

BOARD HIGHLIGHTS

February 20, 2018 Meeting

For Immediate Release

Presentation: Technology Update and Evergreen Proposal

NGPS Superintendent, Kevin Andrea, spoke to the excellent work that has been done over the last number of years in the area of growing and supporting instructional technology, citing the additional instructional devices purchased this year which enabled the division to reach a nearly 1:1 device ratio for NGPS students. Additionally, much work has been done beyond student handheld devices and Chromebooks in creating classroom learning environments that further support good teaching and learning in technology-rich classrooms.

Evergreen Proposal

NGPS Director of Information Technology, Jason Yaremchuk, shared a Technology Evergreening Proposal with the Board of Trustees.

The plan proposes that all NGPS schools would contribute a per pupil technology access fee to assist in the cost of updating, upgrading and sustaining technology in teaching and learning and devices for students, teachers and classrooms in an equitable manner for students across the Division.

The Board approved in principle the Evergreening Proposal which will be shared with NGPS Principals at the February 21 Administrators' Meeting.

Board approves Onoway High School International Field Trip to Seattle for Musical Theatre Workshop April 19-23

Onoway Band students will experience music education in Seattle through the 5th Avenue Musical Theater Workshop including local performances, a Wind-band workshop at the University of Washington and a night at the Seattle Symphony.

March date anticipated for Budget 2018-19 announcement

The Board is anticipating Budget 2018-19 to be released mid-March. A breakdown of what the budget yields for NGPS for the 2018-19 school year will be reviewed at the Board Finance Meeting following the budget release.

2018-19 School Year Calendar approved

Draft calendars for the 2018-19 and 2019-20 school year calendars were shared internally and publicly with requests for feedback via ngps.ca and social media from January until February 18. Feedback received was shared with trustees and a change was made to instructional days for the month of November.

The Board approved and made official the 2018-19 calendar as amended.

Ministers' Visit to Mayerthorpe Jr/Sr High School (MHS)

Alberta Education Minister David Eggen and Alberta Agricultural Minister Oneil Carlier will visit Mayerthorpe Jr/Sr High School on March 2, 2018. The Ministers will co-host a roundtable at the school in the morning with invited local agricultural stakeholders.

Following the roundtable, the Ministers will tour MHS's new Health Care Aide Suite where Dual Credit students learn and earn credits toward their Health Care Aide certification.

Alberta Rural Education Symposium, March 4-6, 2018

NGPS is a proud supporter and participant of the Alberta Rural Education Symposium. The objective of the annual symposium is to give rural Alberta a strong, collective voice and to promote collaboration between education, municipal, health and industry stakeholders who share an interest in rural education and the sustainability of rural communities.

Several NGPS leaders, trustees and stakeholders will be in attendance.

Letter from the Town of Fox Creek

The Board received a copy of a letter sent by the Mayor of Fox Creek, Jim Hailes, to the Alberta Minister of Education, the Honourable David Eggen. The letter expressed concerns regarding equitable funding for rural education and challenges faced by rural school boards.

Mayor Hailes requested information from NGPS with respect to grants and funds that were referenced by the Minister of Education. The Board directed NGPS Administration to provide Mayor Hailes with the information.

Next Meeting

The next Board meeting will take place **Tuesday, March 13, 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.