

BOARD HIGHLIGHTS

March 26, 2019

For Immediate Release

Presentation: Mayerthorpe Jr/Sr High School (MHS) Cell Phone Pilot Project

Principal Thomas and Assistant Principal Jager, shared MHS' Cell Phone Policy and pilot project with the Board. The school decided to implement a "no phones during school time" policy in February of 2018, to help mitigate challenges tied to having cell phones in school, such as student disengagement, cyberbullying while at school and inappropriate uploads. They began by introducing the policy to staff and students with clear expectations of the policy and the actions that would occur if students did not follow the policy, including confiscation of the phone for the day for a first offence, confiscation of the phone

National and International Learning Excursions for Students

The Board approved the following trips for NGPS students:

- Hillside Jr/Sr High School international field trip to England - April 18 – 26, 2019 – approved in full
- Hillside Jr/Sr High Band field trip to the National Music Festival in Ottawa – May 14 – 19, 2019 – approved in full
- Hilltop Jr/Sr High School international field trip to Germany, Czech Republic, Poland and Hungary – April 8 – April 19, 2020 *approved in principle with the condition that the trip aligns with the Spring Break on the 2020-21 school year calendar
- Mayerthorpe Jr/Sr High School international field trip to Greece – April 18 – 26, 2019 – approved in full
- Onaway Jr/Sr High School Encounters with Canada field trip to Ottawa, Ontario – March 31 – April 6, 2019 – approved in full
- Onaway Jr/Sr High School international field trip to Berlin, Prague, Krakow and Budapest – April 15 – April 26, 2019 – approved in full

High School Credit Cap Cancelled

The new 45 CEU credit cap came into effect in September 2017 resulting in a significant cut to NGPS funding for high school students who earn over 45 credits in a 12-month period. The estimated cut in funding to NGPS high school students totaled \$246,483. The cap was poorly received by school divisions and stakeholders, forcing many to limit, cancel or prepare to limit and cancel valuable learning opportunities, like Dual Credit programs, as a result of the lack funding.



In February, the Minister of Education cancelled the credit clawback, totaling an estimated \$11.3 million less dollars in Alberta schools. The high school credit cap will remain as it had been previously, at 60 credits.

2019-20 School Year Calendar

The 2019-20 Draft School Year Calendar was reviewed by trustees in concert with stakeholder feedback that was gathered from January to March of 2019. The Board approved the calendar for the 2019-20 school year as presented. The calendar can be accessed on ngps.ca.

Change in date to April Board Meeting

Due to the provincial election scheduled for April 15, 2019, the Board will re-schedule its April meeting to April 16, 2019.

Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Board will be held on April 16, 2019 at the Division Office in Whitecourt 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.

