

BOARD HIGHLIGHTS

October 30, 2018 Meeting

For Immediate Release

Presentation: Our Journey. Our Story. Annual Education Results Report 2017-18 (AERR) and Three Year Education Plan 2018-21

NGPS Assistant Superintendent, Leslee Jodry, presented the draft copy of *Our Journey, Our Story. Annual Education Results Report and Three Year Education Plan*. Jodry shared that the Division is pleased overall with the results, highlighting growth over several of Alberta Education's accountability measures.

- the Division scored high or very high on 7 of the 15 measures including Safe and Caring, High School Completion, School Improvement, Parent Involvement and Citizenship
- Targeted work and professional development in numeracy and literacy over the past year has yielded positive gains in student results
- the Division is on par with the province in Education Quality
- Provincial Achievement Test results were maintained and are on par with the province
- NGPS students scored below the provincial average overall in Standard of Excellence; however, there has been growth in this area as well
- Diploma Examination results demonstrate improvement with NGPS results scoring on par with the province in Overall Acceptable
- NGPS remains above the provincial average on all First Nations results with the exception of Standard of Excellence results
- significant improvements in Math 30-1 and Math 30-2 results have been achieved; NGPS students have increased results by 20% for Math 30-1, and by just over 20% in Math 30-2 in Acceptable Standards

The publication will be submitted to Alberta Education on November 13 and will be posted on ngps.ca on November 30.

School Results Reviews

Annual school results reviews will commence in November. Schools will present and discuss their individual results, successes and challenges with the Board.

Organizational Meeting of the Board

The Organizational Meeting of the Board took place just prior to the regular meeting of the Board, on October 30, 2018, at 3:00 pm. Trustee Judy Muir and Trustee Linda Wigton were nominated for the position of Board Chair. Trustee Muir was voted in as the Board Chair for the 2018-19 school year. Trustee Barb Maddigan was nominated for the position of Vice-Chair and accepted. Trustees selected which Committees of the Board they will sit on for the 2018-19 school year.

Onoway Trustee Resignation, Sarah Healy

It was with regret that the Board accepted the resignation of trustee Sarah Healy who resigned from her position on the board due to moving out of her electoral riding. A By-Election has been called for Ward 1, Electoral Subdivision No. 1. Nomination packages can be picked up at Onoway Elementary School. Nomination deadline is November 21, 2018.

Encounters with Canada, Onoway Jr/Sr High School (OJSH)

The Board approved in principle Onoway Jr/Sr High School's educational field trip to Ottawa. Three OJSH Grade 10 students will visit our country's capital as part of Canada's largest youth forum.

International Field Trip, Mayerthorpe Jr/Sr High School

The Board approved in principle, MHS' 2021 trip to Italy. MHS school administration are in the initial planning stages for the excursion.

Whitcourt Transportation – Two Run System

Plans for a two run transportation system are being discussed for September 2019 implementation. This would see three schools (Pat Hardy, Whitcourt Central and Percy Baxter) operate an 8:15 am-2:30 pm school day and the remaining schools (Hilltop, St. Joseph's and St. Mary's) operate a 9:15 am-3:30 pm school day. While still tentative, this plan would reduce supervision requirement times significantly through the streamlining of pick up/drop off times. Plans will be shared with NGPS administrators and with the Catholic Division Office. A parent information session will be hosted early in the new year for parental feedback.

Dual Credit and Off Campus Education Programming

NGPS Superintendent, Kevin Andrea, shared an update with the Board on the success of the Whitcourt Career and Education Expo. Dual Credit/Off Campus Education programming has been further supported through the "Jump Start Your Future with Northern Gateway Public Schools" partnership with the Royal Bank of Canada. Programming will be supported with a \$50,000 donation from RBC.

45 Credit Cap Challenge

Alberta Education's 45 credit cap that was implemented last year is projected to have significant negative impact on Division funding. Division administration estimates the cost to be in the vicinity of \$230,000 less depending on the methodology Alberta Education utilizes in implementing the claw back in January of 2019. Approximately 275 NGPS students achieved more than 45 credits last year and therefore the funding that was released to the Division in September will be adjusted in the new year. NGPS high schools are discussing where programming may need to be scaled back to account for this loss of revenue.

Mandatory Entry Level Training (MELT) for Drivers

As Alberta moves to increase qualifications for commercial carriers through the Mandatory Entry Level Training Program, any person who wishes to drive school bus (Class 2 license) must take this training. The MELT program will add 60 to 80 hours of training for every new bus driver after March 1, 2019. Additionally, all new bus drivers will need to have completed the 20 hour "S" endorsement course before being allowed to transport students. This additional 100 hours of training may have significant implications for our bus contractors in the areas of affordability, attraction and retention of bus drivers.

Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Board will be held on November 13, 2018 at the Division Office in Whitecourt commencing at 5:00 p.m. Members of the public are welcome to attend. For more information, please call 780-778-2800 or 1-800-262-8674.