



# Northland School Division No.61 (NSD)

Board Highlights Regular Board Meeting – June 14, 2019



**Board of Trustees left to right: Back Row – Silas Yellowknee (Ward 6), Randy Anderson (Ward 3), Robin Guild (Board Chair, Ward 7), Maddy Daniels (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).**

## **Organizational Meeting – Board Chair and Vice-Chair Election Results**

At our Organizational Meeting, Ward 7 Trustee Robin Guild has been elected Board Chair and Jules Nokohoo has been re-elected Vice-Chair.

## **Board Committees and Board Representatives**

Following the Board Chair and Vice-Chair elections, the Board appointed trustees to sit on various standing committees and represent the Board on various external committees, agencies and organizations.

Click on the website link to view 2019-2020 Board Committee Schedule

<https://www.nsd61.ca/download/186493>.

Click on the website link to view the 2019-2020 Board Representative Schedule

<https://www.nsd61.ca/download/186497>.

## **Board of Trustees approved the 2019-2020 Spring Budget**

The Board of Trustees approved the 2019-2020 Spring Budget. The division's total budget is \$64, 621, 981. The budget supports division priorities such as student attendance improvement, literacy, numeracy, land-based learning, student and staff wellness, family wellness workers, professional development and leadership training.

## **Board of Trustees approved motion to keep the instructional program open at Pelican Mountain School**

The Board of Trustees approved a motion to continue the instructional program at Pelican Mountain School. School closure consideration was triggered under Policy 15 – School Closure due to low enrolment. In addition, the Board decided to discontinue bussing for kindergarten to grade 6 students from Sandy Lake to Wabasca-Desmarais.

## **Board of Trustees approved the closure of Calling Lake Outreach School**

The Board of Trustees approved the closure of Calling Lake Outreach School, as of June 30, 2019. In order to receive funding for the outreach school, the schools must be in a building separate from Calling Lake School. The building that was for the outreach program is no longer being used. The students received an education program at Calling Lake School during the 2018-2019 school year.

Calling Lake students will still have access to a flexible option to earn a high school diploma. They can enroll in the division's Flexible Learning Program. In partnership with Career Pathways School (Wabasca), students are able to complete courses online using Google Classroom. If students are interested they can contact NSD at 780-624-2060.

## **Acting Superintendent's contract approved by the Board of Trustees**



The contract for Acting Superintendent of Schools Nancy Spencer-Poitras has been approved by the Board of Trustees.

## **NSD presentation highlights the Board Chair Highlights**

In the latest edition of the Board Chair Highlights, Ward 1 Trustee Maddy Daniels talked about the presentation by St. Theresa School Principal Debbie Mineault and Teacher Dawn Gambler at the Public School Boards Association of Alberta (PSBAA) Annual General Meeting in June. The presentation title "Inclusive Land-Based Learning", highlighted how St. Theresa School is weaving literacy, programs of study and Indigenous knowledge, protocols, language and traditional ways of life to support success and inclusion of all students. The Board thanked Debbie and Dawn for showcasing their outstanding work on a provincial stage.

## **Wildfire Update included in the Superintendent Highlights**

Acting Superintendent of School Nancy Spencer-Poitras shared information to the trustees on how NSD has handled the wildfire situation in Paddle Prairie, Wabasca-Desmarais, Sandy Lake and Chipewyan Lake. During the entire process, NSD has been providing regular communication to students, staff, parents and community members on its website, on Facebook and on Twitter. On the NSD website, a question and answer page was developed to assist students, staff, parents and community members impacted by the wildfires. In addition to OHS, Spencer-Poitras thanked Area 1 Associate Superintendent Shelley Willier for her efforts to support Paddle Prairie School students, staff, parents and community member impacted by the wildfire in the Paddle Prairie Métis Settlement. Currently, the division is working with insurance adjustors to assess the damage to schools and housing for teachers.

### **Stuart Elle presented the Occupational Health and Safety Report**

Occupational Health and Safety Manager Stuart Elle updated the Board on recent changes to support the health and safety of students and staff. NSD will have a new emergency response planning system. The system includes training modules for staff and students, communication templates and integration for first responders. Elle also developed a survey to gain insight into staff perceptions and understanding of health and safety within NSD.

### **School Growth Plans featured in the Area 3 Associate Superintendent Report**

Area 3 Associate Superintendent Tim Stensland shared the work schools have been doing around growth planning. All schools have been establishing strategies around literacy, numeracy, land-based learning and maintaining a welcoming, caring, respectful, safe and healthy learning and working environments. He also updated the trustees about the 20 teachers involved in the Google Cohort. The teachers meet face to face and virtually to share ideas and develop strategies for integrating Google into classroom instruction.

