



Board Meeting Highlights October 19, 2024

St. Theresa School's leadership team shares literacy strategies and positive results!



St. Theresa School Principal Shelley Stevenson and Vice-Principal Dawn Power shared their literacy strategies and the impact on student success to the Board. Their approach includes:

- Collaborative Planning: Weekly co-planning sessions to share best practices and address student needs.
- Targeted Interventions: Daily small-group instruction and individualized support, such as guided reading.
- Building Capacity with UFLI Tools: Expanded use of UFLI and other literacy practices to fill learning gaps and boost student confidence.

They highlighted significant literacy progress, particularly in early grades, and aim to continue this success by further developing teacher support and resources.

Board appoints Douglas Aird as Secretary-Treasurer



The Board has appointed Douglas Aird as Secretary-Treasurer of Northland School Division, effective October 4, 2024. Mr. Aird has been serving as Acting Secretary-Treasurer since August 12, 2024, and will now officially take on the role.

Board approves Mistassiniy School's music exchange trip to Kelowna



The Board has approved Mistassiniy School's music exchange trip to Kelowna, B.C., from April 7 to 11, 2025. The trip, funded by Experiences Canada, will allow students to perform and participate in music and cultural activities at Studio9 Arts School. Students will stay with local families, providing a unique cultural experience. In May, students from Kelowna will visit Wabasca as part of the exchange.

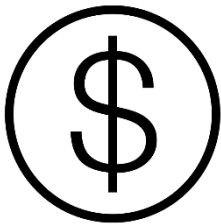
Superintendent presents Indigenous Academy proposal for Father R. Perin School



Superintendent of Schools/CEO Cal Johnson shared a proposal for an Indigenous Academy at Father R. Perin School. The program will focus on building students' literacy and numeracy skills in the mornings. In the afternoons, students will engage in land-based learning, artistic activities, and lessons guided by Elders. The academy aims to connect students with their language and culture and community while supporting their education and well-being.

This initiative is designed to strengthen the relationship between Northland School Division and the Janvier community.

Draft Fall Budget presented to the Board



Secretary-Treasurer Douglas Aird presented the 2024-25 Fall Budget Update, noting a slight decrease in overall revenues and expenses compared to the previous year. This adjustment aligns with changes in the funding formula and current enrollment trends. The budget currently shows a planned shortfall, which will be addressed using operating reserves.

Key Assumptions

- Essential programs, such as the School Food Services Hot Lunch Program, transportation for all students, and additional support staff (including educational assistants), are being maintained.
- The budget includes contingencies for factors such as inflation, student enrollment changes, fuel costs, and contract adjustments.

Superintendent's Highlights: Actions to Advance the NSD Education Plan



Superintendent Cal Johnson presented the October Highlights, covering recent initiatives and activities within Northland School Division:

- **Principal Meetings:** Principals, vice principals, and other leaders gathered in Edmonton to explore the 2024-2027 Education Plan. They focused on building connections with school communities, holistic learning practices, and frameworks for supporting student well-being, literacy, and numeracy. A core part of these discussions was incorporating *Wahkohotowin*, which emphasizes relationships with land and languages to create an interconnected learning environment among students, educators, and the community.
- **Truth and Reconciliation Week:** Northland schools participated in Truth and Reconciliation Week through various meaningful activities, including Orange Shirt Day. Events ranged from reflective walks and Elder presentations to storytelling, community meals, and student-led assemblies. Each activity served to honour residential school survivors and strengthen partnerships with local Indigenous communities, providing students with immersive experiences to deepen understanding of cultural history and reconciliation. For more details, visit the Northland School Division website <https://www.nsd61.ca/about-us/division-news/post/truth-and-reconciliation-week-highlights2>.
- **Spotlight on Bailey Johnson:** Bailey Johnson, a teacher at Northland Online School and a UBC Indigenous Teacher Education (NITEP) graduate, was recognized for integrating Indigenous culture into her teachings by multiple news networks such as Global TV and CTV News" and represented Northland Online School admirably. The interviews centered around NITEP's 50th anniversary and a celebration of Truth and Reconciliation Week.
- **Conklin Community School Music Week:** During Music Week, students worked with guest artists to compose and record original songs. The Board listened to one of these creations, *Kirby Moose*, which the students helped create.
- **Letter of Appreciation:** The Superintendent received a letter from a student expressing excitement and gratitude for the opportunity to participate in the Northland Games, highlighting the joy of meeting new friends and competing in cross-country, despite challenges like a long bus ride.

First Nations, Métis and Inuit report: Building connections through Indigenous knowledge and reciprocity



The First Nations, Métis, and Inuit (FNMI) report highlights Northland School Division's commitment to integrating Indigenous perspectives in education. Division and school leadership engaged with Dr. Dwayne Donald from the University of Alberta in intercultural learning that explored treaty-making, traditional river systems, and the interconnectedness of relationships with the land. In a recent webinar, Nehiyawak Elders John Bigstone and Virginia Cardinal shared how educators can use reciprocity to strengthen connections with families and communities, advancing reconciliation and a holistic approach to learning across the 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.