



Northland School Division No.61 (NSD)

Board Highlights Regular Board Meeting – September 20, 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).

Transfer of land, buildings and school furniture in Little Buffalo approved

The Board of Trustees approved the transfer of the school furniture and division-owned land for \$1.00 to 2033800 Alberta Ltd, a company wholly owned by the Lubicon Lake Band. The land transferred will, in turn, be transferred to Canada to be converted to Reserve. The transfer is subject to Ministerial approval.

Transfer of division-owned school buses approved

The Board of Trustees approved the transfer of division-owned school buses to Kee Tas Kee Now Tribal Council Education Authority (KTCEA) for \$1.00, subject to Ministerial approval. Until the sale is completed, the NSD administration will enter into a lease agreement with KTCEA for the buses.

Policies approved by the Board of Trustees

The Board of Trustees approved:

- The first reading of **Policy 5 - Role of the Board Chair**. The revised policy states the Board Chair shall always ensure the Vice-Chair and/or another Trustee and/or Superintendent are part of discussions with government staff or elected officials.
- The first reading of **Policy 3 Appendix B - Trustee & Administration Working Relationship Guidelines**. The changes strengthen the ability for concerns to be resolved in a respectful manner. Changing the name of the appendix from Trustee Working Relationship Guidelines to Trustee & Administration Working Relationship Guidelines more accurately represents it is a two-way street.
- The second reading of **Policy 7 Appendix C - Trustee Expenses and Corporate Card Guidelines**.
- The second reading of **Policy 16 - Recruitment and Selection of Personnel**. The changes clarify the next steps after the interview committee makes their recommendation.
- The second reading of **Policy 20 - Housing**.
- The second reading of **Policy 8 - Board Committees**. The Board Committee of the Whole (COTW) has been removed from the policy. COTW meetings will no longer take place. Information regarding an Audit and Finance Committee has been added to the policy.
- **Policy 4 – Trustee Code of Conduct and Policy 4 Appendix A – Trustee Code of Conduct Sanctions**. The changes comply with the new Education Act that came into effect on September 1, 2019.
- **Policy 7 – Board and Governance & Operations**. The changes comply with the new Education Act that came into effect on September 1, 2019.

Trustees approve new appointments for Board Advocacy Committee, Wellness Committee and TEBA

The Board of Trustees approved new appointments for the Board Advocacy Committee, Wellness Committee and Teacher' Employer Bargaining Association (TEBA).



Board Advocacy Committee and TEBA: Randy Anderson, Ward 3 Trustee



Wellness Committee: Jules Nokohoo, Vice-Chair, Ward 10 Trustee

October Regular Board Meeting date change approved

The Board of Trustees approved a date change for the October Regular Board Meeting. The meeting is going to take place on **Saturday, October 26, 2019**, instead of Friday, October 25, 2019. The date change accommodates for scheduled interviews for Superintendent/CEO on Friday, October 25, 2019.

Code of Conduct motion approved

The Board of Trustees approved a censure for Ward 1 Trustee Maddy Daniels, in relation to Policy 4 – Trustee Code of Conduct. The censure on Trustee Daniels includes removal from all committees for one year and a written apology letter to the Board. The motion was originally approved on September 14th. When the original motion was made, it said sub-committees. On September 20th, the trustees amended the motion to correct the reference “sub-committees” to read “committees” instead.

Board of Trustees approved donating school facility usage for Renewing Our Spirit Conference

The Board of Trustees received a request from the Urban Rez Cultural Society asking if NSD would support their upcoming Renewing the Spirit Conference in Wabasca-Desmarais. The conference features workshops about culture, language, violence, addictions and residential schools. NSD will support the conference by donating school facility space.

Tour with Minister of Education highlighted in the Board Chair Highlights



Board Chair Robin Guild along with Vice-Chair Jules Nokohoo, Ward 9 Trustee Rubi Shirley and Acting Superintendent of School Nancy Spencer-Poitras, met with Honourable Adriana LaGrange, Minister of Education August 26th-28th. While visiting Conklin, Fort Chipewyan and Fort McKay, Minister LaGrange spoke with staff and viewed the housing for NSD educators. The Board is looking forward to future dialogue with Minister LaGrange to address housing and recruitment/retention of staff.

On August 27, 2019, Guild met with the Athabasca Chipewyan First Nation's Chief and Council. While meeting with the Chief and Council, productive conversations took place about supporting students and staff and looking for solutions to improve the school facility and housing for educators.

The next day, Chair Guild attended a community BBQ in Janvier. The BBQ included parents and community members from Anzac and Conklin. On September 5th, NSD hosted a community meeting in Paddle Prairie. The meeting was organized to explain and answer questions regarding the restoration at the school. On Wednesday, September 18th, Chair Guild attended a Long Service Awards event at St. Theresa School. Guild congratulated the staff who received recognition and thanked the local drummers and Elder John Bigstone for participating in the celebration.

Paddle Prairie Community Meeting highlighted in the Superintendent Highlights

Acting Superintendent of Schools Nancy Spencer-Poitras discussed the efforts made by the hired contractors, Alberta Health Services and NSD staff to reopen Paddle Prairie School on Wednesday, September 4th. The school suffered severe smoke damage as a result of wildfires in May and June. Spencer-Poitras said the hired contractors worked 12 hour shifts and maximum number of days in a row to ensure the school was ready for the new school year. Spencer-Poitras took a moment to thank the Division Facility Manager David Cox, Occupational Health and Safety Manager Stuart Elle, Division Housing Construction Foreman Chad Vion, Curtis Walty, Communications Coordinator, the hired contractors and AHS for their support.

Nancy announced the appointment of Dermod Madden as Associate Superintendent. Mr. Madden started his teaching career with NSD. He brings a wealth of knowledge with respect to distance learning and blended learning environments. Visit the NSD website to learn more about Dermod <https://www.nsd61.ca/about-us/division-news/post/dermod-madden-appointed-associate-superintendent>.

She concluded the highlights by informing the trustees about an upcoming meeting with the Office of the Auditor General to discuss student attendance. Alberta Education will be supporting NSD at the meeting.

A report from the Area 1 Associate Superintendent

Associate Superintendent Shelley Willier spoke to trustees about activities taking place in Area 1 schools (**Paddle Prairie School, Bishop Routhier School (Peavine Métis Settlement), Gift Lake School (Gift Lake Métis Settlement), Hillview School (East Prairie Métis Settlement), Grouard Northland School and Susa Creek School**). At Gift Lake School for example, Willier said staff with support from parents and community members, developed a long-range plan for 2019-2020 land-based learning activities. The plan includes identified resource people and materials to support land-based learning activities. A number of NSD schools are developing land-based learning activities with support from parents and community members.

Willier highlighted the continued work taking place to implement a division-wide framework for numeracy. To support numeracy development, staff participated in the Box Cars and One Eyed Jacks professional development. Staff learned how to incorporate math and literacy games for students.

A report from the Communications Department

Communications Coordinator Curtis Walty shared NSD's strategic communications plan for the 2019-2020 school year and 2018-2019 accomplishments. The strategic plan, which aligns with NSD's Policy 1- Foundational Statements and Outcome Statements, includes goals and strategies to strengthen communication between the trustees and their local schools, supporting key priorities such as student attendance and recruitment and maintaining strong relationships with stakeholders.

Some of the accomplishments include the Health Active School Symposium and communication with staff and communities impacted by wildfires. The report also included top social media (Facebook, Twitter) results in 2018-2019 and NSD website usage results.

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 Saturday, October 26, 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.