



FRONTIER
SCHOOL DIVISION
Excellence and Experience in Education

The Northerner

**Frontier School Division
Board Activity Report**

**2022
2023**

Board of Trustees



Top row: Charlene Throop (Area 5, Norway House), Howard Sanderson (Area 2, Waterhen), Hilbert Mosiondz (Area 1, Wabowden)

Middle row: Tanya Friesen (Area 3, Bissett), Marion Pearson, Vice-Chairperson (Area 4, Cranberry Portage), Mike Muswagon (Area 5, Norway House)

Bottom row: Donna Calvert (Area 4, Sherridon), Linda Ballantyne, Chairperson (Area 2, Grand Rapids), Marg Imrie (Area 3, Falcon Beach)



Missing from group photo, Trustee Graeme Montgomery (Area 1, South Indian Lake)

Introduction

Reconnecting, Learning and Moving Forward

The 2022-23 academic year brought around another opportunity to continue to bounce back from the COVID-19 pandemic. With in-person learning and activities back in full swing, students, teachers, staff and community were able to benefit from programs and togetherness.

We are extremely proud of our students for their resiliency throughout the pandemic and now, with a return to school, they demonstrate an eagerness to participate in all activities, both in and outside the classroom. There is a renewed excitement to learn and participate in Academics, Indigenous Way of Life activities, and Wellness activities.

We are grateful for every person throughout our Division who has given time and energy to expanding programs and activities to offer more

experiences to students and their communities. This Division only improves when we all work together.

Linda Ballantyne, Chairperson Frontier School Division Board of Trustees



Accountability to Provincial Government

One of the key roles your Frontier School Board plays is in making sure that we do the job we were elected to do – especially when it comes to how our job is outlined in The Public Schools Act of Manitoba.

It's about making sure our policies, practices, and curriculum are both compliant with the law and progressive. It's about ensuring education for every student meets the highest standards possible. And it's about doing it all in tandem with our own Division's strategic plans and initiatives.

This past year, accomplishments in this area include:

- Approval of the School Year Calendar for 2023-24
- Confirmed meeting calendar for 2023-24
- Approval of the Division's Budget for 2023/24 (see Fiscal)
- Confirmation of the following Board committees:
 - Finance Committee: Trustees Calvert, Imrie and Mosiondz, and Chairperson Ballantyne, with Trustee Imrie elected as Chairperson for this committee
 - Policy Review Committee: Trustees Montgomery, Sanderson, Throop and Chairperson Ballantyne
 - Employee Pension Committee: Trustees Imrie, Sanderson and Vice-Chairperson Pearson
 - Support Staff Liaison Committee: Trustee Montgomery and Chairperson Ballantyne
 - Employee Benefits Committee: Trustee Friesen
 - Frontier Collegiate Advisory Committee: Vice-Chairperson Pearson
 - Nikanihk Ohci Foundation Inc. Board of Directors: Area 1 Trustee Mosiondz, Area 2 Trustee Sanderson, Area 3 Trustee Friesen, Area 4 Trustee Calvert, Area 5 Trustee Throop
 - Awards Panel: Trustee Muswagon, Board Chairperson Ballantyne, Board Vice-Chairperson Pearson
 - Special Leave Sub-Committee: Trustees Montgomery and Muswagon
 - Divisional Hiring Committee for P.E.N.T.: Trustees Friesen and Throop
- Approval of the 2023 Special Mill Levy Rate (see Fiscal)
- The Board approved the temporary closure of Pikwitonei School effective June 30, 2023 with notification forwarded to the Minister of Education



Accountability to the Community

Because our communities elect us, we have a responsibility to everyone in that community circle. We are accountable to our communities. And it's because of that responsibility and need for accountability we actively encourage community involvement, from parents and families, community leaders, and everyone who values education.

Included among the accomplishments in this area over the past year are:

- The Board ratified a number of higher care school trips:
 - Barrows Junction
 - Berens River
 - Chan Kagma Otina Dakota Wayawa Tipi School
 - Cranberry Portage Elementary
 - D.R. Hamilton School
 - Dauphin River
 - Duke of Marlborough
 - Falcon Beach
 - Frontier Collegiate (3 trips)
 - Frontier Mosakahiken
 - Gillam School
 - Grand Rapids
 - Helen Betty Osborne Ininiw Education Resource Centre
 - Jack River
 - Lakefront
 - Matheson Island
 - Mel Johnson
 - Ministic
 - Peonan Point School
 - San Antonio
 - Skownan School
 - Stevenson Island
 - Thicket Portage
 - Thunderbird
 - West Lynn Heights School
- The Board approved several higher care school trips:
 - Berens River
 - Frontier Collegiate



- Frontier Mosakahiken
- Helen Betty Osborne Ininiw Education Resource Centre
- Jack River
- Julie Lindal
- Peonan Point
- San Antonio
- Skownan
- Stevenson Island
- Wanipigow
- The Board ratified several higher care trip requests:
 - Grand Rapids School for the 2022-23 school year
 - Helen Betty Osborne Ininiw Education Resource Centre
- Approved a number of higher care trip requests:
 - Beren River
 - Brochet School
 - Cranberry Portage Elementary School
 - Falcon Beach School
 - Frontier Collegiate
 - Frontier Mosakahiken School
 - Gillam School
 - Helen Betty Osborne Ininiw Education Resource Centre
 - Jack River School
 - Peonan Point School
 - Skownan School
 - Wanipigow School

The Board discussed Manitoba Physical Activity Safety in Schools (MPASS) program and its potential effects on higher care trips.

