



Northland School Division No.61 (NSD)

Board Highlights Regular Board Meeting – January 18, 2019



Board of Trustees left to right: Back Row – Silas Yellowknee (Ward 6), Randy Anderson (Ward 3), Robin Guild (Ward 7), Maddy Daniels (Board Chair, Ward 1), Jules Nokohoo (Vice-Chair, Ward 10), Louis Cardinal (Ward 5), Jesse Lamouche (Ward 4).

Front Row - Rubi Shirley (Ward 9), Loretta Gladue (Ward 8), Karen Telford (Ward 11), Cathy Wanyandie (Ward 2).

host professional development for all staff. A winter break is scheduled during the second week of February (**February 10-17, 2020**) and spring break is scheduled during the first week of April (**April 6-13, 2020**). Two dates have been scheduled for division-wide professional learning (PL). The first PL is taking place October 4, 2019 and the second PL is February 13, 2020. The calendar is being circulated in the school communities for feedback and will be brought back to the March 24, 2019 Regular Board Meeting.

Notice of motion for possible school closures at Pelican Mountain School and Calling Lake Outreach School

The Board of Trustees approved a notice of motion regarding the possible school closures of Pelican Mountain School (Sandy Lake) and Calling Lake Outreach School. NSD's school closure policy (Policy 15 - School Closure), the School Act, and Closure of Schools Regulation outline a process for possible school closures. This includes hosting public meetings. The Calling Lake Outreach School meeting is Tuesday, March 19, 2019 and the Pelican Mountain School meeting is Wednesday, March 20, 2019. The public meetings will help NSD 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 both schools. The Board will vote on the motion no later than the May 24, 2019 Regular Board Meeting.

Before the notice of motion, Superintendent of Schools Gord Atkinson presented viability studies for both schools. The study outlines potential impacts of closing the school. Click on the website link to view the reports <https://www.nsd61.ca/download/150750> (pages 29-50).

NSD partnering with Peavine Métis Settlement to develop curriculum reflecting local stories & culture

NSD is embarking on an exciting project with the Peavine Métis Settlement. The Board of Trustees directed the Superintendent of Schools Gord Atkinson to work with the settlement to develop curriculum that reflects local Métis stories and culture in Bishop Routhier School.

NSD originally met with the Peavine Métis Settlement to discuss this work on November 6, 2018. Atkinson has directed Area 1 Associate Superintendent Shelley Willier to work on this project with the Bishop Routhier School principal and the community.

2019-2020 School Year Calendar draft accommodates families and division-wide professional learning

The 2019-2020 School Year Calendar draft is geared towards accommodating families and creating time to

Board not proceeding with notice of motion for possible school closure at Hillview School



After reviewing the Hillview School Viability Study, the Board of Trustees approved to not proceed with a notice of motion regarding a possible school closure. The trustees noted Hillview School and the East Prairie Métis Settlement have made progress to enhance educational opportunities for students. As part of the NSD and East Prairie Métis Settlement Memorandum of Understanding, a pre-kindergarten program was established to help increase student enrolment. The school will be re-evaluated in the fall of 2019. To view the Hillview School Viability Study, click on the website link

statements <https://www.nsd61.ca/download/150750> (pages 16-27).

Policies approved by the Board

The Board of Trustees approved:

- Third reading for Policy 5 Appendix A - Signing Authority Chart. The chart is a formal process for board approval of contracts, board guidelines for signing contracts and delegation of authority for approval and signing to the superintendent of schools <https://www.nsd61.ca/download/152241>.
- First Reading for Policy 5 – Role of the Board Chair. The policy clarifies the practice of opening and closing a meeting. The proposed change will enable each person to provide opening and closing comments relevant to their culture.

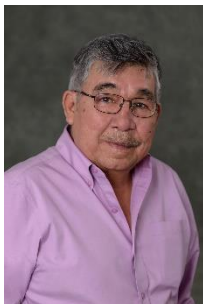
First Quarter Financial Statements approved

The Board of Trustees approved the Unaudited First Quarter Financial Statements for the period of September 1, 2018 to November 30, 2018. The report, presented by Secretary-Treasurer Trudy Rasmuson, shows the division was in a \$2.7 million deficit. However this is a result of not receiving \$2.3 million in revenue yet:

- \$1.25 million of the five year investment grant from Alberta Education.
- \$285,844 of tuition year-end adjustments from First Nations.
- 193,983 of gifts, donations and fundraising.
- The rest relates to the timing of the revenue coming in.

