



Board Meeting Highlights

February 17, 2023

Ward 8 Trustee By-election dates set by the Board

The Board of Trustees set March 20, 2023 at noon as the nomination date and April 17, 2023 as the By-election date for the Ward 8 Trustee.

Board Chair Highlights - Board of Trustees congratulate Superintendent Dr. Nancy Spencer-Poitras for receiving Queen Elizabeth II's Platinum Jubilee Award



While presenting the Board Chair Highlights, Cathy Wanyandie shared exciting news! She announced that Superintendent of Schools/CEO Dr. Nancy Spencer-Poitras has been awarded Queen Elizabeth II's Platinum Jubilee Medal for her exceptional qualities and outstanding service in the form of selfless giving and volunteering! This medal is awarded to 7000 Alberta residents who have made a significant contribution to Canada, Alberta, their communities, or fellow citizens.

Dr. Nancy Spencer-Poitras, who has been the Superintendent/CEO of Northland School Division since February 1, 2020, has maintained an exceptional record of school and division leadership over an extensive career as an educator in Alberta. She has worked as a teacher, assistant principal, and principal with Edmonton Public Schools, as an Assistant Superintendent and Superintendent in Alberta, as well as having worked with both the College of Alberta School Superintendents (CASS) and Alberta Education.

Throughout her career, Nancy has worked very hard to improve educational outcomes for all students. For those efforts, Alberta Education awarded her the Distinguished Leadership Award in 2006 and the Excellence in Teaching Award in 1997. A special ceremony is being planned honour Dr. Spencer-Poitras with the Queen Elizabeth II's Platinum Jubilee Medal.

Superintendent's Highlights



On February 16, 2023, Board Chair Wanyandie and Spencer-Poitras attended a teacher induction ceremony hosted by the Northland Alberta Teachers' Association (ATA) Local. During the event, new Northland teachers participated in taking their teacher oath to the profession. The teachers were also presented roses by the Northland School Division Board and Administration.

Spencer-Poitras announced that St. Theresa School Principal Shelley Stevenson was nominated for the Canadian Distinguished Principal of the Year Award. Shelley has been with Northland School Division for over 30 years and has been a model of excellence when it comes to the commitment of learning, leadership and mentorship.



NSD's partnership with TELUS World of Science - Edmonton resulted in two exciting learning experiences for students recently! Students participated in Digital Skills Week activities. Each week consisted of four 45-minute sessions where students were immersed in technology related learning through digital wellness, computational thinking, and coding activities. NSD schools also participated in a Science Week with TELUS World of Science - Edmonton. Each day was planned around a specific theme:

- Day 1 – Introduction to the Science of COLD - Winter Sky Science
- Day 2 – All things related to SNOW
- Day 3 – Special Guest Helen Panter of Parks Canada – Muskrats and Beavers in the winter
- Day 4 – All things related to ICE Classes had a chance to participate in class challenges

Dr. Spencer-Poitras also updated the Board about Alberta Education Assurance Survey communication. The Alberta Education Assurance Survey is an opportunity for students, parents/guardians and teachers to provide feedback on their level of satisfaction with the education quality, parental involvement and the learning environment. Until March 17, 2023, NSD schools will be working with parents to fill out the Alberta Education Assurance Survey. Alberta Education extended the deadline due to an unexpected delay in the mail out of the parent survey invitation packages.

Associate Superintendent Report - CTS Week and NSD students participated in MacEwan University tour



Associate Superintendent Meunier presented information about two exciting events involving high school students. In late January, NSD hosted a very successful Career and Technology Studies (CTS) Week. The division-wide event provided students an opportunity to learn and earn credits in programs that are not always available in the regular schedule. Some of the programs offered included:

- Learning and Programming Excel
- Rock Band (Music Credits)
- Recreation Leadership
- Cosmetology
- Documentary Filmmaking
- Standard First Aid
- Welding
- Design Studies
- Sewing/Fashion
- Moccasin Making



Another CTS Week is planned for the month of May.

NSD high school students visit MacEwan University



In early February, 27 students from Bill Woodward School (Anzac), Career Pathways School and Mistassiniy School (Wabasca-Desmarais) participated in a full day tour at MacEwan University. Students in attendance have signed up for the dual credit program courses offered during semester two. These courses are made possible as a result of a dual credit courses agreement NSD signed with MacEwan University. The students received a campus tour and met the instructors of the Indigenous Studies 100 and the Law and

Administration of Justice courses. They were able to go through course requirements, become familiar with the technology, and understand what it was like to be a student on campus. This was also a great opportunity for students in the program to meet the other students taking the courses.

Student Services Department Report

Associate Superintendent Meunier provided a mid-year update to the Board about outcomes, strategies and performance within the Student Services Department Plan. The plan is in line with Northland School Division's priorities (Excellence in Learning, Excellence in Leadership and Excellence in Relationships). Within the plan, it explains how department staff use professional learning sessions to assist educators with creating individualized plans for students, assistive technology and using assessment data to help students succeed. Click on the website link to view the plan in more detail <https://www.nsd61.ca/download/410445> (page 82-87).

The next Regular Board Meeting is Friday, March 24, 2023. Visit <https://www.nsd61.ca/governance/board-meetings> to view upcoming Regular Board Meeting dates and Board-related documents.

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.