

Meeting Date: June 11, 2026

Delegation – NWTA President Alan Robbins and Vice President Leighton Chiverton

Northwest Teachers' Association (NWTA) President Alan Robbins and Vice President Leighton Chiverton attended the June Board of Education meeting as a delegation and shared the results of a recent member survey. The survey highlighted teacher perspectives on student behaviour, student readiness, classroom supports, staff workload, staffing challenges, and teacher recruitment and retention. Teachers identified concerns related to increasing behavioural needs, attendance, social-emotional development, classroom complexity, substitute shortages, and access to educational assistant support. The delegation also noted positive feedback regarding leadership visibility and the wide range of extracurricular opportunities available to students across the division.

Trustees appreciated the candid feedback and the opportunity to hear directly from teachers about the challenges and successes being experienced in schools. The Board expressed its commitment to ongoing collaboration with the NWTA and acknowledged the importance of working together to support student success, staff well-being, and the continued strength of Northwest School Division schools.

Delegation – Personnel Accountability Report, Deputy Director of Education Davin Hildebrand

Deputy Director of Education Davin Hildebrand presented the annual Human Resources Report, highlighting the work undertaken to recruit, hire, and support staff across Northwest School Division. During the 2025-2026 school year, the division attended recruitment fairs at post-secondary institutions across Saskatchewan, Alberta, and Nova Scotia, helping to attract new employees to the division. Northwest School Division welcomed five first-year teachers this year and issued contracts to numerous support staff, including educational assistants, bus drivers, library technicians, school administrative assistants, and wellness staff.

The report also highlighted the division's commitment to developing future educators through student teacher placements from the University of Saskatchewan and University of Regina. Human Resources continues to support schools and departments through staffing, employee relations, labour management, wellness initiatives, and professional certification requirements.

Trustees also recognized the contributions of employees celebrated at the 2026 NWSD Gala, including 104 staff members reaching service milestones and 22 retirees whose years of dedication have positively impacted students, schools, and communities across the division.

Business Case Plan

The Board of Education received an update that Northwest School Division has issued a tender for the development of a business case supporting the consolidation of Meadow Lake's elementary and middle schools into a single new Pre-Kindergarten to Grade 8 school. A business case is an important supporting document used when requesting capital funding from the Ministry of Education and is one of several factors considered in evaluating future school construction and replacement projects. The completed business case will help demonstrate the educational, operational, and community benefits of a new school in Meadow Lake. The division anticipates the business case will be completed by the end of August and will strengthen its ongoing advocacy efforts in advocating for a new school facility.

Board Trustee Resignation and Appointment of Returning Officer

The Board of Education formally accepted the resignation of trustee Laurel Pauls, who represented Subdivision 6. Trustees thanked Laurel for her service and contributions to public education during her time on the Board.

To begin the process of filling the vacancy, the Board appointed Michelle Pickett, Chief Financial Officer, as Returning Officer for an upcoming by-election. A date for the by-election has not yet been established and will be determined at a future Board meeting. In accordance with provincial regulations, a by-election must be held within six months of the date of the trustee's resignation.

Annual Budget Approved

The Board of Education approved the 2026-2027 operating budget, continuing Northwest School Division's commitment to a multi-year plan to restore long-term financial sustainability while maintaining a focus on student learning and well-being. The budget reflects a number of difficult decisions, including staffing and operational adjustments, as the division works to align expenditures with declining student enrolment and address ongoing financial pressures that have accumulated over time. Trustees noted that these changes are part of a broader three- to five-year plan to return the division to a balanced and sustainable financial position.

Despite these challenges, the budget continues to prioritize classrooms and student supports. Approximately 65 percent of all expenditures remain dedicated to instruction and student-facing services. Investments will continue in classroom complexity supports, educational assistants, student services, mental health supports, technology, facility maintenance, and student transportation. The budget also includes funding for additional classroom complexity supports and targeted interventions to help schools respond to increasingly diverse student needs.

The 2026-2027 budget is based on projected enrolment of 4,456 students across the division's 22 schools. Trustees emphasized that responsible stewardship of public funds requires balancing today's needs with long-term sustainability, ensuring Northwest School

Division remains well-positioned to provide high-quality educational opportunities for students for years to come. The Board remains committed to a transparent budget process and will continue to share additional information and detailed budget breakdowns with staff, families, school communities, and other stakeholders throughout the coming weeks.