Click on the website to link to the view statements <https://www.nsd61.ca/download/150750> (pages 51-58).

Ward 5 Louis Cardinal appointed Board Community Engagement Lead



Ward 5 Trustee Louis Cardinal is taking on a new role for the remainder of his electoral term. The Board of Trustees approved the role Board Community Engagement Lead for Cardinal, as a board ad hoc committee in Policy 8. With the transfer of Little Buffalo, Peerless Lake and Kateri (Trout Lake) Schools from NSD to Kee Tas Kee Now Tribal Council Education Authority (KTCEA), the role of the Ward 5 trustee was reduced, as there are no longer any Northland schools within the ward. The role of Board Community Engagement Lead not only gives Cardinal a defined role but also taps into his knowledge and enhances the Board's involvement in

communities. Click on the website link to learn more about the Board Community Engagement Lead position <https://www.nsd61.ca/download/150750> (page 66-67).

Role of Board Advisor presented as information



Lois Byers is staying on as Board Advisor after her contract was extended. Board Chair Maddy Daniels presented the Board Advisor’s role as information. As Board Advisor, Lois provides advice to trustees and senior administration regarding governance and effective process. Click on the website link to view the role of the Board Advisor <https://www.nsd61.ca/download/150750> (page 65).

Board of Trustees recommend endorsing the Joint Statement on Physical Punishment of Children and Youth

The Board of Trustees recommend endorsing the Joint Statement on Physical Punishment of Children and Youth with a letter to be drafted by administration. The statement was developed by a coalition of six national organizations led by the Children’s Hospital of Eastern Ontario. More than 600 organizations have endorsed the statement. Click on the website link to learn more <https://www.nsd61.ca/download/150750> (pages 59-63).

Women Building Futures featured in the Board Report



In this edition of the Board Chair Report, Maddy Daniels shared her experience visiting the Women Building Futures Training Centre in Edmonton. The organization prepares women for careers in industries where they are historically under-represented. Click on the website link to view the entire report <https://www.nsd61.ca/download/150750> (73-75).

Dr. Ruby Payne presentation highlighted in the Superintendent’s Report



Superintendent of Schools Gord Atkinson started out by discussing the special guest who will be speaking to NSD staff on February 13, 2019 in Edmonton. Dr. Ruby Payne is presenting *A Framework for Understanding Poverty*. Atkinson says following the presentation, NSD staff will have consistent messaging with respect to poverty. He talked about his recent get-together with Athabasca Tribal Council. Atkinson said progress has been made on drafting an educational services agreement.

The planning stages have begun on a balanced calendar concept. On September 21, 2018, the Board of Trustees directed the superintendent to explore and develop a plan, for the Board’s consideration, learning calendar and learning program which includes community

engagement and that reflects and honours Indigenous Ways of Knowing and Ways of Being. Atkinson says an update will be provided at the February 15, 2019 Regular Board Meeting.

In November trustees and members of the senior administration met with Honourable Danielle Larivee to discuss ways to better serve students in care. During the meeting, they talked about connecting caseworkers to NSD Family Wellness Workers as a way to ensure students in care are attending school regularly and achieving academic success. Larivee is the Minister of Children Services. On January 10, 2019, Atkinson met with the director of child protective services to address the November conversation with Larivee. The director told Atkinson the discussion is important but right now they are inundated with the current fentanyl situation in Alberta.

Professional Learning & Kindergarten to Grade 12 Numeracy Framework highlighted in the Area 1 Associate Superintendent's Report

In early September, Area 1 Associate Superintendent Shelley Willier discussed building capacity with principals and teachers so they can improve teaching and learning in classrooms, schools and communities. To support this work, principals have been developing a better understanding of the Leadership Quality Standard (LQS) and Curtis Linton's Equity Framework. The LQS will come into effect September 1, 2019. The standard identifies nine competencies which leaders are required to demonstrate. The Equity Framework focuses on leadership, teaching practice and school culture.

