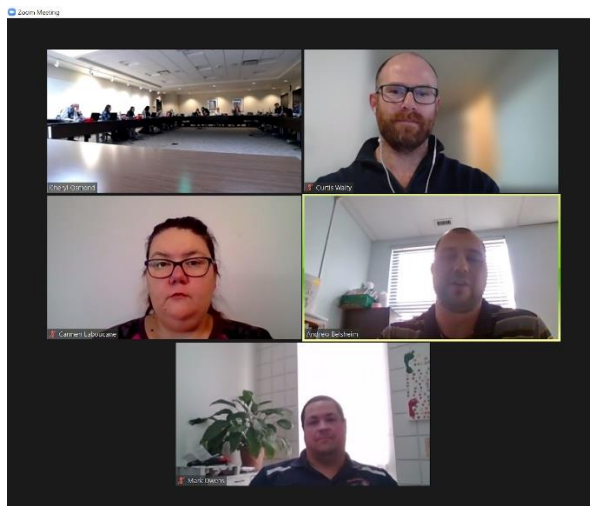
Dagenais went into great detail to describe the morning routine for Northland Online School students. The routine includes the Land Acknowledgement, O'Canada, Métis anthem, birthdays, school announcements, class projects, stretch of the day and a mindful moment. Before the school year began, all students were equipped with a Chromebook. While using a Chromebook, students manage and complete their assignments in a virtual workspace called Hapara. The platform allows teachers to track progress, submissions and provide feedback to the students.



In a virtual environment, not only are students learning how to speak Cree, they participate in cultural pride sharing events. During Truth and Reconciliation Week for example, Kaden Cardinal, a grade four student from Cold Lake, shared a photo slideshow of him and his family hunting, processing and skinning a moose, and of cultural events in their community. The virtual learning experience also allows the school to welcome guests from anywhere in the world. Examples include touring the San Diego Zoo and watching a hoop dance performance by Notorious Cree.

At the end of the presentation, Cecil and Joanne Desjarlais (grandparents), talked about how positive the learning experience has been for their children and thanked Northland School Division for creating flexible learning opportunities for families. Click on the website link to view the Northland Online School presentation <https://www.nsd61.ca/download/371007>.

**Board formally congratulated ASBA Zone 1 Edwin Parr Teacher Award winner**



Following an outstanding Northland Online School presentation, there was more to celebrate! The Board invited Anzac Community School Teacher Andrew Belsheim to the Regular Board Meeting to congratulate him on winning a prestigious award. On September 22, 2021, Andrew was selected as the Alberta School Boards Association (ASBA) Zone 1 Edwin Parr recipient. The Edwin Parr Teacher Award recognizes first-year teachers that demonstrate exemplary dedication and commitment in the field of education. Andrew is the third NSD educator to win the Zone 1 Edwin Parr Teacher Award.

Andrew will now be recognized with other Edwin Parr Teacher Award winners from Zone 2,3,4,5 and 6 on November 14, 2021, at the ASBA Fall General Meeting in Edmonton.

## Board Chair discussed success of Long Service Awards



In the latest edition of the Board Chair Highlights, Robin Guild expressed appreciation to everyone who made the in-person Long Service Awards a success on October 14, 2021 in Peace River. He said having the awards in-person made the evening a lot more special for the recipients, for guests and members of the Board in attendance. The Long Service Awards recognized staff who have achieved 20, 25, 30, 35, 40 years of service and retirees. Click on the website link to view photos from the Long Service Awards [https://www.nsd61.ca/about-us/division-](https://www.nsd61.ca/about-us/division-news/post/northland-honoured-staff-at-long-service-awards)

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## Superintendent celebrated trustees for years of service



Dr. Nancy Spencer-Poitras kicked off the Superintendent Highlights by making a special presentation. She presented certificates in-person on behalf of the ASBA to Board Chair Robin Guild (three terms as a trustee) and Ward 8 Trustee Loretta Gladue (three terms as a trustee) for their years of service as trustees. The following former trustees were also recognized for years of service:

- Silas Yellowknee, Former Ward 6 Trustee - Desmarais, Sandy Lake. He was recognized for four terms.
- Louis Cardinal, Former Ward 5 Trustee - Peerless Lake, Trout Lake, Little Buffalo. He was recognized for three terms.
- Jules Nokohoo, Former Ward 10 Trustee - Anzac, Janvier, Conklin, Fort McKay. He was recognized for three terms.



