

## BOARD HIGHLIGHTS

August 27, 2019

For Immediate Release

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### ***Introduction: New Secretary-Treasurer, Tamara Spong***

New NGPS Secretary-Treasurer Tamara Spong joined Trustees at their first Board Meeting of the 2019-20 school year. Ms. Spong comes to NGPS with extensive senior level financial management and leadership experience. <http://bit.ly/2LcPmDR>  
Welcome Tamara!

### ***Locally developed courses***

The Board approved the Division's use of two locally developed courses:

- Fantasy Science Fiction 15 from Aspen View Public School Division; and,
- Production Field Operations 15 from Calgary Roman Catholic Separate School District

### ***Change to Board Meeting Times***

A motion was made by the Board to move Board Meeting start times from 5:00 pm to 1:00 pm. Discussion ensued regarding the benefits and disadvantages of an afternoon start time versus an evening start time.

Motion was carried. Effective immediately, Board Meetings will commence at 1:00 pm at the Division Office in Whitecourt.

### ***Canadian School Boards Association Congress and National Trustees Gathering on Indigenous Education Conference Highlights***

NGPS Board Trustees Linda Wigton and Diane Hagman attended the Congress and Gathering this past July. The event is a leading national professional development opportunity for school boards that helps to build leadership capacity and support trustees in advocating for students, shaping policy, and directing school division resources.

Trustees attended sessions on Reconciliation, relationship-building, bullying and corporate citizenship, and shared their learning and suggestions for best practices within governance with the Board.

### ***Public School Boards Association (PSBA) Council Meeting Highlights***

Board Chair Judy Muir shared highlights from the PSBA's August Council Meeting:

- the PSBA Council commissioned two research papers to be prepared in support of the *Together for Students* campaign last Spring. *One Public K-12 System for Alberta* and *School Division Expenditures* will be shared with public boards and the Government of Alberta in the coming months
- grant money from the former government for the Student Voice Program has run its course. Council members have passed a motion to allocate funds from the Association's unrestricted reserves as seed money to support a Fall 2019 Student Voice Program.

### ***Education Act, Ministerial Orders and Regulation Changes***

NGPS Superintendent, Kevin Andrea, advised the Board that with the *Education Act* coming into effect September 1, 2019 there will be an associated review of policy and procedures to ensure alignment with legislation. Further discussion and details regarding impact to the division are forthcoming.

### ***Mental Health Capacity Building Enhancement Project***

The Mental Health Capacity Building Enhancement Project in Onoway and surrounding area has been working in preparation for the 2019-2020 school year. Three success coaches, who will be known as The CREW (Creating Resiliency; Enhancing Wellness), will be supporting students in the east end of the division through this project. Check them out on Facebook!










### ***Supplemental Busing Service Option***

Based on requests for additional transportation services, NGPS will consider single, alternate seat placements, for a fee. This alternate seat placement option allows a student to access bus service to/from home, and from one, single alternate address (address other than their home address such as a day home or other service provider).

Details, including fees for this supplementary service, can be found on the ngps.ca website at <http://bit.ly/2Zrj0dy>.



***Your Local Trustee***

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Valleyview		Trustee Gerry Steinke P: 780-524-9889 Email: <a href="mailto:gerry.steinke@ngps.ca">gerry.steinke@ngps.ca</a>

***Next Meeting***

The next meeting of the Board will be held on September 17, 2019 at the Division Office in Whitecourt commencing at 1:00 p.m. Members of the public are welcome to attend. For more information, please call 780-778-2800 or 1-800-262-8674.

