

Meeting Date: November 25, 2025

Organizational Meeting

The Board of Education's Organizational Meeting established leadership and committee priorities for the year ahead. Trustees elected Travis Neufeld as Chair and Kristen McGowan as Vice Chair.

Trustees also advanced committee work by putting names forward for appointment to key Board committees, including Board Professional Development, Governance, Ad Hoc, and Transportation, supporting focused oversight in areas that impact schools and families across the division.

Transportation Presentation – Gini Calvert, Transportation Supervisor

The Board received an update from the Transportation Department highlighting the scope of student transit across the division and ongoing efforts to strengthen service and staffing.

NWSD currently transports 2,745 students each day: 2,032 rural students, 242 Lloydminster students, and 471 urban students primarily in Meadow Lake. The division operates 92 routes supported by a fleet of 132 buses—88 assigned to rural routes and 44 spares.

Daily, NWSD buses travel a combined 14,519 kilometres. Rural routes average 171 km, with the shortest route at 95 km and the longest at 294 km. The average one-way ride time for students is 36 minutes. NWSD students average 35 minutes, while Lloydminster students average 50 minutes. Ride times range from as little as 1 minute to a maximum of 121 minutes. Students riding more than 75 minutes are typically transported outside their attendance area due to custody arrangements or to access French Immersion.

The average rural bus capacity is 28 students, or 84.7% utilization. Route buses average 7 years of age, while spare buses average 13 years.

There are currently seven vacant routes in Meadow Lake; however, several new drivers have recently completed—or are close to completing—their licensing requirements and will be ready to take on routes soon.

Recruitment continues to be a priority. This year, the Transportation Department has attended open houses in Meadow Lake, held Try-A-Bus events in Goodsoil and Meadow Lake, and participated in recruitment activities at Lakeland College in Lloydminster. The division is also exploring a partnership with Métis Nation Local 31 in Meadow Lake to support driver recruitment and training.

Classroom Complexity Teacher: Early Insights

An update was provided by Cheryl Treptow, Superintendent of Learning, outlining early insights into the implementation and impact of the Classroom Complexity Teacher (CCT) position across division schools.

The CCT role stems from the recent collective bargaining agreement, which allocates positions according to school enrollment: 1.0 FTE for schools with 150 or more students, 0.5 FTE for schools with 75–149 students, and no assigned CCT for schools with fewer than 75 students. Because each school has unique needs, CCTs are being utilized in a variety of responsive, school-driven support models.

Early feedback indicates the role has been very well received. CCTs are strengthening classroom supports by working collaboratively alongside teachers, analyzing student data to target learning needs, and reinforcing instructional planning. Administrators noted the value of enhanced collaboration, real-time data-informed decision making, and coordinated student support strategies.

To date, the division has hosted two engagement meetings for CCTs and school administrators to share successes, identify challenges, and build collective capacity. Schools are continuing to evaluate the role on an ongoing basis, ensuring the model remains responsive and impactful for staff and students alike.

The division remains committed to refining the CCT role collaboratively to best support classroom complexity, instructional success, and improved learning outcomes.

Audited Financial Statements and Auditor Presentation

The Board reviewed the annual audited financial statements for the 2024-2025 school year, prepared by the Northwest School Division finance team and examined by external auditor Derek Sieben. Trustees received confirmation of a clean audit report, reflecting the accuracy, integrity, and transparency of the school division's financial reporting.

In his presentation, Sieben extended thanks to the financial administration team—Michelle Pickett and Kirsten McConnell—for their collaborative support throughout the audit process.

The Board recognizes and appreciates the efforts of the finance team in supporting responsible fiscal oversight and compliance, reinforcing continued trust in the division's financial stewardship.

Accessibility Plan

The Accessibility Plan was drafted by the school division in alignment with the Accessible Saskatchewan Act, which came into effect in 2023 with a goal of removing and preventing barriers that limit full and equal participation for persons with disabilities. The Act sets accessibility requirements for public sector organizations, including Saskatchewan school divisions, across areas such as employment, communication, transportation, the built environment, and the delivery of programs and services.

Through a recent consultation process, feedback was gathered from community members and partners to help inform responsive planning and priority setting. The final plan will be posted to the Northwest School Division website by December 3, 2025, in accordance with provincial requirements, reflecting the division's continued commitment to identifying, removing, and preventing accessibility barriers in service of students, staff, families, and the broader community.

The Board acknowledges the importance of ongoing accessibility planning and remains committed to future evaluation, reporting, and community engagement as this work continues.

Tuition Agreement with Makwa Sahgaiehcan

The division currently maintains a tuition services agreement with Makwa Sahgaiehcan First Nation for federal students attending Ernie Studer School in Loon Lake. The Board was updated on ongoing discussions toward a new Education Services Agreement between both parties.

