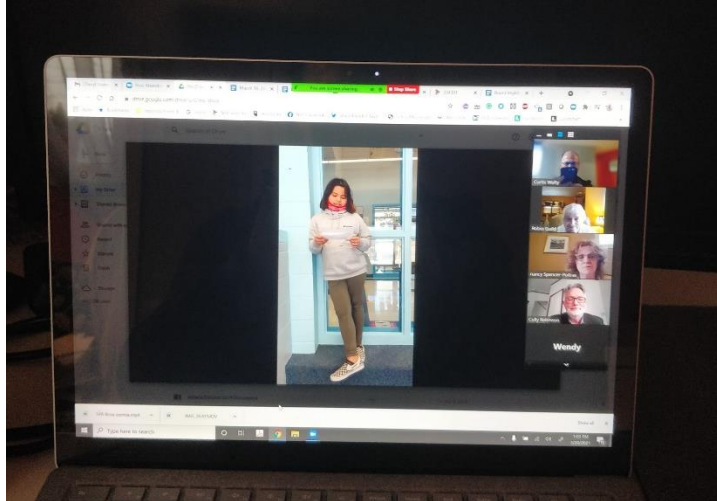




The Northland School Division (NSD)

Board Highlights Regular Board Meeting – March 20, 2021

Conklin student poet's success celebrated by the Board of Trustees



Ava Boucher-Monias submitted a poem called "Christmas" to the Wood Buffalo Library Words in Motion program. Ava's poem was selected by a panel of judges and will now be published in the 2021 Words in Motion booklet! The Board of Trustees celebrated this by inviting Ava and her parents to share her poem during the Board Meeting.

During the celebration, the Board watched a video of Ava reading the poem and enthusiastically congratulated her proud parents.

"The Board is very proud of Ava's accomplishment," said Robin Guild, Board Chair, ". "It was exciting for us to congratulate Ava and her parents during the Board Meeting. We look forward to celebrating more success stories from NSD students."

2021-2022 Capital Plan approved by the Board of Trustees

The Board approved the 2021-2022 Capital Plan. The plan ranks the proposed school level projects for the division, based on provincial criteria in a process first developed through our collaboration with Edmonton Public School Division. The criteria for the plan includes enrollment, projections, utilization, building age and overall condition. This ranking will be used to seek capital funding from Alberta Education in a process that matches very limited capital funding with the highest-ranking projects provincially. Accordingly, only the top 1-2 priorities in any year have a chance of being funded. Funding would provide for either a major modernization or a completely new school.

The capital plan includes requests for 12 of our schools. This includes Grouard, Paddle Prairie, Susa Creek, Anzac and Calling Lake as the highest priorities.

Visit our website to view the Capital Plan in detail <https://www.nsd61.ca/download/334517>.

2021-2022 School Year Calendar approved by the Board of Trustees

The 2021-2022 School Year Calendar (showing operational days and breaks) received approval from the Board of Trustees. The Board has the responsibility to set the school division calendar as set out in Section 60 in the Education Act. The calendar was circulated for feedback from school councils, members of the Northland ATA Local and principals. Click on the website link to view the approved calendar in detail <https://www.nsd61.ca/download/334470>.

Board Chair Highlights - NSD success story featured in the PSBAA newsletter



Board Chair Robin Guild participating in the NSD Professional Learning Day

In the latest Board Chair Highlights, an article submitted by NSD was featured in the Public School Boards Association of Alberta's (PSBAA) newsletter called "The Advocate" <https://tinyurl.com/2a3hhhyv>. In the February newsletter, Board Chair Robin Guild shared how NSD is leveraging the benefits of technology to support student learning and enhancing engagement.

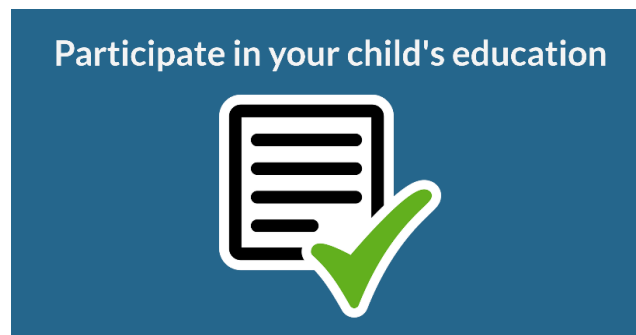
On March 12, 2021, school-based staff participated in the Northland School Division (NSD) Professional Learning Day. Before the learning began, Guild shared a message on behalf

of the Board expressing appreciation for their hard work to help students achieve success during a challenging time. He also shared how impressed the Board is with how NSD is better leveraging technology to support student learning.

Guild also virtually attended the Canadian Schools Boards Association's Indigenous Leaders Panel session. The sessions focused on relationship building in Indigenous communities and honouring Treaty rights.

