



The Northland School Division (NSD)

Board Highlights Regular Board Meeting – January 21, 2022

Significant improvement highlighted in Triannual Report



Emilie Atkinson-Powder, a student from Conklin Community School, is one of many students benefiting from a partnership between Northland School Division and TELUS World of Science - Edmonton.



Tansi, Edánate, Hello everyone! We are pleased to present the Triannual Report for the 2021-2022 school year!

The Board is pleased to report significant improvement following the release of the 2020-2021 Annual Education Results Report (AERR). The AERR is one way Northland School Division (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 positive progress Northland accomplished in meeting Alberta Education Assurance Measures (AEAMs). Analysis of provincial and local information revealed that:

- NSD 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 NSD parents and guardians. 86% of parents are more satisfied. That is a six (6%) percent 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!
- There is greater satisfaction with the amount of parental involvement in decisions about their children's future. 80% of NSD parents are more satisfied. That is a 12% increase over the previous year!
- Overall, there is a significantly higher belief that NSD 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!



Superintendent of Schools Dr. Nancy Spencer-Poitras presented a Triannual Report to the Board of Trustees. The report reiterates the significant improvement highlighted in the [2020-2021 Annual Education Results Report \(AERR\)](#). Analysis of provincial and local information revealed that:

- **NSD 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 NSD parents and guardians. 86% of parents are more satisfied. That is a six (6%) percent 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!**
 - **There is greater satisfaction with the amount of parental involvement in decisions about their children's future. 80% of NSD parents are more satisfied. That is a 12% increase over the previous year!**
 - **Overall, there is a significantly higher belief that NSD 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!**
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The Triannual Report also highlights the progress we have made with meeting or exceeding the priorities for Northland School Division:

1. Excellence in Learning
2. Excellence in Leadership
3. Excellence in Relationships

Click on the website link to view the entire Triannual Report <https://www.nsd61.ca/download/380628>.

St. Theresa School presented Assurance Plan during Regular Board Meeting



During the Awards/Celebration portion of the Regular Board Meeting, St. Theresa School Principal Shelley Stevenson presented its Assurance Plan to the Board. Similar to the Northland Triannual Report, Stevenson shared strategies and success measures that align with Northland School Division's overarching priorities (1) Excellence in Learning, 2) Excellence in Leadership, 3) Excellence in Relationships).

For Excellence in Learning, Stevenson shared the strategies they have in place to help students with reading, writing (literacy) and math related skills (numeracy). This includes students learning the Cree language during morning announcements and through instruction.

For Excellence in Leadership, discussed leadership groups at the school level. They have a grade 5-6 school council and committee for attendance, wellness and literacy.

- The school council has been in charge of organizing activities for Halloween, Remembrance Day and Christmas hampers.
- The wellness committee organizes monthly themes. The theme for January was self-esteem.
- The literacy committee organizes events like Literacy Night. They organized a hockey themed Literacy night.

For Excellence in Relationships, Stevenson shared that the school has planned a number of spirit days, they utilize Facebook and produce monthly newsletters to inform parents/guardians, created a Google Classroom so parents/guardians can share ideas and receive resources from staff and staff involved in coaching or volunteering in student extracurricular activities.

2022-2023 Northland School Division Calendar

Associate Superintendent of Human Resources Murray Marran presented a draft calendar for the 2022-2023 school year. The Board has the responsibility to set the school division calendar as set out in Section 60 in the *Education Act*. The draft calendar includes key dates:

The draft calendar will be circulated for feedback and will be brought back to the March 24, 2022 Regular Board Meeting. Click on the website link to view the draft calendar <https://www.nsd61.ca/download/379284> (page 55).

Board moved to defer the consideration of closing specific instructional programs to 2022-2023 school year

After reviewing the viability reports for Conklin Community School, Hillview School, Pelican Mountain School and Susa Creek School, the Board of Trustees moved to defer the consideration of closing the instructional programs to the 2022-2023 school year.

Positive trends in the latest Attendance Report

Director of Student Engagement, Attendance and Completion Mark Owens, shared positive year to year attendance improvement for Northland schools and noted school bus cancellations and inclement weather have impacted attendance.

When comparing student attendance data from November 2020 to November 2021, there were eight schools with an attendance increase from November of 2020 to November 2021 and five schools with an increase from December 2020 to December 2021.

Click here to view the entire Attendance Report <https://www.nsd61.ca/download/379284> (page 25).

2021-2022 IMR Plan approved by the Board of Trustees

The Board of Trustees approved the Infrastructure, Maintenance and Renewal (IMR) Plan for the 2021-2022 school year. Secretary Treasurer Douglas Aird highlighted the approved IMR projects. Click on the website link to view the IMR projects <https://www.nsd61.ca/download/379284> (page 122)

Superintendent's Highlights - Newly minted projects created to support student success



In the latest Superintendent's Highlights, Dr. Nancy Spencer-Poitras, talked about a proposal Northland has submitted to Alberta Education, a newly launched portal to support principals, a new program that will expose students to robotics, a Cenovus sponsored project and collective efficacy.

Northland recently submitted a proposal to Alberta Education in researching and exploring how family and community engagement in education may contribute to improving student achievement and the outcomes related to literacy, numeracy, Indigenous language and cultural education.

Grade 7-9 students in five Northland schools (Northland Online School, Athabasca Delta Community School, Father R. Perin School, Conklin Community School and Bill Woodward School) will participate in the Mind Fuels program, which will provide students an introduction to robotics.

Northland received funds from Cenovus Energy to launch the "This is Who We Are: Local Stories from Our Land" project. This project will see students gathering stories from Elders, Knowledge Keepers and community members. The eventual goal is to publish those stories. The project is one of many topics discussed during Communities of Practice. This approach to professional learning allows Northland staff

to learn and work together on common topics. The goals for the Communities of Practice is to learn more about a topic, to share best practices and create new knowledge with and among each other.

To conclude, Principals completed a questionnaire on Collective Efficacy, which refers to staff having a shared belief on having a positive impact on student learning. The survey results show that conversations about achieving collective efficacy are happening. Principals have been learning elbow to elbow with the teachers and have high expectations of what needs to be happening in their schools and across Northland. Click on the website link to view the entire Superintendent's Report <https://www.nsd61.ca/download/379284> (page 128).

Next Regular Board Meeting is Friday, February 18, 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.