Consensus on agreement terms was originally reached in 2013, reflecting shared priorities around aligned practices and legislative compliance. While the agreement was not formally signed at that time, both parties have continued collaborative dialogue, with a renewed commitment to finalization in 2025.

Most recently, Northwest School Division leadership connected with Chief and Council representatives, the Director of Education, and education committee members from Makwa Sahgaiehcan First Nation on November 6, 2025. Both parties expressed eagerness to advance the partnership and formally sign the Education Services Agreement, reinforcing a mutual commitment to working together going forward.

To support continued legislative alignment, the latest draft agreement has been re-submitted to the SSBA for legal review, ensuring compliance and addressing Board liability considerations. The Board looks forward to proceeding with a formally executed agreement and strengthening this shared relationship in support of student success.

Celebrations

SHSAA Volleyball Playoffs

Six Northwest School Division teams advanced through regional playdowns to compete at the SHSAA Provincial Volleyball Championships, proudly representing their schools on the provincial stage. The division was represented by Edam girls, Maidstone girls, Glaslyn boys, Lashburn boys, and both Carpenter High girls and boys' teams.

Regional playdowns were a key step in championship qualification, including the 1A Boys Regional Championship hosted by Glaslyn. The event was livestreamed with the support of the division's IT team, enabling families and supporters to tune in remotely.

The provincial tournament concluded with a major highlight for the division, as Carpenter High School earned Gold in the 4A Boys competition.

Special High School Credit Opportunities

Student participation and completion rates in hands-on credit opportunities have increased over the past year, with more learners embracing apprenticeship, volunteerism, and special project pathways to drive their own education. These credits are expanding learning beyond the traditional classroom and providing practical, skills-based experiences in local communities and workplaces.

The division has created some promotional videos to showcase these opportunities:

[Apprenticeship Promotion - Business](#)

[Apprenticeship Promotion - Student](#)

Early Years Symposium

In October, early years educators gathered for the Early Years Symposium, hosted in Paradise Hill. This professional learning day brought together Pre-Kindergarten and Kindergarten teachers, early years support staff, and participants from partner organizations to collaborate on play-based learning strategies.

Facilitated by an educator from the STF Professional Learning, the symposium focused on block play and the versatility of blocks in supporting a wide range of early learning outcomes. Through interactive sessions, participants explored how intentional block play can address multiple developmental and curriculum goals, from language and social skills to early numeracy, creativity, and problem-solving.

The event offered high engagement, classroom-ready ideas, and valuable relationship building. Staff left energized with practical concepts to bring back to their learning environments, while the strong representation from partner organizations further strengthened shared commitments to early years success.

Maidstone High School Haunted Hallway

Maidstone High School hosted a community Haunted Hallway this fall, showcasing the creativity and collaboration of staff and students who designed and decorated a memorable, spooky experience. Hundreds of guests—including families, students, and community members—visited the school to enjoy the immersive display.

Marshall School Harvest Fair

Marshall School welcomed the community this fall for its annual Harvest Fair, with strong attendance from families, staff, students, and local residents. The celebration reflected the school's ongoing commitment to opening its doors and creating shared gathering spaces rooted in community connection.

The positive response has continued well beyond the event, with the school receiving community requests for expanded events calendars to support attendance at future school activities.

Hillmond Adulting Day and Big Kid Basics

During Education Week, Hillmond Central School hosted its annual Adulting Day, expanding the experience to include elementary students for the first time through Big Kid Basics sessions. Younger learners explored hands-on skill stations, cultivating confidence and curiosity while trying new practical abilities.

The day also featured a diverse lineup of community-led career presentations, including insights from local professionals in barbering, hairstyling, aviation/piloting, engineering, and more. Students learned about real-world career pathways, asked questions, and tried out new skills in inspiring and interactive opportunities.

Adulting Day has become a beloved yearly tradition, connecting students to community entrepreneurs and skilled workers, while celebrating experiential learning and strong local partnerships. Kudos to the HCS staff for all the work to pull this event together!

Goodsoil SCC Celebrations

The SCC was pleased to share the school's field trip to honour the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation, which saw their students and staff head to Steel Narrows. Students learned about the Battle of Loon Lake and about the local context of the Northwest Rebellion. The students were passionate about the material and excited to share what they learned with their families.

The council also celebrated a successful joint event with the Northwest School Division Transportation team, where the Try-A-Bus recruitment initiative coincided with the school's community Walk-to-Breakfast morning in Goodsoil. This creative partnership provided families a welcoming opportunity to connect with school programming while learning about requirements and training to become school bus drivers.

The event sparked strong community interest, with three driver applications initiated, growing the pool for spare route drivers.

Next meeting: December 11, 2025