



Board Meeting Highlights September 27, 2025

Board approves new vision statement: Children First

The Board approved a new vision statement for Northland School Division: **Children First**. This update reflects the division's ongoing commitment to putting children at the heart of every decision. Administration has been authorized to update all related policies and administrative procedures to align with the new vision. The previous vision statement was **Our students love to come to school in Northland**.

Board issues sanction under Trustee Code of Conduct

The Board of Trustees moved to censure and sanction a trustee for conduct found to be contrary to Northland School Division's Board Policy 4 – Trustee Code of Conduct, as detailed in the Board's findings on September 27, 2025. Sanctions under Section 5 (a, f, and m) take effect immediately for six months.

Board approves dates for Trustee Orientation and Regular Board Meeting

The Board approved holding the Trustee Orientation on October 24, 2025, and the Regular Board Meeting on October 25, 2025. Both sessions will take place in Edmonton.

Board approves countertop and flooring upgrades at J.F. Dion School

The Board approved replacing countertops and flooring in the bathrooms and classrooms at J.F. Dion School. The upgrades will address deficiencies in workmanship and materials and bring the spaces up to safety, durability, and quality standards.

Board directs development of quality standards policy for school materials

The Board directed administration to develop a Quality Standards Policy for School Materials. The policy will help make sure all supplies, furnishings, and construction materials used in schools meet consistent safety, durability, and quality standards.

Two-way radio communication system for school buses

The Board authorized administration to tender for a new two-way radio communication system for school buses. The current system relies on cellular service, which is unreliable or unavailable in many areas where buses operate. A division-wide two-way radio system will provide hands-free communication, improve safety during emergencies, enable communication in remote areas, and support day-to-day operations.

Video camera system for school buses

The Board authorized administration to tender for a new video camera system for school buses. The system will enhance student and driver safety, assist with monitoring behaviour and resolving complaints, and provide support for accident investigations. Cameras will include interior and exterior coverage, GPS tracking, and cloud-based upload of footage.

Pre-planning funding approval for Paddle Prairie School

The Board received information that pre-planning approval and \$50,000 in funding have been granted by the Government of Alberta for a potential modernization or new school in Paddle Prairie. Northland School Division requested approval in March 2025 for its top capital project priority. The funding will support work with Alberta Education on site readiness, planning checklists, and a value-realization study to refine key elements needed for a decision on the project.

Board informed of library materials announcement

The Board received information that on September 8th, the Minister of Education and Childcare issued a new ministerial order setting updated standards for school library materials. Schools must remove any materials with visual depictions of sexual acts, and each school authority must maintain a publicly accessible list of all library materials. By October 31st, school divisions must submit a list of books identified for removal, and by January 5, 2026, have an approved policy in place to ensure compliance with the order.

Tri-Annual Report #3 for 2024-2025 presented to the Board



Superintendent of Schools/CEO Cal Johnson shared the third Tri-Annual Report for the 2024–2025 school year. The report highlights progress under the four priorities of Northland School Division’s Education Plan:



- **Priority 1: Connections Supporting Truth and Reconciliation** – Northland received a provincial award from the Public School Boards Association of Alberta for advancing reconciliation in education and celebrated 68 graduates across six schools, including Northland Online School’s first graduating class.
- **Priority 2: Holistic Learning** – More than 200 students from across Alberta completed summer school courses through Northland Online School, earning 941 high school credits in core and optional subjects.

- **Priority 3: Excellent People Supporting Students** – Principals and vice-principals continued using the Collaborative Response Model to strengthen leadership and student support. Educational assistants also took part in training programs and post-secondary pathways to become future teachers.
- **Priority 4: Responsible Resourcing** – Northland hosted community engagement sessions to gather input for the new 2025–2028 Education Plan and received approval and funding to launch collegiate programming in Wabasca-Desmarais, Paddle Prairie, and Fort McMurray, offering hands-on learning in trades, health care, and education.

Superintendent shares updates supporting Northland’s Education Plan priorities



Superintendent of Schools/CEO Cal Johnson shared updates from across the division, highlighting activities and progress connected to Northland’s four Education Plan priorities.

- **Priority 1: Connections Supporting Truth and Reconciliation** – Families from Conklin Community School gathered on August 26, 2025, to learn more about the planned expansion to a Kindergarten to Grade 12 program. Northland also took part in the Grand Entry at the Athabasca Tribal Council Cultural Festival.
- **Priority 2: Holistic Learning** – Northland School Division’s Summer School program, offered in partnership with Northland Online School, saw 208 students from across Alberta earn 941 high school credits. The program offered flexible learning options and strong teacher support, helping students continue their studies and explore new learning pathways.
- **Priority 3: Excellent People Supporting Students** – Northland celebrated Anzac School teacher Emily Griffin and Lakeside Leader editor Pearl Lorentzen at the ASBA Zone 1 Fall Awards. Emily was nominated for the Edwin Parr Teacher Award for her dedication as a first-year teacher. Pearl was nominated for the Friends of Education Award for her work highlighting Northland’s story and strengthening community connections.

New and returning teachers, principals, and vice-principals gathered in Edmonton for orientation sessions focused on Northland’s Education Plan. Sessions for new teachers introduced division supports, locations, and key contacts, along with learning tied to Truth and Reconciliation. New principals took part in a panel discussion with experienced school leaders to explore practical approaches to instructional leadership. Returning school leaders also engaged in collaborative sessions on building school-based plans and using the Collaborative Response Model to strengthen student supports across the division.

- **Priority 4: Responsible Resourcing** – Northland received a \$100,000 grant to expand the Health Care Aide dual credit program, allowing students across the division to access remote learning and in-person labs in Wabasca. The division also launched the Indigenous Youth Mentorship Program to promote leadership and healthy living in all school communities.

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.