

## BOARD HIGHLIGHTS

Regular Meeting

March 18, 2025

For Immediate Release

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### ***2026 – 29 Three-Year Capital Plan***

NGPS Facilities Director Randy Lovich reported on updates to the 2026-29 Three-Year Capital Plan including adjustments to enrolment numbers and school utilization rates where applicable. There are no changes to capital priorities.

*The [2026-29 Three-Year Capital Plan](#) was approved by the Board as presented.*

### ***2025-26 Board Directed School Fees***

NGPS Superintendent Bird made recommendation to the Board to keep 2025-26 School Fees the same as the 2024-25 school year:

- Transportation Fees for Grant Ineligible Students – no change
- Tuition Fees for Non-Alberta Students – no change
- Technology Access/Maintenance Fees – no change

Bird reported that while there is a cost to the Division to support students and families by not increasing School Fees, NGPS “wants to be mindful of the economic times we are in, and do what we can to help mitigate some of those challenges.”

Bird explained that choosing to not increase these School Fees for families means NGPS must absorb the increasing costs of these services. School bus transportation service continues to be a challenge for rural school divisions province-wide, with many school boards charging additional fees to families for both regular and supplemental bus service. Superintendent Bird emphasized the “very real benefit” NGPS offers families in providing regular bus service to students at no cost and in keeping the cost for supplemental services as low as it can be.

*The Board approved the 2025-26 Transportation Fees for Grant Ineligible Students, Tuition Fees for Non-Alberta Students, and Technology Access/Maintenance Fees as recommended.*

Fees can be viewed online at [ngps.ca](http://ngps.ca).

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### ***New Transportation Walk Distance for K-6 Students***

Effective September 1, 2025, the walk distances for students in Kindergarten through Grade 6 who ride school buses will increase from 1.0 km to 1.6 km as per the proposed new Alberta Government regulations. There is no change to the 2.0 km walk distance for students in Grades 7 to 12.

This means, that K-6 students who live 1.6 km or more from their designated school building will continue to be funded for school bus transportation to and from school. However, students in K-6 who live less than 1.6 km from their school will now have to apply for busing (if needed).

Students in K-6 who will no longer be funded for transportation under the new ride limit will be informed of the changes via school councils and NGPS Transportation. Current Bus Fees can be viewed at [ngps.ca](http://ngps.ca).

### ***Honouring Spirit: Indigenous Student Awards***

The Division is pleased to nominate ten students from our school communities for the Alberta School Board Association's Honouring Spirit: Indigenous Student Awards. The Awards recognize 12 First Nations, Métis or Inuit students (Kindergarten – Grade 12) province-wide who model strength and commitment in the pursuit of their personal education paths. Congratulations to our Nominees!

Cougar Desjarlais  
Raylene Aginas  
Paisley Potts  
Bhodon Mercredi  
Madison Cardinal

Janelle Cardinal  
Taezen Johnson  
Lyla Turner  
Riley Mitchell  
Amy Goertzen

Award recipients will be announced at a banquet in Edmonton in April.

### ***2025 Edwin Parr Nominee – Makayla Chamzuk***

NGPS is pleased to announce our 2025 Edwin Parr Nominee, Makayla Chamzuk.

Ms. Chamzuk is a passionate first year educator at Pat Hardy Elementary School who goes above and beyond to ensure every student achieves success. Her enthusiasm, professionalism, and passion for teaching inspires others around her. A true team player, Makayla collaborates seamlessly with colleagues to support the school's mission and foster a nurturing and engaging atmosphere for all students. We look forward to honoring Ms. Chamzuk at the ASBA banquet this Spring.

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### ***NGPS Council of School Councils and ASCA Spring Symposium***

School Council representatives from throughout the Division met virtually on March 10 to connect, ask questions, and learn from each other. Representatives learned more about the role of school councils in Alberta and provided valuable feedback to NGPS administration.

This April, school councils across the province have the opportunity to attend the Alberta School Council Association's (ASCA) virtual Spring Symposium. In the spirit of bringing councils together, NGPS will register school councils with interested members to participate in the ASCA Spring Symposium at the Division Office on April 26, 2025.

### ***Sangudo Area Bus Accident***

On March 13, one of the contract school buses serving the Sangudo area was in an accident. All students are safe with minor injuries reported. Mayerthorpe RCMP are investigating. Our appreciation goes out to our local first responders and our transportation and support staff for their prompt assistance.

### ***Next Meeting***

The next meeting of the Board is scheduled for [April 15, 2025, at the Division Office in Whitecourt](#), commencing at [10:00 a.m.](#) Members of the public are invited to attend.