



## Board Meeting Highlights February 23, 2024

### Awards and Celebrations - Two NSD students nominated for Honouring Spirit: Indigenous Student Award



NSD is pleased to announce that two students from Hillview School have been nominated for the Honouring Spirit: Indigenous Student Award; Rodney Lalonde (grade 6) and Clara Beth Ferguson (ECS).

Rodney is recognized for being a hard worker, willing to take on leadership roles, and proudly shares his perspectives as a Métis. Clara is every teacher's dream. She loves to learn and tries her best each and every day. Clara is also willing to help others and very much enjoys learning the Cree language.

The Honouring Spirit: Indigenous Student Award categories are divided into three regions: North, Central and South. In each region, awards are divided into the following grade categories:

- Kindergarten to Grade 3;
- Grades 4 to 6;
- Grades 7 to 9;
- And, Grades 10-12.

In total, 12 awards are distributed each year.

### Ad Hoc Committee formed to support the development of the 2024-2027 Education Plan

The trustee membership has been finalized to support the creation of the new Education Plan for the Northland School Division. The membership includes:

- Board Chair Robin Guild
- Vice-Chair Tanya Fayant
- Ward 1 Trustee Lorraine McGillivray
- Ward 4 Trustee Jesse Lamouche

The Education Plan outlines NSD's priorities, outcomes, strategies and measures that have been identified as a result of conversations with students, staff and communities. The Education Plan will incorporate feedback from the engagements we hosted during the 2023-2024 school year. The plan will also ensure traditional language and culture is visible in all NSD schools.

## NSD moving ahead with purchasing new school buses



Secretary-Treasurer Johan Glaudemans presented a plan to purchase four new school buses on behalf of the Transportation Department. The purchase of these buses is planned as a sustainable way to refresh the school bus fleet using existing capital reserves.

This year, the recommended purchase of 4 buses will reduce the fleet's average age by 1.3 years, as models from 2002 - 2009 will be replaced.

NSD will engage in a public tender process with school bus fleet companies. The public tender award recommendation will be brought to the Board of Trustees for approval.

## Board authorized administration to relocate Career Pathways School



Career Pathways School (CPS) will be relocating back to the Northern Lakes College - Wabasca-Desmarais Campus. Since January 2021, CPS has been operating in a facility located just east of St. Theresa School (2783 Neewatim Drive).

Moving CPS from the current facility back to the Northern Lakes College Campus will benefit students and staff in the following ways:

- More space for instruction.
- Additional learning opportunities
- NSD already rents space at the Northern Lakes College Campus. The technology infrastructure to support learning is already in place.

The move will take place over the spring break (March 29-April 5, 2024).

## NSD receives a letter from a parent about Dr. Mary Jackson School

The Board and Administration reviewed a letter from a parent regarding the possibility of reopening Dr. Mary Jackson School in Keg River. On May 24, 2018, the Board approved the closure of the K-12 instructional program at Dr. Mary Jackson School, effective August 31, 2018, due to the declining enrollment and the cost of running an effective education program.

The parent who wrote the letter indicated there are approximately 10 children right now in the community of Keg River under the age of 6, with the possibility of additional families moving into the area in the near future.

Before a decision is made about re-opening a school, a feasibility study would need to be conducted.

## NSD acquiring new locally developed courses for students

The Board gave the Administration the green light to acquire some locally developed courses for high school students in NSD. Some of the courses include autobody repair, yoga fitness, fire and rescue services and oil and exploration. Click on the website link to view the course offerings <https://www.nsd61.ca/download/442161> (page 54).

## Acting Superintendent Highlights New Chapter at Mistassiniy School: Strengthening Language and Culture, Celebrating World Read Aloud Day

In our most recent edition of the Acting Superintendent's Highlights, Cal Johnson shares exciting developments, spotlighting the new Mistassiniy School, the work to strengthen Cree, Dene, and Michif language and cultural programs, and the celebration of World Read Aloud Day.

### A new chapter begins at Mistassiniy School

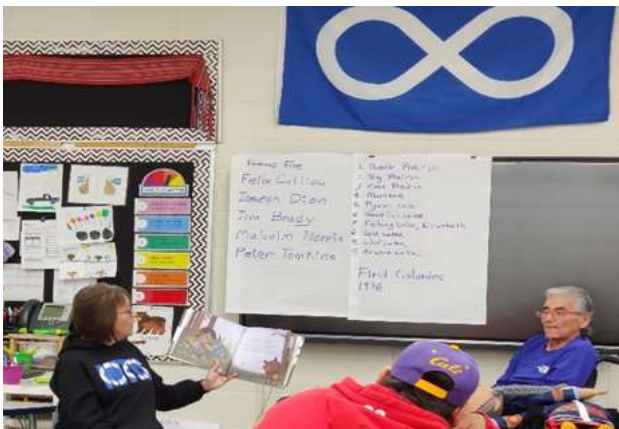


The eagerly awaited sound of students engaging in academic and extracurricular activities at the new Mistassiniy School is now a reality! The students and staff moved into the new school on February 1, 2024! The new Mistassiniy School features an array of facilities, including a culinary arts kitchen, stations for mechanics and carpentry, and other Career and Technology Studies courses. Its design features a circular front entrance and a gymnasium with bleachers, welcoming community

spectators. A special note of appreciation was extended by Mr. Johnson to the IT Department, whose tireless efforts have ensured the seamless integration of technology and communication infrastructure within the new facility.

NSD is in the process of finalizing a date for the grand opening celebration of the new Mistassiniy School. An official announcement will be made as soon as the date is confirmed.

### Strengthening Language and Cultural Connections



Since the beginning of the school year, NSD has continued to develop partnerships with Alberta Education, University of Alberta, Blue Quills University and local land-based contractors to strengthen Cree, Dene and Michif language and culture programs. During literacy nights for example, Director of First Nations, Métis and Inuit Education Debbie Mineault was invited by school principals to support their language instructors in strengthening their language and culture programs. Using the Indigenous Literature collection, local school staff used instructional

strategies to engage their communities. Students, staff, parents, grandparents, guardians, Elders and Knowledge Keepers supported the event by sharing their historical stories and cultural connections.

### **World Read Aloud Day: Celebrating the Joy of Reading**



On February 7, 2024, NSD celebrated World Read Aloud Day. This special day saw schools host a series of activities designed to highlight the importance of reading. In addition, our Pedagogical Supervisors hosted a virtual Zoom event where schools listened to central office staff read stories, including Acting Superintendent of Schools/CEO Cal Johnson.

To view the entire Acting Superintendent’s Highlights, click on the website link <https://www.nsd61.ca/download/442161> (page 64).

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.