

BOARD HIGHLIGHTS

October 16, 2018 Meeting

For Immediate Release

Presentation: Together for Students

Brian Callaghan, Executive Director of the Public School Boards Association of Alberta (PSBAA) and PSBAA First Vice President Gerry Steinke, presented to the Board on the PSBAA's 'Together for Students – One System for Alberta's Future'. The campaign highlights benefits for Alberta students of having one inclusive education system, as opposed to dividing resources between multiple systems, as is currently the case in Alberta with public, separate, francophone, private and charter schools.

Mr. Callaghan and Vice-President Steinke asked for the NGPS Board's support in communicating their message, asking if multiple systems really serve the needs of all students or could Alberta students be better served by one inclusive system, with more opportunities, support and resources for all students.

The Board received the presentation as information.

Fox Creek School International Field Trip – Alberta-Iceland (ALICE) Student Exchange Program

The Board officially approved Fox Creek School's short-term exchange to Iceland, November 3-11, 2018. Fox Creek School Principal, Ian Baxter, has been negotiating a reciprocal student exchange program with schools in Iceland over the past year. Next month, the exchange will officially begin for two staff and four students who will travel to the country to live and learn alongside their Icelandic cohorts. Students will earn credits for the exchange under an International Politics course. Staff and students will participate in group work, discussions and activities centering around the question, "What makes a school great for all?", and will share their feedback on educational issues, practices and policy. A delegation of teachers and students will, in turn, travel from Iceland to Fox Creek School for a reciprocal visit in April, 2019.

Hillside Jr/Sr High School Field Trip - Encounters with Canada

The Board approved in principle Hillside Jr/Sr High School's field trip to Ottawa for the very successful Encounters with Canada student program. Two Hillside students will be participating in the program this year with one student traveling to Ottawa November 18 – 24, and another student who will attend later on in the school year.

Interested students apply to the program, participate in fundraising and receive financial support from NGPS for the week long civic experience. Students will attend the Terry Fox Centre, hear presentations from key individuals on political and historical topics and tour in and around the Ottawa area.

Regional Municipalities Meeting

NGPS trustees Hagman, Wigton and Muir and Superintendent Andrea attended the Lac Ste. Anne Regional Municipalities Meeting at the invitation of Lac Ste. Anne County, in support of building community partnerships and bringing forward a message of education.

Alberta Education Town Halls

Alberta Education Minister David Eggen hosted two telephone Town Halls on October 16 and 17, 2018, to hear feedback from Albertans on the government's latest draft of the new K-4 curriculum. The opportunity to participate was shared with NGPS stakeholders via our website, ngps.ca, Facebook page and Twitter Feed.

23rd Annual Employee Recognition Evening

The Annual Employee Recognition Evening provided opportunity for NGPS to gather together in Whitecourt in celebration of Division 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 meeting of the Board is the Organizational Meeting which will be held on October 30, 2018 at the Division Office in Whitecourt beginning at 3:00 pm, at which time the Chair and Vice-Chair positions will be voted on and Committee selection will take place. The regular Board meeting will follow, commencing at 5:00 p.m. Members of the public are welcome to attend. For more information, please call 780-778-2800 or 1-800-262-8674.