

# Meet our Trustees



**Gerry Steinke**  
Chair  
gerry.steinke@ngps.ca



**Christine Peck**  
christine.peck@ngps.ca



**Diane Hagman**  
Vice-Chair  
diane.hagman@ngps.ca



**Jim Hailes**  
jim.hailes@ngps.ca



**Deb Koloski**  
deb.koloski@ngps.ca



**Judy Muir**  
judy.muir@ngps.ca



**Les Urness**  
les.urness@ngps.ca



**Barb Maddigan**  
barb.maddigan@ngps.ca



**Linda Wigton**  
linda.wigton@ngps.ca

## Our Board Believes:

That rural Alberta students deserve the same access to programming and supports as their urban counterparts.

## Our Board Calls For:

Equitable funding solutions that foster progressive educational opportunities for students.



## NGPS Board of Trustees



## ADVOCACY

4816-49 Ave  
Whitecourt, AB  
T7S 1N8  
780.778.2800



**Northern Gateway**  
Public Schools



### Equitable Funding for Rural Schools

- Funding - Northern Gateway Public Schools advocates for adequate, equitable, and sustainable funding methods that recognize the unique challenges and costs of rural education.
- Small Rural School Grant Limitations - When small rural schools operate K-9 or K-12 in one building, they often fall outside the range of small rural school funding. Funding such schools as two separate programs (elementary and secondary) would effectively resolve this issue.
- Specialized Supports - Access to specialized supports for rural students is challenging, costly, and often involves driving long distances to major centres. Local service levels and “ruralization” of urban programs, such as CASA classrooms that provide specialized behavioural support, should be considered by government when planning for regionalization of health care.

### Capital Funding and Transportation

- Bus Red Light Running - There is an increasing concern for student safety because of drivers passing school buses inappropriately. Strengthening penalties for passing a school bus with flashing red lights to include vehicle impounding and increase secondary highway signage with a strong stop for flashing lights message.
- Annual Capital Funding - Acknowledging the need in large centres for new schools due to the population boom, it is important that the rural modernization pillar of the provincial plan continues to receive funding to ensure sustainability of current buildings. Providing capital dollars annually (based on student numbers, age of buildings, and geographical factors) would allow Divisions to plan future projects while improving the efficiency of current structures.



### Learning for Life, Together

Ensuring Alberta’s rural communities are served by a well-equipped and equitable education system is an investment in Alberta’s future prosperity.

### Meeting Everyone’s Needs

- Our programs, such as Work Experience, Apprenticeships, and Career Exploratory Boot Camps inspire our students to graduate and entertain a variety of post-secondary options. Much of their excitement and potential is lost when they cannot afford to live in the big centres. Mandating and funding local satellites of degree granting institutions would allow students to live in, or close to, their home communities removing the financial barriers currently limiting the training of this pool of desperately needed talent. Tax incentives recognizing living expenses for rural high school graduates attending post-secondary studies away from their communities would also provide beneficial support.
- Various government agencies that provide services to children and youth regularly have vacant positions. We propose that service positions for children and youth be “blue circled”. Should these positions be left unfilled, the funding would be turned over to the school divisions filling the service deficit. The intent of “blue circling” is to incentivize government agencies to fill vacant positions.
- Some Divisions and Charter Schools do not accept students with high-cost special needs but receive funding. Divisions that accept all students should receive targeted funding in recognition of the important support provided to these children, youth, and families.

