



# The Northland School Division (NSD)

Board Highlights Regular Board Meeting – February 18, 2022

## Board of Trustees statement about masking in Northland schools



### Statement about masking in Northland schools



During the Regular Board Meeting, the trustees discussed the recent changes announced by the Government of Alberta to masking requirements for students. Effective February 14, 2022, the requirements of the Government of Alberta states students are no longer required to wear masks in schools or on the buses.

The Board's preference is to enable students who prefer to continue to wear masks when classes resume on Tuesday, February 22, 2022. The Board supports individual choice of students and parents. Click on the website link to view the entire statement <https://www.nsd61.ca/about-us/division-news/post/board-of-trustees-statement-about-masking-in-northland-schools>.

## Awards/Celebrations - Anzac Community School - Bill Woodward School celebrated for land-based learning development



Learning on the land is the norm for Northland School Division students. During the Board Meeting, the trustees learned more on how the land-based learning experience has evolved for students at Anzac Community School and Bill Woodward School. Principal Amy Savill began the slide presentation playing a video of a land-based learning camp they typically organize in the fall, winter and spring <https://tinyurl.com/5ezcc3jd>. While watching the video, you are able to see how much students enjoy learning outside the four walls of a classroom.

When the land-based learning camps are organized, students have the opportunity to learn about hunting, trapping, fishing and survival. Savill described one experience where students learned the process of moose hide tanning from Brian Bird, Fort McMurray First Nation (FMFN). She says the FMFN has been very supportive in connecting the school to Elders and Knowledge Keepers who can help with the land-based learning courses based on their expertise.

Savill also explained the work that has gone into connecting the land-based learning experiences to the curriculum. The school first partnered with Actua, an Ontario-based program connecting Indigenous knowledge and the Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) field. The school also works with a local business called Traditional Teachings. Savill says both have helped with developing course materials that give students the land-based learning experience while acquiring knowledge for math, science, social studies, etc.

## Ward 1 resignation

During the Regular Board Meeting, Ward 1 Trustee Carmen Laboucane tendered her resignation. Laboucane informed the Board that she's unable to fulfill the duties as a trustee due to work commitments. After accepting Laboucane's resignation with regret, the Board expressed their appreciation to Carmen for the contributions she made while serving as a Trustee.

## Ward 1 Trustee By-election dates set by the Board



Have Your Voice Heard!  
Ward 1 Trustee By-election



The Board of Trustees set **March 28, 2022** at noon as the nomination date and **April 25, 2022** as the By-election date. Are you passionate about the future successes of Indigenous children and youth? Do you want to make a difference? Be a leader and consider running for Ward 1 Trustee. Eligible parents and community members are encouraged to run for school board trustee. The primary role of a school trustee is to serve and advocate for all students and to understand and reflect community values and priorities for schools. Information will be posted on our website [www.nsd61.ca](http://www.nsd61.ca).



## Superintendent's Highlights - Former NHLer invited to speak to Northland Principals

Participate in your child's education



In the latest Superintendent's Highlights, Dr. Nancy Spencer-Poitras talked about the most recent monthly meeting with Principals, the Alberta Education Assurance Surveys, Field Trip Zoom and the K-6 curriculum.

It wasn't a typical Principals meeting in February. The Principals had a special experience connecting with former NHL legend and Indigenous role model

"The Riverton Rifle" Reggie Leach. Leach, who played 14 seasons in the NHL and helped the Philadelphia Flyers win a Stanley Cup in 1975, was invited to speak to the Principals about Truth and Reconciliation and resiliency. In previous years, Leach visited Northland schools to speak with students about his hockey career, personal battles, the importance of getting an education and the benefits of playing a sport.

The Alberta Education Assurance Survey administration is happening in February and March. Spencer-Poitras said the feedback we receive from parents and guardians in the survey will help to shape school and divisional planning which directly impacts the educational experience for each child. To help a parent/guardian understand what their child's school is doing to achieve the measures listed in the survey (i.e. **Student Learning Engagement, Citizenship, Education Quality, Welcoming, Caring, Respectful and Safe Learning Environments, Access to Supports and Services, Parental Involvement**),

Northland schools are posting stories on their website/Facebook page and in newsletters. **The deadline to complete the survey is March 25, 2022.**

Northland School Division has a subscription to Field Trip Zoom. Field Trip Zoom is a resource schools use to give students a live and interactive experience. Whether it's visiting a zoo or exploring a museum, the platform covers all subjects and students are able to see the world virtually.

One of the final topics discussed was the opportunity for families to provide feedback on the draft K-6 curriculum. Spencer-Poitras said information on how to participate has been communicated on the NSD website, school websites, Facebook pages and schools were given a letter to send home to families. To learn how to provide feedback visit the Northland website <https://www.nsd61.ca/about-us/division-news/post/public-engagements-to-strengthen-draft-k-6-curriculum>.

Click on the website link to view the entire Superintendent's Highlights <https://www.nsd61.ca/download/381783> (page 56).

#### **Deputy Superintendent's Report - Growing interest in dual credit courses**

Deputy Superintendent Dr. Tim Stensland shared very positive news in regards to the dual credit courses Northland offers in partnership with MacEwan University. This semester, students are able to take Law and the Administration of Justice, Child and Adolescent Development or Indigenous Studies 100/ Aboriginal Studies 30. Stensland said a total of 31 students are taking advantage of earning high school and university credits this semester. He also said four times as many students have signed up for dual credit courses in comparison to previous semesters. Click on the website link to view the entire Deputy Superintendent's Report <https://www.nsd61.ca/download/381783> (page 63).

#### **Student Services Report - Northland signed a new partnership with U of C to support student wellness**

The Student Services Report highlighted a new partnership to support students! Northland School Division entered into a new partnership with University of Calgary (U of C) Centre for Wellness (led by Centre Director Jennifer Turner). In this partnership, students have access to online counseling with U of C Masters of Counseling practicum students. Participating students will work with a counselor each week for 12 weeks. To ensure the training counselors have the support they need while they work with students, each counselor conducts the session with a live supervisor (available through an earpiece during the session).

Northland also has a relationship with X Movement. X Movement is an online wellness resource that promotes healthy movement that can happen anywhere. All schools and staff have access to streamable wellness and movement sessions that include "fitness, dance, yoga, mindfulness, meditation, sports, martial arts and more."

Click on the website link to view the entire Student Services Report <https://www.nsd61.ca/download/381783> (page 65).

## **Audit and Finance Committee Update**

During the Regular Board Meeting, the trustee membership of the Audit and Finance Committee has been approved by the Board. Skye Durocher, Ward 5 Trustee, Loretta Gladue, Ward 8 Trustee, Jesse Lamouche, Ward 4 Trustee, and Amy McCamon, Ward 10 Trustee will be sitting on the committee.

Administration will be recruiting two members of the general public, who live within Northland School Division boundaries, to sit on the Audit and Finance Committee.

## **Northland making progress on becoming more energy efficient**

Secretary-Treasurer Douglas Aird presented information to the Board about the success Northland is seeing with improving energy efficiency. With support from Rede Energy Solutions, Northland developed a framework for energy management. During the presentation, Aird noted the following milestones:

- In 2020-2021, Northland reduced its energy consumption by 23 percent.
- Over 5 years, Northland has seen a 16 percent reduction in total.

He also shared that Northland is looking at launching an energy reduction contest. The contest would encourage schools to reduce energy consumption. For example, turning off lights when leaving the room.

## **Next Regular Board Meeting is Friday, March 25, 2022**

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.