



# The Northland School Division (NSD)

Board Highlights Regular Board Meeting – January 23, 2021

## **Mistassiniy Replacement School design presented to the Board**

The Board of Trustees reviewed updated draft designs for the new Mistassiniy School. The design outlines the following:

- The layout for classrooms to primarily teach core subjects (math, science, social studies, language arts).
- The layout for learning spaces to teach physical education, art, and two Career and Technology Studies (CTS) spaces. Possible spaces are mechanics & carpentry, foods, etc.
- The layout for the front entrance (circular design), office space for staff, and rooms for counselling and wrap-around services.
- The outside design of the school and layout for future outdoor classrooms, the front entrance, parking, school bus lane, trees, shrubs, recreation spaces, etc.

## **2021-2022 School Year Calendar draft presented to the Board**

Associate Superintendent of Human Resources Wes Oginski presented a draft calendar for the 2021-2022 school year. The Board has the responsibility to set the school division calendar as set out in Section 60 in the *Education Act*. The draft calendar includes key dates:

The draft calendar will be circulated in the school communities for feedback and will be brought back to the March 20, 2020 Regular Board Meeting. Click on the website link to view the draft calendar <https://www.nsd61.ca/download/320463> (page 65).

## **Board approved instruction program continuation at Hillview School, Pelican Mountain School and Susa Creek School**

After reviewing the viability reports for Hillview School, Pelican Mountain School and Susa Creek School, the Board of Trustees approved to have all three instructional programs continue. The instructional programs will be re-evaluated in the fall of 2021.

The Board understands the importance of having schools in small rural/remote communities. Schools represent hope, the future for communities and a safe environment for students to dream and recognize their full potential. Hillview and Pelican Mountain are essential schools, in that the alternative would require a lengthy bus ride. Students would also lose access to specific learning opportunities supported with Knowledge Elders, Knowledge Keepers and community members.

## Secretary Treasurer presented Transportation Cost Study

Secretary-Treasurer Douglas Aird presented a transportation cost study report as requested by the Board of Trustees. Aird shared a cost analysis of bus contractors versus supplying the buses and hiring drivers. Currently, NSD operates 30 school bus routes and 15 are contracted routes. The analysis showed minimal cost savings from using contractors. Other strategic benefits from using contractors were noted. The Board moved to accept the information, as attached. Click on the website to view the report <https://www.nsd61.ca/download/320463> (page 116).

## School Attendance Report Update

Director of Student Engagement, Attendance and Completion Don Tessier provided information to the Board regarding attendance for at-home/in school learners. In addition to attendance percentages, the report includes survey responses with schools about at-home learning. The survey highlights communication with families, student engagement and strategies to support families with at-home learning.

With respect to supporting families with at-home learning, division staff and school staff have been developing resources to help parents with using technology tools such as Google Chromebooks. This gives parents and guardians the knowledge and confidence to help their child with learning. Click on the website link to view the entire report <https://www.nsd61.ca/download/320463> (page 43).

## Board Chair Highlights - A positive meeting with Minister of Education

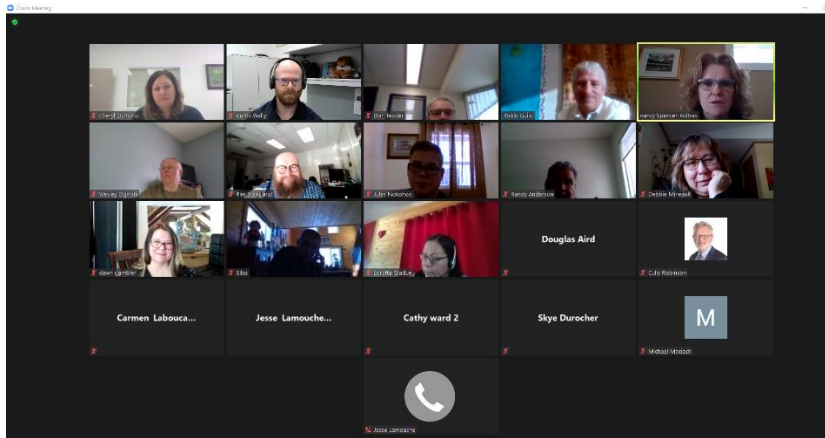


The number one priority for the Board of Trustees is making sure everyone feels welcome and valued in Northland School Division. In December, a division-wide bingo was organized for staff via Zoom. Guild said the event provided an opportunity for the Board to thank NSD staff for going above and beyond for students during this challenging time due to COVID-19.

Mr. Guild also participated in a teleconference with Adriana LaGrange, Minister of Education, MD of Opportunity and Bigstone Cree Nation. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss the increased COVID-19 cases in the Wabasca-Desmarais area and concerns community members have with in-school learning. Following the meeting, Minister LaGrange informed that NSD schools in the Wabasca-Desmarais area will remain open for in-school learning.

For parents and guardians who have concerns about in-school learning, NSD wants to reassure parents and guardians that the school division will continue to implement concentrated cleaning protocols, with direction from Alberta Health Services, to enhance the safety of students and staff.

