Meeting Date: March 9, 2023

**Highlight 1: NWSD Transportation Update**

Key Messages:

Amanda Gerow, Supervisor of Transportation, provided a quarterly update to the Board of Education on busing operations.

NWSD has 2,770 students registered to ride the bus each day and operates 99 regular bus routes.

Transportation strives to provide efficient routes for students and limit ride time as much as possible. 56% of riders are on the bus for less than half an hour in each direction, 91% of riders are on the bus for under an hour.

SGI has given NWSD a positive carrier profile of 7.2% (Anything in the range of 0-39% is considered acceptable performance for a fleet). This rating is based on inspections, accident history, infractions, etc. NWSD takes great pride in the safety of its school transportation.

**Highlight 2: Student Support Services**

Key Messages:

Jennifer Williamson, Deputy Director of Education, provided an update on the Student Support Services department to the Board. Student Services includes professional staff that provide support in Speech & Language Pathology, Occupational Therapy, Educational Psychology and Counselling services.

For the 2022-2023 school year, there are 238 students with Inclusion and Intervention Plans (IIPs), which is up 44 from last school year.

Through the Early Learning Intensive Supports program (ELIS), NWSD received additional support and funding to have 10 additional spaces for 3 & 4 year olds with intensive needs. The ELIS funding is used for additional staff and programming.

Due to the increase in ELIS funding, and through Jordan’s Principle, NWSD increased EA positions by 10.75.

This is the second year NWSD has had a Family Advocate position, and there are many great success stories connected to the work Jennifer Dilione is doing making connections in NWSD. The Family Advocate supports students and families to reconnect and engage with the school. Jennifer has worked to build relationships with families in many NWSD communities, and now families are directly reaching out to her for support. Jennifer is currently supporting 99 students/families across the division.

Mental Health support is an integral part of the Student Services department. NWSD has counselling services for students, with several full time counsellors, and there continues to be a significant need among students. 7% of all NWSD students access counselling services through the school division.

In addition to supports for students, NWSD is providing Mental Health training to staff members. Training conducted this year includes ASIST, Mental Health First Aid and SafeTalk, with plans in the works to offer VTRA training, as well.

NWSD utilizes the Not Myself Today program from the Canadian Mental Health Association, as part of its support for staff mental health. This year, NWSD is also hosting its first Mental Health Symposium for staff on March 29. The Symposium will be an opportunity for school staff to hear from other schools about what they are doing to support student and staff mental health, as well as from outside agencies about services that are available in the region.

**Highlight 3: Celebrations**

**Indigenous Word of the Week**

NWSD is celebrating Indigenous Languages by sharing an Indigenous Word of the Week video. Each week we will share a new word from the Seven Sacred Teachings.

Thank you to Danene Kopperud for coordinating this project. Thank you to Sabrina Macnab and the Lakeview Michif Kindergarten class for sharing in Michif, Pat Gervais and Jonas Samson students and staff for sharing in Cree, and to Marie Tupper at Carpenter High for sharing in Dene!

Mar. 1 - <https://youtu.be/or7nx_MwSr0>

Mar. 7 - <https://youtu.be/GJ1maRuiKsw>

**NWSD Hires Superintendents**

NWSD recently completed a search for two Superintendent positions for the senior administration team for the 2023-2024 school year. Many strong, local candidates were interviewed, highlighting the strengths of staff within our school division.

The board is excited to welcome Cheryl Treptow and Dawn Paylor as Superintendents of Learning for the 2023-2024 school year.