



The Northland School Division (NSD)

Board Highlights Regular Board Meeting – November 26, 2021

Moment of silence to remember a school bus owner and operator



In memory of a school bus owner and operator, the Board of Trustees held a moment of silence for Darrell Desjarlais. Darrell passed away on November 11, 2021. For a number of years, Desjarlais was the first person students connected with in the morning, and through this positive contact he supported students in a great start to the day. He drove school buses for a number of years with Tuk Consulting Inc. operating as Desjarlais Transportation in the Elizabeth Métis Settlement and from the Elizabeth Métis Settlement to Cold Lake.

Board approved the 2020-2021 Annual Education Results Report



The Board of Trustees were extremely happy with the results in the approved 2020-2021 Annual Education Results Report (AERR). The AERR is one way NSD communicates student achievement, accomplishments and priorities to the students, parents, community members and school division partners. The 2020-2021 version of the AERR details the progress Northland School Division in meeting Alberta Education Assurance Measures (AEAMs). Analysis of provincial and local information revealed that:

- Northland students have shown significant improvement in high school completion. A 20% increase in the number of students completing high school within five (5) years!
- There is greater satisfaction with the education quality from Northland parents and guardians. 86% of parents are more satisfied. That is a six (6%) percent increase over the previous year!
- There is greater satisfaction with the amount of parental involvement in decisions about their children's future. 80% of Northland parents are more satisfied. That is a 12% increase over the previous year!
- Overall, there is a significantly higher belief that Northland students model characteristics of active citizenship. 81% of parents believe students are providing their best effort, following rules and helping others succeed. That is an 11% increase over the previous year!
- 83% of parents agree that students have the appropriate supports and services at school. That is four percent (4%) over the provincial average!

The Board expressed their appreciation for all the parents, communities, schools and central office staffs' hard work in improving these results so significantly despite a pandemic.

Click on the website link to view the 2020-2021 AERR in full detail <https://www.nsd61.ca/download/374407>.

Click on the website link to view the 2020-2021 media release <https://www.nsd61.ca/about-us/division-news/post/northland-celebrating-improvement-in-2020-2021-annual-education-results-report>.

Board approved proceeding with updating the Northland School Division logo



Students, parents/guardians, community members and staff will have their say about Northland School Division's logo in the coming months. The Board of Trustees approved Administration to proceed with updating the current Northland School Division logo.

The visual identity of any organization reflects its vision, commitment and values. The visual story of the Northland School Division has been changing over the past couple of years. One of the things Northland has done to change the narrative is investing in leveraging the use of technology to support all aspects of education. This investment has positively impacted the learning experience for students, the relationships we are able to develop to support learning, and supports we are able to access for students, parents/guardians and staff. With that in mind, the Board believes it is time to refresh the visual identity of Northland School Division.

In the new year (2022), a Northland logo community engagement will take place. The Board will be presenting an updated version of the Northland logo and asking for feedback. In addition, students, parents/guardians and community members will have an opportunity to submit an alternative logo idea for consideration. More details about the Northland logo community engagement will be announced after the holiday break.

Superintendent's Highlights - Cenovus continuing to support NSD schools

The Superintendent Highlights is jam-packed with great news! First, Dr. Nancy Spencer-Poitras announced that NSD is receiving a \$50,000 donation from Cenovus Energy Inc. for the 2021-2022 school year. The donation illustrates a continued commitment to support NSD's focus on literacy and community storytelling. There is a plan to have students document stories from Elders, Knowledge Keepers and community members by creating classroom books in Cree, Dene and Michif.

Spencer-Poitras updated the Board about NSD's relationship with the Breakfast Club of Canada. The Breakfast Club of Canada is a non-profit organization dedicated to providing services and funding to school breakfast programs. Nine NSD schools receive funding from the Breakfast Club of Canada. In an effort to secure funding for all NSD schools, Administration is working on developing a division-wide agreement with the Breakfast Club of Canada.

The Superintendent's Highlights also included the following information:

- NSD staff participated in a day of professional learning on November 15th. Schools involved in our math initiative with the University of Calgary attended a monthly session. For this initiative, the resources being used are Math Minds and Jump Math. Math Minds is the method and practice used to teach math and Jump Math is the program that is being implemented. Staff also participated in literacy focused sessions with SMARTLearning and were introduced to the Hapara Reading Rope Resource Toolkit. The toolkit includes various reading strategies and allows teachers to share successes with each other.
- Results from a staff vaccination survey. The division received 245 responses with 83.3% stating they are fully vaccinated. The total number of staff that are partially or fully vaccinated is 87.8%
- Mental health supports available at NSD.
- NSD has partnered with Grant MacEwan University's Department of Sociology on a research project. The research study will explore how family and community engagement may contribute to improving student achievement.

Another Award-Winning Staff Member: Mark Owens recognized by the Board for receiving award from the North West Alberta Schools' Athletic Association Zone



An important team member of the Northland School Division (NSD) recently received special recognition from the North West Alberta Schools' Athletic Association (NWASAA) Zone. The NWASAA is one of eight zones that make up the Alberta Schools' Athletic Association (ASAA). Mark Owens, Director of Student Engagement, Attendance, and Completion, was selected as a recipient of the 2021 Zone Award of Merit for his contributions to high school athletics in Alberta and Zone.

During the regular Board Meeting, the Board congratulated Mark for his hard work and contributions to school athletics. Board Chair Robin Guild said, "We feel very fortunate to have educators like Mark supporting the Northland School Division learning experience and helping students achieve success." Click on the website link to view the media release about Mark's accomplishment <https://tinyurl.com/2pxnrh9h>.

Board approved 2021-2022 Fall Budget Update

The Board approved a Fall Budget update that shows a slight adjustment with respect to revenues and expenses. With that being said, the budget continues to focus on the items that align with NSD's priorities.

- 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.
- Dedicated Cree or Dene instructors.
- 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.

- Continued work with community engagement.

Click on the website link to view the 2021-2022 Budget Update

<https://www.nsd61.ca/download/374610>.

Board approved 2020-2021 Audited Financial Statements

The Board of Trustees approved the 2020-2021 Audited Financial Statements. As per Policy 2 – Role of the Board, including Section 5, Fiscal Accountability, the Board of Trustees approves the financial statements and receives the audit opinion report. The financial statements have been prepared by the Finance Department for the year ended August 31, 2021. Click on the website link to view the Audited Financial Statements <https://www.nsd61.ca/download/37440>.

Next Regular Board Meeting is Friday, January 21, 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.