



Board Meeting Highlights October 21, 2022

Awards and Celebrations - Board recognized Principals involved with the book *Finding Fire Within by Reconnecting with the Land*



In August, Northland School Division unveiled a new published book written by Northland students, with support from Elders. During the regular board meeting, the Board celebrated two principals who played a large role in the book creation.

Mistassiniy School Principal Karen Davies and J.F. Dion School Principal Angela Sanregret joined the Board meeting via Zoom to discuss everything that went into making the book a reality.

The Board expressed their appreciation to Cenovus Energy for donating funds toward the project and to Ms. Davies and Ms. Sanregret for helping to organize this meaningful learning opportunity for students.

Finding Fire Within by Reconnecting with the Land is just one example of how Northland supports Truth and Reconciliation and how local language and culture is woven into the curriculum.

Ward 5 Trustee By-election dates set by the Board

The Board of Trustees set **November 21, 2022 at noon** as the nomination date and **December 19, 2022** as the By-election date for the Ward 5 Trustee.

Board Chair Highlights - Celebration with Breakfast Club of Canada and Danone Canada



The CEO of Breakfast Club of Canada and Danone came to Mistassiniy School (October 5th) and Gift Lake School (October 6th) to celebrate an agreement they have in place with the Northland School Division. The agreement supports Northland with operating breakfast programs at Mistassiniy School, Gift Lake School, Bishop Routhier School, Calling Lake School, Father R. Perin School, St. Theresa School and Grouard Northland School.

Chair Wanyandie stated how honored she was to meet the staff from the Breakfast Club of Canada and Danone Canada earlier this month. She also talked about seeing the excitement on the students faces when meeting the special guests from Breakfast Club of Canada and Danone. Click on the website link to view the report in more detail <https://www.nsd61.ca/download/402081> (Page 53).

Superintendent's Highlights - Partnership with TELUS World of Science - Edmonton recognized with a National CASCADE award



Dr. Nancy Spencer-Poitras kicked off the Superintendent's Highlights with very exciting news! She informed the Board that Northland School Division's educational partnership with TELUS World of Science - Edmonton (TWOSE) won a Canadian Association of Science Centres (CASCADE) National Award. Northland and TWOSE received one of nine awards presented on October 13, 2022. Click on the website link to view the media release <https://tinyurl.com/yc245zwp>.

The implementation of a common high school calendar has great potential for increased student success. Spencer-Poitras discussed how a common high school timetable is benefitting student learning. A great example of this is happening between Northland Online School teachers and with students located in other Northland schools. Currently, students at Paddle Prairie School, Calling Lake School and Career Pathways School are taking courses they need to graduate via Zoom with the Northland Online School teachers. When students from these schools take these courses via Zoom, a teacher and support staff are in the classroom to provide support when needed.

First Nations, Metis and Inuit Report - Northland hosted a successful National Day for Truth and Reconciliation Camp on September 30th



The latest First Nations, Métis and Inuit report highlighted the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation Camp Northland hosted on September 30, 2022. During the camp, families in attendance learned about the Cree way of life. Northland School Division knows parents and guardians are important for revitalizing culture and language within their communities. Therefore, local teachings from Elders and knowledge keepers are instrumental in providing learning opportunities that support and enhance learning of culture, language and land-based curriculum in our schools.

Deputy Superintendent Dr. Tim Stensland, showed videos of Elders constructing a moose meat drying rack using birch bark and a mother showing her daughter how to slice moose meat properly for a drying rack. FNMI Director Mineault says there is a plan to host a similar camp to help teachers with learning language and culture.

Schools have been receiving a new collection of Indigenous story books. The books cover topics relating to wellbeing, identity, culture, languages, land-based learning and reconciliation education. Director Mineault has designed lessons for kindergarten to grade 12 classes using these books written by Indigenous authors.

To help revitalize language in communities, instructors are using syllabic reading and writing systems. Over the summer, students at Mistassiniy School used a CNC machine to create Cree syllabics for all students. The students received a Career and Technology Studies (CTS) credit for creating the syllabics. Click on the website link to view the report in more detail <https://www.nsd61.ca/download/402081> (Page 65).

Associate Superintendent's Report - Partnerships help increase knowledge for teachers and support student learning



A Board priority for Northland School Division is Excellence in Learning. One of the outcomes associated with Excellence in Learning is using consistent numeracy practices to support the success of students and growth in pedagogy of teachers.

To achieve this outcome, Northland is involved in a partnership with the University of Calgary's Werklund School of Education. Associate Superintendent Cal Johnson said the partnership is giving teachers the knowledge to help students better understand math, using the program Jump Math.

Another partnership with Northland is Mind-Fuel. Once again Mind-Fuel is giving teachers the knowledge and tools to help students build microcontrollers and robots. The courses give students the skills and inspiration to explore science, technology, engineering and math related careers. Johnson concluded his report by showcasing a number of photos from community engagement events at schools. Click on the website link to view the report in more detail <https://www.nsd61.ca/download/402081> (Page 59).

Updates to the 2023 Budget presented to the Board

Secretary Treasurer Douglas Aird presented a 2023 Budget update to the Board. The updated budget reflects the student count as of September 30, 2022 and adjustments that have taken place with staffing, number of schools and funding. Similar to what was presented in the spring, Northland School Division will continue to invest in enhancing classroom resources, technology, housing, and facility upgrades. Click on the website link to view the report in more detail <https://www.nsd61.ca/download/402081> (Page 38).

Next Regular Board Meeting is Friday, November 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 the action taken at board meetings. For further information, please call 780-624-2060 or 1-800- 362-1360.