



## Board Meeting Highlights March 24, 2023

### Celebrating Northland with a new promotional video



Dr. Nancy Spencer-Poitras highlighted a number of exciting events and important projects in the latest Superintendent's Highlights.



She discussed the new promotional video NSD released on March 14, 2023. The purpose of the video is to showcase why Northland School Division is a great place to learn and work. You can view the video on our website by visiting [www.nsd61.ca](http://www.nsd61.ca).

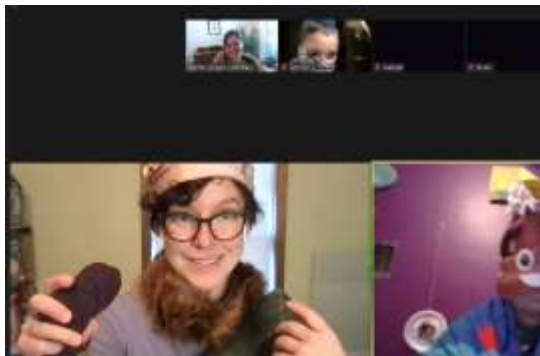


Northland celebrated substitute teachers earlier this month! Spencer-Poitras said NSD schools organized activities to thank their substitute teachers for their valuable service to students, staff and community members.

Substitute Teachers' Appreciation Week took place March 13-17, 2023.

The Board also learned about Sora, the student reading app. NSD students and staff have access to over 8000 books online using Sora. Several school divisions pool resources to build a collection of fiction and non-fiction books. Just like the library, students and teachers can sign out books. Click on the website link to view the Superintendent's Highlights in more detail <https://www.nsd61.ca/download/412679> (starting on page 131).

### Exciting learning opportunities for NSD students with Art Gallery of Hamilton



While presenting the latest Associate Superintendent Report, Dr. Tim Stensland discussed an exciting relationship Northland has developed with the Art Gallery of Hamilton (AGH). Northland, specifically Northland Online School, was selected by AGH to be part of artist-led projects.

Earlier this year, grade 1-2 students from Northland Online School worked with AGH on puppet making and storytelling called Pop Up Puppet Play. The students made puppets using things they found at home. The grade 3-5 class worked with performance artist, Jody Boston, in Imagine, Laugh, and Play through Drama. Jody takes students on a theatrical journey through movement, character exploration, storytelling, and theater games. The students are encouraged to explore, laugh, connect with their classmates, and stretch their imaginations.

Another session saw AGH worked with high school students across Northland to offer a documentary film making course for Career and Technology Studies (CTS) Week. Due to the success of the projects, AGH has offered Northland Online School and other schools in NSD, more opportunities to work with additional artists. This additional support was offered because AGH found the student engagement through online capacity is exceptional! Click on the website link to view the Associate Superintendent Report in more detail <https://www.nsd61.ca/download/412679> (starting on page 145).

## Awards and Celebrations – Literacy success at Grouard Northland School



The latest edition of Awards and Celebrations saw the Board learn about literacy successes taking place at Grouard Northland School. Principal Michelle Deering discussed a literacy program she is over the moon about.

The Science of Reading program provides teachers with lesson plans to help students become better readers. Some of the activities the program promotes include phonemic awareness, visual drills and word work.

With respect to word work, Deering referred to a video she posted on the Grouard Northland School Facebook page

<https://www.facebook.com/GrouardNorthlandSchool/videos/1251965599062867>. In the video, the student uses letter magnets to spell out a word and then they work on sounding out the word with the teacher.

When asked about the success of this program, Deering said she is seeing results quicker, students are happier and more confident. She added one of her kindergarten students has progressed to the point where they are able to read a whole paragraph!

Deering also told the Board she believes the literacy program is helping the Grouard Northland School become better teachers.

## Triannual Report #2 for 2022-2023 presented to the Board



Superintendent of Schools Dr. Nancy Spencer-Poitras presented the second Triannual Report for the 2022-2023 school year. The report highlights the progress we have made with meeting or exceeding the following Northland School Division priorities:

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

Click on the website link to view the Triannual Report  
<https://tinyurl.com/a9cpxu9f>.



## **2023-2024 Northland School Division Calendar approved by the Board of Trustees**

The Board's primary focus when approving the 2023-2024 School Year Calendar is doing what is best for Northland students. On an annual basis, the Board is responsible for approving a school year calendar as set out in Section 60 of the *Education Act*.

The main difference with the 2023-2024 School Year Calendar in comparison to the 2022-2023 School Year Calendar is the Christmas/New Year's break for schools. The break begins on December 18, 2023 and school resumes on January 3, 2024.

When school resumes on January 3rd, students writing Diploma Exams will have extra classroom time to prepare for upcoming Diploma Exams. Click on the website link to view the approved calendar <https://www.nsd61.ca/download/412848>.

## **Capital Plan approved by the Board of Trustees**

The Board of Trustees approved a Capital Plan that includes adjustments in the way Northland is prioritizing school construction projects. The plan outlines priority projects based on key drivers such as building condition and student enrolment. The priority projects include Calling Lake School, J.F. Dion School, Paddle Prairie School, Anzac School, Father R. Perin School, Elizabeth School and St. Theresa School. Visit our website to view the Capital Plan in more detail <https://www.nsd61.ca/download/412679> (starting on page 103).

**The next Regular Board Meeting is Thursday, April 20, 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.