



Board Meeting Highlights June 28, 2025

Two students awarded Northland School Division (NSD) bursary or scholarship

The Bursary and Scholarship Committee announced the recipients of the bursaries and scholarships provided by NSD. Congratulations to the following students!

- Kaylee James - St. Theresa School and Mistassiniy School
 - Program: University of Alberta, Transition Year Program
 - Award: Bursary of \$20,000
- Kate Platt - Anzac School and Bill Woodward School
 - Program: University of Alberta, Bachelor of Education in Elementary Education
 - Award: Bursary of \$20,000



Board approved September Regular Board Meeting



The Board has approved hosting the upcoming regular board meeting on September 27th in Edmonton. This meeting will help the Board wrap up any items that need a decision before the School Board Elections on October 20th.

Board passes bylaw to support voting station planning and names substitute returning officer

The Board has passed Bylaw 04-2025, which allows Northland School Division to set up more than one polling station in a ward for the upcoming School Board Elections on October 20th. This added flexibility will help make voting more accessible across the communities Northland serves.

The Board also passed a motion to name Executive Assistant Cheryl Page as the substitute returning officer. In this role, she will help with planning and delivering the election and step in if the returning officer is unable to carry out their duties due to illness.

Superintendent's Highlights: Progress continues on Education Plan priorities

Superintendent of Schools/CEO Cal Johnson presented updates to the Board on work taking place across the division to support the Education Plan. Deputy Superintendent Scott Meunier, Associate Superintendent Mark Owens, and Associate Superintendent of Human Resources Krista Veitch joined him to communicate the updates.



Priority 1 – Connections Supporting Reconciliation

NSD received a special award from the Public School Boards' Association of Alberta (PSBAA) in recognition of its efforts to support reconciliation through education. The division's work supports several Calls to Action from the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada, including land-based learning, Indigenous language instruction, guidance from Elders and Youth Councils, and staff training focused on Indigenous cultures and histories. Click on the

website link to view NSD's media release <https://www.nsd61.ca/about-us/division-news/post/northland-receives-psbaa-award-for-advancing-reconciliation-in-education>.

The Board also heard an update on a new Cree language pilot in Wabasca-Desmarais. The pilot, developed with the University of Alberta, officially began in early June with a pipe ceremony and focuses on the Woodland Cree dialect. As part of the next phase, the First Nations, Métis and Inuit Department has secured a multi-media vendor to help capture audio and video content. A meeting took place on June 20 to plan the development of Woodland Cree language videos and supporting podcast materials, with work continuing over the summer.



Priority 2 – Holistic Learning

NSD expanded learning opportunities this summer to help students thrive. The division's summer school program, delivered by Northland Online School, drew strong interest from across the province. So many students from outside Northland registered that a June 20th deadline was set for non-Northland students to keep total enrollment manageable. The final deadline for Northland students to register was Monday, July 7th. Students registered for courses through the Northland

Online School website at www.northlandonlineschool.ca/summer-school-2025.

In addition, Northland has received funding approval from Alberta Education to offer collegiate programming starting in the 2025–2026 school year. These new opportunities will connect high school students to careers in trades, healthcare, and education through hands-on learning. Programs will be

offered in areas like carpentry, welding, educational assistant training, healthcare and cosmetology, and multi-trade programming.

Priority 3 - Excellent People Supporting Students

Three Educational Assistants will begin the Community-Based Teacher Education Program in July. This opportunity supports their journey toward becoming certified teachers with Northland School Division.

To better support students, the Inclusive Education Department has made changes to service delivery. All support services will now be provided in person at Northland schools. Peace Collaborative Services, Tamaca, Aligned Intervention Services, and Khan Communications will deliver services across different school sites. The Inclusive Education team has also purchased ARC (Attachment, Regulation, and Competency) training to help staff support students who have experienced trauma. The training will help staff guide students in developing emotional awareness, building peer relationships, and strengthening their ability to regulate and connect with others.

Priority 4 - Responsible Resourcing

Ongoing wildfires continue to affect the Chipewyan Lake community. Following a mandatory evacuation order issued May 28th, Chipewyan Lake School was temporarily closed. To support students and families, classes resumed on June 3rd at Career Pathways School in Wabasca-Desmarais. Two classrooms were set up, and students had access to Chromebooks, certified teachers, educational assistants, and wellness supports. A school bus transported students each morning from local hotels to the school. Northland staff stayed in contact with families and created a Wildfire Update webpage to help keep everyone informed: www.nsd61.ca/about-us/division-news/post/wildfire-update-2024-2025.

Board receives update on education technology across NSD



Deputy Superintendent Scott Meunier presented the Technology Services Report on behalf of Director of Technology Michael Maciach. The update highlighted key projects supporting students and staff across Northland. Work continues on the network and phone system refresh, which will improve internet and phone connectivity in all NSD schools. Staff have taken part in learning sessions to help them use tools like Hapara, Pear Deck, and Viewboards to support student learning. Northland students engaged in hands-on experiences during Career and Technology Studies (CTS) Weeks, Earth Day Minecraft activities, and co-taught digital wellness and online safety lessons.

The report also included updates on the new PowerSchool report card and the upcoming launch of the MyPowerHub parent portal. Once fully implemented in 2025-2026, the portal will give parents and guardians secure access to their child's attendance, grades, report cards, and school messages. It will help families connect more with student learning.

Board hears how Indigenous education team expanded support for culture, language and land-based learning

Deputy Superintendent Scott Meunier presented the First Nations, Métis and Inuit Department report on behalf of Director of First Nations, Métis and Inuit Education Debbie Mineault. The report highlighted how the department supported schools throughout the 2024–2025 school year.

The team focused on helping students feel proud of their identity and building strong connections between schools and local communities. This included land-based learning, student programming, in-school instruction, and working with Elders and Knowledge Keepers. The department also supported cultural events and staff learning opportunities.

The department also added new staff this year to strengthen support for schools. A Supervisor of First Nations, Métis and Inuit Education, an Indigenous Cultural Land-Based Learning Coach, and a Culture and Language Assistant were hired to help expand programming and direct support for students.

The team also spoke about wanting to grow as a department. They gathered feedback through a year-end survey to better understand how to support culture, language, and land-based learning. The responses will help guide how they work with schools and communities to strengthen Indigenous education at Northland.

Board receives update on School Food Services

Associate Superintendent Krista Veitch presented an update on School Food Services on behalf of Operations Manager Federico Padagdag. Between September and June, Northland cooks served about 162,000 meals, offering students a healthy morning snack or breakfast and lunch each school day.

The report highlighted how meals support student attendance and focus, while meeting nutrition standards. The team also supported community engagement events and the Northland Games. Improvements were made to ordering systems and kitchen processes. A new CTS food program is also being planned at Calling Lake School.

Board receives update on attraction and retention efforts

Associate Superintendent Krista Veitch presented the Human Resources and Payroll report to the Board. Among the items shared were key efforts to attract and retain staff across Northland. These included continued support for the Principal Mentorship Program, the fully funded Educational Assistants Certification Program, and the Community-Based Teacher Education Program. The report also noted that housing remains a key factor in supporting staff. A housing study was completed to help guide future improvements.

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.