

Meeting Date: May 14, 2026

Delegation – Indigenous Education Coordinator – Danene Kopperud

The Board received a presentation from Indigenous Education Coordinator Danene Kopperud highlighting the ongoing work and growth of Indigenous Education across Northwest School Division. The presentation focused on supporting student success through authentic relationships, culturally responsive practices, land-based learning, language revitalization, and meaningful partnerships with First Nations and Métis communities.

The Board heard that 37% of NWSA students self-identify as Indigenous, with schools across the division ranging from 9% to 94% Indigenous student populations. Eight schools have student populations that are more than 50% Indigenous.

Highlights from the presentation included:

- 73 Elder and Knowledge Keeper visits during the 2025-2026 school year
- 72 students and staff participating in culture camps
- 16 schools accessing FNMI funding to support 65 land-based learning opportunities
- Ongoing professional development opportunities focused on Indigenous pedagogy, culturally responsive practices, and Treaty Education
- Strong partnerships with Flying Dust First Nation, Métis Nation–Saskatchewan Western Region 1 and local Métis communities, and local Elders and Knowledge Keepers.

The presentation also highlighted the positive impacts being seen across the division, including stronger representation and pride among Indigenous students, enhanced teacher capacity, strengthened community partnerships, and growing family confidence in the direction of Indigenous Education in NWSA. Looking ahead, the division will continue focusing on creating meaningful Indigenous language learning opportunities and strengthening accountability around Treaty Education.

Draft Budget

The Division's administration team continues to prepare the draft 2026–2027 budget, which will be presented to the Board of Education at the June Board meeting. The draft budget incorporates the priorities and feedback shared by trustees during the April budget discussions. Administration is working collaboratively and creatively to address the current funding shortfall while continuing to prioritize student learning and supporting the long-term financial sustainability of the division.

Preventative Maintenance and Renewal Planning

The Board of Education approved the Division's three-year Preventative Maintenance and Renewal (PMR) Plan. The plan outlines priority maintenance projects across Northwest School Division facilities and focuses on addressing health and safety concerns, protecting critical infrastructure, and maintaining safe and functional learning environments for students and staff. Trustees continue to prioritize projects on a needs basis to ensure available funding is directed toward the most pressing facility requirements across the division.

Strategic Plan Update

The Board of Education reviewed progress on the Northwest School Division Strategic Plan as the division completes the first year of the current three-year plan. Trustees and administration met in April to reflect on the goals and priorities of the plan and make minor updates to strengthen foundational risk management priorities. Additions to the plan include a greater focus on financial sustainability, facilities and transportation, technology and cyber security, and maintaining public trust and community confidence.

Overall, the Board remains confident in the direction of the Strategic Plan and its three key priorities: Student Learning and Engagement, Mental Health and Well-being, and Retention and Recruitment. The plan will continue to guide the division's work in supporting students, staff, and school communities across NWSD.

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

Mental Health Awareness Week

During Canadian Mental Health Awareness Week, Northwest School Division hosted a series of lunchtime webinars for staff focused on mental health, wellness, and supporting students and colleagues. The webinar series featured presentations from school-based staff, division professionals, and a student panel that shared valuable perspectives and experiences. The sessions provided meaningful professional learning opportunities and encouraged important conversations around mental health and well-being across the division. The webinar series was very well attended and highlighted NWSD's continued commitment to supporting positive mental health for both students and staff.

NWSD Awards Gala

Northwest School Division celebrated the 20th annual NWSD Awards Gala this spring, marking two decades of recognizing and celebrating staff across the division. The Awards Gala began following the amalgamation that created Northwest School Division and has become an important tradition that honours the dedication and commitment of staff serving students and school communities. The event recognizes employees reaching service milestones and celebrates retiring staff members for their years of contribution to public education. Trustees and administration expressed their appreciation for the incredible impact NWSD staff continue to have on students, schools, and communities across the division.

Ernie Studer students invited to MSFN School Powwow

Students from Ernie Studer School recently attended the Makwa Sahgaiehcan First Nation

School Powwow, providing an opportunity to celebrate culture, learning, and community together. The experience allowed students and staff to build on the meaningful relationships between the two school communities.

Paradise Hill School competes at Provincial Drama

Paradise Hill School's drama program recently advanced to the Provincial Drama Competition in Moose Jaw, Saskatchewan, showcasing the incredible talent and hard work of students and staff. The group earned multiple honours at the provincial level, including two acting awards, a technical award, and an award for stage management.

