

Meet our Trustees



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Our Board Believes:

That our rural Alberta students deserve the same access to programming and supports as their urban counterparts.

Our Board Calls For:

Equitable funding solutions that foster progressive educational opportunities for our students.



NGPS
Board of Trustees



ADVOCACY

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Northern Gateway
Public Schools



Capital Funding and Transportation

- **Bus Red Light Running** - There is an increasing concern for student safety because of drivers passing school buses inappropriately. Strengthening penalties for passing a school bus with flashing red lights to include vehicle impounding and increase secondary highway signage with a strong stop for flashing lights message.
- **Annual Capital Funding** - Acknowledging the need in large centres for new schools due to the population boom, it is important that the rural modernization pillar of the provincial plan continues to receive funding to ensure sustainability of current buildings. Providing capital dollars annually (based on student numbers, age of buildings, and geographical factors) would allow Divisions to plan future projects while improving the efficiency of current structures.



Learning for Life, Together

- Ensuring Alberta's rural communities are served by a well-equipped and equitable education system is an investment in Alberta's future prosperity.

Meeting Everyone's Needs

- Our programs such as Work Experience, Apprenticeships and Career Exploratory Boot Camps inspire our students to graduate and entertain a variety of post-secondary options. Much of their excitement and potential is lost when they cannot afford to live in the big centres. Mandating and funding local satellites of degree granting institutions would allow students to live in, or close to, their home communities removing the financial barriers currently limiting the training of this pool of desperately needed talent. Tax incentives recognizing living expenses for rural high school graduates attending post-secondary studies away from their communities would also provide beneficial support.
- Various government agencies that provide services to children and youth regularly have vacant positions. We propose that service positions for children and youth be "blue circled". Should these positions be left unfilled the funding would be turned over to the school divisions filling the service deficit. The intent of "blue circling" is to incentivize government agencies to fill vacant positions.
- Some Divisions and Charter Schools do not accept students with high-cost special needs but receive funding. Divisions that accept all students should receive targeted funding in recognition of the important support provided to these children, youth, and families.

Equitable Funding for Rural Schools

- **Funding** - Northern Gateway Public Schools advocates for adequate, equitable, and sustainable funding methods that recognize the unique challenges and costs of rural education.
- **Small Rural School Grant Limitations** - When small rural schools operate K-9 or K-12 in one building, they often fall outside the range of small rural school funding. Funding such schools as two separate programs (elementary and secondary) would effectively resolve the issue.
- **Specialized Supports** - Access to specialized supports for rural students is challenging, costly, and often involves driving long distances to major centres. Local service levels and "ruralization" of urban programs such as CASA classrooms should be considered by government when planning for regionalization of health care.



Superintendent's Report

Administration Meeting January 16 (SLQS 1-7)

This meeting was postponed due to weather.

Meetings for the Valleyview School Project (SLQS 6)

We have had three meetings in the last three weeks including with an Assistant Deputy-Minister at Infrastructure and look forward to being able to make some definitive statements about the project in the near future which would include working out possible announcement dates etc.

Division Day (SLQS 1,2,3,4,5,6)

In keeping with the plan to have Division Day in August every second year, planning is underway for this coming year. The event is currently scheduled for August 26, 2025, and will follow a similar pattern to our last event.

Jordan's Principle Funding Delays (SLQS 1,5)

There is no update to the current wait for JP funding. PSBA continues to advocate strongly and is checking in with Divisions across the province with no announcements to date.

Curriculum Consultation Group (SLQS 4,6)

We had 8 teachers put their names forward for the Curriculum Consultation group focusing on Math, Social, Physical Education 7-10 and CALM 20. We thank each of those teachers for their willingness to be involved. The Ministry selects 20 from hundreds of applicants and one NGPS teacher has been selected. The group will be provided with 5 days to review and provide feedback on their selected area. From this feedback, the curriculum will be reviewed / adjusted and then made available for more consultation. Piloting for this round begins in 2025/2026 and NGPS will be involved throughout this process.

Bridge to Teaching (SLQS 6)

The Bridge to Teaching program provides certified journeypersons the opportunity to earn a Bachelor of Education degree with credit for their trades knowledge and skills. Alberta Education offers a \$25,000 grant to support candidates in the pursuit of their



teaching certificate. NGPS has applied for and been accepted for two grants to support two individuals to move into teaching. This process begins in May and our applicants will be teaching by the following May. This is a program we will continue to pursue supporting schools in ensuring succession planning for these important roles.

Provincial Digital Assessment Platform (SLQS 6)

Alberta Education is moving towards an online assessment platform for PAT and Diploma exams. Last year was the first year we had the opportunity to use the secure system. All high schools will be using the system by June for Part A of the Diploma exams. Next year all PATS will also be using the digital platform. The Technology Department has been superb in supporting the implementation of the platform, collaborating with staff, and taking care of a myriad of small details especially related to security.

PowerSchool (SLQS 6,7)

Over the past two weeks, school authorities throughout North America were informed that PowerSchool had suffered data theft. PowerSchool is the provider of student information services, and the loss involved most school divisions in Alberta. We were not affected, and while the technical reasons for this are not discussed, it is important to note the diligence and thoughtfulness of our technical services department and management in this matter.

