

## BOARD HIGHLIGHTS

Regular Meeting

March 21, 2023

For Immediate Release

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***Parent Delegation: Sangudo Community School, Alana Simpson***

Alana Simpson, Sangudo parent and community member, provided an update to the Board on the work the community has engaged in to support school and community revitalization. Simpson shared current enrollment numbers, student PAT scores and the success the Sangudo Children's Academy and Child Care Centre has found since opening in October of 2022.

Simpson presented parent and community concerns in response to the Division's proposal to close the Junior High program at Sangudo Community School.

***Parent Delegation: Sangudo Community School, Tammy Ethier***

Tammy Ethier, Sangudo parent and community member, presented to the Board on the proposed closing of the Junior High at Sangudo Community School. Ethier voiced parent and community concerns surrounding the proposal and the communication to the school and community regarding the Division's proposal.

***Presentation: Capital Maintenance Renewal (CMR) Plan, Infrastructure and Maintenance Renewal (IMR) Plan, 2024-27 Capital Plan, Director of Facilities Randy Lovich***

NGPS Facilities Director, Randy Lovich led the Board through the Division's 2022-23 CMR and IMR Plans, detailing the Division's work and work plan for facility maintenance and upgrades over the 2022-23 school year.

Lovich then walked the Board through the 2024-27 Capital Plan which indicates the Division's ongoing and future capital priorities. Capital Plans are updated annually.

The NGPS Three-Year Capital Plan 2024-27 can be viewed on [ngps.ca](https://www.ngps.ca).

**Motion 4777-23:** That the Board approve the 2022-23 Infrastructure Maintenance Renewal Plan and Capital Maintenance Renewal Plan, as presented.

Motion carried.

**Motion 4779-23:** That the Board approve the 2024-27 Three-Year Capital Plan, as amended, with the removal of the "K-6" reference for Sangudo Community School.

Amended Motion carried.

### ***2023-24 School Fees***

There will be no increase to School Fees or Technology Access Fees for the 2023-24 school year.

### ***Sangudo Community School (SCS) Proposal***

Superintendent Bird shared with the Board a proposal to transfer the Junior High program/students at SCS, Grades 7, 8 and 9, to Mayerthorpe Jr/Sr High School. Bird indicated advantages to this move would include:

- having all area students from SCS and Elmer Elson Elementary move to junior high at Mayerthorpe Jr/Sr High School, at the same time, in Grade 7
- eliminating the need for additional funding for SCS
- a net savings of between \$350K and \$400K annually for the next two years which could fund further services for students and/or improvements to facilities
- SCS could be added to the Division's Capital Plan for modernization funding

Following much discussion, a community meeting in Sangudo and the Division's online engagement via ngpsTALK, Trustee Koloski made the Motion:

**Motion 4785-23:** That the Board continue to operate Sangudo Community School as a K-9 school, from 2023 to 2025, barring any extraordinary circumstances that would require additional program funding beyond the 2021-2022 allotment.

Amended Motion carried.

### **Additional Motions:**

**Motion 4786-23:** That a letter be written to the Minister of Education detailing the dilemma with every small school in Alberta regarding inequitable funding.

Motion carried.

**Motion 4787-23:** That the Board set up community engagement meetings with the community of Sangudo, one this Spring, and one this Fall, to start.

Motion carried.

***Hilltop Jr/Sr High School – International Field Trip: Dday 80: Juno and the Road to Liberation: Netherlands, Belgium and France***

HTH Principal Brent Northcott and Teacher/Tour Coordinator Pam Mehl presented the school's plans for an international field trip in 2024. The trip will be taken in concert with the 80<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of D-Day. Students will experience historical, political and cultural aspects of some of the great cities of the world as well as countries that Canada helped to liberate in WWI and WWII.

Trustees asked about plans on how students would keep up to date with their studies while they are away. HTH explained that students' studies will be on Google Drive and time for homework will be allotted. Teachers will identify what students traveling will miss. Additionally, the learning students will take part in as part of the trip is directly linked to their curriculum.

Trustee Peck asked about costs and how accessible the experience is for every student. Principal Northcott and Ms. Mehl spoke to fundraising options and monthly payment options which have made the trips more accessible to all students.

Trustee Hailes requested a follow-up presentation from HTH following the trip.

**Motion 4783-23:** Recommendation to approve in principle Hilltop Jr/Sr High's international field trip to Netherlands, Belgium and France in 2024.

