



The Northland School Division (NSD)

Board Highlights Regular Board Meeting – May 20, 2022

Awards and Celebrations - Edwin Parr Teacher Award nominee celebrated by the Board and Administration



The Board and Administration celebrated an outstanding first year teacher! Earlier this month, Brittney Lyon, a teacher from Athabasca Delta Community School (ADCS), was selected as NSD's 2022 Edwin Parr Teacher Award nominee. The Edwin Parr Teacher Award recognizes first-year teachers that demonstrate exemplary dedication and commitment in the field of education. To learn more about Brittney, click on the website link to view the media release <https://tinyurl.com/4pxfrzjm>.

Board approved the 2022-2023 Spring Budget

The Board approved the 2022-2023 Spring Budget. The budget is aligned with NSD's priorities listed in the 2022-2025 Assurance Plan and includes the following investments:

- NSD will continue with building and technology improvements with a major focus on improvement for resources in the classrooms.
- The School Food Services hot lunch program will continue.
- Increased funding to educational priorities for literacy and numeracy.
- NSD will continue to fully fund school bus transportation for all students.

Click on the website link to view the 2022-2023 Spring Budget in detail <https://www.nsd61.ca/download/390354> (page 41).

Board approved 2022-2025 Assurance Plan



The Board of Trustees approved the 2022-2025 Assurance Plan, as presented. The Assurance Plan outlines Northland School Division's priorities, outcomes, strategies and measures. The priorities, outcomes, strategies and measures have been developed as a result of conversations with the Board, staff and school communities. To view the entire plan, click on the website link <https://www.nsd61.ca/download/390354> (page 78).

Attendance Report - Positive trends for the month of April and strategies to address high school completion

Director of Student Engagement, Attendance and Completion Mark Owens presented recent student attendance trends to the Board. Owens notes the following trends for the month of April:

- There is a three percent increase in attendance in April from 2020-2021 to 2021-2022.
- Six schools had an increase in In-School Attendance from April of 2020-2021 to April of 2021-2022.
- Five NSD schools had an increase from March 2022 to April 2022.
- J.F. Dion School has 0% of their students attending less than 50%.

Owens shared a number of examples of what NSD is doing to address student attendance. For example, during NSD's "Community of Practice" professional learning series, high school principals worked together to discuss strategies to improve high school completion rates. They discussed flexible scheduling, flexible options for earning high school credits and common scheduling to increase course offerings and allow common time for dual credit offerings. Starting next year, NSD will have a common high school timetable in place.

Board Chair Highlights - Attendance at Grouard Indian Residential School Gathering and Reggie Leach presentation



In the latest Board Chair Highlights, Robin Guild attended the Grouard Indian Residential School Gathering May 9-10, 2022. Guild said while it was an emotional experience, he was involved in a lot of positive conversations. While attending the event, Guild was presented with a print of Indigenous children in acknowledgement of the Northland School Division.

On May 5, 2022, Robin attended the NSD hosted presentation with former NHL player Reggie Leach. Reggie spoke about perseverance, life as an Indigenous athlete/person and Truth and Reconciliation. Guild said the presentation was excellent and noted that Reggie shared a lot of important messages for families.

Superintendent's Highlights - Construction underway at new Mistassiniy School and Indigenous Language development update



The Superintendent's Highlights summarizes a very busy month of May. On May 14, 2022, NSD hosted a sod-turning ceremony to mark the beginning of construction for the new Mistassiniy School. Click on the website link to view the media release <https://tinyurl.com/msrx6a32>.

Dr. Nancy Spencer-Poitras discussed the collaborative effort between schools and communities to revitalize Indigenous language

learning, which will occur as schools are slowly returning to more normal activities involving Elders and Knowledge Keepers. Elders and Knowledge Keepers guide language competence through their local cultural beliefs, values and practices. In depth learning and teaching of ancestral, traditional and cultural concepts are acknowledged and recognized through the weaving of curriculum, technology and land experiences.

Spencer-Poitras also attended the Grouard Indian Residential School Gathering along with other NSD staff members. She said the gathering was emotional but found the experience very meaningful. During the gathering, a representative from the Institute of Prairie and Indigenous Archaeology at the University of Alberta discussed the ground penetrating work that has occurred in the community to find evidence of graves. Participants also talked about experiences in Residential Schools in sharing circles.

A number of Northland students participated in the virtual Aboriginal Youth Career Workshop on May 4, 2022. This workshop was an opportunity for Grades 9 - 12 Indigenous students to connect with Indigenous role models in a wide variety of different careers. Students had the opportunity to attend several sessions such as culinary arts, RCMP, trades, etc.

In addition to the sessions, there were several keynote speakers. Each keynote speaker had very different stories to tell. They all spoke about changing the narrative and being persistent in following their passions. The speakers were [Earl Lambert](#), [Kendra Jessie](#), [J.R. LaRose](#) and [Billy "Relik" LeBlanc](#).

Next Regular Board Meeting is Friday, June 17, 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.