

BOARD HIGHLIGHTS

March 22, 2022

2023-26 Three-Year Capital Plan

NGPS Facilities Director Randy Lovich presented the 2023-26 Three-Year Capital Plan to the Board. Three-Year Capital Plans are the basis of the Government's annual review and assessment of school division's proposed capital projects and priorities:

Year 1 – 2023-24 – Priority One: Valleyview K-12 School:

- A new K-12 replacement school in Valleyview has been the Division's number one capital priority since 2016.
- Government required value scoping was completed in November 2016.
- In 2017, the Division used capital reserves to purchase a 24 acre site for the replacement school next to the Greenview Multiplex in Valleyview.
- The project was approved (without funding) to move to a pre-design phase last school year. The pre-design was completed in December, 2021. The project has been approved (without funding) to move to the blueprint phase.

Year 2 – 2024-25 – Priority Two - Whitecourt 5-7 Core Middle School

- A 5-7 core middle school to be located in the Whitecourt attendance zone on a new site with a capacity of 600 students.

Year 3 – 2025-26 – Priority Three – East End K-9 Replacement School for Darwell and Alberta Beach

- K-9 school to be located in the proximity of Darwell and Alberta Beach on a new site with a capacity of 500 students.

Motion: To accept the 2023-26 Three Year Capital Plan as presented. Motion carried.

View the complete [2023-26 Three-Year Capital Plan](#).

Sangudo Community Meeting

Sangudo and Lac Ste Anne County residents held a community meeting on March 18 to discuss revitalization possibilities for Sangudo Community School. NGPS Trustee Deb Koloski and Superintendent of Schools, Kevin Bird attended. Community members facilitated group conversations around key issues, the history of the community, how Sangudo and NGPS can work together, community support and planning.

Heaven's to Betsy! A Sangudo High School Memoir, by Lillian Ross

Heaven's to Betsy details the educational history of our school division, starting in Sangudo, where it all began! For example, did you know Percy Baxter personally, for whom our middle school in Whitecourt is named after? Or, that Sangudo was the only school in our region at one time?

Look for a copy of this entertaining read in a community near you!

COVID Update

Superintendent Bird was pleased to share that COVID cases in NGPS schools are low:

"There have been clusters of cases where we almost had to move classes from a school online, but we were able to avoid that. Many of our schools have had their full complement of staff; however, this hasn't been the case for all schools. Certified Division Office staff/Learning Services Coordinators been filling in and subbing at schools when/as needed. This has helped significantly with managing teacher absence due to illness."

Access to schools

Division schools will continue to maintain certain precautions until after Spring Break, such as asking parents/volunteers to contact the school prior to coming into the school and specific safety plans around medically fragile students and staff. This will allow school communities to gauge the health and status of their school community when students return from Spring Break activities, travel, etc.

Valleyview New Replacement School Moves to Blueprint Phase

The Division has received approval from the Government of Alberta to move from the new school pre-design phase to the blueprint phase. While a funding announcement for the replacement school has not yet been made, this is exciting and encouraging news for the project, NGPS learners and the community of Valleyview.

Lac Ste Anne County Preventative Counselling Subsidy

To prevent crisis, individuals and communities need support, guidance, education, encouragement, opportunities and intervention strategies. The cost of counselling can pose a barrier for many.

Lac Ste Anne County is working to minimize this barrier for residents by partially offsetting the cost of preventative counselling services.

Click [here](#) for details on eligibility and how to access services for individuals, couples or families.

Implementing Alberta's New Curriculum

Alberta's new K-6 curriculum will be introduced to classrooms in phases, beginning in September 2022:

- September 2022 K-3 Mathematics and English Language Arts and Literature
- September 2022 K-6 Physical Education and Wellness
- September 2023 Grades 4-6 Mathematics and English Language Arts and Literature

NGPS Deputy Superintendent Leslee Jodry walked the Board through the Division's preparations for the roll-out, which includes the creation of a Division curriculum leadership team comprised of teachers, assistant principals and principals who will provide targeted support to teachers throughout the implementation process.

Alberta Rural Education Symposium

NGPS Trustees, Superintendent Bird and administrators participated in the Alberta Rural Education Symposium in early March. The Symposium is held annually as a means to bring together organizations and partners with an invested interest in rural education and sustainability. This year's theme was *Flourishing Rural School Communities: Learning and leading through appreciative inquiry*.

Trustees and staff advocated for NGPS to elected and Government officials in attendance, including the Minister of Education, the Minister of Municipal Affairs, and the Minister of Agriculture, Forestry and Rural Economic Development. Trustees and staff also connected with educational and municipal rural leaders from throughout Alberta taking part in rich discussions about rural education, challenges, solutions, creativity and resourcefulness.

Edwin Parr Division Nominee

With great pride, Northern Gateway Public Schools is pleased to recognize our 2022 Edwin Parr nominee, Mr. Paul Marinus. Paul Marinus is an engaging educator at Hilltop Jr/Sr High School, who is recognized by his peers and students for his thoughtful and intentional planning, his professionalism and his dedication to students.

A Red Seal Automotive Technician by trade, and an active participant in NGPS' Beginning Teacher program and Alberta's Bridge to Teacher Certification program, Mr. Marinus designs authentic lessons that both engage and challenge students.

Congratulations Paul!

Honouring Spirit: Indigenous Student Award Nominee

Congratulations to our 2022 Honouring Spirit: Indigenous Student Award nominee, Hilltop High Grade 11 student, Renee Gray. Renee is described by her teachers as a motivated student who has worked extremely hard to accomplish academic goals. In addition to her academic efforts, Renee leads by inspiring others and by getting involved in her school and greater community. She has played on the school's volleyball team, volunteered with school initiatives, and continuously serves as a strong and independent Indigenous woman at ceremonies at both school and community levels.

Renee is proud of her Indigenous culture and is happy to share her knowledge with her peers.

Congratulations Renee!

Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Board will take place [on April 12, 2022](#) commencing at [10:00 a.m](#) at the Division Office in Whitecourt. Members of the public are welcome to attend, or to watch the Meeting live on our YouTube channel, [NGTV](#).