



Board Meeting Highlights

May 11, 2024

Board Approves Closure of Pelican Mountain School



The Board of Trustees approved the closure of the Kindergarten to Grade 3 instructional program at Pelican Mountain School. This decision was made as per Section 62 of the *Education Act*.

On January 27, 2024, the Board approved a Notice of Motion regarding the possible closing of Pelican Mountain School in Sandy Lake. Northland School Division's Policy 15 outlines a process for school closures. This included hosting a public meeting, which occurred on March 11, 2024. At the public meeting, the Board presented the Pelican Mountain School Viability Study. The study

outlined a rationale for a possible closure, student enrollment, financial analysis, education results and impact of keeping the school open.

In addition to the report, families and staff were given the opportunity to help Northland understand the reasons why parents/guardians are sending their children to other schools and give parents and community members the opportunity to discuss alternative programs and the preferred future for Pelican Mountain School. While the instructional program closure is confirmed, the future of the Pelican Mountain School facility remains under consideration. The administration will conduct a feasibility study to explore transforming the Pelican Mountain School facility into a Centre of Excellence for Indigenous Learning, a central office, or other potential uses.

Northland School Division's New Three-Year Education Plan Approved



Northland School Division's Education Plan for 2024-2027, inspired by the input received during a series of engagements with students, staff, parents, guardians, and community members, has received support from the Board of Trustees. The trustees moved to support the overarching priorities of the plan and recognized that amendments to the wording of specific outcomes and strategies will be made to better align with priorities.

Trustees from the Education Plan Ad Hoc Committee also provided valuable feedback. Focused on enhancing student experiences at every learning stage, the plan emphasizes four key priority areas:

- 1. Connections Supporting Reconciliation**
- 2. Holistic Learning**
- 3. Excellent People Supporting Students**
- 4. Responsible Resourcing**

For each priority area, the division has outlined specific outcomes designed to help Northland students thrive. These outcomes will be achieved through targeted strategies, which will be evaluated using detailed assessments and measurements. The Education Plan will be posted on the NSD website under reports <https://www.nsd61.ca/about-us/reports>. In addition, NSD and its schools will be sharing more details of the education plan in newsletters and other publication documents.

Board Approves 2024-2025 Spring Final Budget

The Board approved the 2024-2025 Spring Budget, as presented. The budget is aligned with NSD's priorities listed in the 2024-2027 Education Plan and includes the following investments:

- The recruitment and deployment of 30 additional Educational Assistants. Separate funding has been sought for the Jordan's Principle Educational Assistants.
- Maintaining the School Food Services Hot Lunch Program.
- School bus transportation available for all students.

The Spring Budget will be posted on the NSD website under reports <https://www.nsd61.ca/about-us/reports>.

Grand Opening Date Set for New Mistassiniy School



We are thrilled to announce that the grand opening of the new Mistassiniy School is officially set for September 27, 2024, following approval from the Board. Although students and staff transitioned into the new school on February 1, 2024, the celebration has been scheduled in September to accommodate the completion of several enhancements. These improvements include the demolition of the old school building, extensive landscaping, and the construction of a new parking lot.

Northland Online School to Offer Grade 12 Programming Starting Next School Year



Starting next school year (2024-2025), Northland Online School will be offering grade 12 programming. The Board authorized Administration to add grade 12 programming to Northland Online School, effective September 1, 2024. Click on the website link to learn more about Northland Online School <https://www.northlandonlineschool.ca/>.

NSD Hosting Engagements in Specific Communities in Response to Grade Levels Offered

During a series of community engagement sessions at Bishop Routhier, Gift Lake, Grouard, and Hillview Schools, Northland heard from parents and guardians who expressed that their children would benefit from graduating in their home communities, rather than being bussed to High Prairie.

In response, the Board has authorized further community engagements at these schools to assess interest in expanding the range of grades offered. Currently, Bishop Routhier and Hillview schools provide education from Kindergarten through grade 6, while Gift Lake and Grouard schools extend from Kindergarten through grade 9.

Tentative dates for these engagement sessions are as follows:

- Bishop Routhier School: Monday, June 10th
- Grouard Northland School: Tuesday, June 11th
- Hillview School: Wednesday, June 12th
- Gift Lake School: To Be Determined

Each session will take place from 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.

Visit <https://www.nsd61.ca/governance/board-meetings> to view upcoming Regular Board Meeting dates and Board-related documents.

Note: These writings do not constitute the official record of the Northland School Division. They are, however, provided as general information relating to the action taken at board meetings. For further information, please call 780-624-2060 or 1-800- 362-1360.