

## BOARD HIGHLIGHTS

May 5, 2020

For Immediate Release

### ***Locally Developed Courses***

The Board authorized the use of the following Locally Developed courses:

1. Technical Theatre 15 and 25 from Chinook's Edge School Division
2. Advanced Acting/Touring 25 and 35 from Chinook's Edge School Division
3. Reading 15 and 25 and Military Studies 15 and 25, from Calgary Catholic School Division
4. Fantasy and Science Fiction Appreciation 15 and 25 from Aspen View School Division

The Board re-authorized the use of the following Locally Developed courses:

1. Literature and Composition from Parkland School Division
2. Forensic Science Studies 35 from Pembina Hills School Division
3. Forensic Studies 25 and 35, Workplace Essentials Skills 25 and 35 from Edmonton Public Schools
4. Calculus 35 from St. Albert Catholic Schools
5. Band 15, 25 and 35 and Chamber Ensemble 15, 25 and 35 from Calgary Public School Division
6. Class V Driver Training 35 from Northern Lights School Division
7. Foundations in Industry Workplace Safety 35 from Grande Yellowhead School Division
8. Fantasy and Science Fiction 15 from Aspen View School Division
9. Musical Theatre 15, 25 and 35, Production Field Operations 15, A 35 and B 35 from Calgary Roman Catholic School Division.

### ***Disbursement of remaining School Nutrition Grant dollars***

Of the original \$249,000 school nutrition grant assigned to Oscar Adolphson and Harry Gray Elementary schools in Budget 2019-20, there is a balance of approximately \$49,000. At the request of the Department of Education, these dollars are now being distributed to local food banks across the division based on student population. The distribution of remaining grant dollars will occur in two installments – the first on May 1 and the second on June 30.

Community	May 1	June 30
Onoway Food Bank	\$7,600	\$7,300
Mayerthorpe Food Bank	\$3,600	\$3,450
Whitcourt Food Bank	\$4,600	\$4,400
Whitcourt Community Lunch Box	\$4,600	\$4,400
Fox Creek Food Bank	\$1,850	\$1,770
Valleyview Food Bank	\$2,760	\$2,650



### ***At-Home Learning and Attendance***

- **At-Home Learning:**

In-school classes were cancelled by the Alberta Government on March 15. Immediately, NGPS began planning and preparing to move to an online learning platform. While teachers connected with students and families, set up their Google Classrooms, assembled take home learning packages for each student to help bridge the gap in instruction during this time period, and prepared for a virtual learning environment, other staff worked diligently behind the scenes to keep students and parents informed, ensure a safe and coordinated pick up of student belongings and ensure technology access and support for students.

NGPS Superintendent, Kevin Andrea, commended school staff and administrators for their work and adaptability throughout the pandemic to date.

Teachers have taken a variety of approaches to remote instruction and engagement depending on their own experience and the experience of their students. All students in Kindergarten to Grade 12 have continued to receive learning opportunities at home, either through online means or through other accommodations. Alberta Education's Content Delivery Guidelines have directed how students will learn while in-school classes are canceled.

Learning at home is not an equivalent to classroom/school day learning. The goal is to provide access to instruction and support for students and families while in-school classes are cancelled.

Parents are not expected to deliver the same learning that students receive at school, but to do whatever they can to encourage and support learning for their children while classes are cancelled.

- **Attendance:**

Different students are working on their at-home learning in different ways. Most students are engaging in the digital learning environment, although there are a few families who have requested paper packages. NGPS has an overall at-home learning attendance average of 77.89%. Many factors support engagement and attendance including access to technology and at-home support from family. Superintendent Andrea emphasized the importance of attendance and engagement for all students.

### **Division recognizes Edwin Parr Nominee**

Mr. Tayler Button, teacher at Hilltop Jr/Sr High School, was selected as Northern Gateway Public Schools' Edwin Parr nominee for 2020. Mr. Button is described by staff and students as a thoughtful and dedicated teacher with a positive attitude and an infectious love of learning.



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***Next Meeting***

The next Board meeting will take place [virtually on May 26, 2020](#) commencing at 1:00 p.m. Members of the public are welcome to attend. Please contact Board Secretary Wendy Robertson at the Division Office for more information, 780-778-2800 or 1-800-262-8674.

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