

BOARD HIGHLIGHTS

January 14, 2020
Release

For Immediate

Presentation: IT for Dominica, Director of Information Technology, Jason Yaremchuk

In 2017, Hurricane Maria devastated the tiny island Commonwealth of Dominica, destroying 80 to 90 percent of the island's infrastructure and technology – including schools. Re-building has begun with the help of the Alberta volunteer organization, IT for Dominica. NGPS IT Director Jason Yaremchuk joined one of their volunteer teams this past November and shared a summary of his work with trustees. During his two weeks in Dominica, the team prepared 480 Chromebooks for students, installed network switches in all schools, prepared hardware and installation tools for schools and trained the local IT Team who are now able to provision Chromebooks, set up and install WiFi and support learning and technology in the classroom. NGPS Superintendent Kevin Andrea applauded the organization and Mr. Yaremchuk's participation citing the personal and professional gains of his experience in terms of stewardship, leadership development and connecting and collaborating professionally within our larger global community,

2021 Hillside Jr/Sr High School International Field Trip – Greece and the Aegean Islands

The Board approved the trip in principal. Operated by EF Educational Tours, the trip will give Hillside students local access to communities across Greece and the Aegean islands. Students will explore the birthplace of democracy and the homeland of classical mythology while taking in the architecture and UNESCO World Heritage sites including Mount Olympus and the site of the ancient Olympic Games.

Infrastructure and Maintenance Renewal (IMR) Plan Approval

The IMR Plan was presented to the Board by Maintenance Director, Randy Lovich, at the December Board meeting. Trustees had the opportunity to review the Plan and motioned to approve the Plan. Motion carried.

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

The Board approved OJSH's travel request for Grade 12 student, Rowyn Mustus. Rowyn, who was a 2019 recipient of the Honouring Spirit: Indigenous Student Award, has been selected to attend Encounters with Canada in Ottawa, February 2-8, 2020. Encounters with Canada is a unique opportunity for Canadian teens to meet other young people from across the country, visit Parliament, explore Ottawa and its history and sites and learn about Indigenous traditions.

Review of Governance Expenditures










NGPS administration provided trustees with an analysis of the current Governance Budget and recommendations for review. The Board accepted the report and will review the recommendations.

2020 Alberta Rural Education Conference

The Alberta Rural Education Symposium brings Alberta school divisions together with learning partners from government and other organizations to discuss topics of critical importance to rural schools and communities. This year's symposium will focus on global and local trends in education, and address critical questions facing rural school divisions. Registration is now open and more information can be found at <https://www.albertaruraleducation.ca>.



Your Local Trustee

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Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Board will be held on February 11, 2020 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.

