



Northland School Division No.61 Board Highlights

Corporate Board Meeting – January 22-23, 2016

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Draft Policy One - Board Philosophy, Mandate, Core Purpose, Vision, Beliefs and Values presented at Board Meeting

The Northland Board received Northland School Division’s Board Policy One – Board Philosophy, Mandate, Core Purpose, Vision, Beliefs and Values as information. This draft policy will reflect NSD’s approach to education programming. We are requesting that Local School Board Committees review this document and provide feedback. The division is also working on a process for gathering additional feedback. To view Policy One click on the website link <http://nsd61.ca/download/69993> (See page 61).

Draft Policy – Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity

The draft policy for Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity passed 2nd reading. The draft is a commitment by NSD to maintain a safe and welcoming environment for all members of the school community. This includes those students, staff and families who identify or are perceived as lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, transsexual, two spirit, queer (LGBTQ) or questioning their sexual orientation, gender identity or gender expression. The policy also outlines support for student groups, including Gay-Straight Alliances or Queer Straight Alliances. All school boards in Alberta are required to develop a policy in relation to sexual orientation and gender identity before March 31, 2016. Click on the website link to view the draft policy <http://nsd61.ca/download/69993> (See page 70).

St. Theresa School presentation



St. Theresa School in Wabasca-Desmarais updated the Northland Board on its progress related to the division-wide Literacy Initiative and the *Attendance Improvement Initiative ‘Every Day Counts’*. Mandi MacLennan, Principal and Shelley Stevenson, Vice-Principal, highlighted the school’s literacy plan that includes weaving First Nation and Métis resources into classroom practice and developing oral language competency. The school has a full-time Literacy Lead



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Teacher who supports other teachers, organizes family literacy nights, lunch-time literacy clubs, home reading programs and writing contests.

The attendance focus at St. Theresa School is paying off. MacLennan and Stevenson presented student attendance data that indicates consistency and improvement. In October 2015, 73% of the student population attended school at a rate of 90% or better. Since the initiative began in September, 2014, the average for students attending at the same rate is 61%. The school has a rewards program that recognizes classrooms, individual students and parents. For example, parents are entered into a draw if their child attends at a rate of 90% or better. In addition to incentives, the school has hired a second family liaison to support attendance, developed an attendance intervention record and deliver key messages about attendance at staff meetings, in newsletters, on Facebook, on school website and at school events. Click on the website link to view the PowerPoint presentation <http://nsd61.ca/download/69993> (See page 2).

Elizabeth School highlights



Left to right: Rick Horon, Principal, Summer Jacknife, Alliyah Jacknife, Aiden Wolverine, Sheneyah Jacknife and Don Tessier, Northland School Division Associate Superintendent

Elizabeth School Principal Rick Horon delivered a snap-shot to the Northland Board about what’s happening in the school community. The school continues to increase its communication to parents by using newsletters, Facebook, school website and a texting app called Remind. The presentation highlighted the school’s Accountability Pillar Survey results. They saw improvement in student, teacher and parent agreement that students are taught the attitudes and behaviors that will make them successful at work.

Overall student attendance at the school has been over 90% for the past few years. They received a divisional plaque for achieving the second highest overall attendance in 2014-2015. Horon says the high rate of attendance at Elizabeth is a result of creating an inviting,



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caring atmosphere, relevant teaching for students and incentive programs such as pizza lunches, perfect attendance race and recognition at assemblies. Horon also highlighted the schools community partnerships in the settlement and surrounding area, cultural activities, community events, inter-school sports, extra-curricular activities, Career and Technology Foundation classes, literacy and numeracy instruction and resources and field trips. Click on the website link to view the PowerPoint presentation <http://nsd61.ca/download/69993> (See page 17).

School hockey program video



The most celebrated game in Canada is making a difference for a northern Ontario school. The Northland Board watched a CBC News video about a school hockey program in Sioux Lookout, Ontario. The program dubbed “hockey academy”, was started in 2012 by a gym teacher in Kenora who noticed that some kids had no problem showing up regularly for hockey practice but had poor attendance when it came to school.

22 of the 23 students who participated in year one have since graduated and the program now exists in three communities around the region. According to the school principal, student attendance at the Sioux Mountain Public School has increased 25% since the program began. Click on the website link to view the story

<http://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/hockey-school-sioux-lookout-1.3410464>.

Year-end financial results

Secretary Treasurer Trudy Rasmuson presented a year-end financial overview to the Northland Board. The report highlights enrolment, financial health and spending trends. To view the presentation click on the website link <http://nsd61.ca/download/69993> (See page 50).



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Approved motions

- Northland Board recommends administration commence the process in accordance with the School Act to consider the closure of Grouard Northland School Junior High at the end of the 2015-2016 school year.
- Northland Board accept the tenders from the Bus Centre for the purchase of four new school buses, with funds coming from the approved 2015-2016 Transportation Budget.
- Northland Board approved the research request by Classroom of Champions to collect data from Bill Woodward School with a copy of the research required to be sent to central office.
- Northland Board approved the job description for the position of Housing Coordinator.
- Northland Board approved the job description for the position of School Custodian.
- The job description for the position of Field Service technician passed 2nd reading.
- Changes to Procedure 415 – Teacher, Growth, Supervisor and Evaluation passed 2nd reading.
- Northland Board approved changes to Procedure 504 – Uncollectible Accounts.
- Changes to Procedure 505 – Donations passed 2nd reading.
- Changes to Procedure 501 – Budget Transfers passed 1st reading.
- Changes to Procedure 502 – Site Based Budgeting passed 1st reading.
- Changes to Procedure 508 – Reimbursement of Expenses passed 1st reading.
- Changes to Procedure 511 – Bus Rentals passed 1st reading.
- Procedure 524 – Investment Procedure passed 1st reading.
- Northland Board approved School Food Services request to upgrade kitchen equipment at Jousard School.



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<http://nsd61.ca/governance/board-meeting-agenda-minutes/minutes>

View Board Meeting Attachments on website at:

<http://nsd61.ca/governance/board-meeting-agenda-minutes/board-attachments>

Important Dates to Remember

February 19-20, 2016	Board Meeting, Peace River, Alberta
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Note: These writings do not constitute the official record of the Northland School Division No.61. They are however, provided as general information relating to action taken at board meetings. For further information, please call 780-624-2060 or 1-800-362-1360.