



Northland School Division No.61 Board Highlights Corporate Board Meeting – January 26, 2017

Northland launches *Flexible Learning Pilot Program*

A new pathway for Northland School Division No.61 (NSD61) students to complete high school is now available! Superintendent of Schools Gord Atkinson provided information to the Corporate Board about the *Flexible Learning Pilot Program*. In partnership with Career Pathways School, six high school students from across NSD61 will continue their journey towards graduation through a blended learning environment.

“This is new territory for NSD61,” said Gord Atkinson, Superintendent of Schools. “This pilot program allows students to work towards high school completion in their community. We are launching the program with a small group to ensure it runs smoothly before determining whether to progress to full implementation in 2017-2018.”

The *Flexible Learning Pilot Program* will see students accessing resources and instruction online using Google Classroom while continuing to participate in land-based learning and hands-on Career and Technology Studies (CTS). The online learning environment includes core courses such as Language Arts, Science, Social Studies and Math as well as CTS. Official Trustee Lois Byers thanked Career Pathways and other school divisions who have contributed to the development of the *Flexible Learning Pilot Program*. [Click here](#) to view the media release!

Notice of motion for possible closure of Hillview School

The Official Trustee approved a notice of motion regarding the possible closing of Hillview School in the East Prairie Métis Settlement. The division’s school closure policy, The *School Act* and *Closure of Schools Regulation* outline a process for possible school closures. This includes hosting a public meeting which NSD61 has scheduled for March 15, 2017 at the kindergarten to grade 6 school. In addition to the public meeting, arrangements will be announced for parents and community members who wish to discuss concerns in a one on one setting with the Official Trustee and Superintendent of Schools. These upcoming conversations will help NSD61 understand the reasons why parents are sending their children to other schools and give parents and community members the opportunity to discuss alternative programs and the preferred future for Hillview School. The Official Trustee will vote on the motion no later than the Corporate Board Meeting May 25, 2017.

Before the notice of motion regarding the possible closure of Hillview School, NSD61 conducted Hillview School viability study. The study was built around the current school closure policy and in anticipation of the new drafted school closure policy. See Board Agenda Package to view *Hillview School Viability Report* <http://nsd61.ca/download/94605> (Page 37).

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Official Trustee approves 2016-2017 November Revised Budget

The Official Trustee approved the 2016-2017 November Revised Budget. The revised budget, presented by Secretary Treasurer Trudy Rasmuson, is balanced, with revenues of \$67.207 million and expenses of \$66.956 million. See Board Agenda Package to view the 2016-2017 November Revised Budget <http://nsd61.ca/download/94605> (Page 15).

Housing Plan

Secretary Treasurer Trudy Rasmuson presented a division-wide Housing Plan to the Official Trustee. The plan outlines a multi-year strategy for upgrading housing in Northland communities. It includes a cost analysis for the renovation plan which includes potential rent increases. See Board Agenda Package to view the Northland School Division Housing Plan <http://nsd61.ca/download/94605> (Page 50).

Attendance Improvement Initiative “Every Day Counts” Year-end Report

Associate Superintendent and Division Attendance Lead Don Tessier presented the *Attendance Improvement Initiative “Every Day Counts” Year-end Report* to the Official Trustee. The report highlights the initiative’s goals and targets, strategies and specific processes in place to improve student attendance. A specific process includes making sure schools receive proper training for how to use the division’s Students Information System (SIS) Maplewood. Since the initiative’s inception, overall student attendance has improved by 3% and with a few exceptions, the majority of NSD61 schools have experience positive growth. See Board Agenda Package to view the *Attendance Improvement Initiative “Every Day Counts” Year-end Report* <http://nsd61.ca/download/94605> (Page 64).

New Administration Procedures Implementation Review Timeline

Superintendent of Schools Gord Atkinson provided background to the Official Trustee on the process of drafting the new administrative procedures. Alberta School Boards Association Consultant Terry Gunderson assisted NSD61 with this extensive review. Based on the Governing Through Engagement and Collaboration (GTEC) Policy Model, all administrative procedures and policies have undergone revisions where the procedure/policy were not in line with the GTEC Policy Model. Gunderson and NSD61’s executive staff reviewed these procedures with the Local School Board Committee Chairs and Principals in January 2017.

The next step is to hear from you! Stakeholders will receive correspondence by February 15, 2017. It will include a link to the “new administrative procedures” on the Northland School Division website www.nsd61.ca and information about submitting feedback to Secretary Melanie Mantai melanie.mantai@nsd61.ca by April 30, 2017. That gives stakeholders 60 days to review and provide feedback. On May 25, 2017, the “new administrative procedures will be brought to the Corporate Board for information and implementation.

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Official Trustee's Report

In this month's Official Trustee's Report, there's updated information with respect to the main focus for the Official Trustee which includes: separating governance and administration, improving communication with Local School Board Committees, outstanding agreements with education partners, the division-wide financial situation, First Nations, Métis and Inuit funding and the hiring of three area Associate Superintendents. See Board Package to view that and much more in the *Official Trustee's Board Report* <http://nsd61.ca/download/94605> (Page 235).

Summary of approved Board motions

The Official Trustee approved:

- The tender submitted by Edmonton Motors for two new full size ¾ ton heavy duty four door extended cab, four wheel drive trucks at a cost of \$41, 151.00 each plus GST and an additional \$15,000 each plus GST for service boxes, with funds coming from the 2016-2017 capital budget.
- Third and final reading of Policy 13 – Appeals and Hearings Regarding Student Matters.
- Third and final reading of Policy 19 – Welcoming, Caring, Respectful, Safe and Healthy Learning and Working Environments.
- First reading of Policy 14 – Hearings on Teacher Matters and directed administration to send out information to Local School Board Committee Chairs and principals for feedback.
- First reading for Policy 15 – School Closure. This draft includes the new regulations set out by the provincial government and will be sent to Local School Board Committee Chairs and principals for feedback.
- First reading for Policy 18 – Alternative Programs. This draft will be sent to Local School Board Committee Chairs and principals for feedback.

View Board Schedule, Agendas, Minutes, Highlights and Attachments on our website at: <http://nsd61.ca/governance/board-meeting-agenda-minutes>

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

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