

BOARD HIGHLIGHTS

June 25, 2019

For Immediate Release

Presentation: Honouring Spirit: Indigenous Student Award Recipient and Honourable Mention

The Board recognized Onoway Jr/Sr High student Rowyn Mustus and Percy Baxter School student Noe Champagne with a special presentation in honour of their provincial Honouring Spirit: Indigenous Student awards.

Rowyn Mustus was one of the 12 provincial award recipients! Rowyn is described by his teachers as a strong role model who is often seen mentoring and encouraging other students to do their best. He is involved in a number of cultural, athletic and extracurricular activities and enjoys sharing his cultural knowledge and experience with others.

Noe Champagne received an Honourable Mention from the Committee! Noe is described by his teachers as a fantastic student and kind and caring person who regularly puts forth a positive attitude and inspires others to be positive too. Noe has been awarded one of Percy Baxter's most prestigious accolades, being named a Percy Baxter School Citizen and Ambassador for his support of other students and for always going the extra mile with leadership tasks and initiatives.

Congratulations Rowyn and Noe!

Budget 2019-20

The Division's 2019-20 Budget has been submitted to Alberta Education for review. The Budget will be reviewed again in the Fall when the government budget is announced.

Highlights:

- The Division is not anticipating a funding increase for the 2019-20 school year
- Student enrolments are expected to decline in keeping with enrolment projections

Highlights: continued:

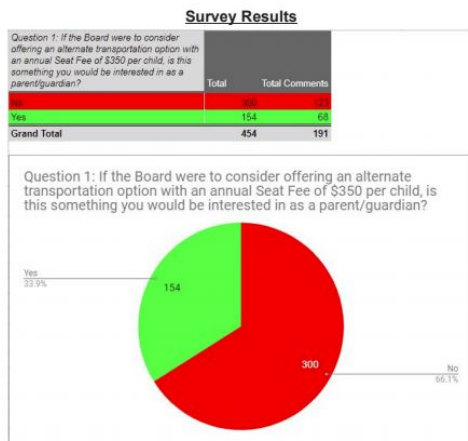
- The Inclusive Education funding allocation will continue to see support for students presenting significant learning needs
- Funding for FNMI students will continue to support personnel and programming costs in language, enrichment and literacy initiatives
- The 2019-20 year will complete the third and final year of a grounds improvement program to maintain school tracks, playgrounds and parking lots
- The Division’s Technology Evergreening Plan will see approximately \$1.1 million invested in school technology purchases in the Spring of 2019

Student Transportation - Alternate Seat Service Option

On June 12, NGPS invited parents and guardians to participate in a transportation survey to gauge how many parents and guardians want and/or need alternate service, knowing that additional fees would be charged. Parents and guardians were invited to participate in the survey via email. Links to the survey were also shared on the Division’s Facebook page, Twitter feed, website and school websites.

Highlights:

- Survey was successfully delivered to 3,188 NGPS parents/guardians
- There were a total of 454 respondents (14% response rate)
- Of the 454 responses, 300 (66.2%) said No they would not be in favour of a fee-based alternate seat service option
- Of the 454 responses, 154 (33.8%) said Yes they would be in favour of a fee-based alternate seat service option



NGPS Director of Transportation Rhett Czaban spoke to the challenges an alternate seat service option would pose: "The complexity of adding services has the potential to negatively impact our current system, increase ride times for students and increase logistical challenges such as parental communication, site changes, fluctuating seat availability and school based supervision."

Following discussion, a Motion was made in support of an alternate seat service option; however, this Motion was defeated. The matter was then referred to the Board Policy Committee for further study.

Policy Review

The Board reviewed and affirmed as amended:

- Policy 7 – Board Operations
- Policy 8 – Committees of the Board
- Policy 11 – Board Delegation of Authority
- Policy 12 – Role of the Superintendent
- Policy 13 – Appeals and Hearings regarding Student Matters
- Policy 14 – Hearings on Teacher Transfers
- Policy 15 – School Operational Viability
- Policy 16 – School Closure
- Policy 17 – Recruitment and Selection of Personnel

Not Affirmed: The Board reviewed Policy 18 - Student Transportation Services. Policy 18 was not affirmed for the 2019-20 school year. Policy 18 will be returned to the Board Policy Committee for review in the 2019-20 school year.

Locally Developed Courses

The Board approved the following Locally Developed courses for use in NGPS schools for the 2019-20 school year:










- Foundations in Industry Workplace Safety 35 (Grande Yellowhead School Division)
- Academic Achievement through English Language Development 12, 15, 25 and 35 (Calgary School District)

Fox Creek Iceland International Exchange

The Board approved in principle Fox Creek's School's international exchange to Iceland for April 2020.



Your Local Trustee

Alberta Beach, Rich Valley, Darwell		Board Chair Judy Muir P: 780-991-7413 E: judy.muir@ngps.ca
Onoway		Trustee Christine Peck P: 780-691-0772 E: christine.peck@ngps.ca
Darwell, Sangudo		Trustee Sherry Jeffreys P: 780-898-0404 E: sherry.jeffreys@ngps.ca
Mayerthorpe		Trustee Diane Hagman P: 780-396-9694 E: diane.hagman@ngps.ca
Whitecourt		Trustee Linda Wigton P: 780-706-4345 E: linda.wigton@ngps.ca
Whitecourt		Board Vice-Chair Barb Maddigan P: 780-262-1013 E: barb.maddigan@ngps.ca
Fox Creek		Trustee Ethan Thesen P: 780-622-9576 E: ethan.thesen@ngps.ca
Valleyview Rural		Trustee Anita Portsmouth P: 780-552-4150 E: anita.portsmouth@ngps.ca
Valleyview		Trustee Gerry Steinke P: 780-524-9889 Email: gerry.steinke@ngps.ca

Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Board will be held on August 27, 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.