Superintendent Highlights - Strategy developed to help increase Alberta Education Assurance Survey participation

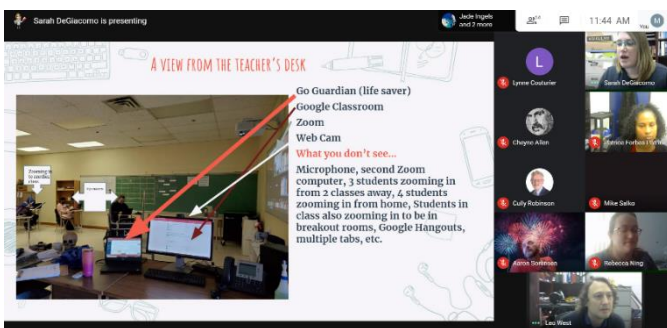
The Board received an update regarding progress with NSD's Three Year Plan in the latest edition of the Superintendent Highlights.



- **Alberta Education Assurance Survey and NSD exploring new tool to enhance engagement**
 - Superintendent of Schools Dr. Nancy Spencer-Poitras specifically talked about the work Administration is doing to increase Alberta Education Assurance Survey (formerly the Accountability Pillar Survey) parent participation. Spencer-Poitras said they created a "School Success Report" template to assist schools with telling their story to parents and guardians.

- Spencer-Poitras talked about the numerous positive activities and educational opportunities that are happening in the schools that parents and community members do not know about. The “School Success Report” encourages schools to share these wonderful happenings with their families and communities.
- The “School Success Report” highlights success stories and how it aligns with Alberta Education Assurance Survey measure categories (Safe and Caring Schools, Student Learning Opportunities, Student Learning Achievement, Preparation for Lifelong Learning, Parental Involvement, Continuous Improvement).
- The report provides the information parents need when completing the survey questions. The more surveys completed by the parents and guardians, the more feedback NSD has to work with for planning and developing strategies to support student success and engagement.

- **NSD Professional Learning Day**



- School staff across NSD participated in a virtual professional learning day on Friday, March 12, 2021. The NSD Professional Learning Day’s theme was “Connecting the Dots with Technology: Creating Community and Continuity in the Classroom”. The virtual learning experience focused on the excellence of in-school/at-home learning practices, exploring tools for engaging students, and

sharing examples and ideas on how to maintain learning continuity in this challenging time. The virtual professional learning day included 27 sessions; 17 hosted by NSD staff. The sessions catered to all different levels on how to leverage technology to support student learning. Spencer-Poitras said the virtual event speaks to the passion, dedication and the excellence of staff.

- **Edwin Parr Teacher Award nominations**

- The Board was informed that NSD has received three nominations for the Edwin Parr Teacher Award. Each year the Alberta School Boards Association (ASBA) honours six outstanding first-year teachers with the Edwin Parr Teacher Award. School boards may nominate any first-year Kindergarten to 12 teacher who has taught in an Alberta school jurisdiction which is a member of the ASBA.
- Trustees will be meeting to choose which one of the three nominees will be representing NSD at the provincial level.

First Nations, Métis and Inuit Language, Culture and Land-Based Learning



Connie Twin and her granddaughter demonstrated how TPR works.

Spencer-Poitras also updated the Board on what's happening with respect to First Nations, Métis and Inuit Language, Culture and Land-Based Learning. In February, Connie Twin, Assistant Supervisor of First Nations, Métis and Inuit Language and Culture and Land-Based Learning, hosted a Total Physical Response (TPR) workshop. TPR is a method of teaching language or vocabulary concepts by using physical movement to react to verbal input.

To help the Indigenous language instructors understand TPR, Twin used flashcards and videos. She created a video to model the rhythmic poem and sounds with her granddaughter <https://tinyurl.com/2t7nr9jn>. The language instructors will use the resources to help students give meaning and action to Cree words and phrases.

Instructors participated in another workshop on March 12, 2021 with Dorothy Thunder, Cree Instructor at the University of Alberta. Thunder provided a half-day session on the most effective literacy strategies to promote student growth and understanding of:

- Cree language form and patterns.
- Standard Roman Orthography (SRO). SRO uses the letters of English alphabet (with a few modifications) to represent Cree language sounds.
- Syllabics and phonetic spelling.

Division Wellness Committee discussed with the Board

Superintendent of Schools Dr. Nancy Spencer-Poitras provided an update on the Wellness Committee. This included expanding the membership, funding for Mental Health and other wellness project proposals from schools, and supporting the Board's wellness goals. A further update will be presented at the April 24, 2021 Regular Board Meeting.

Associate Superintendent Report - How NSD is addressing student and staff wellness



Conklin Community School students and staff wore pink in recognition of Pink Shirt Day (Anti-Bullying Day).

Associate Superintendent Cully Robinson's report is focused on the work of Student Services to support mental health. Robinson's portfolio includes overseeing the Student Services Department.

On February 24, 2021, NSD staff, students and central office staff wore pink shirts in recognition of Pink Shirt Day (Anti-Bullying Day). NSD recognizes the event annually to raise awareness. The report also highlights recent resources NSD has provided to schools to support students, staff and communities. Click on the website to view the report in detail <https://www.nsd61.ca/download/334301> (page 152).

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, April 24, 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.