

BOARD HIGHLIGHTS

From October 28, 2014 Meeting

For Immediate Release

Organizational Meeting – October 28th, 2014

At its annual Organizational Meeting held on October 28th, 2014 Northern Gateway's Board of Trustees re-elected Judy Muir as Chairman for the 2014-2015 school year. Elected this year for Vice-Chairman was Sherry Jeffreys. Trustee Jeffreys has been on the Board of Trustees for Northern Gateway Public Schools since 2013.

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.

Mrs. Sherry Jeffreys, Trustee for Ward 1 Subdivision 3, represents the Sangudo, Darwell areas. Mrs. Jeffreys also thanked trustees for their support in electing her 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, Mrs. Jeffreys assumes all of Mrs. Muir's duties and responsibilities.

The "Great Debate" Presentation

Stephanie Bertsch and Trista St. Martin, teachers at Percy Baxter Middle School in Whitcourt, shared their popular Great Debate experience at the regular Board Meeting on October 28th, 2014. The debate began as a project-based learning opportunity that saw students fully engaged in the art of debating. Not only did students have to know the content, they had to learn how to successfully debate and deliver their argument in a persuasive and articulate voice.

School Field Trips

The Board of Trustees approved in principle two field trips coming up in 2015:

Onoway High School Honors Band is headed to Vancouver, B.C. to participate in the Kiwanis Music Festival, scheduled for April 22nd, - 26th, 2014.

Hillside High Band is headed to Carleton Place, Ontario on February 3rd – 9th, 2015 to participate in music activities and a cultural exchange program. The exchange students from the Ontario area will be coming to the Valleyview area on April 21st – 27th, 2015.

2014/15 Infrastructure Maintenance and Renewal (IMR) Funding

Northern Gateway Public Board of Trustees was pleased to receive an updated IMR allocation announcement. The updated IMR allocation for Northern Gateway Public Schools for the 2014/15 school year is \$1,805,627.00. For the 2013/14 school year the Board received \$712,537.00 for IMR funding.

Rural Economic Development Action Plan

The Government of Alberta has developed the Rural Economic Development Action Plan [http://www1.agric.gov.ab.ca/\\$Department/deptdocs.nsf/all/csi12085/\\$FILE/reda-final.pdf](http://www1.agric.gov.ab.ca/$Department/deptdocs.nsf/all/csi12085/$FILE/reda-final.pdf) to support and encourage continued economic growth in rural Alberta. The Action Plan helps to ensure they have set clear priorities and are leveraging existing programs and services to achieve the maximum benefit for rural communities. For more information please click on the link provided above.

Next Meeting

The next regular Board meeting will take place **Wednesday November 12th, 2014** at **10:00 a.m.** at the Division Office in Whitcourt. Members of the public are welcome to attend. For more information, please call 780-778-2800 or 1-800-262-8674.