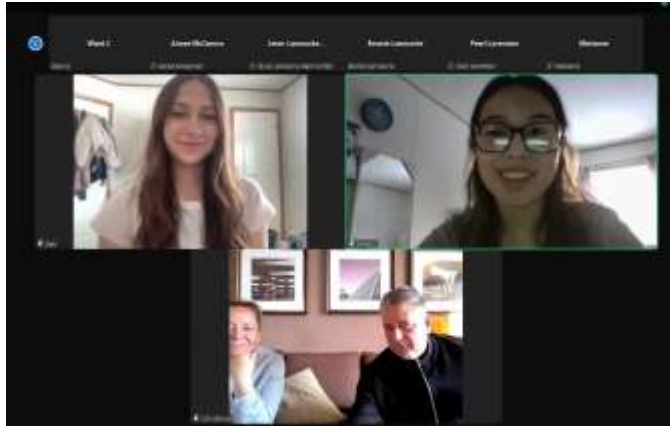




Board Meeting Highlights

January 25, 2025

Board celebrates Mistassiniy School students for leadership during Lieutenant Governor's visit



During the board meeting, trustees and members of the administration met with Mistassiniy School Grade 12 students Zain Ibdah and Avery Auger-Gladue, who played a key role in welcoming Her Honour, the Honourable Salma Lakhani, Lieutenant Governor of Alberta, to Mistassiniy School on November 19, 2024. Both students will be graduating this year.

Zain and Avery shared their experiences from the visit, reflecting on what it was like to lead

Her Honour on a tour of their school and serve as emcees for a special assembly. They spoke about their preparations, the moments that stood out to them, and how the experience helped them grow as leaders.

The board and administration also learned more about the impact of the visit on the school community. From the inspiring messages shared by the lieutenant governor to the thoughtful gifts presented on behalf of the school, the day was a meaningful and memorable occasion for all involved.

The board thanked Zain and Avery for their leadership and expressed appreciation to the Mistassiniy School staff and students for assisting Northland School Division with preparations for this important visit.



The Board received an update from Director of First Nations, Métis and Inuit education Debbie Mineault and Indigenous Cultural Land-Based Learning Coach Melanie Lapp about the work being done to support Indigenous education in Northland schools. Their presentation focused on key efforts that align with the Education Plan. Key efforts include:

- **Supporting Indigenous languages:** Virtual training sessions in Michif, Cree and Dene to help language instructors bring Indigenous languages into classrooms. The division is also working with the Cold Lake Denesuline director, principal and instructor to explore ways to incorporate Dene language and land-based learning into classrooms.
- **Engaging Elders and Knowledge Keepers:** Forming a local Elder and Knowledge Keeper Advisory Council to guide cultural learning and support students and staff.
- **Cultural learning opportunities:** Partnering with Rupertsland Institute to offer a Métis culture, language and land-based camp, along with community engagement sessions in schools.

- **Truth and Reconciliation commitments:** Helping schools and staff learn more about residential schools and Indigenous perspectives, with a focus on building strong relationships with communities.

The update also highlighted work being done to support literacy and numeracy through Indigenous perspectives, train staff and encourage Indigenous leadership in schools.

2024-2025 Draft Calendar presented and received as information

Acting Director of Student Services Michelle Wile presented a draft calendar for the 2025-2026 school year on behalf of Associate Superintendent of Human Resources Krista Veitch. The Board has the responsibility to set the school division calendar as set out in Section 60 in the Education Act. The draft calendar will be circulated for feedback and will be brought back to the March Regular Board Meeting. Click on the website link to view the draft calendar: <https://www.nsd61.ca/download/484572> (see page 40).

Board receives 2024-2025 Infrastructure, Maintenance and Renewal project list

Secretary-Treasurer Douglas Aird presented the 2024-2025 Infrastructure, Maintenance and Renewal (IMR) project list to the Board of Trustees. The plan highlights key projects aimed at maintaining and improving school facilities across Northland School Division. Upcoming work includes boiler replacements, flooring upgrades, lighting enhancements, fire alarm system upgrades, and landscaping improvements. Additional projects will focus on school safety, with updates to PA systems, fencing, and door security measures. Readers can view the full list of projects <https://www.nsd61.ca/download/484572> (see pages 62-64).

Board reviews policy updates to align with Education Amendment Act, 2024 (Bill 27)

Superintendent of Schools/CEO Cal Johnson presented policy and procedure updates required to comply with the Education Amendment Act, 2024 (Bill 27). Updates to Policy 19 Appendix B and Administrative Procedure 325 include:

- **Parental Notification and Consent:** Schools must obtain parental consent before using a new name or pronoun for students under 16. For students 16 and older, parental notification is required.
- **Instruction on Human Sexuality, Gender Identity, and Sexual Orientation:** Parents must opt in before students receive instruction on these topics. Teaching materials require Ministerial approval.
- **At-Home Learning Guidelines:** Schools must follow new procedures for shifts to at-home learning, including requirements for Ministerial Orders for closures exceeding three days.

Changes related to parental notification and consent will take effect in early 2025, with remaining updates implemented by September 1, 2025. Readers can review more information by clicking on the website link <https://www.nsd61.ca/download/484572> (pages 58-59).

Board approves Bishop Routhier School out-of-province field trip to Toronto



The Board of Trustees has approved Bishop Routhier School's out-of-province field trip to Toronto, Ontario, from June 16 to 20, 2025. Organized through DC Student Adventures, the six-day trip will offer students and chaperones a variety of educational and cultural experiences, including visits to Niagara Falls, the CN Tower, Ripley's Aquarium of Canada, the Toronto Zoo, Kensington Market, Chinatown, and the Hockey Hall of Fame. Students will also attend a Blue Jays game. The estimated cost per participant is \$2,738 plus GST, with financial support from the Peavine Métis Settlement, parents, and student fundraising efforts.

Superintendent's Highlights: Advancing reconciliation, holistic learning, and student support

Superintendent of Schools/CEO Cal Johnson provided an update on key initiatives supporting Northland School Division's priorities. Schools continue to strengthen connections with Elders and Knowledge Keepers, incorporate more land-based learning, and develop plans responding to the Calls to Action from the Truth and Reconciliation Commission. The division is also enhancing student well-being through leadership activities, staff wellness initiatives, and expanded student services.

On top of that, Northland has introduced a division-wide collegiate model aimed at expanding hands-on learning and career-focused opportunities for students. The model offers programs such as educational assistant training, carpentry, welding, healthcare, and multi-trade pathways in partnership with industry and post-secondary institutions. Work is underway to secure specific funding to support the program's implementation.

The Superintendent Highlights also included a number of newspaper articles showcasing Northland School Division. Readers can review more information by clicking on the website link <https://www.nsd61.ca/download/484572> (pages 73-84).

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.