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

Live Well Golf Challenge

Staff from across Northwest School Division gathered at Mervin Golf Course on May 30 for the annual Live Well Golf Challenge. The event provided an opportunity for staff to connect, enjoy the outdoors, and support employee wellness as the school year winds down.

Track & Field Success

Congratulations to the dozens of NWSA student-athletes who qualified for and competed at SHSAA Provincial Track and Field Championships. Special congratulations to medalists Alyssa Doud (Maidstone High School), Rumer Robertson (Pierceland Central School), Nixon Gabruck (Turtleford School), Vivie Lavallee (Carpenter High School), Jace Newport (Neilburg Composite School), and Aiden Kappel (H. Hardcastle School). H. Hardcastle School also earned an impressive second-place finish among 1A schools and placed 37th overall out of nearly 200 schools in the province.

I Can Games

More than 200 athletes from Northwest School Division and surrounding communities participated in the annual I Can Games in Turtleford. The event celebrates the abilities of all students in a fun, inclusive environment and continues to be one of the most anticipated events of the year thanks to the many volunteers, sponsors, and community partners who make it possible.

Michif Sashing Ceremony

The Lakeview Michif Kindergarten students proudly received their Métis sashes during a special Sashing Ceremony. Grade 1 Michif students shared cultural performances, while graduating students were presented with graduation sashes by Métis Nation–Saskatchewan Western Region 1 representative Loretta King.

Teacher Innovation Grant

Congratulations to Carpenter High School teacher Denika Baer, who was awarded a \$75,000 Teacher Innovation Grant through the Ministry of Education's Teacher Innovation and Support Fund. The funding will support the development of a Sensory and Life Skills Simulation Lab, with work beginning immediately and plans for students to benefit from the space next school year.

Reset Room Open House

Turtleford Transition School plan to welcome families and community members to an open house showcasing its new Reset Room on June 19. The space is designed to support student well-being, self-regulation, and positive learning experiences.

J.H. Moore Playground Project

The J.H. Moore School Community Council successfully completed its fundraising campaign for a new playground, raising more than \$240,000. The new playground will be installed over the summer and will provide students with a fantastic new space to learn and play.

Outdoor Education Opportunities

Carpenter High School students enjoyed a variety of outdoor learning experiences this June, including the annual canoe trip and a Grade 9 land-based learning day at Gladue Lake. These experiences help students build skills, connections, and lasting memories outside the classroom.

New Student Clubs at Paradise Hill School

Students at Paradise Hill School embraced new opportunities this year through the launch of a Gardening Club and Cooking Club. These programs provided hands-on learning experiences while helping students develop practical life skills.

Community Appreciation in St. Walburg

The St. Walburg School Community Council hosted a community barbecue to thank local residents, businesses, and organizations for their ongoing support of the school and its students.

Wildlife First Aid Certification

Students in Turtleford School's Wildlife Management class earned Wildlife First Aid certification this spring. The certification provides valuable skills and knowledge for students interested in outdoor recreation, conservation, and environmental stewardship.

Science Learning Resources

Students at Jubilee Elementary School and Jonas Samson Middle School had the opportunity to explore science concepts using hands-on learning resources and science tubs provided through the University of Saskatchewan. These resources helped bring science learning to life in the classroom.

Tipi Pole Project at TPEC

Students at Transition Place Education Centre worked alongside an Elder to harvest tamarack trees and prepare them for use as tipi poles. The project provided meaningful opportunities for land-based learning, cultural knowledge sharing, and skill development.

Terry Fox School Run Leaders

Congratulations to Paradise Hill School and Pierceland Central School, which were recognized as Northwest School Division's top Terry Fox School Run fundraisers for 2025 and among the top fundraising schools in Saskatchewan. Paradise Hill School raised \$6,710.15, while Pierceland Central School raised \$5,837.25. Over 45 years of participation, Pierceland Central School has raised more than \$180,000 for cancer research.

Doctorate Achievement

Congratulations to Superintendent of Learning Cheryl Treptow on earning her Doctor of

Education degree. This significant accomplishment reflects her commitment to lifelong learning and educational leadership.

RM of Wilton Partnership Meeting

Director of Education Jennifer Williamson, Chief Financial Officer Michelle Pickett, and Board Vice-Chair Kristen McGowan recently met with the RM of Wilton Council. The productive discussion focused on opportunities for collaboration and strengthening partnerships that benefit students and communities.

Next meeting date: August 13, 2026.