

# Northern Gateway Public Schools

*opening the gateway to a lifetime of learning*

## Board Highlights

From October 29 meeting

For Immediate Release

### Organizational Meeting – October 29<sup>th</sup>, 2013

· At its annual Organizational Meeting held on October 29<sup>th</sup>, 2013 Northern Gateway's Board of Trustees re-elected Judy Muir as Chairman for the 2013-2014 school year. Elected this year for Vice-Chairman was Albert Schalm. Trustee Schalm has been on the Board of Trustees for Northern Gateway Public Schools since 2010.

Mrs. Muir, Trustee for Ward 1 Subdivision 2, represents the Rich Valley, Alberta Beach and Darwell areas. Upon being sworn in, Mrs. Muir expressed her appreciation to fellow trustees for their support.

Mr. Schalm, Trustee for Ward 1 Subdivision 4, represents the Mayerthorpe area. Mr. Schalm also thanked trustees for their support in electing him to the Vice-Chairman position.

The Board Chair and Vice-Chair are elected annually at the Northern Gateway Organizational Meeting. As Board Chair, Mrs. Muir has a primary duty of assisting with the operation of the Board in achieving its goals and ensuring that each member of the Board has the opportunity to be heard and understood by their fellow trustees. In the absence of the chair, Mr. Schalm assumes of Mrs. Muir's duties and responsibilities.

This year four new trustees were sworn in at the Organizational Meeting:

Mr. Gerry Steinke - Trustee for Ward 3 Subdivision 3 – Valleyview

Mrs. Cindy Granley – Trustee for Ward 2 – Whitecourt

Mrs. Sherry Jeffreys – Trustee for Ward 1 Subdivision 3 – Sangudo, Darwell

Mrs. Beverly Smith – Trustee for Ward 3 Subdivision 2 – Valleyview rural

## Student Conference - October 29<sup>th</sup>, 2013

· SOAR 2013 – Seize Opportunities; Accelerate Risk-Taking – brought 107 grades 7 – 12 Northern Gateway Public School students and 53 staff together in Whitecourt on October 29<sup>th</sup> to share their thoughts, ideas, suggestions, wish lists and values regarding education today, tomorrow and the next three years in Northern Gateway schools.

Guest speaker presenting on this day was international speaker and Taking IT Global founder, Michael Furdyk, a self-made millionaire, by the time he was 17 years old.

Michael shared with students the various projects he is working on with youth around the world through Taking IT Global. Throughout his presentation, students were presented with questions, information and wisdom of experience, while being inspired by Michael's journey.

The newly elected Northern Gateway Public School Board of Trustees joined the student conference at noon so they could chat with students over lunch, meet and talk briefly about Taking IT Global with Furdyk and hear the ideas generated by students about what they felt the Board needs to do to better understand the student perspective and to promote school success for all students.

The next regular Board meeting will take place Wednesday, November 20<sup>th</sup>, 2013 at 10:00 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 toll free at 1-800-262-8674.

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