Spencer-Poitras discussed the common professional learning for staff. This year, there are eight scheduled common professional learning days across NSD. This approach allows staff to work together on common topics. For example, a large group of grades 4, 5, and 6

teachers may work together on providing education in a multi-grade classroom. The main focus will be on topics that include literacy, numeracy and integration of technology.

In early October, school divisions received a joint letter from Jason Copping, Minister of Health and Adriana LaGrange, Minister of Education. In the letter, the ministers encourage school divisions to develop policies that require proof of vaccinations or a negative COVID-19 test for any adult who enters



a school. To assist NSD on making a decision about mandatory proof of vaccinations for adults in Northland schools, Spencer-Poitras said staff have been asked to participate in an anonymous survey. In addition, the Board and Administration will continue to monitor what other school divisions are doing and will collect any pertinent information that could potentially impact NSD.

### **Professional Learning Update to support Cree/Dene Language Development**

One of the primary goals for NSD is to infuse the Cree and Dene languages into all subject areas. To support this goal, Debbie Mineault, Director of First Nations, Métis and Inuit Culture and Land Based Learning has organized professional learning to build fluency and retention in Cree and Dene languages. One of the methods instructors are learning is called the Berlitz Methods. This method encourages the use of question and answer exchanges between teachers and students. Through questioning techniques, students interact with the teacher and each other using the Cree or Dene language.

Dr. Nancy Spencer-Poitras also talked about the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) NSD signed with the TELUS World of Science - Edmonton (TWOSE). With support from the Science in Motion team, NSD teachers have been learning innovative ways to deliver science-related topics into the classroom environment. Being able to learn from TELUS World of Science - Edmonton staff is not only a benefit to our teachers, but it assists our students by enhancing the science experience. Spencer-Poitras said Debbie Mineault has been assisting the Science in Motion team to incorporate First Nations, Métis culture into the lessons.

### **Work to enhance technology at NSD schools & virtual learning experiences to support student learning**



Build an emoji story

Director of Educational Technology Michael Maciach highlighted some key points with respect to timelines for technology projects and virtual learning experiences that students and teachers participated in to improve their technology skills.

Maciach discussed work that is underway to enhance WI-FI in school locations, replace interactive whiteboards in some locations, evergreen student Chromebook devices and continue to migrate teachers from desktop computers to laptops in an effort to give them more flexibility when teaching.

He also discussed two co-taught lesson experiences hosted by The Cobblestone Collective in October. A co-taught lesson involves a technology learning experience for teachers and students together. Students use their Chromebooks to participate while the live lesson streams into the classroom. Each lesson showcases the ideas and strategies allowing both the teacher and students to learn new technology skills through modeling and the incorporation of Google's Applied Digital Skills lesson content. The lesson on October 5, 2021 focused on Kindergarten to Grade 6 students and telling emoji stories using Google Docs while the lesson on October 7th focused on the Grade 7-12 audience and creating art using Google Sheets. Click on the website links below to view the lessons!

- **Tell an Emoji Story (K-6 Co-Taught Lesson):** <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IE0dbmRHEWk>
- **Make Art with Google Sheets (7-12 Co-Taught Lesson):** <https://youtu.be/lxDJHUjA6-4>



## **Success stories highlighted in the Facilities Report**

Secretary-Treasurer Douglas Aird presented the Facilities Report. The report highlights a number of success stories. Housing has been a priority for the division and the maintenance staff is making progress with completing housing renovations for staff. To date, 19 out of 37 units have been renovated, six units are currently under construction and five are in the planning stages.

The report also highlights the recent work to re-acquire a Career and Technology Studies (CTS) trailer. The trailer will be set-up at Paddle Prairie School to support CTS programming for their students. Click on the website link to view the entire report <https://www.nsd61.ca/download/370913> (page 121-122).

## **Next Regular Board Meeting is Friday, November 26, 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.