Honouring Spirit Award (SLQS 5)

The Honouring Spirit Indigenous Awards are sponsored by Keyera and recognize 12 students who attend schools operated by ASBA member school boards. Students are selected from nominees who model strength and commitment in the pursuit of their personal education paths. Award recipients receive a certificate, a unique handcrafted star blanket and a scholarship. Nominations are due in February and schools are putting together their nomination packages for consideration.

Permission Click (SLQS 1,6)

All the permission forms and parent notices for events are increasing in volume and complexity. Permission Click works with our present infrastructure and provides parents with the digital ability to complete permission slips and similar documents on their digital devices. The forms are then easily stored and referenced as needed streamlining the paperwork for office administrators, coaches and teachers while meeting all legal standards. Permission Click is the go to provider of these services with a strong positive record over the past two decades both for security and ease of use by staff and parents at a reasonable cost.





Fox Creek Council Visit (SLQS 1,7)

On January 13th, three trustees (a fourth Trustee was also present as a member of the Council) and myself met with the Town Council of Fox Creek. Councillor's were provided with the NGPS advocacy pamphlet, mini budget explanation page, and Policy 1. From these documents we highlighted the concept of authentic application and real life connections to classroom learning. Rural funding and service issues were also highlighted based on the advocacy pamphlet while the budget page expressed our concern that student need is growing rapidly and out of pace with our increasing population of students. Council members asked about capital expenditures and plans for Fox Creek School. Councillor and Trustee, Jim Hailes, highlighted the Board's approach of detailing through a reconciliation statement different things being accomplished in the Division to fulfill the education calls to action.





Northern Gateway
Public Schools

Draft 2025-26 School Year

August

| M | T | W | T | F |
|----|----|----|----|----|
| | | | | 1 |
| 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 |
| 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 |
| 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 |
| 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 |

September

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| 29 | 30 | | | |

October

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| 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 |
| 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 | 31 |

November

| M | T | W | T | F |
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| | | | | 7 |
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| 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 |
| 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 |
| 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 |

December

| M | T | W | T | F |
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| 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 |
| 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 |
| 29 | 30 | 31 | | |

January

| M | T | W | T | F |
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| 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 |
| 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 |
| 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 |

February

| M | T | W | T | F |
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| 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 |
| 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 |
| 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 |

March

| M | T | W | T | F |
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| 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 |
| 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 |
| 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 |
| 30 | 31 | | | |

April

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| 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 |
| 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 |
| 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 | |

May

| M | T | W | T | F |
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| 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 |
| 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 |
| 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 |

June

| M | T | W | T | F |
|----|----|----|----|----|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 |
| 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 |
| 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 |
| 29 | 30 | | | |

| | | |
|--|---|------|
| Instructional Days (Students) | # | 183 |
| Non-instructional Days (Teachers) | ○ | # 11 |
| Total Operational Days | # | 194 |
| First and Last Day of Instruction for students | — | |
| Vacation/Holiday | | |
| Days in Lieu of Parent Teacher Interviews | ■ | |
| Teachers' Convention | □ | |

| <u>Month</u> | <u>Instructional Days</u> | <u>Non Instructional Days</u> | <u>Operational Days</u> |
|--------------|---------------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------|
| August | | 3 | 3 |
| September | 20 | 0 | 20 |
| October | 21 | 1 | 22 |
| November | 17 | 1 | 18 |
| December | 15 | 0 | 15 |
| January | 19 92 | 1 6 | 20 98 |
| February | 17(18) | 2(1) | 19 |
| March | 19(18) | 1(2) | 20 |
| April | 18 | 0 | 18 |
| May | 18 | 1 | 19 |
| June | 19 91 | 1 5 | 20 96 |
| TOTAL | # 183 | # 11 | # 194 |

- Aug 4 - Civic Holiday
- Aug 26 to 28 - Staff Planning & Development Day
- Sep 1 - Labour Day
- Sep 2 - First Day for Students
- Sep 30 - National Day for Truth and Reconciliation
- Oct 10 - Staff Planning & Development Day
- Oct 13 - Thanksgiving Day
- Nov 7 - Staff Planning & Development Day
- Nov 10 - previous Day in Lieu of Parent Teacher Interviews
- Nov 11 - Remembrance Day
- Dec 22-Jan 2 - previous Christmas Break
- Jan 5 - first day back for students
- Jan 30 - previous Staff Planning & Development Day/Term End
- *Feb 5 & 6 - Teachers' Convention (Onoway to Fox Creek)
- Feb 6 - Staff Planning & Development Day (Valleyview)
- Feb 16 - Family Day
- *Mar 5 & 6 - Teachers' Convention (Valleyview)
- Mar 6 - Staff Planning & Development Day (Onoway to Fox Creek)
- Mar 30 - 3 - Spring Break
- Apr 6 - Easter Monday
- May 14 - Staff Planning & Development Day
- May 15 - Day in Lieu of Parent Teacher Interviews
- May 18 - Victoria Day
- Jun 25 - Last Day for Students
- Jun 26 - Staff Planning & Development Day



