

BOARD HIGHLIGHTS

September 18, 2018 Meeting

For Immediate Release

Transportation Update from the Director of Transportation

Director of Transportation, Rhett Czaban, advised the Board on changes to school bus pick up and drop off times in Whitecourt and the addition of common pick up areas in Onoway:

- Whitecourt - pick up and drop off times have been adjusted slightly for eight Whitecourt bus routes. The adjustments have been made in order to ensure all students are arriving in time for school.
- Onoway - common gathering areas for four suburban route pick up and drop off locations have been established in Onoway this year to streamline transportation services and decrease ride times for all students.

Hillside Jr/Sr High School International Field Trip

NGPS staff and students from Hillside Jr/Sr High School depart for Finland on October 6, 2018. Four Grade 12 students and three Hillside teachers will journey to Helsinki for a one-week ATA sponsored educational exchange as part of the Finland-Alberta (FinAL) partnership program. Students and staff are excited to learn about the Finnish culture and daily life, to experience the local context and the larger political/educational structure and to participate in the research and sharing of both the teacher and student voice. Read more here [Hillside Finland Trip](#).

Regional Municipalities Meeting

The NGPS Board of Trustees has been invited to attend a Regional Municipalities Meeting by the County of Lac Ste Anne. In support of community partnerships and communication, a selection of trustees and NGPS leadership will attend the meeting with the opportunity to bring forward a message of education.

Fox Creek School International Field Trip - Alberta Iceland Student Exchange Program

Fox Creek School has been negotiating a reciprocal student exchange program with schools in Iceland over the past year. Next month, the exchange will officially begin with a trip to Iceland for four students and two staff from Fox Creek School who will live and learn alongside their Icelandic cohorts from November 3-11, 2018. Exchange programs provide students with the chance to live and study in another part of the world where they are exposed to new cultures, languages, friends and education systems. A delegation of teachers and students will, in turn, travel from Iceland to Fox Creek School for a reciprocal visit in April, 2019.

Hour-Zero Emergency Preparedness Planning

The Division's new Emergency Preparedness Program was introduced to NGPS Administrators and community partners on September 17, 2018 during an orientation to the program. First responders from Fire, the RCMP and Victim's Services, joined NGPS school principals and local media for the orientation. The program provides the tools, technology and training to deliver a comprehensive and consistent emergency program throughout NGPS schools and in cooperation with our First Responders, media and other community partners. The new program will support student and staff safety through proven and contemporary critical response planning, enhance consistent communication and terminology between schools, the Division, First Responders and media, and support schools in confidently and competently exercising their emergency response and preparedness plans within their school communities. Read more [Hour-Zero](#).

23rd Annual Employee Recognition Evening

The Annual Employee Recognition Evening provided opportunity for NGPS to gather together in Whitecourt in celebration of our dedicated staff who are honoured annually for their years of service and retirement. This year, NGPS honoured 99 service award recipients and 20 retirees as part of the evening's program.

Next Meeting

The next Board meeting will take place [on October 16, 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.