### **Professional Development highlighted in the First Nations, Métis and Inuit Report**

Director of First Nations, Métis and Inuit Learner Success Lorraine Cardinal-Roy shared how the Indigenous language instructors are enhancing language and culture in NSD schools. The team works with the language instructors to ensure they are implementing the training they have received around planning and resource development.

### **Technology improvements highlighted to the Board of Trustees**

Network Administrator Jason Juneau highlighted what NSD is doing to ensure students have the technology needed for 21<sup>st</sup> century learning. As of June 1, 2019, every student has a laptop or a Chromebook to support their learning. The Information Technology Department played a large role in implementing myBlueprint; an interactive tool to help students learn about personal growth, careers and goal setting.

Another tool assisting schools is GoGuardian. The filtering tool helps school administrators to monitor inappropriate internet usage, as well as self-harm notifications. The report also notes that the department will be replacing a number of SMART Boards.

### **Northland Community Based Education Program highlighted in Personnel Report**

Associate Superintendent of Human Resources Wes Oginski highlighted the new professional quality standards coming into play September 1, 2019. Oginski informed the Board of Trustees about changes to the Teaching Quality Standard, which hasn't been updated since 1997. The new standard requires staff to apply foundational knowledge about First Nations, Métis and Inuit. In 2017-2018, Oginski announced staff members working towards a Bachelor of Education from the University of Calgary's Werklund School of Education. Congratulations to Val Lagimodiere (Elizabeth School), Kate McEvoy (St. Theresa School), Pamela Tremblay (Conklin Community School) and Gerald Young (St. Theresa School). NSD has invested in a second cohort. Congratulations to Melissa Campbell (Anzac), Shawna Ghostkeeper (Paddle Prairie), June Laboucane (Fishing Lake), Madison MacDonald (Fishing Lake) and Crystal Orr (Wabasca).

In February, 2018, 17 teachers from across NSD participated in the Aspiring Leaders Program. A second cohort started in February. Assistant Supervisors of Leadership Growth Rick Horon and Guy Spencer help to mentor and coach teachers who aspire to become principal at some point. Oginski also updated the Board about the recruitment of staff and updated staffing numbers.

### **Director of Student Engagement, Attendance and Completion presented student attendance update to the Board of Trustees**

Director of Student Engagement, Attendance and Completion Don Tessier shared updated information regarding overall student attendance. When comparing 2017-2018 to 2018-2019 results from September to January, division-wide student attendance increased by four percent (84%), which surpasses NSD's two percent increase target per year. Unfortunately, the record low temperatures in February and wildfires in May impacted the overall improvement made by NSD. Even with these challenges, the division saw an overall 1% improvement as of May 2019.

The attendance information shows marked improvement by individual schools. A number of schools have increased the number of students achieving between 90% and 100%. As a result, the number of students attending below 50% is decreasing. At Mistassiniy School (Wabasca-Desmarais) for example, 25% less students are attending below 50% of the time. To ensure attendance improvement continues, the following strategies have been put in place: • Monitor kindergarten attendance. • Standardized attendance protocols. • All students require a success plan. Grade 7-12 students are using myBlueprint. myBlueprint is an interactive tool to learn about personal growth, interest, career exploration, and goal setting. • Hired Family Wellness Workers to provide services to students and families in order to support emotional, behavioural and social wellbeing. • Implemented School Messenger which includes attendance notifications. • Launched the NSD Attendance Recognition and Awards Program.

### **Trustees Reports**



#### **Ward 2 Trustee**

Ward 2 Trustee Cathy Wanyandie attended Canada's Education Law Association (CAPSLE) Conference May 4-7, 2019. At the conference, Cathy learned about the Legacy Schools Program. The program, supported by the Gord Downie and Chanie Wenjack Fund, is a free national initiative to engage, empower and connect students and educators to further reconciliation through awareness education and action. Schools are able to sign up for the program at [https://downiewenjack.ca/our-](https://downiewenjack.ca/our-work/legacy-schools-programs/)

[work/legacy-schools-programs/](https://downiewenjack.ca/our-work/legacy-schools-programs/).

### **Ward 9 Trustee**



Ward 9 Trustee Rubi Shirley participated in a meeting with parents in May to address questions and concerns.

### **Ward 11 Trustee**



It's been a busy few months for Ward 11 Trustee Karen Telford. Like Cathy, she attended the CAPSLE Conference in May and highlighted the Legacy Schools Program. During the month of May, Telford participated in planning the Long Service Awards for Elizabeth School and J.F. Dion School. Following the planning sessions, she helped to recognize the retirees and recipients at the Long Service Awards at both schools. With the school year coming to a close, Karen will also be attending year-end celebrations at Elizabeth and J.F. Dion.

**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, August 23, 2019**

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.