

BOARD HIGHLIGHTS

Regular Meeting

June 18, 2024

For Immediate Release

NGPS Values:

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

D-Day 80: Juno and the Road to Liberation Tour

Mayerthorpe Jr/Sr High School teacher, Shelley Knott, shared highlights with the Board from her trip to Europe with students to commemorate the 80th Anniversary of the D-Day landings at Juno Beach. Knott won the experience for herself and two MHS students in an essay writing contest on the value of international travel for students.

The excursion took Knott and students to the Netherlands, Belgium and France – experiencing the sites of Vimy Ridge, the Anne Frank house, and Versailles. Students connected with our country's history, participated in the D-Day Commemoration ceremony, and met locals and cadets as they uncovered the sites and stories of the Second World War.

ASBA 2024 Honouring Spirit: Indigenous Student Award Nominees and Recipient

The Alberta School Boards' Association (ASBA)'s Indigenous Student Awards recognize 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.

The Division was proud to nominate three students this year, and to welcome them to the June Board Meeting for a special presentation and lunch:

CREIO JOHNSON, Percy Baxter School, Nominee

In the words of her teachers, Creio Johnson, a Grade 8 student at Percy Baxter School, "stands out as a beacon of continuous improvement and cultural pride" who demonstrates leadership and inspires her peers "to embrace their dreams and celebrate their heritage."

MADISON ALEXIS, Onoway Jr/Sr High School, Nominee

Madison Alexis, a Grade 12 student at Onoway Jr/Sr High School, is described as a quiet leader and role model who takes pride in being a young Indigenous woman and in participating in her community on Alexis Nakota Sioux Nation.

MARY CAMPBELL, Hilltop Jr/Sr High School, Recipient

Mary Campbell is a Grade 11 student at Hilltop Jr/Sr High School who was raised traditionally in the remote Indigenous community of Fort Chipewyan. A desire for educational diversity brought her to Whitcourt where her connection to the land and her First Nation culture is evident as she shares stories and experiences with her peers.

Mary won the Award for the North Region, and is one of only three students in Alberta to receive the prestigious honour, along with a \$2,500 scholarship for her future studies.

Lieutenant Governor of Alberta Student Award Recipient, Adam Auclair

Adam Auclair, a Grade 9 student from Fox Creek School, is one of nine Alberta students awarded the Lieutenant Governor Student Award! Adam was honoured at the Lieutenant Governor's award ceremony in Edmonton for his perseverance and dedication to achieving personal and academic success.

The NGPS Board was honoured to have Adam attend the June meeting for a special presentation and lunch. Fox Creek School Principal Ian Baxter shared that he has "seen Adam grow from a boy to a young man with incredible character and work ethic, one who espouses all of the values that we aspire to at school. We are all very proud of him."

Locally Developed Courses

The Board approved the use of the following Locally Developed Courses, at no cost to the Division:

- Military Studies 15, 25 and 35
- Reading Foundations A 15 and B 15

Use of Cell phones at School

On June 17, 2024, the [Alberta Government announced that it will be establishing provincial standards to ensure personal mobile devices and social media do not disrupt learning](#), and that personal mobile devices will no longer be permitted during class time and access to social media sites will be restricted.

The Government indicates that the standards will be implemented by September 1, 2024. An update will be provided as more information becomes available.

Livestreaming or Recorded Board Meetings

The Board discussed the merits and costs of continuing to livestream monthly board meetings versus providing recordings of the monthly meetings. Administration reported that upgrades to the livestreaming technology are necessary if the Board is to continue livestreaming Board Meetings. The Board heard that alternatively, a recording of each meeting could be provided on ngps.ca following each meeting.

The Board directed Administration to prepare a report detailing what costs would be involved in upgrading the livestreaming equipment. Livestreaming will pause until the Board has an opportunity to review the report.

Gateway Academy Career Exposure Summer Camps

The Division is all set for another incredible round of our very popular career exposure summer camps, running July 1-12, at Hilltop Jr/Sr High School, in Whitecourt.

- Camps run for one and two weeks, during the day, at Hilltop Jr/Sr High School.
- Week 1 – July 1-5, Week 2 – July 8-12
- 14 programs running first week, 10 the second week
- NEW CAMPS THIS YEAR: Community Helpers, Early Childhood Level 1 (includes First Aid), Self-Publishing – think content creation, podcasts, etc.
- Transportation available for any/all students from Valleyview, Fox Creek, Mayerthorpe, Sangudo, and Onoway
- Camps are free and offered to students in Grades 9-12. You do not have to be an NGPS student to take a class.

Special thanks and mention to our sponsors who help make it all happen!
RBC, Brogan Safety, Pembina Pipeline!

Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Board is the Organizational Meeting and is scheduled for [September 10, 2024, at the Division Office in Whitecourt](#), commencing at 10:00 a.m. The Regular Meeting of the Board will follow the Organizational Meeting. Members of the public are invited to attend.