Motion carried.

***Budget***

The Division has received the Funding Manual for 2023-24, noting small increases to Transportation, Operations and Maintenance and System Administration grants/budgets. Superintendent Bird indicated that the additional funds will be used almost entirely to mitigate inflationary pressures and compensation increases for teachers and support staff.

Bridge funding, introduced to offset financial pressures caused by COVID 19 and pandemic learning measures, has been discontinued.

### ***New Curriculum***

NGPS Deputy Superintendent Leslee Jodry updated the Board on the roll-out of the new English Language Arts and Math curriculums. All NGPS schools have been implementing the new English Language Arts and Math curriculums, Kindergarten to Grade 6, this school year.

Jodry outlined how the Division is supporting teachers with the roll-out via additional professional development, curriculum planning and collaboration days.

The 2023-24 school year will see Division teachers begin piloting the new Science curriculum at Pat Hardy (K-2, all teachers), Fox Creek (one class in each Grade of K-3), and Oscar Adolphson Primary (two, Grade 3 classes).

### ***NGPS Edwin Parr Nominees***

Each year, the Alberta School Boards' Association (ASBA) honours six outstanding first-year teachers in Alberta with the Edwin Parr Teacher Award. Edwin Parr was a teacher, education advocate and President of the Alberta School Trustees' Association (now ASBA) from 1956 to 1962. His long career in educational affairs led the Association to establish the Edwin Parr Teacher Award in his honour, and in honour of the profession he so deeply respected.

Northern Gateway Public Schools is proud to recognize two nominees this year:

### ***Gabby Brazinskaite, Fox Creek School, Division and Provincial Nominee***

Gabby Brazinskaite captured the attention of Fox Creek School administration from her very first interaction at the school and has continued to impress leadership, from the school and the Division, ever since. Colleagues note Gabby's "natural talent" in the classroom, her commitment to connecting with students and families in a meaningful and supportive way, and her positive presence within the school and greater community.

Congratulations Gabby!

***Katherine Lewis, Mayerthorpe Jr/Sr High School, Division Nominee***

The Division would also like to recognize the excellent work of a second, first year teacher.

In the words of Mayerthorpe Jr/Sr High Principal Beth Jager, Katherine “possesses the heart and soul of a teacher,” who consistently navigates challenges with poise, professionalism and determination, and who cares deeply about the well-being of her students. Ms. Lewis is passionate about enhancing the student experience through sports, Drama, the Arts and Student’s Union and is a committed teacher leader for many extracurricular activities.

Congratulations Katherine!

***Honouring Spirit Indigenous Student Award Nominees***

The Honouring Spirit Indigenous Student Award recognizes First Nations, Métis and Inuit students who model strength and commitment in pursuing their education and who embrace their own gifts, strengths and potential while celebrating their cultures.

Awarded by the Alberta School Boards’ Association (ASBA), the awards provide the opportunity to celebrate the unique qualities of students who inspire their peers, teachers, education leaders and community members while respecting the agency of other students to do the same in their own ways.

Congratulations and good luck to our three nominees:

***Mason Johnston, Onoway Jr/Sr High School, Grade 10***

Mason is a kind, respectful student who is proud of his Inuit heritage and takes every opportunity to learn about and celebrate it. He works hard to achieve his goals, is a friend to all and has a great sense of humour and perseverance through challenges. Mason will represent Alberta in U19 baseball at the North American Indigenous Games being held in Halifax this July.

***Vada Sunshine, Hillside Jr/Sr High School, Grade 11***

Vada brings an open mind and inclusive approach to all situations. Her school spirit and passion for learning is contagious. A member of Hillside’s Student Leadership Group, Vada takes every opportunity to celebrate and share knowledge about her culture, including working closely with Hillside’s Indigenous Support Teacher to connect Elders from her community of Sturgeon Lake Cree Nation to the school.



***Sunshyne Brown, Hilltop Jr/Sr High School, Grade 12***

Sunshyne is a member of the Louis Bull Tribe. She is proud to share her heritage with her peers and ensures Indigenous celebrations, culture and gratitude are a part of her daily life. Sunshyne's kindness and welcoming personality afford her many opportunities to make friends, demonstrate leadership and share her passion for acceptance of cultural diversity.

***Next Meeting***

The next meeting of the Board is scheduled for [April 18, 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](#).

