



Board Meeting Highlights April 19, 2024

2024-2025 Northland School Division Calendar approved by the Board of Trustees

Northland School Division 2024-2025 School Calendar		
August 2024	September 2024	October 2024
November 2024	December 2024	January 2025
February 2025	March 2025	April 2025
May 2025	June 2025	July 2025

The Board of Trustees approved the 2024-2025 School Year Calendar. On an annual basis, the Board has the responsibility to set the school division calendar as set out in Section 60 of the *Education Act*. The calendar outlines operational days, professional learning dates for staff and holiday breaks. The first day of school for students is after the Labour Day weekend on Tuesday, September 3, 2024. To access a PDF copy of the calendar, click on the website link: <https://www.nsd61.ca/download/447058>.

Tri-Annual Report #2 for 2023-2024 presented to the Board



Superintendent of Schools/CEO Cal Johnson presented the second Tri-Annual Report for the 2023-2024 school year to the Board of Trustees. This report showcases significant strides in achieving the Northland School Division's key priorities. Below highlights some of the accomplishments.



Photo from Paddle Prairie School's 2nd Annual Evening of the Arts

- Excellence in Learning:** Students at Northland schools have enjoyed enhanced science education through a partnership with TELUS World of Science - Edmonton, engaging in hands-on activities that integrate local knowledge and Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics (STEM) education. Northland is focused on weaving local First Nations and Métis knowledge into the learning experiences. Students learn practical skills like rabbit snaring and fish filleting directly tied to their heritage.
- Excellence in Leadership:** The opening of the new Mistassiniy School marks a significant advancement in educational facilities within the division, reflecting NSD's commitment to providing high-quality learning environments.

From early November to the end of February, NSD hosted in person engagement sessions in all school communities with students, staff, parents and community members. The feedback collected was then organized into a What We Heard Report Overview. To view the What We Heard Report, click on the website link: <https://www.nsd61.ca/download/444545>.

3. **Excellence in Relationships:** NSD's proactive approach in building and strengthening relationships is highlighted by the collaborative wildfire emergency planning with neighbouring school divisions. This effort ensures the safety and well-being of all students and staff.

To view the entire Tri-Annual Report, click on the website link to view the full Tri-Annual Report <https://www.nsd61.ca/download/447069>.

New school buses purchased



In February, 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.

During the April Board Meeting, the Board approved the purchase of four (4) 71-seater buses from the Bus Centre. The purchase is in the amount of \$703,558.32 inclusive of GST with the funds coming from the capital reserves.

Superintendent's Highlights - NSD hosted a successful division-wide professional learning event



In our most recent edition of the Superintendent's Highlights, Cal Johnson discussed the division-wide professional learning event in Grouard, Wabasca-Desmarais and Anzac in March. During this two-day event, staff learned about restorative practices. Restorative conversations are set to enable solution-based discussions with all parties involved. In these talks, everyone affected gets together to tell their story and figure out how to move forward in a positive way. These conversations are good because they help everyone understand the whole story.

They make sure that the person who was hurt can ask questions and say what they need to feel better. By participating in this learning session, staff are more prepared to address complex situations and improve communication with other staff and families. On March 18th, central office staff also participated in restorative practices training. Restorative practices are recommended by Alberta Education to support welcoming, caring, respectful and safe workplaces.

In addition to restorative practices, staff were able to participate in learning sessions related to traditional learning (storytelling, beading, cooking), yoga, self-defense and "Try It" Career and Technology Studies (CTS) style sessions. Positive feedback was received from staff, and was decided to continue with scheduling more division-wide professional learning in a similar fashion in 2024-2025.



Johnson also noted the relocation of Career Pathways School (CPS) back to the Northern Lakes College - Wabasca-Desmarais Campus. Before moving back, CPS was operating in a facility located just east of St. Theresa School (2783 Neewatim Drive). The move back to the Northern Lakes College Campus benefits 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.

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.