

BOARD HIGHLIGHTS

From October 3, 2017 Meeting

For Immediate Release

Technology Overview

Jason Yaremchuk, Director of Information Technology presented his technology overview to the Board of Trustees.

Shared Services: Jason briefly reviewed the shared firewall Northern Gateway and other jurisdictions are a part of. The cost savings for Northern Gateway went from \$18,000 a year to \$4,800.00 a year.

Summer Work and Changes: Staff changes over the summer went from 3 techs to hiring 2 new techs. These two positions are based out of Division Office and will be servicing the schools as needed. Please welcome Travis and Glenn to the Division.

2303 Chromebooks were purchased over the summer. Northern Gateway Public Schools benefited from significant savings by purchasing as a division rather than individual schools.

The Active Directory to GSuite (formerly Google Apps) user and password sync completed. This is a large milestone for NGPS. We are now officially 1 password across NGPS technology services. Account creation process happens only once.

Evergreening: Currently investigating evergreen possibilities – looking at 5-year student devices.

Piloting: Research and Innovation around what a Chrome only classroom would look like and identifying possible barriers. Using large screen TVs that are much cheaper than current smartboards. Also, looking at paperless classroom, and how much can be saved?

Appreciation Evening

The annual Employee Appreciation Evening was held on Friday, September 29th, 2017, at the Westward Community Centre in Whitecourt.

This year's theme was "Through the Looking Glass". Many staff members were honored and the evening was a huge success.

Division Identity and Foundational Statements

The Board of Trustees approved the changes to Board Policy 1 "Division Identity and Foundational Statements".

Enrolment Report

Based on the September 29th, 2017 count, enrolment across the Division was at 4720 student FTE. Enrolment across the Division has fallen by 10.5 student FTE compared to last year, but was higher than spring 2017 projections.

Last Board Meeting

This was the last Board meeting of the 2016-2017 School year and will be the last meeting for those trustees not running for another 4 year term, and for those trustees not re-elected at the upcoming Election on October 16, 2017. We wish the best to all those trustees and thank them for their dedication and service on the Board.

Next Meeting

The next Board meeting will take place **Tuesday, October 3rd, 2017** commencing with the **Organizational Meeting at 3:30 p.m.**, and with the **regular Board Meeting to follow** at the Division Office in Whitecourt. Members of the public are welcome to attend. For more information, please call 780-778-2800 or 1-800-262-8674.