

## BOARD HIGHLIGHTS

February 8, 2022

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### ***Infrastructure and Maintenance Renewal (IMR) Plan***

NGPS Maintenance Director, Randy Lovich presented the 2021-22 IMR Plan to the Board, including a review of ongoing projects and work planned for the coming school year.

The Board approved the 2021-22 IMR Plan as presented. Projects that have been or will be completed this school year include sidewalks, fire alarm panel upgrades, classroom modernizations, water fountains, painting, roofing, exterior upgrades and more, at numerous Division schools.

### ***Policy Review***

Board Policy Committee Chair, Gerry Steinke, led trustees through proposed changes to *Board Policy 8 – Committees of the Board* and *Board Policy 9 – Board Representatives*. Trustees reviewed the function and purpose of all current committees of the NGPS Board.

**Motion 4563-22:** That the Board approve Policy 8 and Administrative Procedure 109 as amended. Motion carried.

**Moton 4564-22:** The Board approve Policy 9 as presented. Motion carried.

### ***COVID-19 in Schools***

NGPS Superintendent Kevin Bird spoke to the Division's current high case numbers, sharing that "NGPS schools are very much engaged in just staying open right now with classroom cohorts reporting above 40% absenteeism." Bird added that Antigen Rapid Tests, which provide families with the ability to test and stay home if required, have been instrumental in keeping our schools open.

### ***Child and Youth Mental Health Report***

At the Board's request, NGPS administration presented a report outlining current mental health supports and services available in NGPS schools. In summary, mental health services in NGPS are provided to schools at both a Division and school level. Supports generally fall into one of four tiers.

Thinking of services in terms of a pyramid, with a wide base leading up to a point, the higher we climb the pyramid the more complex, severe and life-affecting student needs become.

- Tier One is general mental health support and covers all students. Tier one support is provided through school-based funding and delivered through classroom curriculum, and school-based staff and service providers.
- Tier Two supports include general counselling as well as more individualized, strategic and purposefully targeted tools and one-to-one counselling with certified psychologists and/or mental health therapists.
- Tier Three supports, at the top level of the pyramid, are students who require external specialized treatment involving teams of Alberta Health Services' specialists.
- Tier Four support is intensive mental health intervention, usually involving a team of specialized therapists and medical professionals.
- All schools receive four days per month of a psychologist or a mental health therapist. Eight NGPS schools contract additional time over this amount.
- Additionally, nine NGPS schools receive universal funding and programming through the Alberta Health Services' funded Mental Health Capacity Building program. The program operates in Onoway and Whitecourt, with a Division supported trial program at Harry Gray Elementary School in Valleyview.

The full report can be viewed within the recording of the [February 8 Board meeting](#).

### ***Next Meeting***

The next meeting of the Board will take place on [March 1, 2022](#) commencing at 10:00 a.m at the Division Office in Whitecourt. Members of the public are welcome to attend, or to watch the Meeting live on our YouTube channel, [NGTV](#).