

BOARD HIGHLIGHTS

April 17, 2018 Meeting

For Immediate Release

Presentation: Caribou Range Plan – Forestry, Caribou and You

Ray Hilts, Director of the Alberta Forest Alliance and Whitecourt Town Councillor spoke to the NGPS Board about issues tied to Caribou Range Planning in Alberta. Citing an inaccurate representation of sustainability by the federal government, Mr. Hilts shared how the skewed data will significantly impact local communities through restrictions placed on resource harvesting and development resulting in local job loss, economic loss and population reduction.

albertaforestalliance.ca

Trustees attend National School Board Association Conference

NGPS Administration and three trustees attended the National School Board Association (NSBA) 2018 Conference held in San Antonio, Texas, USA, April 7 – 9, 2018; where they attended many interesting sessions and listened to guest speakers.

Transportation Funding

NGPS Trustee Gerry Steinke proposed a motion to limit, effective September 1st, 2019, the amount of service provided to transport each non-NGPS students to Kindergarten with the proportion of base educational grant funding for that student, excepting special needs students who are funded for additional instructional time.

The Board discussed the advantages of cooperative busing agreements (NGPS currently provides busing for all Catholic school board students in Whitecourt and Valleyview). The Director of Transportation, Rhett Czaban, shared that cooperative busing agreements work in favour of the division due to the benefit of economy of scale and that limiting service to our own division would result in fewer students overall for NGPS which in turn would equal less funding and longer ride times for NGPS students.

The Board approved the motion.

Potential for re-alignment of Division boundaries to include additional land in the Fox Creek area

The Board approved NGPS Administration's recommendation to draft a letter to the Minister of Education inquiring about a territory/boundary review with the intention of drawing

additional areas into the NGPS boundaries in a way that makes sense.

2019-2022 DRAFT Capital Plan

The 2019-2022 DRAFT Capital Plan was presented and accepted by the Board. The Plan does not reflect any changes from last year's Plan. A new K-12 school in Valleyview remains our #1 priority.

Technology Access/Maintenance Fee

The Board approved a Technology Access/Maintenance Fee in the amount of \$30.00 for a full time student or \$15.00 for a half time kindergarten student for the 2018/19 school year. In keeping with the Division's Technology Evergreen Program, this fee will enable NGPS to continue to provide every NGPS student with the instructional technology that they need in and outside the classroom including classroom and assistive technologies.

2018-2019 Transportation Fees for Grant Ineligible Students

The Board approved a 2018-2019 Transportation Fee increase for Grant Ineligible students. The current annual fee for children who live 2.4km or less to access transportation is significantly lower than neighbouring jurisdictions and the provincial average. Next year's fees will increase from \$290 to \$320 for the 2018-19 year for Grant Ineligible students, \$160 per half day for ECS students and to a maximum of \$800 per Family.

Graduation Dates

Graduation dates will be shared via the NGPS website and social media and are as follows:

Hillside Jr/Sr High School – June 29 @ 1:00 p.m.
Mayerthorpe Jr/Sr High School – June 29 @ 2:00 p.m.
Onoway Jr/Sr High School – June 29 @ 3:30 p.m.
Hilltop Jr/Sr High School – June 29 @ 4:00 p.m.
Fox Creek School – June 29 @ 3:00 p.m.

Next Meeting

The next Board meeting will take place on **May 1, 2018** commencing at **5:00 p.m.** 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.