

Meeting Date: January 9, 2025

Facilities Update

Presented by Bob Tough, Supervisor of Facilities.

Maintenance Update

The Facilities Department is making progress in addressing a backlog of maintenance work, following recent staff retirements. However, increasing material costs and extended delivery timelines continue to present challenges. The team remains committed to ensuring all schools and offices are maintained to the highest standards despite these obstacles.

Caretaking Overview

The Northwest School Division's caretaking structure includes:

- **8 Contracted Caretakers:** Serving schools in Meadow Lake, Goodsoil, and Loon Lake.
- **Self-Managed Schools:** Two schools oversee their own caretaking operations.
- **24 Caretaking Staff:** Supporting other schools and administrative offices across the division.

This robust team ensures our facilities are clean, safe, and ready to support learning every day.

Capital Projects

An external audit identified a \$60 million backlog in facilities projects within the Northwest School Division. Several factors determine whether a project is prioritized for the Ministry of Education's major capital list, including health and safety considerations, joint-use potential, and third-party studies demonstrating need.

Priority Capital projects for NWSD:

1. Transition Place Education Centre (TPEC) – new building
2. Maidstone – consolidation of two schools (PreK – Grade 12)
3. Meadow Lake – elementary school consolidation (Lakeview & Jubilee)

Minor Capital priority projects for NWSD:

1. Green Acre Elementary School – major renovation
2. Lashburn High School – major renovation

Preventative Maintenance and Repair (PMR)

The Ministry of Education allocates PMR funds annually to support projects that extend the life of school facilities. These funds, based on the square footage of division buildings, are used for essential work such as roof repairs and HVAC updates.

For the 2024-2025 school year, the Northwest School Division received approximately **\$1.49 million** in PMR funding. The Facilities Department has developed a comprehensive five-year plan to prioritize projects based on each school's needs, ensuring funds are allocated effectively.

Bus Driver Recruitment

The NWSD Transportation Department continues to work in multiple communities to find creative ways to recruit bus drivers. Transportation Supervisor, Gini Calvert, has hosted Open Houses in Meadow Lake and Edam to give potential drivers the opportunity to try out driving a bus. NWSD reimburses bus drivers for the costs associated with becoming a driver, including SGI licensing and test fees and medical exams, as well as provides driver training and practice time with buses.

Local connections are extremely valuable in recruiting bus drivers, and the division also relies on school staff who are familiar with their school community and families to help recruit drivers. SCCs can also support recruitment efforts by sharing information about bus driver recruitment with their network of families and community members.

Celebrations

Primary Health Connections

Senior administration have been working to connect with the Directors of Primary Health who provide services within the boundaries of the school division (Meadow Lake, North Battleford, Lloydminster) to address some of the medical needs of students that attend NWSD schools. We are excited with the progress of the talks, and that NWSD will be the first school division in the province to have the support of a Registered Nurse to assist one of the students with significant medical needs. This will ease the workload of the support staff at that school.

Hillmond Central School

In December, Hillmond Central School hosted a Clean Out Closet challenge amongst staff and students. The school was able to donate winter clothing to the youth centre in Lloydminster, targeting kids ages 12-18 years, with high quality, warm outdoor clothing. In total they were able to outfit 32 kids, as well as provide clothing for others within their school. Congratulations to HCS on their efforts and support for such a worthy cause.

Maidstone High School

During the holiday season students and staff brought joy across the community with their Christmas Caroling performances. 36 students and staff rehearsed and then advertised for community members and business to request carolers. In total they visited 18 different homes and businesses on a blustery evening in December. Way to go MHS!

Next meeting: February 13, 2025