Dwayne Peace presents to students about healthy relationships and bullying

Northwest School Division schools recently welcomed Dwayne Peace to speak with students, staff, and families about bullying, healthy relationships, and the impact our words and actions can have on others. A retired member of the Calgary Police Service, Dwayne spent 25 years serving his community, including seven years as a School Resource Officer, where he became known for his ability to connect with youth and support students facing difficult challenges.

Since 1997, Dwayne has spoken to more than 500,000 students across Canada, encouraging young people to make positive choices and develop a strong sense of social responsibility. In addition to school presentations across NWSD, he also hosted parent presentations in Pierceland and St. Walburg, helping families continue important conversations around relationships, mental health, and supporting youth.

CHS Student wins Prestigious Junior Citizen of the Year Award

Trustees congratulated Noah Capelle on recently being named a Saskatchewan Junior Citizen of the Year. Sponsored by the Saskatchewan Weekly Newspapers Association in partnership with SaskPower and the Lieutenant Governor of Saskatchewan, the Junior Citizen of the Year program has recognized outstanding Saskatchewan youth for more than 45 years.

The award honours young people who demonstrate leadership, volunteerism, responsibility, compassion, and a commitment to making a positive difference in their schools and communities. Four recipients are selected annually to receive a \$3,000 bursary from SaskPower. Noah's recognition is a reflection of his strong character, community involvement, and positive impact both within Carpenter High School and beyond.

Ernie Studer awarded a Mosaic Nutrition Grant

Ernie Studer School was awarded a \$20,000 Mosaic Nutrition Grant for the 2026–2027 school year. The funding will support school nutrition programming within the school, helping ensure students have access to nutritious food and snacks throughout the day. School nutrition programs play an important role in supporting student well-being, readiness to learn, and overall success in the classroom.

Hillmond Central School Planning Extra-Curricular Ice Fishing Derby

Hillmond Central School is exploring a creative new extra-curricular opportunity for students with a proposal to host an ice fishing derby during the 2026–2027 school year. The initiative

would provide students with opportunities to connect outdoors, learn new skills, and engage in activities that reflect the interests and traditions of the local community.

Maidstone Drama Hosts Successful Dinner Theatre

Maidstone High School's drama program recently hosted a successful dinner theatre production that brought plenty of laughter and community spirit to the stage. The original play was written by Vice Principal Sam Dawson and featured hilarious references to local landmarks, businesses, and community life that audiences thoroughly enjoyed. The production highlighted the creativity and talent of students and staff while providing a memorable evening of entertainment for the community.

Marshall School Hosts Surprise Band Concert

Marshall School students recently enjoyed a special surprise performance when the Aden Bowman High School Band made an impromptu stop in the community while travelling from Saskatoon. Students had the opportunity to experience an up-close concert band performance, and the excitement and energy in the school was evident throughout the visit. The performance provided students with a unique musical experience and showcased the power of the arts to connect and inspire young learners.

Field Trips in Full Swing

As the school year winds down, students across Northwest School Division are taking part in a wide variety of exciting field trip and experiential learning opportunities. From cultural experiences and outdoor education to athletics, fine arts, career exploration, and end-of-year celebrations, these trips provide valuable learning experiences that help bring classroom learning to life and create lasting memories for students.

Trustees expressed their appreciation to the staff, volunteers, and school communities whose planning, organization, and support make these opportunities possible. The time and care invested into creating meaningful experiences for students continues to enrich learning and strengthen school communities across NWSA.

Hillmond Mental Health Week Activities

Hillmond Central School recently wrapped up a fun and engaging Mental Health Awareness Week filled with activities focused on wellness and connection. Students enjoyed fruit cups generously provided by the School Community Council, participated in "juggling for mental health" activities, and finished the week with a Funny Farm experience. The event gave students the opportunity to connect with a wide variety of animals, including kittens, rabbits, sheep, a llama, a mini pony, chicks, and more.

RM of Britannia Planned Donation

Trustees were pleased to hear that the Rural Municipality of Britannia is planning a major donation to support Hillmond Central School. In addition to the donation, the RM is also exploring other ways it may be able to support students and school programming within its boundaries, including the possibility of future scholarships and other financial contributions. The Board expressed appreciation for the strong support local municipalities continue to show for public education and the positive impact these partnerships have on students and school communities.

May Board Highlights



Next meeting date: June 11, 2026.