

Meeting Date: February 12, 2026

Delegation – Dawn Paylor, Superintendent of Learning, Provincial Education Plan Update

Administration provided trustees with an update on the Provincial Education Plan and the work underway in Northwest School Division to support student success across the priority areas of learning and assessment, Indigenous education, mental health and well-being, and student transitions.

Student Success and Graduation

NWSD continues to see strong graduation outcomes. The division's 3-year graduation rate is 81.8% and the 5-year rate is 90.6%, both above the provincial average. Graduation rates for First Nations, Métis and Inuit students in NWSD also remain significantly higher than the provincial average.

Engaging Learning Opportunities

Schools are offering a wide range of learning experiences that connect to students' interests and future goals. Students are exploring courses such as Sports Psychology, Mental Wellness, Creative Writing, and Psychology, along with hands-on programming in areas like agriculture mechanics, agriculture production, auto body theory, hockey skills, and baseball skills. Opportunities for apprenticeship credits, volunteerism, and special projects are also helping students gain valuable real-world experience while earning credits toward graduation.

Supporting Early Learners

Early Years data shows that 43% of students demonstrate readiness for Grade 1, consistent with previous years. NWSD continues to strengthen partnerships with early learning providers to support literacy, numeracy, and problem-solving skills before students enter school.

Indigenous Education and Partnerships

Schools across the division continue to provide meaningful opportunities for students to learn through Indigenous perspectives and land-based experiences. This year, schools hosted 46 Elder visits and 53 land-based learning opportunities, along with student culture and leadership camps and partnerships with several First Nations communities.

Student Belonging and Well-Being

Survey results show positive growth in students' sense of belonging at school, with 73% of students reporting a high sense of belonging, up from 69% last year. Schools are strengthening connections through mentorship, clubs and activities, student voice initiatives, and daily relationship-building practices in classrooms.

Supporting Safe School Environments

Students' sense of safety is also improving. The percentage of students who report feeling safe before, during, and after school has increased from **53% to 58%**. Schools

continue to focus on student advocacy, increased supervision, wellness routines, and opportunities for students to share their voice.

NWSD Staff Supporting Provincial Work

NWSD educators continue to contribute to provincial initiatives, with 10 teachers involved in assessment development and validation and 8 teachers participating in curriculum writing and pilot projects.

French Immersion Designation

School division leadership met with staff and parents from Canadian Parents for French – Meadow Lake to discuss the school division’s capacity to continue offering French Immersion programming in Northwest School Division. Following these discussions, and based on a recommendation from administration, the Board of Education has approved offering French Immersion from Grade 5–12 for the 2026–2027 school year.

The school division continues to actively recruit qualified staff for the program. If additional teachers are successfully hired, there remains the possibility of offering a full K–12 French Immersion program.

Academic Calendar 2026-2027

The Board of Education has approved the 2026–2027 academic calendar for Northwest School Division. Staff had the opportunity to vote between calendar options that were jointly developed by division administration and representatives from the North West Teachers’ Association. The approved calendar outlines key dates for the upcoming school year, including the first and last day of classes, holidays, and professional development days. Families and staff can view the full calendar on the Northwest School Division website.

SCC Engagement

Following feedback from School Community Council (SCC) leaders across the division, the Board of Education has decided to move planning an SCC engagement event to this fall. The event will provide an opportunity for SCC members to connect with trustees and division leadership, share perspectives from their school communities, and discuss topics that support strong partnerships between schools, families, and the division.

Enterprise Risk Management

Senior administration is undertaking an evaluation of enterprise risk management within Northwest School Division. This work will help identify and assess key risks across the organization and ensure appropriate strategies are in place to support effective planning and decision-making. Administration will continue to work with the Board of Education as this evaluation progresses.

Celebrations

Junior Basketball Districts

Junior Basketball Districts wrapped up the season just before the February break, with several Northwest School Division schools hosting and competing. La Loche hosted both boys' and girls' teams from Meadow Lake, with four NWSA teachers serving as the officiating crew. In 1A Girls Districts, hosted in Paradise Hill, Maidstone captured the championship while Paradise Hill earned the silver medal. Chief Napew School hosted the 1A Boys Districts, where the Hillmond boys' team claimed the district championship. Congratulations to all of the athletes, coaches, officials, and host schools who helped make the events a success.

