

BOARD HIGHLIGHTS

Regular Meeting

February 18, 2025

For Immediate Release

Hilltop Jr/Sr High (HTH) School International Field Trip, Germany & the Alps

Hilltop students are headed to Germany over the 2026 Spring Break! HTH Teacher Pam Mehl shared highlights from the itinerary which will cover history from the Medieval times up to WWII and include a visit to Dachau Concentration Camp. The trip promises to be an excellent learning and personal growth experience for all students, tying high school curricular studies to significant historical, political, and cultural aspects of one of the great countries of the world.

Approved in principle.

Supporting Children in NGPS: Health

Every learner has unique needs. Some learners have profound and ongoing needs and others have short-term or situation-based needs, calling for flexible and responsive supports. In Alberta, these needs are classified as Severe, Mild/Moderate, and Medical/Physical Needs.

NGPS Director of Learning Bev Cotton presented an overview of the different needs of NGPS students, and the continuum of specialized supports and services the Division provides to students under the principles of Alberta's Inclusive Education Framework.

Discussion followed with Trustees asking many questions to understand the complex topic and how staff are supported in their work of meeting these needs. The Board continues to advocate for flexible and increased funding for specialized supports and services, and innovative and collaborative solutions to staffing specialized positions in our communities such as Speech Language Pathologists and Psychologists.

2024-25 Infrastructure Maintenance Renewal (IMR) Work Plan

NGPS Facility Services Director Randy Lovich reviewed the 2024-25 IMR Work Plan with the Board detailing the work and costs incurred at each NGPS school and site

over the 2024-25 school year to date. IMR projects range from heating and mechanical upgrades to roof, concrete and exterior work.

The IMR Plan was approved as presented.

2025-26 School Calendar

NGPS Superintendent Kevin Bird presented the [2025-26 School Year Calendar](#) for the Board's review and approval.

The calendar was accepted as presented and is available on ngps.ca.

Valleyview New School Project

The Division has been approved for a new K-12 public school in Valleyview. The facility will offer a full range of opportunities for all ages including the arts, athletics, academics and trades programs. The approximately 7,000 square metre space is designed from the ground up to be a community-focused, multi-use space with child care, before and after school care, and flexible spaces capable of hosting a multitude of programs and learning opportunities for Valleyview learners.

Community members can learn more, offer feedback, and follow our journey online. Visit our [New School page](#) for Frequently Asked Questions, a weekly Construction Diary and photos.

Compass Leadership Groups

The Division's two Compass Leadership Groups - Teacher Leaders and Assistant Principals - continue to collaborate on professional goals and development. The groups are an important tool and network for aspiring NGPS leaders.

Out-of-School Care Survey for Grasmere and Darwell Areas

Working with a local childcare provider, NGPS has compiled a survey to determine if there is a need for out-of-school care in Alberta Beach. The survey will be available on ngps.ca and grasmereschool.ca, as well as on school, division, and community social media pages.

Alberta Education Assurance (AEA) Survey

Alberta Education is asking parents, students and teachers for feedback via the Alberta Education Assurance (AEA) survey which gathers feedback on the quality of education

provided by school authorities and their schools. Schools and school authorities use this information to understand how they are doing and to plan for the future.

The survey runs from February 18, 2025, to March 21, 2025. [Click here!](#)

NGPS School Council Community of Action

The Division has organized a School Council event for March 10, 2025, in Whitecourt. The event will bring together representatives from NGPS school councils from across the division for learning and networking.

Community of Action: Professional Development Day for EAs/TAs

NGPS Educational and Teacher Assistants connected in Whitecourt for a professional day of learning on February 6. Percy Baxter School hosted the event. Superintendent Bird brought words of welcome before introducing keynote speaker, Amber Hester. A rich day of learning followed with a range of PD sessions tailored to support our incredible EAs/TAs and their work with students.

Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Board is scheduled for **March 18, 2025, at the Division Office in Whitecourt**, commencing at **10:00 a.m.** Members of the public are invited to attend.