

Good News Items

- Board Chair Arlene Hrynyk congratulated Malaak Smaiel from Aurora Middle School on winning the NLPS Science Olympics T-Shirt Design Contest. Malaak's "A Moment of Science Please" design will be featured on the shirts all Science Olympics recipients will receive this year.
- Trustee Karen Packard commended the division's schools in Cold Lake on their performances at the Cold Lake Music Festival and thanked all of the teachers involved for the hard work they put in to ensure students had the opportunity to take part.
- Trustee Maurice Richard complimented Vera M. Welsh Elementary's Kindergarten students on the ingenuity and creativity they used to build leprechaun traps in celebration of St. Patrick's Day.
- Trustee Ron Young thanked Rednecks With a Cause for bringing Temple Grandin to Bonnyville earlier this month. Many NLPS staff had the opportunity to attend and were excited to apply what they learned in their classrooms.

Appointment with MLA Scott Cyr

The Board welcomed MLA Scott Cyr to the meeting to discuss a number of topics including the impact of the carbon levy on the division, the elimination of school fees, and Infrastructure and Maintenance Renewal (IMR) funding.

2019-2022 Capital Plan

The Board approved a new Three- and 10-Year Capital Plan for submission to Alberta Education. The Board's new top capital priority is a replacement school for Vera M. Welsh Elementary School in Lac La Biche. This project has been one of the division's top three capital priorities for 20 years.

The Board's second priority is a modernization of École Plamondon School. This project has also been on the list for a long period of time and includes a full modernization of the mechanical, electrical, structural and architectural components of the school.

A new K-8 school in Buffalo Lake, a modernization for North Star Elementary, and a modernization of Iron River School round out the top five capital priorities in the three-year plan. The 10-year plan also includes audit upgrades for H.E. Bourgoin Middle School, Kikino School, Caslan School and Wandering River School.

The plan will be submitted to Alberta Education and the Board will be advocating for the projects to be included in future school infrastructure funding announcements made by the provincial government.

The full 2019-2022 NLPS Three- and Ten-Year Capital Plan is available in the Accountability section of our website - www.nlsd.ab.ca.

Provincial Budget

Board Chair Arlene Hrynyk explained that while the recent provincial budget was mostly status quo, Northern Lights would be impacted in a couple of areas. This includes increased funding for the school nutrition program, and a decrease to the funding the division receives to maintain its facilities. Secretary-Treasurer Paula Elock noted there will also be increases to English as a Second Language (ESL) and First Nations, Métis and Inuit (FNMI) funding.

Board Policy Updates

The Board gave final approval to Board Policy 10 - Policy Making and Board Policy 17 - Student Fees. Both policies had been circulated to stakeholders for feedback. No changes were made prior to approval. The new policies will be available on the NLPS website shortly.

Next Board Meeting

The next Regular Board Meeting will take place on Wednesday, April 18 at the Lac La Biche Division Office.

For more information on Northern Lights
and our schools, please go to:

www.nlsd.ab.ca

