

Meeting Date: March 12, 2026

Delegation – Student Voice 2025-2026 Presentation

Student representatives from across NWSA shared powerful insights with the Board of Education this month, highlighting what matters most to students in their learning environments.

Drawing from Student Voice sessions held across the division, students identified key themes including school facilities, mental health supports, teaching practices, course relevance, school culture, and consistency in rules.

Students emphasized that respect, fairness, and feeling heard are just as important as academic programming. They are asking for engaging, real-world learning experiences, stronger mental health supports, and school environments that reflect dignity and care.

The message was clear: students are deeply invested in their education and want schools that support their well-being, challenge their thinking, and prepare them for life beyond the classroom.

A sincere thank you to Taysia Nasby, Ava Buckingham, Leah Sargent, Kiara Suteau, Deagan Schaan, Anha Valliere, Ava Rigden, and Kendyl Wilson for representing student voice and sharing their perspectives with the Board.

Delegation – Transportation Supervisor, Virginia Calvert

NWSA's Transportation team continues to provide safe and reliable service for students across the division, transporting over 2,500 students daily on 92 routes and completing more than 9,400 runs between December and February.

Despite strong operational performance, the department continues to face challenges with driver shortages, which accounted for the majority of route cancellations this winter. Recruitment remains a key priority, with new drivers hired and several currently in training.

The division's fleet includes 129 buses, operating at approximately 85% capacity, with an ongoing focus on maintenance, safety, and long-term replacement planning. The Transportation team continues to exceed provincial expectations in safety monitoring, maintaining a strong carrier safety rating and actively tracking and resolving concerns.

Financially, the department remains on budget for the 2025–2026 school year. The division has also explored the potential for contracted transportation services; however, after reviewing projected costs, it was determined that maintaining in-house transportation remains significantly more cost-effective.

Transportation remains focused on driver recruitment, efficiency, and long-term planning to ensure students continue to arrive at school safely and ready to learn.

Delegation – Superintendent of Student Services, Jennifer Dorval

Student Support Services continues to play a critical role in supporting students across NWSD, with a strong focus on collaboration, relationships, and responsive programming to meet increasingly complex needs.

This year, 318 students (approximately 8% of the student population) are supported through Inclusion & Intervention Plans (IIPs), continuing a steady rise over the past decade despite declining overall enrolment. This trend reflects growing complexity in student needs and places ongoing pressure on staffing and resources.

To support these students:

- The division employs 117.8 FTE Educational Assistants, prioritizing health, safety, and high-needs support in schools.
- Wellness Coordinators provide vital supports in areas such as mental health, self-regulation, nutrition programs, and school-wide wellness initiatives.
- A multidisciplinary team—including speech-language pathologists, occupational therapists, psychologists, counsellors, and a family advocate—works alongside school staff to provide comprehensive supports for students and families.

Mental health remains a key focus, with counsellors supporting students through individual, small group, and classroom-based interventions. Counsellors also respond to critical incidents and support students dealing with trauma, anxiety, grief, and emotional regulation.

Additional highlights include:

- 477 family referrals supported by the Family Advocate since 2021, strengthening connections between home and school.
- Ongoing implementation of Violence Threat Risk Assessment (VTRA) training and protocols to ensure safe and coordinated responses to potential risks.
- Continued growth in English as an Additional Language (EAL) programming, with 62 students currently supported across the division.
- Investment in specialized programming, including a Specialized Support Classroom Model in Turtleford, supported by \$325,000 in provincial funding to enhance student learning environments. This is part of a pilot program from the Ministry, and Turtleford School is the first in NWSD to have a Specialized Support Classroom.

The work of Student Support Services is grounded in strong partnerships—with schools, families, and community agencies—reinforcing the division’s commitment to ensuring every student feels supported, safe, and able to succeed.

Michif Language Kindergarten

The Board of Education approved the continuation of the Michif Language Kindergarten classroom at Lakeview Elementary School, contingent on the ongoing funding and partnership with Métis Nation–Saskatchewan. This program continues to support language revitalization and provides students with meaningful opportunities to engage in Michif language and culture through early learning experiences.

Northwest School Division Supports Saskatchewan Winter Games

Northwest School Division played a vital role in the success of the Saskatchewan Winter Games, proudly hosted by the City of Meadow Lake and Flying Dust First Nation. Division facilities were central to the event, serving as Athlete Villages and hosting a number of sport competitions throughout the week. Through this partnership, schools that served as Athlete Villages also benefited from minor upgrades to washroom/changeroom facilities.

NWSD also supported athlete transportation by providing buses and drivers, ensuring participants moved safely and efficiently between venues. Many members of the Host Committee were NWSD staff, contributing their time, expertise, and leadership in planning and delivering a high-quality event. In addition, dozens of division employees volunteered in a wide range of roles to support the Games.

The success of the 2026 Saskatchewan Winter Games was truly a community effort, and NWSD's contributions were instrumental in making the event possible.

Celebrations

Hillmond Central School Celebrations

Hillmond Central School continues to find meaningful ways to build community and celebrate student success.

Recently, students at HCS shared a thoughtful act of kindness by leaving handwritten messages and paper roses at the local bowling alley for seniors participating in their league. The surprise was warmly received, with many seniors expressing how much the gesture brightened their day.

HCS is also celebrating a major athletic milestone, as their mixed doubles curling team qualified for and competed in the SHSAA Provincial Curling Championship in Estevan—marking a first for the school.

Pink Shirt Day at Marshall School

Marshall School brought meaningful learning and reflection to Pink Shirt Day by connecting it to the Seven Sacred Teachings. Their student FNMI group took a leadership role, guiding activities for their peers and helping deepen understanding of respect, kindness, and community.

A highlight of the day was a sharing circle, where students had the opportunity to reflect, listen, and learn from one another in a safe and supportive space. Through this student-led approach, Marshall School created a powerful experience that reinforced the importance of empathy and living the teachings every day.

First Aid at Turtleford School

Grade 11 students at Turtleford School recently had the opportunity to complete First Aid training, led by teacher Colin Rudolph. This provided students with practical skills they can use in everyday situations.

Mr. Rudolph also chose to donate his instructional costs, helping keep fees low and making the training more accessible for students.

Indigenous Education Leadership

Danene Kopperud, Indigenous Education Coordinator, recently presented at the LEADS Spring Conference—the professional organization for Superintendents and Directors in Saskatchewan. She shared a professional development session highlighting the important work taking place in Northwest School Division.

NWSD is proud of the leadership Danene continues to provide in Indigenous Education, both within the division and through her contributions at the provincial level.

Student Ski Trips

Students across Northwest School Division have been enjoying ski trips over the past month, with Marshall School recently heading to Table Mountain for their annual trip.

A highlight of the day was seeing inclusive opportunities in action, as a student who uses a wheelchair was able to fully participate in skiing with the support of a ski chair. It was a great example of how creating accessible experiences allows all students to be part of these memorable opportunities.

Band Trip Experience

Students from Carpenter High School and Ernie Studer School recently travelled to Saskatoon for a band trip that combined performance and learning.

While in the city, students attended the symphony and participated in a workshop at the University of Saskatchewan, gaining valuable insight and experience to support their growth as musicians.

Green Acre Open House

Green Acre Elementary School is partnering with their School Community Council to host an Open House on April 17. The event will provide an opportunity for prospective students and families to visit the school, explore the learning environment, and meet staff.

March Board Highlights



Next meeting date: April 14, 2026.