



# Board Meeting Highlights

## June 28, 2024

### Board held a moment of silence for Ward 6 Trustee Thomas Auger



In early June, it was with sadness that we announced the passing of School Board Trustee Thomas Auger. Thomas, who served as Ward 6 Trustee (Demarais, Sandy Lake), passed away on Monday, June 3, 2024. To honour his memory, the trustees held a moment of silence.

Thomas was a dedicated public servant. He served as a School Board Trustee with Northland School Division multiple times and as a councillor with the Municipal District of Opportunity. Thomas was instrumental in negotiating for a school to be built in Sandy Lake.

The loss of Thomas is felt deeply, not only by his immediate family but also by the entire Northland School Division family. We extend our heartfelt condolences to Thomas' family, friends, and all who knew him. He will be profoundly missed.

### NSD to pilot Grade 7 at Bishop Routhier School and Grade 10 at Grouard Northland School next school year



Offering Grade 7  
Next Year!



Offering Grade 10  
Next Year!



Northland School Division is excited to pilot expanded grades at Bishop Routhier School and Grouard Northland School. The board authorized administration to pilot Grade 7 at Bishop Routhier School and Grade 10 at Grouard Northland School, effective September 1, 2024.

During a series of community engagement sessions in both communities, Northland heard from parents and guardians who expressed that their children would benefit from learning at home longer, rather than being bussed to High Prairie.

School bus transportation will still be provided to families who wish to send their children to High Prairie for Grade 10.

## Six students awarded NSD bursary or scholarship

The Bursary and Scholarship Committee announced the recipients of the bursaries and scholarships provided by NSD. Congratulations to the following students!



- **Wilma (Tina) Cardinal - Elizabeth School**
  - Program: University of Blue Quills, Diploma of Social Work
  - Award: NSD Scholarship of \$800 for students entering University programs other than Education
- **Cassie Flett - Gift Lake School**
  - Program: University of Alberta, Bachelor of Arts in Native Studies/Bachelor of Education
  - Award: NSD Bursary of \$20,000 (paid over 2 years in four installments) for students entering university in the Faculty of Education
- **Jasmine Landis - Bill Woodward School**
  - Program: NAIT, Auto Body Technician
  - Award: NSD Scholarship of \$800 for students entering a College or Technical Institute
- **Darian Milton - Bill Woodward School**
  - Program: NAIT, HET - Heavy Duty (Off-Road)
  - Award: NSD Scholarship of \$800 for students entering a College or Technical Institute
- **Hunter Pratt - Bill Woodward School**
  - Program: Mount Royal University, Bachelor of Arts, Sociology Program
  - Award: NSD Scholarship of \$800 for students entering University programs other than Education
- **Erin Young - Career Pathways School**
  - Program: NAIT, Youth Career Exposure Program
  - Award: NSD Scholarship of \$800 for students entering University programs other than Education

## Board approves contract awards for bus routes



NSD has approved contract awards for various bus routes following a public tender process. The Board of Trustees authorized the administration to proceed with the recommended bidders for the 2024-2027 contract period, with the exception of Route 472 (Fishing Lake Feeder Bus), which will undergo further review. The awarded contracts are as follows:

- Route 401: Janvier to Father R. Perin School – Sparksman
- Route 442: Peavine to High Prairie – Anderson Bus Lines
- Route 450: Peavine to High Prairie – Al Anderson

- Route 453: Near Anzac to Anzac and Bill Woodward Schools – Sparksman
- Route 454: Peavine to Bishop Routhier School – Noskey Bus Lines
- Route 460: Peavine to Bishop Routhier School – Noskey Bus Lines
- Route 461: Near Anzac to Anzac and Bill Woodward Schools – Sparksman
- Route 462: Near Anzac to Anzac and Bill Woodward Schools – Sparksman

Starting next year, Northland School Division will directly manage two previously contracted school bus routes for J.F. Dion School.

