

BOARD HIGHLIGHTS

January 15, 2019 Meeting

For Immediate Release

Welcome Trustee Peck: Oath of Office

Christine Peck took her oath of office and was officially welcomed to the Board as the new trustee representing Onoway and area (Ward 1, Subdivision 1). Mrs. Peck was elected to the position in the December 19 by-election. Welcome Trustee Peck!

NGPS Class Sizes: report by NGPS Assistant Superintendent Leslee Jodry

Class sizes are an issue in many parts of the province and have been a topic of research by the Alberta Commission of Learning since 2003. Assistant Superintendent Jodry reported to the Board on NGPS class sizes indicating that there is no concern at this time. According to the Alberta Commission of Learning Class Size Guidelines, NGPS is meeting class size guidelines for all subjects, and for all students across the Division, with the exception of Kindergarten to Grade 3. While classrooms in Kindergarten to Grade 3 are not overloaded, there are instances in which classes are larger and in which small schools may combine classes for non-core subjects, e.g. music, gym, resulting in larger classes. Jodry shared that the funding from Alberta Education's Class Size Initiative fund, and funding from the NGPS budget, focuses on additional supports to address the needs of the Kindergarten to Grade 3 grades.

Policy Review, NGPS Board Vice-Chair, Barb Maddigan

Vice-Chair Maddigan outlined for the Board the work of the Board's Policy Development Committee and proposed amendments to Policy 2 "Role of the Board". The Board affirmed Policy 1 – Divisional Identity and Foundational Statements, as presented and Policy 2 – Role of the Board, as amended.

NGPS Boundary Adjustment – Ministerial Order

A request to adjust boundaries in the Fox Creek and Whitecourt areas, delineating lands originally belonging to Northland School Division, to Northern Gateway Public Schools, was put forward by NGPS administration to Northland School Division and the Minister of Education. The largely unpopulated land was adjacent to current NGPS boundaries and more remote to Northland School Division. Following a conversation with Northland School Division and their approval of a boundary adjustment, the request was forwarded to the Minister and has been granted.



Public School Boards' Association of Alberta (PSBAA): Together for Students

Trustee Gerry Steinke presented to the Board on the PSBAA's campaign, "Together for Students." The campaign advocates for a sole, inclusive education system for Alberta as opposed to having multiple school systems (i.e. Charter, Catholic, Francophone). The PSBAA believes that funding multiple systems comes at an increased financial, social and educational cost to Albertans, and to students. You can learn more about the PSBAA's campaign, and join the conversation, at togetherforstudents.ca, or via Facebook and Twitter.

Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Board is on January 29, 2018 at the Division Office in Whitecourt beginning 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.