This month, Willier showcased the framework in action by highlighting professional learning and events in Area 1. She also discussed how NSD is implementing the division's Kindergarten to Grade 12 Numeracy Framework. To learn more, click on the website link <https://www.nsd61.ca/download/150750> (pages 85-96).

Occupational Health and Safety Gap Analysis presented as information



Occupational Health and Safety (OH & S) Manager Stuart Elle presented an OH & S Gap Analysis for NSD. Elle, who joined NSD in October 2018, began by sharing his previous school division OH & S experience and Bill 30 – An Act to Protect the Health and Well-Being of Working Albertans. The act includes numerous changes to the Alberta Health and Safety Act, Regulation and Code.

Before sharing the analysis, Elle used a space analogy to emphasize the importance of health and safety in schools. Asking trustees to imagine NSD as a space program, Stuart talked about utilizing the power of “negative thinking”, a phrase coined by Retired Canadian Astronaut Chris Hadfield. Elle says the power of negative thinking is a strategy used for identifying risks and planning for worst case scenarios.

To view the analysis, click on the website link <https://www.nsd61.ca/download/150750> (pages 98-105).

Submission of Proposals for Indigenous Languages in Education (ILE) Grants



Director of First Nations, Métis and Inuit Learner Success Lorraine Cardinal-Roy updated the Board of Trustees regarding four proposals NSD submitted for ILE grants. The first proposal, in partnership with Kee Tas Kee Now Tribal Council Education Authority (KTCEA), talks about expanding the professional learning for Indigenous language instructors. The second submission, in partnership with the University of Alberta and KTCEA, would be used to create a second cohort to attend the Canadian Indigenous Languages and Literacy Development Institute (CILLDI) program.

The third proposal, in partnership with KTCEA, supports the creation of regional kits to support Cree and Dene language development. The final submission, in partnership with KTCEA, involves creating sets of wooden building blocks for each school that colourfully illustrate culturally relevant images, syllabic symbols and their corresponding sounds.

Click on the website link review the proposals <https://www.nsd61.ca/download/150750> (pages 107-159).

Student Enrolment Update



Associate Superintendent of Human Resources Wes Oginski presented a monthly student enrolment update to the Board of Trustees. As of December 2018, the total enrolment is 2012 students. Click on the website link for more information <https://www.nsd61.ca/download/150750> (page 161-162).

Attendance Improvement Initiative Operational Plan Update



Director of Student Engagement, Attendance and Completion Don Tessier updated the Board of Trustees on progress made by NSD to achieve strategies within the Attendance Improvement Initiative Operational Plan. Click on the website link for more information <https://www.nsd61.ca/download/150750> (page 164-169).

Trustee Reports from Ward 3 and 11



Ward 3 Trustee Randy Anderson attended a school council meeting in Peavine on January 9th. He said the council supports a curriculum program which reflects local Métis stories and culture in Bishop Routhier School. NSD is working on this project with the Bishop Routhier School principal and the community. The first meeting to develop a local curriculum took place January 10, 2019.



Ward 11 Trustee Karen Telford had a busy November and December. The following events and meetings she attended include:

- November 27, 2018: Elizabeth School Council Meeting.
- November 29, 2018: Met with Honourable Danielle Larivee to discuss ways to better serve students in care.
- December 3, 2018: Board Advocacy Committee Meeting.
- December 7, 2018: Elizabeth School Christmas Concert.
- December 11, 2018: Teacher Employer Bargaining Association (TEBA) Meeting.
- December 13, 2018: Board Advocacy Committee Meeting.
- December 18, 2018: Land Based Teaching at J.F. Dion School

This month, Karen will be attending the Shaping the Future Conference, participating in a Wellness Committee Meeting and attending an Elizabeth School Council Meeting.

View Board Schedule, Agendas, Minutes, Highlights and Attachments on our website at

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

Next Corporate Board Meeting is Friday, February 15, 2019 at the Star of the North Retreat Centre in St. Albert

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.