



Board Meeting Highlights September 28, 2024

Organizational Meeting - Board Chair and Vice-Chair election results

Organizational Meeting Update Board Chair & Vice Chair Election Results



Tanya Fayant, Board Chair

Robin Guild, Vice Chair



We are pleased to announce that Tanya Fayant has been elected as the new Board Chair for Northland School Division (NSD)! Tanya previously served as Vice-Chair and is looking forward to taking on this leadership role.

NSD is also excited to share that Robin Guild will now serve as Vice-Chair. Robin, who has been with the Board of Trustees since 2017 and previously served as Board Chair, brings a wealth of leadership experience to the role.

For more information about Tanya and Robin, please visit our website <https://www.nsd61.ca/governance/board-of-trustees-2>.

The election for Board Chair and Vice Chair took place during the Organizational Meeting on September 28, 2024.

Board congratulates Owen Gladue on selection to Minister’s Youth Council



Left to right: Cheryl Page, Executive Assistant, Scott Meunier, Deputy Superintendent, Aimee McCamon, Ward 9 Trustee, Cal Johnson, Superintendent of Schools/CEO, Lisa Thompson, Career Pathways School Principal, Tanya Fayant, Board Chair, Owen Gladue, Career Pathways School student, Robin Guild, Vice Chair, Bonnie Lamouche, Ward 3 Trustee, Lorraine McGillivray, Ward 1 Trustee, Krista Veitch, Associate Superintendent of Human Resources, Douglas Aird, Acting Secretary Treasurer, Wally Rude, Ward 8 Trustee

On September 28th, Owen Gladue attended the Northland School Division Board Meeting, where the Board and Administration took the opportunity to personally congratulate him on being selected for the Minister’s Youth Council for the 2024-2025 school year. Owen, a Grade 12 student from Career Pathways School, shared his journey to applying for the council and what inspired him to take on this leadership role.

During the meeting, Owen explained that when he first learned about the Minister’s Youth Council, he noticed a lack of representation from rural and Indigenous communities. This motivated him to apply, as he felt it was important to provide that perspective. Owen emphasized the need for more Indigenous voices in education and expressed his desire to advocate for better support for Northland students.

Superintendent Cal Johnson also took the time to speak with Owen about Northland’s Education Plan, particularly Priority 1 - Connections Supporting Reconciliation, which includes establishing a Superintendent’s Youth Council to gather student input on school and system actions. Owen expressed interest in being part of this council as well, showing his commitment to contributing to positive changes in education.

The Board and Administration were proud to celebrate Owen’s achievement and wished him continued success in his role on the Minister’s Youth Council.

Vice Chair Guild steps in to represent Mistassiniy School and Career Pathways School during Ward 6 Vacancy

During the Board meeting, Trustee Rude shared that a parent asked who would represent Mistassiniy School since the Ward 6 seat is vacant. After talking it over, Vice Chair Robin Guild volunteered to represent Mistassiniy School and Career Pathways School for the 2024-2025 school year. This helps make sure students and families still have a trustee supporting them while the seat is open.

Board approves Mistassiniy School's Education Field Trip to London, Paris, and Rome

The Board has approved Mistassiniy School’s request for an Education First Travel Trip to London, Paris, and Rome, scheduled from March 22, 2025, to April 4, 2025. So far, five students (two girls and three boys) have registered for the trip, with the possibility of more students joining. The trip will partially take place during Spring Break, and the group has planned to avoid the Easter weekend due to a special pilgrimage in Rome during that time.

Board approves Network Infrastructure Replacement Project



The Board has authorized the Administration to proceed with the quote from ACSI Securing Networks, totaling \$309,906.36 (including GST), with funding coming from capital reserves. This project will replace and modernize the network hardware at all school sites across the division. By leveraging existing government contract pricing, Northland School Division is moving forward with procurement efficiently and cost-effectively.

The Network Infrastructure Replacement Project supports Northland’s Education Plan by enhancing the IT network in schools, ensuring students and staff have reliable access to modern technology for learning and instruction.

Board approves 2024-2025 Meeting Schedule

The Board has approved the meeting schedule for the 2024-2025 school year. The scheduled Board Meeting dates are as follows:

- September 28, 2024
- October 19, 2024
- November 23, 2024
- January 25, 2025
- February 22, 2025
- March 22, 2025
- April 26, 2025
- May 24, 2025
- June 28, 2025

Additionally, the Long Service Awards will take place on May 23, 2025, from 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. The location will be announced at a later date.

Presentation of the Third Tri-Annual Report for 2023-2024



Media Relations Manager Curtis Walty presented the third and final Tri-Annual Report for the 2023-2024 school year on behalf of Superintendent of Schools/CEO Cal Johnson. The report highlights several key achievements, including celebrating 66 Northland graduates from various schools, the implementation of the Collaborative Response Model to enhance student success, and the launch of a common timetable across schools to provide more learning opportunities. Additionally, Northland responded to community feedback by hiring new staff, including Educational Assistants, a Learning Coach for Physical Literacy and Athletics, and new team members to support First Nations, Métis, and Inuit Education.

Key updates from Superintendent's Highlights



Superintendent of Schools/CEO Cal Johnson shared several key updates during the Board meeting as part of his highlights. He spoke about the successful Grand Opening of the new Mistassiniy School on September 27th, which was a significant milestone for the community and the division.

He also listed his attendance at the Athabasca Tribal Council Cultural Festival in September, where he had the opportunity to participate in

cultural activities and engage with community members and education partners.

Another highlight was the recognition of Lorraine Ridsdale, a teacher from Paddle Prairie School, who was featured in the Spring 2024 edition of the Alberta Teachers' Association (ATA) Magazine. Lorraine, who began her career as a school secretary and later became a teacher, was honoured by the Métis Settlements General Council for her outstanding contributions to education and her community.

Deputy Superintendent presents updates on curriculum and leadership development



New Teacher Orientation Group Photo.

During the September 28, 2024 Board meeting, Deputy Superintendent Scott Meunier presented key updates from the Associate Superintendent's Report. Highlights included the New Curriculum Workshop held in August, where Northland teachers explored the integration of Indigenous knowledge into the new Grade 4-6 Science programs. Teachers visited Lubicon Lake to work with Elders and Knowledge Keepers, focusing on land-based learning.

Mr. Meunier also discussed the New Teacher and Principal Orientations, emphasizing the theme of "A Place to Connect." These sessions encouraged

educators to build relationships within schools and communities, with new principals learning about reconciliation and the impact of residential schools.

The final update covered the All School-Based Leaders Orientation, which included discussions on the 2024-2027 Education Plan, literacy and numeracy excellence, financial management, and strategies for student re-engagement.

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.