

BOARD HIGHLIGHTS

From March 29, 2017 Meeting

For Immediate Release

Budget 2017

Budget 2017, was released on March 15th, reveals efforts to protect and improve education services through an \$8.2 billion commitment to K-Grade 12 education:

- \$500 million for 26 school projects including 8 brand new schools, 9 replacements of old ones and 7 modernizations to older schools;
- \$213 million increase to fund enrolment growth and grants for First Nations students, English Language Learners and others with diverse learning needs; and
- Funding to offset the loss of school fee revenue to ensure school boards can maintain or increase education programming for students.

For further information on Budget 2017 go to the Alberta Education website:

<https://education.alberta.ca/budget/funding-supports/everyone/budget-2017-funding-support-breakdown/?searchMode=3>

Summer Boot Camps July 2017

In partnership with Alberta Labour, the Town of Whitecourt, Community Futures, Woodlands County and Living Waters Schools, NGPS is proud to introduce the following unique and challenging Summer Boot Camp experiences for students currently in Grades 9-12. All classes will be held at Hilltop Jr/Sr High School in Whitecourt. There is a \$25.00 registration fee for each course and the registration link can be found on the Division website:

<http://www.ngps.ca/students-and-parents/gateway-academy-summer-courses#>

Culinary Arts – July 4 - 14
Coding an App – July 4 - 14
Class 1 Truck Driver Training – July 4 – 14
Art – July 4 – 14
Robotics – July 4 – 8
Forestry and Forestry Equipment Operation – July 4- 14
Cisco Networking Academy July 4 – 14
Construction – July 4 – 14
Medical Minds – July 10 – 14
Safety Certification – July 4 – 8
First Aid for Animals – July 10 – 14
Business Enterprise – July 10 - 14

Box 840
4816 – 49 Avenue
Whitcourt AB T7S 1N8
www.ngps.ca
learn@ngps.ca



Three-Year Capital Plan 2018-2021

The Board ratified the 2018 - 2021 Capital Plan submission to Alberta Education with its top priority being a new K-12 School in Valleyview and Modernize Rich Valley School.

Each year, all 64 school jurisdictions and 13 charter schools submit their three-year Capital Plans to the department, which are updated annually. The proposed projects in these plans – new and replace schools, modernizations and additions – are examined. From that Alberta Education will determine the most pressing needs as identified by the school boards. Alberta Education prioritizes these project requests by first considering school board priorities and then other criteria. The criteria include health and safety of students and staff, enrolment projects, current utilization, facility conditions and capacity for program delivery.

National School Board Association (NSBA)

The National School Boards Association (NSBA) is the leading advocate for public education. For more than 75 years, they have been leading the effort to support and enhance public education.

Trustees Gerry Steinke and Sherry Jeffreys attended the NSBA in Denver, March 25th – 27th, 2017, where they listened to different speakers and attended many interesting sessions:

- Captain Scott Kelly – NASA Astronaut
- Arlanna Huffington – Founder of the Huffington Post, Founder and CEO of Thrive Global, and Author
- Christian Moore, Founder, WhyTry Organization

Sessions:

- What is a Makerspace
- Innovative Teaching and Learning with iPads
- How do School Address Media Literacy
- Drumtastic Mathematics in Motion

Trustee Steinke also presented a short video on a High School Musical Group that performed. The Southwest High School Mariachi “Los Dragones” has the honor of being recognized as one of the leading public school Mariachi programs in the city of San Antonio and the state of Texas.

Next Meeting

The next Board meeting will take place **Tuesday, April 11th, 2017** commencing at **10:00 a.m.** at the Division Office in Whitcourt. Members of the public are welcome to attend. For more information, please call 780-778-2800 or 1-800-262-8674.