



Northland School Division No.61 Board Highlights

Corporate Board Meeting – May 27-28, 2016

**“Every student is a lifelong learner and successful
in life”**



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Anzac, Janvier and Fort McKay schools closed for the remainder of the 2015-2016 school year

On May 28th, the Official Trustee approved recommendations to initiate the process in accordance with the School Act to close Anzac Community School, Bill Woodward School, Father R. Perin School and Fort McKay School. These schools have been closed for weeks due to evacuation notices or air quality concerns related to Fort McMurray and area wildfires. Click on link below to view media release.

<http://nsd61.ca/about-us/division-news/post/anzac-janvier-and-fort-mckay-schools-closed-for-remainder-of-the-2015-2016-school-year>

Paddle Prairie School presentation



Paddle Prairie School Principal Jill Gaudet presented a storyboard video to the Official Trustee to highlight school initiatives and progress with division priorities such as literacy, First Nations, Métis language and culture and student attendance. One initiative the school is undertaking is Moving Forward with High School Redesign (MFWHSR). MFWHSR helps schools to make content more meaningful and relevant for high school students. For example, the school hosted Career and Technology Studies (CTS) Week twice this year to expose students to hands-on learning activities such as Moccasin Making, Sewing, Foods,

Carpentry and Small Engine Repair. While learning these skills, students were able to earn two credits. Gaudet says the school experienced increased attendance in high school while hosting CTS Week.

The school's focus on literacy at the elementary level is progressing. Gaudet explained that students are becoming better readers by developing the knowledge to track their own progress. The video highlighted the school's participation in Trickster Theatre. For one week, students learned how to act, create and write scripts. Gaudet says what was noticeable about this workshop is that students who are generally shy became very active in production. The entire production was about being Métis so the school was able to hit literacy goals and infuse Métis culture at the same time. Gaudet also highlighted student attendance strategies. She says they communicate the Attendance Action Protocol in the school newsletter, make door to door visits and host bi-monthly award assemblies to



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recognize perfect attenders. Students who achieve perfect attendance receive a button and are entered into a draw to win either a cash reward or a tablet.

Literacy presentation



St. Theresa School students participate in Musical Reading Club!

Division Literacy Principal Janette Cavanaugh and Pedagogical Supervisor Maureen Chernipeski presented information to the Official Trustee about the division’s Literacy Initiative. Cavanaugh explained that the focus this year has been primarily on building capacity with principals and school-based literacy leads. This work involves training staff how to properly assess students when it comes to reading and how to organize and utilize resources to achieve success. Cavanaugh and Chernipeski highlighted training sessions staff have experienced this year. In October, kindergarten and grade 1 teachers participated in Early Year Evaluation training which supports how educators organize instruction for students. In November, 35 staff attended animated literacy training sessions. These workshops encourage storytelling, song and gestures to help students with reading and writing.

Land-Based Learning presentation



Director of First Nations, Métis Learner Success Lorraine Cardinal-Roy provided information to the Official Trustee about a land-based learning camp organized for educators, Elders and Local Knowledge Keepers at Marten Lakes Wilderness Campus – Northern Lakes College. This camp was designed to answer questions about utilizing the land as a source of knowledge. From May 13-16th, everyone in attendance participated in activities such as identifying medicinal plants and trees and moccasin making. Beverly Barca, who helped facilitate sessions, introduced the concept of ‘Two-Eyed Seeing’ to develop capacity of educators, community and Elders to embrace a bicultural model that weaves culture, traditions, language and land-based learning into the Alberta Program of Studies. Camp attendees were introduced to the game of ‘Muskrat and Beavers’ to show how math, science and social studies can be woven into a land-based experience. Near the end of the presentation, Cardinal-Roy also educated the Official Trustee, senior administration and guests on



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how to play ‘Muskrats and Beavers’.

Proposed partnership with Bigstone Cree Nation and the University of Calgary

Northland School Division is looking to expand partnerships aimed at improving educational outcomes for students. On May 13th, the division met with representatives from Bigstone Cree Nation, Treaty 8 First Nation and the University of Calgary to discuss a potential partnership. The proposal outlines three specific strategies:

- Building leadership and teacher capacity
- Build youth leadership capacity within the community
- Increase the number of First Nation teachers through Community-based Bachelor of Education Program

See Board Attachments for additional information on this proposed partnership
<http://nsd61.ca/download/78407> (Start on page 295).

Boarding Home presentation

Associate Superintendent of Schools Don Tessier updated the Official Trustee about a recent discussion by the Boarding Home Committee. The committee, consisting of senior administration and school principals, reviewed Boarding Home Program regulations and current boarding home arrangements in the jurisdiction. Recommendations are being sent to school administrators’ and Local School Board Committees for feedback.

Approved motions summary

- The Official Trustee approved the Education Quarterly Report. See report in Board Attachments <http://nsd61.ca/download/78407> (Start on page 2).
- The Official Trustee approved the Finance Quarterly Report. See report in Board Attachments <http://nsd61.ca/download/78407> (Start on page 26).
- The Official Trustee approved the continuation of the junior high program at Grouard Northland School.
- The Official Trustee approved changes to Procedure 100 – Safe and Caring Schools.
- The Official Trustee approved changes to Procedure 304 – Student Conduct.
- The Official Trustee approved a Support Staff Retirement Plan.
- The Official Trustee approved changes to job description for Supervisor of Student Services.



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- Changes to job description for Direction of First Nations, Métis and Inuit Learner Success passed second reading.
- Changes to Procedure 404 – Recruitment and Re-assignment of Certificates Staff passed 1st Reading.
- Changes to Procedure 431 – Employee Benefits passed 1st Reading.
- The Official Trustee approved the Borrowing Resolution, if required, in the amount of \$3,000,000 to meet the current operating expenditures for the 2016-2017 school year.
- The Official Trustee approved the lowest quote, from Rolco.com, for \$45,293.85 plus GST for installation of roll shutter on teacherages in Little Buffalo.
- The Official Trustee approved the transfer of the old teacherage east of Dr. Mary Jackson School to the Keg River Cowboy Way Society, with the condition that the Keg River Cowboy Way Society move the teacherage to its own site at its cost.
- Changes to Procedure 526 – Fraud passed 2nd reading.
- Official Trustee approved the Superintendent’s Report.
- Official Trustee approved the Chairman’s Report.
- Official Trustee approved the Secretary Treasurer’s Report.

View Board Agenda Packages on our website at:

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

View Board Minutes on our website at:

<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

June 24-25, 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.