

BOARD HIGHLIGHTS

June 11, 2019

For Immediate Release

Presentation: Attendance and Re-Engagement in Learning

NGPS Assistant Superintendent Leslee Jodry spoke to the Board about attendance and student engagement with a focus on how absenteeism impacts students' academic success, and relationships and engagement with teachers, peers and their school community.

Jodry shared how that the Division supports schools where low attendance is impacting student achievement, by looking into the student's and student's family's situation to assess if the student has other needs that could be supported or if is there any way we can help mitigate those challenges. Engaging students in their learning, planning for transitions, community partnerships with support services and ensuring our school environments are safe and welcoming places are additional ways students are supported.

Presentation: Exploring implications of an Alternate Seat Service Option

In response to the Coalition for Accessible Child Care's presentation and inquiry about alternate transportation models at the May 28 Board Meeting, the NGPS Board and administration have taken an in-depth look at possibilities and what impacts an alternate model would have on students and operations. NGPS Transportation Director, Rhett Czaban shared:

- NGPS receives transportation funding for eligible students only. Eligible students are students who live over 2.4 km away from their designated school.
- NGPS provides transportation services for ineligible students, students who live less than 2.4 km from their designated school; however, there is a fee of \$320 for ineligible students.
- NGPS currently has 83 bus routes in total
The Transportation Department has examined the routes and variables of ridership from different sizes of buses to the daily, fluctuating amount of seats available.
- Thirty of the 83 routes have no room on them and would therefore could not support an Alternate Seat Service Option
- The model would be very difficult to apply equally across all communities
- The fee NGPS would charge per student under this proposed model would not cover the total actual cost
- Additional impacts to school supervision and budget are certain

NGPS Superintendent Andrea directed staff to create a survey to gauge how many parents/guardians would be interested in alternate seat service, knowing that there would be a cost for the service. The survey was shared directly with 3,188 NGPS parents/guardians via email, as well as on the Division's Facebook page, Twitter feed, website and school websites, on June 12.

2019-20 Transportation Fees

The Board approved a slight increase to annual transportation fees for grant ineligible students for the 2019-20 school year:

From \$320 to \$336 per student

From \$160 to \$168 per half day ECS students and \$336 for full day, every day ECS students

From \$800 to \$840 maximum fee per family (3 or more children)

2019-20 School Fee Schedules

The Board approved the School Fee Schedules for the 2019-20 school year as presented. In keeping with Bill 1, School Fees will be charged by schools according to Administrative Procedure 505, *Student Fees and Service Charges*. School Fee Schedules will be posted to individual school websites following ministerial approval.

Locally Developed Courses

The Board approved the acquisition and use of *Foundations in Industry Workplace Safety 35* (5 credits) from Grande Yellowhead Public School Division for the 2019-20 school year.

NGPS' 24th Annual Employee Recognition Evening

The Employee Recognition Evening is scheduled for Friday, October 4, 2019 at the Westward Community Centre.

Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Board will be held on June 25, 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.