

BOARD HIGHLIGHTS

From September 1, 2015 Meeting

For Immediate Release

Information Technology Report

Jason Yaremchuk, Director of Information Technology, presented his report:

New Wireless Network:

The technology team is in the final stages of finishing the new wireless network. Over 71,000 feet of cable has been pulled and 200 Access Points (APs) have been installed. The technology team is currently doing testing and conducting post-install heat maps at the schools.

Division office does not yet have the same wireless as the schools. Completion is scheduled for the middle of September.

Shared Services:

Shared Services is a collaborative solution building aimed at enhancing learning opportunities across jurisdiction boundaries; School Districts working and collaborating together for mutual benefit.

It is based on flexible value exchanges, not necessarily money. NGPS will receive value and add to the net value intrinsically.

Maintenance Report

Randy Lovich, Director of Maintenance, presented his Maintenance report:

Ongoing repairs to schools/sites and IMR Projects to schools/sites. Mr. Lovich reported that 1.2 million dollars was spent on IMR projects this year.

Career and Education Expo 2015

The Career and Education Expo 2015 will be taking place on Monday, September 28th, 2015 at the Allan and Jean Millar Centre, Whitecourt, AB, from 10:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.

What is a Career and Education Expo?

- Participation/Hands On/Demonstration booths to explore various careers
- Skilled workers on site to answer questions about specific careers
- A chance to promote a variety of career options
- Post-Secondary Institutions will be on-site to provide career pathway information. 22 Post-Secondary Institutions will be attending.
- Resources on-site to reach career goals (student funding, resume writing, training options).

To register or for more information go to: Whitecourtnsn.ca

New School Zone Speeds

New school zone speed limit times came into effect August 31st, the first day of school for local students. Whitecourt Town Council authorized the change from the provincial standard (8:00-9:30 a.m.; 11:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.; 3:00 – 4:30 p.m.) in June 2015 as a way to enhance safety of children.

Between 8:00 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. on days that school is in session, the school zone speed limit is 30 kilometers per hour. School zone speed limits are not in effect on weekends, summer holidays, and other days that students are not in session.

Student Learning Assessments Update

The Student Learning Assessments (SLAs) are digitally-based beginning of the year “check in” provincial assessment tools that Alberta is developing to enable both parents and teachers to identify student strengths and areas of growth at the start of the school year. With the introduction of the Grade 3 SLA (SLA3), the Grade 3 Provincial Assessment Tests were concluded in June 2014.

The SLA3 is a new, digitally-based provincial assessment focused on “literacy and numeracy”.

The four components of the SLA 3 are:

- digital interactive literacy questions (45 questions)
- literacy performance task (4 activities)
- digital interactive numeracy questions (44 questions)
- numeracy performance task (2 activities)

Northern Gateway schools will be administering the performance tasks first, followed by the digital tasks. SLAs will be administered between September 14th and November 1st, 2015.

Northern Gateway Public Schools will be participating in the SLA3 Pilot project to commence in the fall 2015.

Transportation Report

Rhett Czaban, Director of Transportation, presented his transportation report to the Board at their September 1st, 2015 regular meeting.

The Transportation Dept. have been reviewing all bus routes and making minor changes to try and improve ride times for students.

Route Changes:

- Consolidated the Sangudo area routes; there are now five routes where there were seven.

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- Consolidated the Whitecourt urban routes; there are now eight routes where they were ten.
- Onoway Route 5 has been awarded to Golden Arrow Busing.
- Onoway Route 3 was assigned to Golden Arrow Busing.
- Mayerthorpe Route 49 was assigned to Southland Transportation
- Routes 35, 39 (Sangudo) and route 52 (Mayerthorpe) were assigned to Southland Transportation.
- Routes 31, 32 (Sangudo) and routes 42,43,45,47 (Mayerthorpe) and route 55 (Whitecourt) were assigned to Southland Transportation.

Locally Developed Course Approved

The Board approved a request to authorize the use of the following Locally Developed Course acquired from Edmonton School District No. 7 from September 1st, 2015 – August 31st, 2019: Dance 15 (5 credits), Dance 25 (5 credits) and Dance 35 (5 credits).

Annual School Council Reports

The Board of Trustees received the annual School Council Reports from all schools. The reports will be posted on the NGPS webpage for all schools to view.

Next Meeting

The next regular Board meeting will take place **Tuesday September 22nd, 2015** at **10:00 a.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.

