

BOARD HIGHLIGHTS

Regular Meeting

October 17, 2023

For Immediate Release

NGPS Vision, Mission and Values

The Board began the meeting with a look at the Division's new Vision, Mission and Values statements:

Vision:

Northern Gateway Public Schools strives to be the place where students realize their value, discover their talents, and imagine a future where their contribution matters.

Mission:

Northern Gateway Public Schools provides a dynamic and safe learning environment that promotes connection and the authentic application of learning.

Values:

Joy in learning.
Humility in achievement.
Satisfaction in giving.
Gratitude in receiving.
Dedication to personal responsibility.

Presentation: Sangudo – Mayerthorpe Transportation, Alana Simpson

Alana Simpson, Chair of the Parent Association of the Sangudo Storm, and Sangudo parent and community member, presented to the Board on the proposed Motion to revise transportation policy in the Sangudo cachement area. In opposition to the proposed Motion, Ms. Simpson spoke to Sangudo's revitalization, Board transportation policies and procedures, and universal practice across NPGS communities.

Presentation: Career Exposure Summer Camps, MHS Principal Beth Jager

Mayerthorpe Jr/Sr High School Principal Beth Jager spoke to the Board about the continued popularity and success of the Career Exposure Summer Camps held at Hilltop Jr/Sr High School this past July.

The program continues to grow with new courses, students and instructors. Ms. Jager highlighted the collaborative work of teachers, instructors, and funding supporters who begin planning for the camps in November of each year.

The camps, open to students in Grades 9-12, offer learners exposure to an array of career options via week long learning experiences. Camps promote connection, exploration and the authentic application of learning. Students earn high school credits while gaining hands-on experience.

Special thanks goes out to Camp sponsors who help make these camps happen with financial assistance, manpower, supplies and locations, like \$50k from the RBC Foundation and free Safety Certification Courses for students from Brogan Safety. Other sponsors include Rembina Pipeline, Booster Juice, the Town of Whitecourt, the Town of Mayerthorpe, Woodlands County and Careers Next Generation.

The Division welcomed just under 200 student registrants from numerous NGPS communities and other school divisions this summer.

Sangudo – Mayerthorpe Transportation Changes

NGPS Superintendent Kevin Bird presented the Board with information relating to the impact of proposed Motion 4879-23:

That the Northern Gateway Board of Trustees approve transportation provision for students who live in the Sangudo Community School catchment area and who are presently enrolled at Mayerthorpe Jr/Sr High School, Grade 7-9 program.

The Motion was made at the September 12 Board Meeting, and deferred until the October 17 Board Meeting, to allow the Board to gather more information and community feedback, and to meet with the Sangudo Community Engagement Committee.

NGPS administration presented that there are currently 17 students in Grades 7-9, representing 13 families, who are seeking transportation to Mayerthorpe from the Sangudo catchment.

Discussion ensued around transportation policy, best practice across the Division, and Sangudo Community School revitalization.

Motion Defeated.

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Sangudo Community Engagement Ad Hoc Committee Meeting

Trustees on the Ad Hoc Committee updated the Board on their last meeting with community members, sharing that SCS enrollment has increased to 122 students. This year's school budget and enrolment numbers has helped the school shift back into Viable status.

The Committee indicated that there is no need for additional meetings at this time as the school is presenting as viable.

28th Annual Employee Recognition Evening

The Board of Trustees honoured 100 staff at this year's event, recognizing staff with long-standing service awards, the Division's Edwin Parr nominee, and retirees. We are fortunate to have so many talented and passionate professionals working for students. Thank you for choosing NGPS!

New K-12 School in Valleyview - Update

NGPS Facilities Director Randy Lovich and Superintendent Kevin Bird met recently with architects and planning officials and are encouraged by the recent progress in planning. A Community Roundtable will be held at Oscar Adolphson Primary School in Valleyview, on November 16, at 6:30 p.m. to discuss ideas around the new facility.

Rural Valleyview By-Election is October 23!

A by-election has been called to fill the Trustee position representing Valleyview rural – Ward 3, Electoral Subdivision 2.

The by-election will take place on October 23, 2023, between the hours of 10:00 a.m. and 8:00 p.m. with voting stations located at the Greenview Regional Multiplex and Sunset House Community Hall. Proof of identity and current residence is required to be able to vote in municipal elections.

[See More](#)

Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Board is scheduled for [November 7, 2023](#), at the [Division Office in Whitecourt](#), commencing at [10:00 a.m.](#) Members of the public are invited to attend or watch the Meeting live on our YouTube channel, [NGTV](#).