### **Board approves Organizational Meeting and Regular Board Meeting dates for September 2024**

The Board has approved hosting the upcoming organizational meeting and regular board meeting on September 28, 2024, in Wabasca-Desmarais. The meeting will be held the day after NSD hosts a grand opening for the new Mistassiniy School, which is taking place on Friday, September 27, 2024.

### **Board approves phone system replacement project**



The Board has authorized administration to proceed with the Phone System Replacement Project across all NSD schools. This initiative, estimated to cost \$500,000, aims to support the Education Plan and enhance student learning. The funding for this project will come from capital reserves. This project includes replacing handsets and routers at all sites, moving the central office's phone and voicemail servers to a cloud-based platform, and establishing a new phone services support contract.

The project will be executed over a multi-year period, from August 2024 to August 2025 or beyond, with work occurring on weekends and school holidays to minimize disruptions.

### **Board approves network infrastructure replacement project**



The Board has authorized the administration to proceed with the Network Infrastructure Replacement Project, which supports the Education Plan and enhances student learning by replacing and modernizing IT network hardware across all NSD schools. The project is estimated to cost \$340,000, with funding sourced from capital reserves. This project aims to enhance performance, improve cybersecurity, reduce downtime, and future-proof the network infrastructure.

## Board authorizes further scoping of welding facility at the new Mistassiniy School



The Board of Trustees has authorized the administration to further scope the costing and design of a welding facility to be constructed at the new Mistassiniy School. This facility is intended to enhance the Career and Technology Studies (CTS) program by providing students with the opportunity to acquire welding skills, which are in high demand and can prepare students for successful careers. The project will involve preparing a preliminary architectural plan and detailed cost calculations, and selecting a suitable location on the school site for the facility.

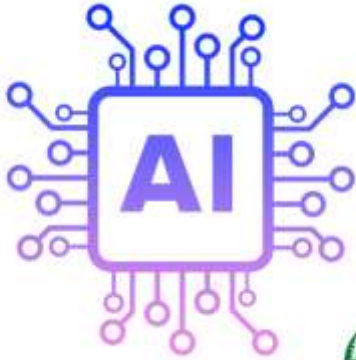
## Superintendent's Highlights - Northland high school graduates celebrated

Superintendent of Schools/CEO Cal Johnson provided highlights, which included several key updates and acknowledgments:

- Celebrating High School Graduates:
  - Superintendent Johnson congratulated all the high school graduates from Bill Woodward School, Calling Lake School, Career Pathways School, Mistassiniy School and Paddle Prairie School.
  - He expressed excitement about attending the graduation ceremonies and noted that members of the Executive Team attended all the ceremonies to celebrate with the students.
- Community Engagements:
  - Johnson thanked the Board for their participation in the recent community engagement sessions hosted at Bishop Routhier, Hillview, Gift Lake, and Grouard Northland Schools.
  - These engagements have been vital in understanding community needs and strengthening relationships.
- National Indigenous Peoples Day:
  - Johnson highlighted the celebrations of National Indigenous Peoples Day on June 21, 2024, across the division.
- Principal Meeting in Enoch
  - Johnson spoke about the recent principal meeting that included Elder Bob Cardinal.
  - He emphasized the value of Elder Cardinal's insights on connecting with the land and building relationships, which were shared with principals.



## Deputy Superintendent attends conference about artificial intelligence



Deputy Superintendent Meunier attended the Alberta Machine Intelligence Institute's (Amii) Upper Bound conference in May. The conference focused on machine learning and artificial intelligence, covering topics such as artificial intelligence in healthcare, philosophical considerations, and artificial intelligence regulation.

### Conference Highlights:

- Expert analyses and discussions on the current state of artificial intelligence and its applications.
- Emphasis on understanding artificial intelligence's impact on various sectors.

### Future Considerations for Northland School Division:

- Re-establishing the Educational Technology Committee.
- Facilitating internal and external learning opportunities for teachers.
- Updating administrative procedures and user agreements to align with artificial intelligence developments.

These initiatives aim to enhance understanding and use of artificial intelligence tools within Northland School Division.

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.