

BOARD HIGHLIGHTS

May 22, 2018 Meeting

For Immediate Release

Presentation: 2018-19 IMR Plan, Randy Lovich, NGPS Director of Facility Services

The Infrastructure and Maintenance Renewal Plan, or IMR Plan, lays out the Division's schedule and budget for infrastructure and maintenance related work and projects on an annual basis. Randy Lovich, Director of Facility Services, led Trustees through a review of the plan indicating what projects will be undertaken over the next school year and the costs of those projects.

The Division has already spent \$45,600 from this year's IMR Budget to continue moving forward with projects at Mayerthorpe Jr/Sr High School and Rich Valley Elementary School.

Planned expenditures over 2018-19 pending release of funds from the Alberta Government include partial re-roofs of Grasmere School and Mayerthorpe Jr/Sr High School, exterior upgrades to Rich Valley Elementary School, staffroom renovations at Darwell School and at Elmer Elson Elementary and a Fire Alarm upgrade at Fox Creek School.

Energy Retrofit Program

The Director of Facility Services has put out a Request for Proposal (RFP) for an energy retrofit. The retrofit would include a comprehensive review of Division school and site electrical systems to update where needed and to take advantage of improved efficiency and provincial rebates.

Reviewing school utility costs

NGPS Superintendent shared with the Board a chart comparing water and sewer expenditures for all NGPS schools for the period of January to April, 2018, highlighting significant differences in costs from community to community with some schools paying higher rates. Administration will contact utility providers to inquire about the high rates and differences between communities.

Budget 2018-19

The 2018-19 Budget Summary was circulated among Trustees. Acting Secretary-Treasurer Milly McGregor led Trustees through the Summary:

- NGPS continues to experience annual declining enrolments resulting in reduced funding from the Alberta Government for the 2018-19 school year. Our projected enrolment for 2018-19 is 4,568 students. This is down 162 students, or 3.42%, from the 2017-18 school year enrolment of 4,730.
- The total operating budget for NGPS for 2018-19 is \$65,087,694. This is \$809,261 or 1.23% less than what NGPS received for the 2017-18 school year.

The Board approved the 2018-19 Budget.

2018-19 Advocacy Plan

The Board Advocacy Plan for 2018-19 will focus on relationship building, advocacy for funding for rural school divisions and a new K-12 school in Valleyview.

Hillside Jr/Sr High School Field Trip

The Board approved the school's educational excursion to Quebec, Montreal and Ottawa, July 2-19, 2018. Students will experience their Canadian culture, politics and history during the seven day excursion.

Locally Developed Courses

The Board approved the following eight locally developed courses to be used or renewed for use in NGPS high schools: Forensic Science, Abnormal Psychology, Service Rig Floor Hand (Dual Credit), Competencies in Math, Fantasy and Science Fiction, Learning Strategies, Drawing.

Honouring Spirit: Indigenous Shining Student Award Nominees

Trustees will present certificates of acknowledgement to the nominees at their schools. NGPS had nine nominees this year; six students from Percy Baxter School, two students from Hillside Jr/Sr High School and one student from Onoway Jr/Sr High School.

School Nutrition Funding

Budget 2018 includes increased funding for the School Nutrition Program from the \$141,000 announced last year by an additional \$108,000 for the 2018-19 year. The initial \$141,000 has been dedicated to the establishment of a Hot Lunch program at Oscar Adolphson Elementary. This will continue for the 2018-19 school year. A recommendation for the deployment of the additional \$108,000 will be formulated.



Alberta Music Festival

Congratulations to Elmer Elson Elementary School, students, staff and teachers, Leanna Feser and Sherry Shaw! The Grade 1-3 Choral Speech group and Grade 3-6 Choral Speech group, directed by Ms. Leanna Feser, and the Grade 3-6 Choir, directed by Ms. Sherry Shaw have been recommended to perform in the 2018 Alberta Music Festival.

Letter to the Alberta Minister of Education from Mayerthorpe Jr/Sr High School Principal

NGPS Superintendent Kevin Andrea shared a letter with Trustees from Principal Dafydd Thomas to the Minister of Education advocating for the continuation of and increase to Dual Credit funding. In the letter, Principal Thomas shares how Dual Credit programs are giving rural students options and mitigating the educational disparity between urban and rural schools.

Next Meeting

The next Board meeting will take place [on June 12, 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.

