

August 2026

Board Highlights



Here's a look at the key discussions, decisions and celebrations from the Northwest School Division Board of Education's August meeting.

Delegation – Derek Sieben, NWSD Auditor

NWSD External Auditor Derek Sieben provided the Board with an update on planning for the Division's annual audit. He expressed confidence in the Division's administrative and financial practices and spoke highly of the strong working relationship with the NWSD team. Sieben also commended administration for their responsiveness, cooperation and engagement throughout the audit process, noting that preparations for the upcoming audit are well underway.

Planning for Board Tours

As part of its planning for the year ahead, the Board reflected on the success of last year's school tours. Trustees agreed the tours provided valuable opportunities to connect with school teams, learn more about their successes and challenges, and gain a deeper understanding of the work happening across the Division.

The Board expressed interest in continuing the tours this year while exploring a new theme or focus to keep the visits meaningful and useful for schools. Trustees also discussed opportunities to broaden engagement during the tours by connecting with School Community Councils (SCCs), community leaders and other local partners.

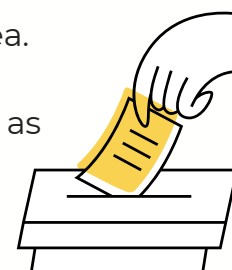
Board Annual Work Plan

The Board reviewed and updated its Annual Work Plan, outlining key activities, priorities and areas of focus for the coming school year. The plan helps guide the Board's work throughout the year and ensures important governance responsibilities, engagement opportunities and ongoing initiatives are incorporated into upcoming meetings and activities.

By-Election

The Board reviewed plans for a by-election to fill the trustee vacancy in Subdivision 6, which represents the Maidstone, Waseca and Paynton area.

The Board approved the proposed timeline, with September 16, 2026 set as Nomination Day and October 21, 2026 as Election Day, if an election is required. The timeline also includes consultation with councils within the subdivision and the required public notice and nomination period.



The Board also approved recommended polling station locations in Maidstone, Paynton and Waseca. Election information, including details about the nomination process, will be available on the NWSD website, under [Board of Education](#), prior to the nomination period opening on September 1, 2026.

Lloydminster Busing Agreement

The Board reviewed an updated busing agreement between Northwest School Division, Lloydminster Catholic School Division and Lloydminster Public School Division. NWSD provides transportation for rural students living on the Saskatchewan side of the Lloydminster area who are designated to attend Lloydminster schools.



The updated agreement modernizes the existing arrangement and provides greater clarity around the roles and responsibilities of each school division in providing transportation services.

The Board expressed its appreciation to the leadership teams from all three school divisions for the time, collaboration and considerable work involved in developing an updated agreement that supports students and families in the Lloydminster area.

Board Composition

The Board discussed its current composition and the possibility of reducing the number of electoral subdivisions and trustees in the future. As an initial step, the Board has asked its Ad Hoc Committee to work with school division administration to further review the issue and develop potential options for consideration.

Any proposals developed through this process will be brought back to the Board for further discussion before any decisions are made. Should the Board decide to make changes to its composition, they would not take effect until the next Board of Education election cycle in 2028.

Director's Report

Director of Education Jennifer Williamson shared an update on her activities from June, including highlights from the final weeks of the 2025-26 school year.

Beginning in the 2026-27 school year, the Director's Report will also take on a new public format through [Around the Division with Jennifer Williamson](#), a monthly blog series shared on the NWSD website and social media. The series will provide a look at Jennifer's visits to schools and communities, progress toward NWSD learning goals, and the many events, initiatives and learning opportunities happening across the Division.

Senior Administration Year Plans 2026-2027

Senior Administration shared highlights from their 2026-27 year plans, outlining several areas of focus that will support students, staff and schools across the Division.

Dawn Paylor, Superintendent of Learning, highlighted the Division's new Invitation for Shared Services Initiative (ISSI) plan. Cassia Link will serve as the Indigenous Student Success Teacher, supporting students transitioning from Kopahawakenum School to Carpenter High School. Her work will focus on team teaching Grade 9 literacy and math, supporting Flying Dust First Nation students in Grades 10-12 at Carpenter High, and working alongside the Flying Dust First Nation Student Services Coordinator to support student success.

Dawn also provided an update on the Michif Kindergarten program at Lakeview Elementary School, which has 30 students registered for the upcoming year. The program welcomes back Sabrina Macnab as teacher, Jacinta Laliberte as Michif Language Keeper and Amanda Pockrant as principal.

Cheryl Treptow, Superintendent of Learning, shared an update on the rollout of the Provincial Student Assessment Plan. Moving beyond the pilot phase, NWSD will receive Grade 7 English Language Arts and Grades 5 and 9 mathematics assessment results at the end of the school year. A key focus will be supporting school administrators in using this data intentionally to inform planning and instruction. Administrators will also participate in instructional leadership professional development, and schools will begin using new literacy screening tools this year.

Davin Hildebrand, Deputy Director of Education, will focus on recruitment planning and strengthening processes for smoothly onboarding new employees and offboarding departing staff.

Jennifer Dorval, Superintendent of Student Support Services, highlighted the expansion of Specialized Classrooms within NWSD. A second specialized classroom, announced as part of the provincial budget, will be introduced in Meadow Lake and shared between Lakeview and Jubilee Elementary Schools. This builds on the specialized classroom at Turtleford School, which is entering its second year. Teams will meet monthly to review programming and data, identify focus areas and participate in additional professional development.

Jennifer will also take on supervision and support for the Division's Complexity Teachers. Bringing this work together with her existing support of Student Services Teachers will provide an opportunity to strengthen collaboration between these roles

Michelle Pickett, Chief Financial Officer, will focus on reviewing and updating the Division's financial and administrative policies and procedures. This work will also explore opportunities to streamline or centralize processes where possible, helping to reduce administrative pressures on school-based staff.

Jennifer Williamson, Director of Education, identified three areas of focus for the year: continuing to refine leadership practices; balancing compassion with accountability as the province moves into teacher collective bargaining agreement negotiations; and pursuing professional learning in the areas of finance and artificial intelligence.

Celebrations

A round up of celebrations from the past month across the school division.

Provincial Youth Council

A student from Lashburn High School has been selected to serve on the 2026-27 Provincial Youth Council. This is an exciting achievement, as they are only the second NWSD student to be selected since the Council was established 10 years ago. The Provincial Youth Council provides students with an opportunity to share their perspectives and contribute their voice to education at the provincial level. The Council will hold its first meeting of the year in September.

K-3 Literacy Series

NWSD is excited to have 35 Kindergarten to Grade 3 teachers participating in an intensive three-day literacy series as part of professional learning planned for the start of the school year. Offered in partnership with the Ministry of Education and STF Professional Learning, the series will provide teachers with focused learning and practical strategies to strengthen literacy instruction in the early years. This investment in professional learning will help support strong literacy foundations for our youngest learners.

New Playground at J.H. Moore Elementary School

Congratulations to the J.H. Moore Elementary School Community Council on reaching an exciting milestone! After several years of dedicated fundraising, the SCC has successfully raised the funds needed for new playground equipment. Installation will be completed in time for students to enjoy the new playground this school year. Thank you to the SCC and the many families, community members and supporters who helped make this project a reality.

