

## BOARD HIGHLIGHTS

Regular Meeting

February 14, 2023

For Immediate Release

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### ***Fox Creek School plans international field trip to Scotland and Ireland***

Fox Creek School Principal, Ian Baxter, shared the school's plans for an international learning experience in Scotland and Ireland, in March of 2024.

Citing the "tremendous educational value to traveling overseas," Baxter shared how such opportunities promote "global citizenship, different perspectives and ideas on future careers while bringing the Social Studies curriculum to life with an immersive experience."

The Board approved, in principle, the Fox Creek School 2024 International Field Trip to Scotland and Ireland.

### ***NGPS Annual Employee Recognition Evening***

The date for NGPS' 29<sup>th</sup> Annual Employee Recognition Evening has been set for September 29, 2023.

### ***Additional bus route added in Mayerthorpe***

A driver has been found for the additional school bus route north of Mayerthorpe. This addition decreases significant ride times for several students. As a result of finding the best overall solution, a few students will experience an increase in ride times and some alterations in scheduling.

### ***Dual Credit Health Care Aide Program gets support from community***

NGPS has been working with regional partners to identify possible funding to re-establish the Division's Dual Credit Health Care Aide Program. The Program allows high school students to train and certify as a Health Care Aide, so that when they graduate from high school, they are ready to work in the field.

A funding source was identified by the Town of Whitcourt and in short order the Town of Mayerthorpe assisted the Division in completing a grant application. Letters

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of support were quickly provided by other community organizations. Superintendent Bird expressed his gratitude to community partners, "The efficiency of this group working together for our students is a vivid example of our nimble rural communities recognizing needs and working together to fill them."

### ***DRAFT 2023-24 School Year Calendar***

Following consultation with school councils and staff, the DRAFT 2023-24 school year calendar was presented to the Board for approval. The calendar will be shared on ngpsTALK for public feedback.

### ***Funding increase for high needs students***

Alberta's high-needs funding grant for the Province has increased from \$1.8 million dollars to \$5 million dollars. NGPS will receive a portion of this funding based on need submissions previously made. The Division appreciates the new model for funding as it follows the actual documented needs of students as opposed to block funding, which does not accurately reflect the Division's unique requirements.

### ***Whitcourt Proposed Grade Reconfiguration Survey Feedback***

Since 2012, Whitcourt has changed in size, population and layout. Populations of learners 'up the hill' and 'in the valley' have balanced over the years. At the same time, the needs of early learners have accelerated across the Division.

As such, the Division has consulted with school administrators and councils at Pat Hardy Primary School and Whitcourt Central School, as well as with staff, parents, and the Whitcourt community, regarding a potential grade re-configuration. The re-configuration would see both Pat Hardy and Whitcourt Central become K-5 schools, resulting in a numerically more even division of students and needs.

A decision regarding re-configuration will be made by the Superintendent of Schools by the end of February.

### ***Next Meeting***

The next meeting of the Board is scheduled for [March 21, 2023](#), at the [Division Office in Whitcourt](#), commencing at [10:00 a.m.](#) Members of the public are invited to attend or watch the Meeting live on our YouTube channel, [NGTV](#).