

BOARD HIGHLIGHTS

February 12, 2019 Meeting

For Immediate Release

Technology Overview: Update from NGPS Director of Technology

NGPS' Director of Technology, Jason Yaremchuk, presented an overview of the work of the technology department including:

- a summary of the different **tools, devices and applications** being used by students and teachers in the classroom, like Chromecast, a Google feature that allows teachers and students to be more flexible and collaborative in their learning.
- an announcement that Mr. Yaremchuk has recently become a board member for the **Alberta Technology Leaders in Education (ATLE)**, a professional association that supports education through technology learning and leadership. NGPS will be hosting a remote (digital) ATLE Zone event on Information Management in the upcoming months and looks forward to the continued learning, sharing and network opportunities arising from membership in this provincial association.
- an update on the Division's **Evergreen Plan** which will begin with the 2019-20 school year. The 2019-20 school year will be Year 1 of a 4 Year Evergreen Cycle by which all NGPS schools will 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 a manner that is equitable for students across the Division. By the end of Year 4, all NGPS schools will have been reviewed and upgraded as needed.
- a summary of the **Voice Over IP (VOIP) phone system** that the Division will move to over the next year. VOIP leverages our existing network infrastructure with an estimated cumulative savings to the Division and schools of approximately 64% annually.

Fox Creek School International Field Trip

NGPS staff and students from Fox Creek School will depart for an international learning experience in Scotland, Ireland, England and Paris over the Easter Break, April 19 – April 30, 2019. The school and parents have been fundraising for the trip over the past school year. The experience, coordinated through EF Tours, will promote global citizenship, different perspectives and ideas on future careers, in addition to helping students discover the world and social studies curriculum through this immersive experience.

NGPS Superintendent Kevin Andrea spoke to the administrative processes involved in approving international travel sharing that the Canadian Council of Affairs is consulted numerous times prior to and up to the day before travel to ensure student safety.

“We want students to have the opportunity for learning abroad. Our decision to approve international travel is always informed and protocols related to supervision and insurance are always in place to keep students safe.”

The Board approved Fox Creek School's planned trip.

Non-Alberta Student Tuition Fees

Trustees reviewed and approved an increase to the non-Alberta Student Tuition Fee following a recommendation from NGPS Superintendent Andrea. The current fee of \$7,429 has not been reviewed in ten years and was deemed insufficient to actual costs to the division. The non-Alberta Student Tuition Fee has been increased to \$10,000 per year.

45 CEU Credit Cap

The Board discussed the impending 45 CEU Credit Cap in which Alberta Education would have capped funded credits for Grades 10 through 12, at 45 credits. The proposed cap posed significant concern for NGPS in that the decrease in funding would impair the Division's ability to continue to offer alternative learning experiences like dual credit programming, work experience and registered apprenticeship training, to NGPS students.

Update: Since the February 12 Board Meeting, Alberta Education Minister David Eggen has since cancelled an \$11.3 million clawback from 59 school boards whose students took too many high school credits last year. The credit funding limit will be increased back up to 60 CEUs.

Administrative Procedures - Review

The Board reviewed and accepted changes to Administrative Procedures 110 – School Councils, 210 – Early Childhood Services and 208 – Remembrance Day.

Next Meeting

The next Board meeting will take place on **March 12, 2019** 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.