Board Policy 2 – Appendix A

Board Annual and Term Work Plans

ANNUAL WORK PLAN

SEPTEMBER to JUNE

- Conduct Board Meetings (Policy 7, Section 2)
- Review Monthly Fiscal Accountability Reports (Policy 2, Section 4.6)

SEPTEMBER

- Conduct a Governance, Strategy and Development Committee (GSD) Meeting (in Non-election Years)
- Conduct the Organizational Meeting (in Non-Election Years) (Policy 7, Section 1)
- Set the School Tours Schedule
- Review the PSBAA Fall AGM Agenda
- Host the Annual Employee Appreciation Evening (September/October) (Policy 2, Section 9.6)
- Review the Year-end Suspension Report
- [ASBA Awards Deadline](#)

OCTOBER

- Conduct the Organizational Meeting (in Election Years)
- Conduct a Board Orientation (in Election Years)
- Review the Annual School Council Reports (Policy 2, Section 2.7)
- Review the ASBA Proposed Position Statements
- Host the Annual Employee Appreciation Evening (September/October) (Policy 2, Section 9.6)
- [ASBA Long Service Awards Deadline](#)

NOVEMBER

- Approve the Annual Education Results Report (AERR) (Policy 2, Section 1.10)
- Approve the Audited Financial Statements (Policy 2, Section 4.7)
- Conduct the School Results Review (November/December)
- Review and accept the School Operational Viability Report (Policy 15)
- Receive the Annual Community Engagement Plan (Policy 2, Section 2)

DECEMBER

- Approve the Borrowing By-law
- Conduct the School Results Review (November/December)
- Conduct a Governance, Strategy and Development Committee (GSD) Meeting (following School Results Review)
- Identify Goals for the Advocacy Plan (Policy 2, Section 8.2)

JANUARY

- Review the Draft School Calendars (Policy 2, Section 9.5)
- [ASBA Honouring Spirit: Indigenous Student Awards Nominations](#)

FEBRUARY

- Approve the Infrastructure Maintenance Renewal Work Plan (IMR)
- Approve the School Calendar (Policy 2, Section 9.5)
- Approve the Advocacy Plan (Policy 2, Section 8.3)
- Identify Possible Position Statements for ASBA Fall General Meeting
- Determine Need for Board Self-Evaluation/Review Previous Evaluation (Policy 7, Section 11)
- Conduct the First Finance Committee Meeting
- Contribute to the Three-Year Educational Planning Process (Policy 2, Section 1.3, 1.4)
- [ASBA Friends of Education Award Discussion](#)

MARCH

- Approve the Three-Year Capital Plan (Policy 2, Section 4.8)
- Approve All Board-Directed Fees (Policy 2, Section 4.3)
- Conduct a Governance, Strategy and Development (GSD) Committee Meeting (following school tours)
- [ASBA Edwin Parr and PSBAA Awards Deadlines](#)

APRIL

- Review the Draft Three-Year Education Plan (Policy 2, Section 1.4)

MAY

- Approve the Division Budget (Policy 2, Section 4.2)
- Approve the Three-Year Education Plan (Policy 2, Section 1.10)
- Conduct the Second Finance Committee Meeting to Discuss Provincial Budget
- Set Board Regular/Organizational Meeting Dates, Results Review Dates, and Workshop Dates
- Review the ASBA Proposed By-Law Changes and Budget
- Attend the ASBA Zone 2/3 Awards Ceremony

JUNE

- Receive the Superintendent's Annual Review of the SLQS
- Conduct a Governance, Strategy and Development (GSD) Meeting
- [ASBA Awards Discussion](#)

TERM WORK PLAN

DECEMBER – Year 3 (by December 31, 2024)

- Review and Confirm Ward Boundaries
Policy 19, Section 4: The Board shall pass a by-law to reaffirm ward and subdivision boundaries, or if necessary, adjust boundaries, within the first three years of a term of office.

AWARDS DEADLINES

[Alberta School Boards Association \(ASBA\)](#)

| | |
|-----------|--|
| September | Community Engagement Award |
| September | Honourary Life Member Award |
| September | School Board Innovation and Excellence Award |
| October | Long Service Awards |
| February | Honouring Spirit: Indigenous Student Awards |
| March | Edwin Parr Teacher Award |
| March | Friends of Education Award |
| June | Zone Appreciation Award |

[Public School Boards' Association of Alberta](#)

| | |
|-------|---|
| March | Advancing Association Business and Initiatives |
| March | Long Service Awards |
| March | Special Contribution to Public Education |
| March | Special Contribution to Public Education: Media |
| March | Dick Baker Legacy Award |

| | |
|-------------|--|
| References: | Education Act -- Sections 33, 51, 52, 53, 54, 60, 67, 139, 222 |
| | Fiscal Planning and Transparency Act |
| | Local Authorities Elections Act |
| | Borrowing Regulation |
| | Disposition of Property Regulation |
| | Early Childhood Services Regulation |
| | Investment Regulation |
| | School Fees Regulation |
| | Truth and Reconciliation Commission Calls To Action |