

BOARD HIGHLIGHTS

June 16, 2020

For Immediate Release

Mr. Todd Loewen, MLA for Grande Prairie-Smoky

The Board welcomed MLA Todd Loewen to the June 16 meeting for a discussion about Division priorities including NGPS' longstanding Capital Priority #1 – a new school Valleyview. MLA Loewen shared his support and advocacy for the project, recommending ways the Division might support their proposal for the new build going forward.

The Board also discussed the financial impacts of COVID-19 to the Division and the need for equitable funding for rural school divisions with MLA Loewen.

Re-entry Planning

On June 10, 2020, the Alberta Government announced the province's focus on a return to 'near-normal' classes in September 2020-21. NGPS staff outlined the three educational scenarios Alberta students may expect when school resumes in the fall.

Each scenario presents varying degrees of planning and preparation and NGPS staff have been working collectively and diligently to prepare for the 2020-21 school year.

Parent, Student, Staff Survey

NGPS surveyed parents, students and staff in June to find out how parents were feeling about potential re-entry scenarios. A summary of the feedback received was presented to trustees. NGPS learned that of 1,962 respondents:

- 49.8% of parents responded that they were very comfortable having their children return to school in the fall.
- 40.2% indicated that they were somewhat comfortable.
- 10% responded that they were not at all comfortable.
- The majority of respondents felt that enhanced cleaning protocols, regular hand-washing and the use of hand sanitizer are important measures to keeping students and staff safe
- 63.3% of respondents feel comfortable having their child ride the yellow school bus if physical distancing and wearing masks are mandatory
- 45.6% of parents are not comfortable with the idea of online learning continuing

Career Exposure Summer Boot Camps

The Division's popular Summer Boot Camp series will run online this summer. The series currently has 90 registrants.

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Next Meeting

The next Board meeting will take place [on August 18, 2020](#) commencing at [1:00 p.m.](#) Members of the public are welcome to attend. Please contact Board Secretary Wendy Robertson at the Division Office for more information, 780-778-2800 or 1-800-262-8674.

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