



Northland School Division No.61 Board Highlights

Corporate Board Meeting – November 20-21, 2015

“Every student is a lifelong learner and successful
in life”



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Little Buffalo School presentation



Left to right: Jenica Cardinal, Dominic Laboucan, Crystal Colville, Donna Barrett, Superintendent of Schools

Student attendance, community engagement, language and culture. Topics Little Buffalo School Principal Crystal Colville and students Jenica Cardinal and Dominic Laboucan showcased during a presentation to the Northland Board. Colville started the presentation by sharing school-based strategies to encourage good attendance. The strategies include ice cream parties for students in kindergarten to grade 7 and gift cards and gym nights for students in grades 8-12. In an effort to keep student attendance on the front page, the school communicates with parents and community members by phone, in person, school website www.littlebuffaloschool.ca, Facebook page www.facebook.com/LittleBuffaloSchool and by hosting community events. Colville says they have never seen more parents visit the school and that is leading to more positive conversations.



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Jenica and Dominic spoke to the Northland Board the school’s Cultural Week. They used a power point to show how First Nations, Métis and Inuit (FNMI) Coordinator Joyce Hunt and Cultural Advisor Herman Sutherland taught them Moose Hide Tanning <http://tinyurl.com/p5lcfxb>. The power point also showcased students learning about stick games, bowl games, cooking bannock and creating art.

Calling Lake School presentation

Miskowasimowina
7 Sacred Teachings
A culturally based School-wide positive behavior support

School-wide positive behavior support is an effective, efficient and consistent practice for implementing a school's code of conduct. As well, it provides consistent school-wide and school-based guidelines for responding to student behavior. The practice allows for:

- the development of clear, consistent behavioral expectations
- the teaching, practicing and modeling of expected behaviors
- acknowledgment of positive behaviors
- a continuum of support to meet the needs of all students

Miskowasimowina = 7 Sacred teachings

The traditional concepts of respect and sharing that form the foundation of Cree way of life. They are built around the seven natural laws, or sacred teachings. Each teaching honors one of the basic virtues intrinsic to a full and healthy life.

Respect (Buffalo) Respect involves being considerate of others including nature and animals. In Native culture, it is also very important to respect others, particularly the Elders

Courage (Bear)
Courage requires the mental and moral strength to overcome fears that prevent us from living our true spirit as human beings. It is a great challenge.

Wisdom (Beaver)
People demonstrate wisdom when they apply the talents they have for the benefit of others. Wisdom is revealed when everyone works together. A community is entirely dependent on gifts given to each member by the Creator and how these gifts are used.

Love (Eagle)
True love is in knowing the Creator. Love given to the Great Spirit is shown through caring for oneself, and it is understood that, if one cannot love oneself, it is impossible to love anyone else.

Truth (Turtle)
To know truth is to know and understand all of the original laws as given by the Creator and to remain faithful to them. To live in truth is to be obedient to the teachings from the Creator.

Honesty (Wesakechak)
It is important to follow and keep the laws of the creator and to tell the truth to each other. The highest honor that could be bestowed upon an individual is saying, "There waits an honest man. He can be trusted."

Humility (wolf)
Recognizing and acknowledging that there is a higher power than man (the Creator) is to be truly humble. By expressing submission to the Creator, through the acceptance that all beings are equal, is to capture the spirit of humility.



Weekly draws
When students model some behaviors that reflect parts of the teachings they get a ticket and a feather on a bulletin board. The tickets get entered into a draw. Draws are done every Friday afternoon.

Students get to choose a prize if their name gets picked.

Monthly Draws
There are also monthly draws with prizes at the end of each month.

Year End Draw
This is the biggest draw of the year. Prizes will be displayed from May.



Calling Lake School Principal Gloria Cardinal discussed ongoing efforts to improve student attendance, Provincial Achievement Test results, literacy and FNMI education to the Northland Board. The Board learned the school has assembled an Attendance Committee and students and parents are recognized for 80% or better attendance at monthly assemblies. The school’s community liaison worker assists principal and teachers in tracking

students with chronic attendance issues. This work involves reaching out to parents by phone and/or through home visits. The school is weaving FNMI language and culture into the curriculum. The school uses the Miskowasimowina/7 Sacred Teachings in the school’s behavior support and curriculum <http://callinglakeschool.ca/about/positive-behavior-support-and-discipline-plan>. In language arts and social studies for example, students are learning how to identify, model, practice and gain personal knowledge and experience of the seven teachings. Students are also making connections to math, language arts, social studies and art while participating in fishing field trips. During fishing trips, Cardinal says students use math while collecting data and use language arts while writing journal entries. She adds the fish scales are utilized in art class.



