



## Northland School Division No.61 Board Highlights

Corporate Board Meeting - February 19-20, 2016

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in life”



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### **Policy - Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity**

The Official Trustee approved the Policy - Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity. 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. All school boards in Alberta are required to develop a policy in relation to sexual orientation and gender identity before March 31, 2016. To view the policy click on the website link <http://nsd61.ca/download/72096> (see page 108).

### **Draft Policy One - Board Philosophy Mandate, Core Purpose, Vision Beliefs and Values**

Northland School Division's Draft Policy One - Board Philosophy, Mandate, Core Purpose, Vision, Beliefs and Values passed second reading. This draft policy will reflect NSD's approach to education programming. It also includes feedback from Local School Board Committees (LSBC). The LSBC are asked to review the draft policy and provide feedback prior to the April Board Meeting. To view draft policy click on the website link <http://nsd61.ca/download/72096> (see page 98).



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### **Peerless Lake School presentation**



Peerless Lake School Principal Connie Molcak updated the Official Trustee about the school's student attendance efforts and its local attendance committee. The committee, comprised of Local School Board Committee members, the principal and school staff, meets monthly to implement strategies to improve student attendance and increase parental and community engagement. Molcak says while there has been challenges, they are seeing marked improvement when it comes to parental and community involvement. In addition, the committee has implemented incentives such as awarding students who have perfect attendance with banana splits, book fair credits for students who have perfect attendance and prize draws for parents who have students with exemplary attendance. To view the presentation click on the website link <http://nsd61.ca/download/72096> (see page 43).



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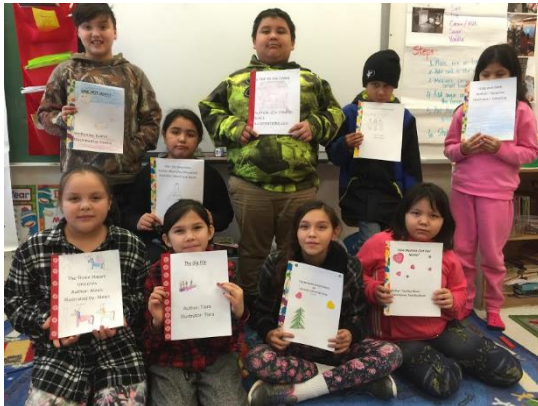
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### Father R. Perin School presentation



Father R. Perin School Principal Bernard Woodfine provided a progress report to the Official Trustee about the school’s student attendance and reading levels for individual grades. The school is seeing an overall student attendance of 85%, an increase of 7% in comparison to 2014-2015. To support the school’s attendance focus, the school hosts community engagement events and develops attendance incentives. For example, students who achieve good attendance, are rewarded Janvier dollars. Students are able to use the dollars at the school’s attendance store. Attendance inserts are provided on student report cards to keep parents informed. The school hosted a Family Literacy Day event where students shared poems about their family. Woodfine also highlighted land-based learning experiences in partnership with [Sustainable Communities Initiative](#). The land-based learning experiences include birch bark canoe and basket making, duck plucking and preparation and Fish Camp at Winefred Lake. To view the presentation click on the website link <http://nsd61.ca/download/72096> (see page 2).



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### **2016-2017 School Year Calendar**

The Official Trustee approved the 2016-2017 School Year Calendar ‘A’ and ‘B’. The two calendar system was developed to provide flexibility for each school community. Schools are asked to gather feedback from students, parents and Local School Board Committee members on whether to have a midterm break (Calendar A) or choose to break up the four days throughout the school year (Calendar B). On both calendars, New Principal/New Teacher Orientation is August 22<sup>nd</sup> -26<sup>th</sup>, school orientations begin the week of August 29<sup>th</sup> and the school year begins September 6<sup>th</sup>. To view the calendars click on website link <http://nsd61.ca/about-us/division-news/post/2016-2017-school-year-calendars-approved-by-northland-board>.

### **Education Quarterly Report**

Superintendent of Schools Donna Barrett presented the Education Quarterly Report to the Official Trustee. In support of the Literacy Initiative, collaborative meetings are taking place between principals and school literacy leads. These meetings provide an opportunity to review student assessments and develop literacy focused processes to assist teachers and students. To support school literacy plans, Northland School Division (NSD) continues to provide training for literacy leads and update reading materials. Division-wide attendance is showing an upward trend according to the report. 70% of NSD schools have an average attendance rate of 85% or better and overall attendance for the period of September 2015 to January 2016 is 85%; a 3% increase over the previous year.

Barrett updated the Official Trustee about Cross Divisional Transition Planning. In most of our schools, students transition to schools in neighboring jurisdictions after completing elementary or junior high school. NSD is working with High Prairie School Division and Holy Family Catholic Regional Division to develop strategies to support transitions. She also discussed the grants to support collaborative planning and capacity building for school divisions who have existing Education Service Agreements for First Nation students who reside on reserve and attend a provincial school. To view the Education Quarterly Report click on the website link <http://nsd61.ca/download/72096> (see page 60).



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### **Finance Quarterly Report**

Secretary Treasurer Trudy Rasmuson presented the Finance Quarterly Report for the period ending January 31, 2016. To view the report click on the website link below.

<http://nsd61.ca/download/72096> (see page 80)

### **Approved motions**

- The Official Trustee approved the Professional Improvement Leave for Jennifer Tweedle, Teacher, Little Buffalo School and Taras Danco, Teacher, Little Buffalo School for the 2016-2017 school year.
- The Official Trustee approved the job description for the position of Field Service technician.
- The Official Trustee approved Procedure 415 – Teacher, Growth, Supervisor and Evaluation.
- The Official Trustee approved the Projected Draft Reserves Plan.
- The Official Trustee approved disposal of School Food Services Unit #626, 2008 Ford Fusion, and request that the vehicle be put up for tender as per Procedure 516, Disposal of Divisional Property.
- The Official Trustee approved School Food Services request to replace a tilting skillet for J.F. Dion School in the amount of \$14,000 plus GST with funds coming from the School Food Services Reserves.
- Changes to Procedure 501 – Budget Transfers passed 2<sup>nd</sup> reading.
- Changes to Procedure 502 – Site Based Budgeting passed 2<sup>nd</sup> reading.
- Changes to Procedure 508 – Reimbursement of Expenses passed 2<sup>nd</sup> reading.
- Changes to Procedure 511 – Bus Rentals passed 2<sup>nd</sup> reading.
- Procedure 524 – Investment Procedure passed 2<sup>nd</sup> reading.



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**View Board Agenda Packages on our website at:**

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

**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**

<b>April 22-23, 2016</b>	<b>Board Meeting, Peace River, Alberta</b>
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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.