

BOARD HIGHLIGHTS

May 28, 2019

For Immediate Release

Presentation: Amber Gosselin, Coalition for Accessible Child Care

Amber Gosselin from the Coalition for Accessible Child Care, spoke to trustees about transportation issues faced by working families who live rurally. On behalf of parents and the Coalition, Ms. Gosselin shared her concern with rural busing service citing that many parents cannot be at home to receive their children after school and that school bus transportation to care providers and day homes is necessary. Ms. Gosselin asked the Board to consider policies and administrative procedures that support working families with flexible and accessible bus service that allows children in out-of-school care to be transported to their day care provider after school.

NGPS Superintendent Kevin Andrea thanked Ms. Gosselin for her presentation and assured her that transportation needs are the subject of significant and ongoing discussion for the division, sharing the number of variables that factor into the transportation model including a lack of funding for this type of service and the overall complexity of rural school bus transportation.

Presentation: Rhett Czaban, NGPS Director of Transportation

- ***New bus service model in Whitecourt***
Mr. Czaban presented to the Board on the new transportation model for Whitecourt that will debut this September with the beginning of the 2019-20 school year. The new model will see the addition of three, supervised transfer sites at Hilltop High School, Percy Baxter School and Whitecourt Central School. The new design will streamline rural ride times for rural students busing into Whitecourt and reduce congestion within Whitecourt by eliminating the need for multiple buses to load and unload at each school. A letter outlining the new service model has been shared with parents, with additional communication planned for late June.
- ***Bus Planner Software***
Mr. Czaban outlined the capabilities of NGPS' new transportation software, Bus Planner. This specialized software will launch prior to the end of the school year and will allow parents to access all of their busing and transportation information – routes, pick up and drop off times, bus statuses (late, cancelled), purchase of bus passes, walking routes and payment for service – via one direct link. The software will also allow NGPS to track transportation measures more efficiently. Information and marketing of Bus Planner to parents will begin to roll out this June.

Policy Review

Trustees reviewed the following Board Policies:

Policy 8 – Committees of the Board – affirmed as amended.

Policy 9 – Board Representatives – affirmed as presented.

Policy 10 – Policy Making – Policy 10 was reviewed with changes recommended. Policy 10 will be brought back to the Board for review at a future Board Meeting.

Locally Developed Courses

The Board approved the use of the following locally developed courses acquired from Calgary School District No. 19:

- Yoga 15, 25, 35
- Dance 15, 25 and 35

Onoway Jr/Sr High School International Field Trip

Onoway Jr/Sr High School is planning an international travel excursion for students to Greece in 2021. The Board approved the excursion in principle. The request will be reviewed again in 2021.

Edwin Parr Award Division Nominee Krysta Webb

Trustee Linda Wigton joined NGPS leadership at the provincial Edwin Parr Banquet in Edmonton on May 25 in support of NGPS' Edwin Parr nominee, Krysta Webb. Mrs. Webb was honoured as an extraordinary first year teacher in the company of colleagues and loved ones at the Banquet. Read more at <https://bit.ly/2EBcMjE>.

Honouring Spirit: Indigenous Student Awards

On May 11, 2019, the Alberta School Boards' Association presented this year's *Honouring Spirit: Indigenous Student Awards*. Nine NGPS students from Onoway Jr/Sr High School, Percy Baxter School (Whitcourt) and Hillside Jr/Sr High School (Valleyview) were nominated for the awards, which recognize First Nations, Metis and Inuit students who model strength and commitment in pursuing their education and embracing their personal gifts and potential while celebrating the ways of their people. NGPS nominees were recognized in the local media and on the Division's website and social media.

- Rowyn Mustus, from Onoway Jr/Sr High School, was one of twelve students in the Central region selected to receive an award.
- Noe Champagne, from Percy Baxter School, was recognized at the provincial level with an Honourable Mention.

Congratulations nominees and recipients!

Alberta Student Voice 2019

The Alberta Student Voice conference is an annual opportunity for high school students to share their voice, opinions and feedback on what is important to students, what is working well, and what they would like to see changed or enhanced in the education system.

This year, Dylan Gilmour, a student from Fox Creek School, will be attending and representing the collective voice of NGPS students.

New Secretary-Treasurer will join NGPS in August 2019

NGPS welcomes Tamara Spong to the role of Secretary-Treasurer, effective August 2019. Ms. Spong is a strong team leader who brings a wealth of financial and leadership experience to the position. Read more here <https://bit.ly/2HxleBI>

New Teacher Induction

NGPS staff and ATA Local 43 jointly welcomed ten new and first year teachers to the profession on May 9, 2019 in Whitecourt. Read more here <https://bit.ly/2E0X2X4>

ULead 2019 – The Summit of Educational Leadership

NGPS principals, assistant principals and division leadership participated in this year's uLead conference as both learners and teachers. The conference is one of the foremost international events for school and system leaders in the world, bringing together over 1,000 educational leaders for three days to discuss education, best practices and leading schools and divisions by design. This invaluable professional development focused on re-imagining school leadership and offered NGPS staff the opportunity to present on and share the Division's journey around collaborative professionalism, relationships and networks, the Quality Learning Environment, innovation and accountability. Hillside Jr/Sr High Principal, Darlene Wood, and Fox Creek Principal, Ian Baxter, presented on their collaborative work with their international exchange partnerships with Iceland and Finland. NGPS Assistant Superintendent, Leslee Jodry, highlighted the Division's work with the Quality Learning Environment.

Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Board will be held on June 11, 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.