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Northland Community Engagement Team Report video presentation



Figure 1: Vision Elements

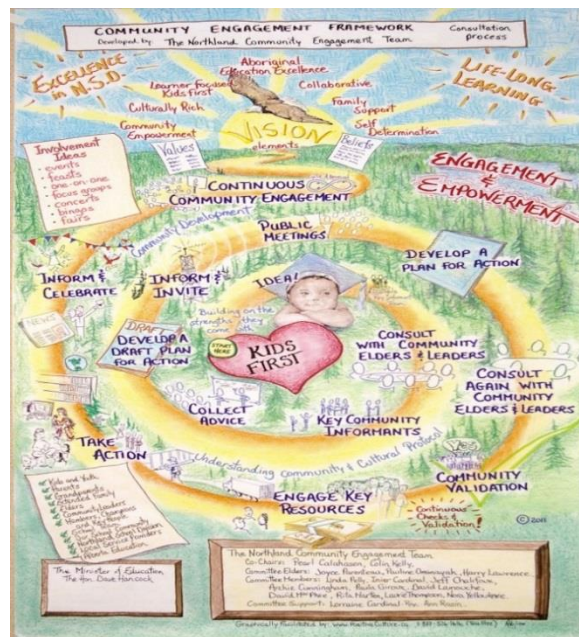


Figure 2: Community Engagement Framework

“How do we engage First Nation, Métis and Inuit communities within the Northland School Division?” That question was explored by the Northland Community Engagement Team (NCET) and the visual depiction of the process was viewed by the Northland Board, Advisory Committee and senior administration. The video walks you through how the NCET developed a vision for Aboriginal Education and a Community Engagement Framework (See Figure 1 and Figure 2). NCET, which was formed by then Education Minister Dave Hancock, was also asked to provide recommendations to the Northland Inquiry Team Report. The recommendations can be viewed in the NCET Report <http://tinyurl.com/z773cax>. The video is also available on the Northland School Division website <http://nsd61.ca/about-us>. Following the presentation, the Northland Board requested that the NCET Report be sent to Local School Board Committees to solicit feedback on the Northland Community Engagement Team Report.



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2014-2015 Annual Education Results Report and 2015-2018 Education Plan

The Northland Board approved the 2014-2015 Annual Education Results Report and the 2015-2018 Education Plan (AERR/3YEP). The AERR/3YEP is a reflection of growth across the jurisdiction and what Northland School Division (NSD) is doing to become leaders in First Nation, Métis and Inuit Education. The document highlights major accomplishments in literacy, student attendance, First Nations, Métis and Inuit Education, land-based learning, Career and Technology Studies and high school redesign. It showcases priorities for 2015-2016. Priorities include revising NSD’s foundational policy, continued focus on student attendance, literacy and land-based learning.

NSD is also celebrating success when it comes to the Accountability Pillar Report (APR). NSD scored a rating of “improved” or “significantly improved” on six of the 16 measures. Improvement was noticeable in education quality and parental involvement and school improvement and work preparation increased significantly.

2014-2015 Annual Education Results Report and the 2015-2018 Education Plan (AERR/3YEP): <http://nsd61.ca/download/39035>

2014-2015 Annual Education Results Report and the 2015-2018 Education Plan (AERR/3YEP) Summary: <http://nsd61.ca/download/39034>

Draft Policy – Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity

The Board received as information the Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity Policy. The policy is a commitment by NSD to maintain a safe and welcoming environment for all members of the school community. This includes those students, staff and families who identify or are perceived as lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, transsexual, two spirit, queer (LGBTQ) or questioning their sexual orientation, gender identity or gender expression. The policy also outlines support for student groups, including Gay-Straight Alliances or Queer Straight Alliances. The draft policy is available starting on page 181 in the November 20-21, 2015 Board Package <https://northland61-ab-ca.webguide-forschools.ca/download/38521>. All school boards in Alberta are required to develop policy and procedures in relation to sexual orientation and gender identity before March 31, 2015.



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Approval Summary

- Northland Board approved the Education Quarterly Report.
- Northland Board approved the Financial Quarterly Report.
- Northland Board approved that Mistassiniy Outreach be officially named Career Pathways School.
- Northland Board approved changes to job description for the position of Division Facility Manager.
- Northland Board approved changes to job description for the position of Student Data and Education Technology Coach.
- The job description for the position of Housing Coordinator passed 2nd Reading.
- The job description for the position of School Custodian passed 2nd Reading.
- The job description for the newly created position Field Services Technician passed 1st Reading.
- Northland Board approved changes to Procedure 415 Teacher Growth, Supervision and Evaluation.
- Northland Board approved change to one year term designations for new principals and use the “Acting” designation for those principals who are appointed after the school year starts.
- Northland Board approved changes to Procedure 516 – Disposal of Divisional Property.
- Northland Board approved changes to Procedure 500 – Budget.
- Changes to Procedure 504 - Uncollectible Accounts passed 2nd Reading.
- Changes to Procedure 505 - Donations passed 1st Reading.
- Northland Board approved the following bids for the used vehicles that were put up for tender and recommend Northland School Division keep the 2006 Chevrolet Silverado Half-Ton located in Fort Chipewyan and not accept bid for \$500.00.
- Northland Board approved the 2015-2016 November revised Budget.
- Northland Board approved the Reserves Plan



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View Board Minutes on our website at:

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

View Board Meeting Attachments on website at:

<http://nsd61.ca/governance/board-meeting-agenda-minutes/board-attachments>

Important Dates to Remember

January 22-23, 2016	Board Meeting, Peace River, Alberta
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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.