Winter Culture Camps

Northwest School Division hosted Winter Culture Camps for students in both the north and south parts of the division, providing meaningful opportunities to learn through culture, land-based experiences, and storytelling. Students in the south attended the camp at Poundmaker First Nation's Museum and Gallery, while students in the north gathered at Waters Edge Eco Lodge at Waterhen Lake.

Throughout the camps, students and teachers had the opportunity to try Moose Hair Tufting, participate in winter land-based learning activities such as snowshoeing and snaring, and take part in storytelling sessions with Knowledge Keepers and Elders.

A special thank you to Danene Kopperud, Indigenous Education Coordinator, for her leadership and work in planning these enriching experiences for students and staff across the division.

Celebrating Success at TPEC

Trustees celebrated the continued progress at TPEC, where graduation rates have increased significantly in recent years. The school's 3-year graduation rate has grown from 0% in 2018 to 44% today, reflecting the dedication of students, staff, and the community in supporting student success. The 5-year graduation rate has also seen significant improvement, highlighting the impact of ongoing efforts to support students on their path to graduation.

Celebrating Leadership in Service Mapping

Trustees recognized Cheryl Treptow, Superintendent of Learning, for her leadership in undertaking a significant project to map services across the Northwest School Division region. This work helps provide a clearer picture of the supports available to students and families and strengthens collaboration with community partners. Cheryl's efforts have been recognized by the Ministry of Education, which has invited her to present the work as an example for other school divisions across the province. Congratulations to Cheryl on this outstanding work and the positive impact it will have for students and communities.

CHS Robotics Team Competes

Trustees celebrated the work of students at Carpenter High School who are

participating in a robotics program led by a new teacher at the school. The team recently attended a robotics competition, showcasing their creativity, problem-solving, and teamwork. The program has also received support through a grant from SaskEnergy, helping provide resources and opportunities for students to explore robotics and technology. Congratulations to the students and their teacher for their initiative and hard work.

Staff Appreciation Week

Trustees shared their appreciation for the many ways schools and communities came together to celebrate Staff Appreciation Week across the division. The fruit trays provided by the school division were warmly received by staff and were a thoughtful gesture of appreciation. Schools also organized a variety of celebrations, with School Community Councils helping facilitate activities and many families, students, and community members sharing social media shout-outs recognizing the incredible work of NWSD staff.

HOOPLA Officiating Recognition

Trustees recognized Dave Pero for his nomination to officiate at HOOPLA, the SHSAA Basketball Provincials (HOOPLA), this year. This marks Dave's fourth nomination to officiate at the provincial championships—an honour that reflects his skill, professionalism, and commitment to school athletics. Congratulations to Dave on this well-deserved recognition and for representing Northwest School Division on the provincial stage.

HR Recruitment Efforts

Trustees heard about recent recruitment efforts by the Human Resources team, who attended a job fair at the Sask Polytechnic campus in Saskatoon. The team connected with many students and graduates interested in opportunities outside of teaching, including roles that support the operation of schools and division services. These conversations were a great opportunity to showcase Northwest School Division as an employer, and the division is hopeful that the outreach will lead to positive outcomes in attracting recent graduates to non-teaching positions.

Appreciation for Mr. Snodgrass

Trustees shared a message of appreciation from parents recognizing Mr. Snodgrass at Carpenter High School for the support he provides to students working through online courses. Families noted how much they value his guidance in helping students manage their workload and stay on track with their learning. His support has made a meaningful difference for students as they navigate their coursework.

Rapid View SCC – Small but Mighty

Trustees celebrated the efforts of the **Rapid View School Community Council**, recognizing the group as “small but mighty.” Despite their small size, the SCC has been hosting a number of events for the school community, many of which have seen excellent turnout. Their dedication and enthusiasm continue to create meaningful opportunities for families and the community to connect with the school.

Winter Festivals at Turtleford School

Trustees celebrated Turtleford School for hosting two Winter Festivals—one for high school students and another for elementary students. Both events brought students together for a variety of fun outdoor activities, helping students embrace the winter season while building school spirit and community.

Pen Pals Across Schools

Trustees celebrated a heartwarming connection created through the work of Occupational Therapist Ashley Devoe, who helped facilitate a pen pal relationship between a Grade 6 student at J.H. Moore School and a Grade 7 student in Paradise Hill. The students have been writing letters back and forth, with Ashley delivering the messages between schools. Both students are excited each time a new letter arrives, and the exchange has sparked the beginning of a wonderful friendship.

Next meeting date: March 12.