

## BOARD HIGHLIGHTS

Regular Meeting

January 21, 2025

For Immediate Release

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### ***NGPS Board Advocacy Committee***

The Board's Advocacy Committee works to inform the public and government about issues that affect Division operations and student success and safety. Examples from this year's Plan include advocating for:

- Increased penalties for running flashing red bus lights;
- Tax rebates for rural students attending urban post-secondary institutions;
- Incentives for post-secondary institutions to provide local campuses to decrease the economic challenge of students having to move to further their studies after high school; and,
- Provide flexibility and funding to "ruralize" programs that have proven effective in an urban context to ensure equality of service for students who reside outside major urban centres.

The Committee also produces a brochure that will be available at schools, school council meetings, and on [ngps.ca](http://ngps.ca).

### ***NGPS Board Community Engagement Committee***

The Board's Community Engagement Committee identifies opportunities for the Board to engage with students, parents, staff, and the community with respect to educational goals and planning. Committee Chair, trustee Linda Wigton, presented a proposed schedule for Board school visits for the remainder of the 2025 school year.

- **Council of School Councils**  
Trustee Wigton shared Committee and Administration plans for an upcoming session for Division school council representatives. The session, called a Council of School Councils, will provide participants with information about the work of school councils and will gather feedback and ideas around engaging with parents and caregivers via potential virtual learning sessions for parents on topics of interest.

### ***Coming Soon! Before and After School Child Care in Valleyview***

Northern Gateway Public Schools is excited to announce a new partnership with The Knowledge Tree Early Learning & Childcare Centre in Valleyview to increase services for children and parents. The partnership will see The Knowledge Tree access space in one of NGPS' Valleyview schools to operate before and after school care, thereby freeing up resources elsewhere and increasing child care spaces.

NGPS Superintendent Kevin Bird shared how accessible child care will be a game-changer for parents, "We hear regularly from parents in Valleyview about the need for increased child care and, like in other NGPS communities, we are partnering with quality service providers to make use of space in schools and provide more opportunities."

The partnership will increase current child care spots for infants, toddlers, and preschool aged children by approximately 15 spots with programming expected to begin this summer.

### ***Curriculum Consultation***

The Division is proud to share that out of hundreds of applicants from across the province, one of our excellent NGPS teachers has been selected to participate in the province's 20-member Curriculum Consultation group focusing on Math, Social Studies, Physical Education and CALM 20. Thank you to Hilltop Jr/Sr High School Math teacher Kristine Woodford who will represent students and the Division in reviewing and providing feedback on changes to Alberta's Math curriculum.

### ***Bridge to Teaching Program***

The Bridge to Teaching program provides certified journeypersons the opportunity to earn a Bachelor of Education degree with credit for their trades knowledge and skills. Alberta Education offers a \$25,000 grant to support candidates in attaining their teaching certificate. Following one year of intense study, individuals are available to teach their trade in NGPS schools. The program is a benefit to NGPS in helping to staff school mechanics/construction/welding/etc shops and labs.

### ***Next Meeting***

The next meeting of the Board is scheduled for [February 18, 2025](#), at the [Division Office in Whitecourt](#), commencing at [10:00 a.m.](#) Members of the public are invited to attend.

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