## Superintendent's Highlights - Congratulations to St. Theresa School Teacher Dawn Gambler



The Board of Trustees and NSD Administration formally congratulated St. Theresa School Teacher Dawn Gambler on being nominated for a Prime Minister's Award in 2020. Gambler was nominated by Debbie Mineault, Supervisor of First Nations, Métis and Inuit Language and Culture and Land Based Learning, for Teaching in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM).

Mineault, the former St. Theresa School Principal, recognized the work Gambler has done to incorporate land-based learning in student learning. Ms. Gambler developed a unit called "Moswa" (moose) and integrated the information into the language arts, math, science and art curriculum. The unit was presented at the Public School Boards Association (PSBA) Annual General Meeting in 2019.

## A new home for Career Pathways School



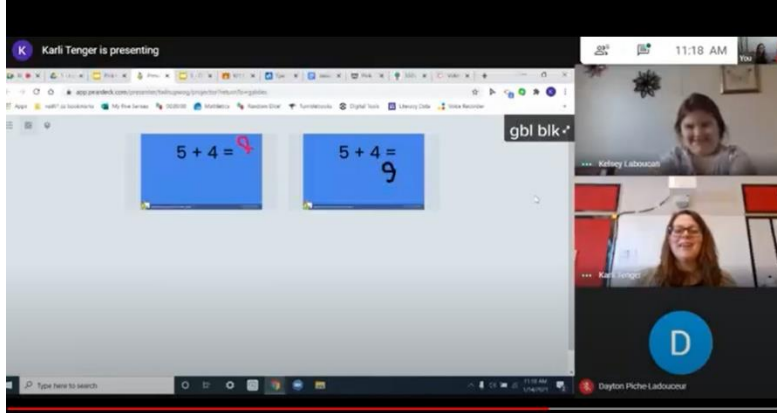
Career Pathways School has a new home! Dr. Nancy Spencer-Poitras informed the Board the new location for the outreach program is up and running. The new facility for the outreach program in Wabasca-Desmarais is now located just east of St. Theresa School (2783 Neewatim Drive). The grade 10-12 school was previously located at Northern Lakes College. Click on the website link to view the media release <https://www.nsd61.ca/about-us/division-news/post/new-home-for-career-pathways-school>.

## Ward 3 Trustee Report - NSD's approach to remote learning highlighted at ASBA Zone 1 Meeting



Ward 3 Trustee Randy Anderson showcased what NSD has done to support remote learning. Click on the website link to view the presentation <https://www.nsd61.ca/download/330540>. Prior to January 5, 2021, school board trustees were asked to share how supporting mental wellness for staff or what they're doing for remote learning.

## Trustees participated in a visual journey to see what At-Home Learning looks like



The Board of Trustees have a better understanding of how At-Home Learning looks following a video presentation by Michael Maciach, Pedagogical Supervisor - Educational Technology. At-home learning is delivered both at the school level and from a centralized approach. 135 students are participating in the centralized approach. The remaining percent have at-home learning supported by the classroom teacher

in the school/community where the student resides.

The presentation provided the trustees a visual lens of:

- What the learning environment looks like.
- What the student and teacher interaction look like.
- What technology tools teachers use to enhance the at-home learning experience.

In this video, Elizabeth School Teacher Ms. Tenger is working at-home learning students via Zoom and using a tool called Pear Deck. Pear Deck allows teachers to create interactive slides so students can respond to questions [tinyurl.com/4l0b6olx](https://tinyurl.com/4l0b6olx).

## Trustees learn about other technology tools NSD uses to support student learning

In the latest edition of Tech Talk, Associate Superintendent Tim Stensland provided a follow-up about Google Read and Write. When Stensland demonstrated how to use Google Read and Write on November 28, 2020, the Board asked the NSD Administration to make sure all teachers/staff are aware of the resource. The technology tool is designed to assist students with improving their reading and writing skills. For example, the technology allows a user to highlight text and have it read out loud. To ensure NSD staff are aware of the Google Read and Write, a series of resources and videos have been produced to support schools and families.

After the Google Read and Write follow-up Stensland introduced Hapara; a digital tool NSD educators use to track learner progress and provide ongoing feedback to students. The tool also allows parents and guardians to see what their child is learning. Click on the website link to learn more <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=t7SDzGDGugY&t=115s>.

## A proactive plan for Facilities and Maintenance unveiled

Secretary-Treasurer Douglas Aird presented the Facilities & Maintenance Plan which outlines the department's review and recommendations, advances and improvements, Corporate Services strategic themes and the Facilities 3 Year Plan 2021-2024. With respect to advances and improvements, the plan

demonstrates how the Facilities and Maintenance Department is working smarter and more efficiently. Examples include:

- Using a program called “Maintenance Care” to prioritize repairs, collect data to understand trends and evolve from a “break-fix” to a “preventative” maintenance mode.
- Using remote technology to monitor heating, ventilation and air conditioning (HVAC) and other system functions via a series of sensors. More sensors will be installed to help diagnose issues when they happen.
- Hiring staff who have expertise in multiple areas.
- Continue with the Energy Retrofit Project. NSD has been able to save \$650,000 in the last three years.

Click on the website link to view the report in detail <https://www.nsd61.ca/download/320463> (page 118).

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

**Next Regular Board Meeting is Saturday, February 20, 2021**

Note: These writings do not constitute the official record of the Northland School Division. 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.