

BOARD HIGHLIGHTS

March 10, 2020

For Immediate Release

Hilltop Jr/Sr High School 2021 International Tour of Scotland and Ireland

The Board approved in principle Hilltop Jr/Sr High School's international travel excursion to Scotland and Ireland, scheduled for the Spring of 2021. Students will take in the historical, political and cultural aspects of some of the great cities of the world, including Edinburgh, Belfast and Dublin. A motion was made for approval in principle. Motion carried.

2020-2021 School Year Calendar

Trustees reviewed the draft calendar for the 2020-2021 school year alongside feedback garnered from staff and stakeholders. A Motion was made to approve the 2020-21 school year calendar. Motion carried. The calendar will be made available on the NGPS website at ngps.ca.

International Travel and COVID-19

The outbreak of COVID-19 has significantly impacted travel opportunities. Given the ongoing information and updates related to COVID-19, a Motion was made to cancel all NGPS international school travel excursions for Spring 2020 and that travelers be apprised of their options through insurance providers. Motion carried.

Changes to Transportation Policy

The Board reviewed two letters that will be shared with parents regarding changes to transportation reporting and services:

1. The first letter outlines the requirement for parents to provide proof of residence/legal land address information to schools. Proof of residence, legal land address can be verified with any bill or agreement that proves that this location is the student's legal home address or street address, such as a tax notice, lease agreement or a utility bill.
2. The second letter is for parents in joint custody/separated family situations. Over the 2019-2020 school year, transportation services and operations has conducted a significant review of service, exemption processes and communication protocols. Students in joint custody/separated family situations where bus service to/from school was provided from two different parent addresses on two different school bus routes were grandfathered (continued) for the 2019-2020 school year. This practice will cease at the end of this school year, with parents in joint custody/separated family situations being required to identify a single home address to/from school for which transportation service will be provided.

A secondary address may receive service for a fee if approved under supplemental busing conditions and services. Based on requests for additional transportation services, Northern Gateway Public Schools will allow a single, alternate seat placement for a fee in the 2020-2021 school year according to [Supplemental Busing](#) conditions.

Rural Education Symposium, A Clear 20-20 vision for Rural Alberta Schools & Communities

Started by the Minister of Education in 2012, the Alberta Rural Education Symposium brings together representatives from Alberta Education, the Alberta Teachers' Association, the Alberta School Business Officials Association, the College of Alberta School Superintendents, the Alberta School Boards Association, parents, and business and community leaders to work, plan, share and collaborate on the sustainability of rural communities. Five trustees and NGPS Superintendent Kevin Andrea attended on behalf of the Division, participated in sessions, connected with provincial leaders, including three MLAs who serve NGPS communities, and shared their experiences and learning with Administration.

Shaping the Future, Building Bridges: Stronger Together Conference

Board Vice-Chair Sherry Jeffreys attended the Shaping the Future Conference which brings together educators, health and wellness professionals and researchers to explore aspects of comprehensive school health.

Next Meeting

The next Board meeting will take place on [April 14, 2020](#) commencing at [1:00 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.