

Northern Gateway Public Schools

opening the gateway to a lifetime of learning

Board Highlights

From June 4 meeting

For Immediate Release

Health and Safety Services Report

· Cheryl Lovich, Coordinator of Health & Safety Services presented to the Board an update:

- ***Public SchoolWorks*** – This is a web-based program that provides a school focused safety program that supports our compliance with provincial Occupational Health & Safety legislation. The system aids in implementing and managing our Division's safety program.
- ***Health & Safety Training*** – The Health & Safety Practice handbook for School Staff was developed in conjunction with school principals and is an active document within the schools. It contains our 3 year Health & Safety Training Plan which is now in its 4th year.
- ***Critical Response Plan*** – The CRP has been distributed across the Division to each local RCMP detachment to incorporate into their Safe Plans as federally mandated.
- ***Health & Safety Contest*** – We are currently development a student generated health and safety contest. The focus is to have the students “educate their educators”, earn prizes and have the opportunity to get local and provincial exposure for their creativity. The plan is to secure the sponsorships in the coming months and launch the contest for spring 2015.
- ***CTS Safety Workshop Program*** – A program was developed for students in CTS programs where a series of workshop classes focuses on the principles of hazard recognition and roles, rights and responsibilities in the workplace. The program began in 2011 and continues.
- ***Classroom Inspections*** – The Inspection checklist was developed to keep classrooms and work areas free of hazards.
- ***School Presentations*** – Health & Safety topics are presented to each school's staff meetings in the fall. This coming school year's topic is Lockdowns and Hold & Secure drills. We have amended the wording from Lockout to Hold & Secure this year. The Plans are reviewed, scenarios discussed and table-top drills planned for the balance of the year.

Technology Report

· Malcolm Heaven, Network Administrator presented to the Board an update on upcoming events for technology. Some of the major changes are as follows:

- **SIS** – Student Information System – replacing Sirs with PowerSchool around the first part of July when schools are closed for the summer months. PowerSchool is the fastest-growing, most widely used web-based student information system. PowerSchool provides the full range of features needed by administrators at the district and school level in addition to portals for teachers, parents, and students.
- **Google Implementation** – Effective September, 2014 Northern Gateway will be moving from First Class to Google email. More information and training sessions to follow.
- **L4U (Library Software)** – Presently we have 9 schools on L4U and 4 schools on Library Pro. We will be moving to the Enterprise based L4U system with 1 server located at Division Office with all libraries on server and backed up on Backup system.

Council of School Councils Report

· Northern Gateway hosted school council representatives from throughout the division on Tuesday, May 27th, 2014 at the *Family of School Councils – Parent Engagement Event* held at Whitecourt Central School.

Discussion, information sharing and connecting with fellow council representations were the cornerstones of the day-long event designed to build a common understanding of Northern Gateway's educational direction and plan and inspire partnerships between school councils.

Three-Year Education Plan – 2014 – 2017

· Discussions on the development on the three -year Education Plan 2014 – 2017 were held with the Board of Trustees and central administration.

Each year, school jurisdictions assess and interpret their performance and report on their progress toward achieving the goals and outcomes of their three-year education plans. The three-year education plan is due to Alberta Education on November 30th, 2014.

Fox Creek Student Presents to the Board

Grade 12 student, Kaeleigh Pasula, from Fox Creek School spoke to the Board of her many accomplishments. Kaeleigh is a remarkable young lady with drive and passion for all that she does:

- Government of Alberta Youth Advisory Panel for Human Services,
- Student Engagement Coordinator,
- Community Engagement Liaison, and
- Canada Wide Science Fair Finalist.

The above are just a few of her endeavors. Kaeleigh spent the summer of 2013 conducting research at the University of Alberta, with the Heritage Youth Researcher Summer Programs (HYRS). For six weeks, Kaeleigh was conducting research with Dr. John Lewis in the Department of Oncology. She was working in an experimental Oncology lab, and was culturing cancer cells on which new therapies were tested to determine efficacy of, and resistance to the new cancer compounds.

Kaeleigh plans to attend the University of Alberta in Pharmacy and Business as she one day wants to own her own pharmacy.

Kaeleigh will be graduating this June and we wish her all the success in her future.

The next Board meeting will take place Tuesday, June 17th, 2014, commencing at 10:00 a.m. with the regular Board Meeting at the Division Office in Whitecourt. Members of the public are welcome to attend the regular Board meeting. For more information, please call (780) 778-2800 or toll free at 1-800-262-8674.

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