

BOARD HIGHLIGHTS

Regular Meeting

October 15, 2024

For Immediate Release

Bylaw No. 1-24 – Arrangement of Electoral Wards and Trustees: First Reading

With direction from the Board, Bylaw No. 1-24 introduces a re-organization of electoral ward boundaries to better align with transportation boundaries for the Division in the following areas:

- Join Ward 1, Subdivisions 3 and 4 (Sangudo and Mayerthorpe area) together with two trustees elected at large,
- re-organize a small portion of the Darwell subdivision into the Onoway/Rich Valley/Alberta Beach subdivision,
- Join the Valleyview and Valleyview Rural subdivisions into one subdivision with two trustees elected at large,
- Allocate a small portion of one area of the Valleyview Rural subdivision into the Fox Creek subdivision.

First Reading passed.

The Board will share the proposed re-organization of electoral ward boundaries with communities for feedback. Trustees will present the information to their school councils and administration will share information with municipalities. Additional methods for engaging communities and garnering feedback were discussed.

Preschool/Junior Kindergarten Report

At the request of the Board, Superintendent Bird reported on preschool/child care and junior Kindergarten programs currently available in NGPS communities.

Many new programs and child care options have started up in our communities and this is excellent news for families. Superintendent Bird elaborated that the programs, centres, dayhomes are all valuable partners to us in helping to prepare children for school. The availability of a provincial Affordability Grant helps substantially to pay operational and staffing costs and Subsidy Grants are helping families better afford child care.



Traumatic Event Systems (TES) Model of Crisis & Trauma Response

TES training empowers leaders and local organizations in working together to intervene, prevent, and respond to crises in ways that support individuals and our communities.

On October 4, Bonnie Randall, a psychologist with the [Center for Trauma Informed Practices](#), facilitated TES training for NGPS administrators and staff, representatives from the RCMP, Child and Family Services, and Recovery Alberta, Living Waters staff, and leadership from Valleyview, Fox Creek, Whitcourt and Alexis Nakota Sioux Nation.

The nationally recognized training has become noted in communities and school systems for its practical, hands-on approach that aims to help community partners “effectively prevent, intervene, and respond to crises and conflict through trauma-informed practices.”

Important Changes to Whitcourt Bus Routes

NGPS has reorganized Whitcourt Bus Routes 55, 106, 111 and 125, to improve bus service to students. Changes were communicated directly to families impacted, as well as via [ngps.ca](#) and social media. Changes came into effect on October 9, 2024. Additionally, the bussing contractor in the Onoway area has made changes to service in Onoway and area to improve service to students.

NGPS Staff Honoured at 29th Annual Employee Recognition Evening

The Division's annual Employee Recognition Evening is a special event for NGPS. Each year, employees from every school community in our Division gather together in Whitcourt to share a meal and to celebrate the people who make us great!

Hosted by the Board of Trustees, the evening honours longstanding staff for their years of service and commitment. This year's event honoured 75 staff, 12 retirees, the Division's Edwin Parr Nominee, Ms. Josie Liske from Fox Creek School, and special award recipient this year, Mrs. Kelle Hansen, who was inducted into the Alberta High School Sports Hall of Fame.

Student Enrolment Report

NGPS Secretary-Treasurer Tamara Spong reported a positive net increase of 60 students division-wide, so far, this school year.





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Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Board is scheduled for **November 5, 2024**, at the **Division Office in Whitecourt**, commencing at **10:00 a.m.** Members of the public are invited to attend.

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