Accountability to Policy

In the Frontier School Division, we believe that policy should be directed by people, not politics. Because the world changes, and we need to change with it. Like our students, we need to grow and keep learning. That is why we look to the needs of our community circle to help us shape and refine every policy we put in place.

Board accomplishments related to policy over the past year included:

- Trustee Montgomery was named as Policy Review Committee representative for the Divisional Support Staff Liaison Committee
- The Board approved twenty-two (22) applications for Special Leave for 2023-2024
- The Board approved new and revised policies for implementation:
 - A.1.H—Public Interest Disclosure and Whistleblower Protection (Policy and Regulation)

- C.2.L—Security Cameras in Schools (Policy, Regulation and Exhibit)
- E.1.H—Use of Information and Communication Technology (ICT) — Personnel (Policy and Regulation)
- E.3.D-R — Special Leave Teaching Staff (Regulation) and rescind Exhibit E.3.N-EX2 Confirmation of Special Leave (form)
- F.1.L-R — Use of Information and Communication Technology (ICT)—Students (Regulation)
- G.1.O— Seclusion/Restraint (Policy, Regulation and Exhibit)
- C.2.M—Smudging (Policy, Regulation and Exhibit)
- E.5.E—Employee Health and Safety—Alcohol and Drug Free Workplaces (Policy, Regulation)
- G.1.A-EX1—Code of Conduct and Emergency Response Plan Checklist for Principals (Exhibit)
- G.1.F—Substances, Drugs and Alcohol on Division Property (Policy, Regulation)
- G.1.N—Smoking on School Division Property—Students (Policy)

- The Board approved a number of new or revised policies for distribution/feedback with distribution taking place early in the new school year:

- E.1.H.1—Use of Social Media (Policy, Regulation)
- C.2.L—Security Cameras in Schools (Policy, Regulation, Exhibit)
- E.1.N.1—Smoking on School Division Property—Employees and User Groups (Policy)



Accountability in Finances

When it comes to the Division's budget, the buck stops with the Board. One of our biggest roles is making sure public funds are being used appropriately and in a way that gets the most for every dollar we spend. To do so, we have to look at how money is spent in our classrooms, and how it is being used to support our focus areas of academics, the Indigenous way of life, and wellness. We owe it to every person who pays taxes to make sure that their money is being put toward education, and that they see the return on that investment in the success of every student.

Approval of the audited financial statements for the year ended June 30, 2022

The Board approved a recommendation from the Finance Committee and appointed the auditing firm of Deloitte as Division Auditor for 2022-23

The Board approved the Division Budget for 2023-24. The Budget is based on the Division's Strategic Plan and provides continued emphasis on the three focus areas: Academics, Indigenous Way of Life, and Wellness

Mill Rate of 12.4222 mils to be used for the 2023 Special Levy

The Board approved a recommendation from their Employee Pension Committee for Statement of Investment Policies and Procedures amendment to the Pension Plan

Effective November 1, 2022, the Board approved a one percent cost of living adjustment to the Trustee Indemnity for the period July 1, 2017 to June 30, 2022; and the Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson indemnity will be adjusted based upon market rates

The Board approved the incentive payment to new teachers hired, to include all new teachers for the 2022-23 academic year who meet eligibility requirements

Effective March 14, 2023, the Board approved the appointment of Interim Secretary-Treasurer Critchley to Acting Secretary-Treasurer including signatory responsibilities

The Board received reports from the following committees:

- Finance
- N.O.F.I Board of Directors
- Employee Pension
- Divisional P.E.N.T. Hiring
- Support Staff Liaison
- F.S.D./F.T.A
- Policy Review



Accountability through Strategic Planning

A strategic plan lays the path we follow in all we do in the Frontier School Division. Sometimes, the path changes direction based on new educational initiatives, government policies, or financial situations. Sometimes, it changes through something we could never predict – like COVID-19. But no matter what changes need to be put in place, no matter what new direction we find ourselves going in, our strategic plan keeps us all on the same path, walking toward the same destination: the best education possible.

This past year, Board accomplishments related to strategic planning included:

- The Board confirmed support of the Wellness focus area with recruitment of Assistant Superintendent Student Services/Wellness for greater support in the areas of Student Services, Counselling, and Jordan's Principle programming.
- Reports from Superintendents:
 - Finance
 - Support Staff Liaison
 - Employee Pension Committee
 - N.O.F.I. Board of Directors
 - Teacher recruitment initiatives.
 - The Engaged Learners Program
 - F.S.D./F.T.A. Liaison Committee
- The Board discussed the 2023 Annual School Committee Conference
- Met with Senior Administration leadership team to discuss Manitoba Education's Safe and Caring Schools strategy
- Met with Manitoba Education and Early Childhood Minister and Deputy Minister to share concerns for teacher recruitment, housing, community and school wellness.



Board and Superintendent Group Meeting

At every meeting of the Board and the Superintendent Group discussion takes place regarding the Strategic Plan and the three focus areas: Academics, Wellness, and Indigenous Way of Life.

Area 2, 4 and 5 Superintendents provided reports to the Board on the schools in their area including history, successes and challenges.

Area Advisory Committee Meeting Reports were provided by all Trustees.

Reviewed items from the Manitoba School Board Association.

Collective Bargaining

The Board received regular updates from their Collective Bargaining Team.

Education Partnership Renewed

The Board approved an updated Education Agreement with the Mosakahiken Cree Nation.

The Board approved an Educational Agreement with Marcel Colomb First Nation for First Nation students attending West Lynn Heights School.

Awards and Recognition

The Board approved recommendations from their Awards Panel for the 2023 Frontier Achievement Awards and the 2023 Awards for Outstanding Contribution — School Committee Members. Recipients were formally announced as part of the Annual School Committee Conference proceedings.

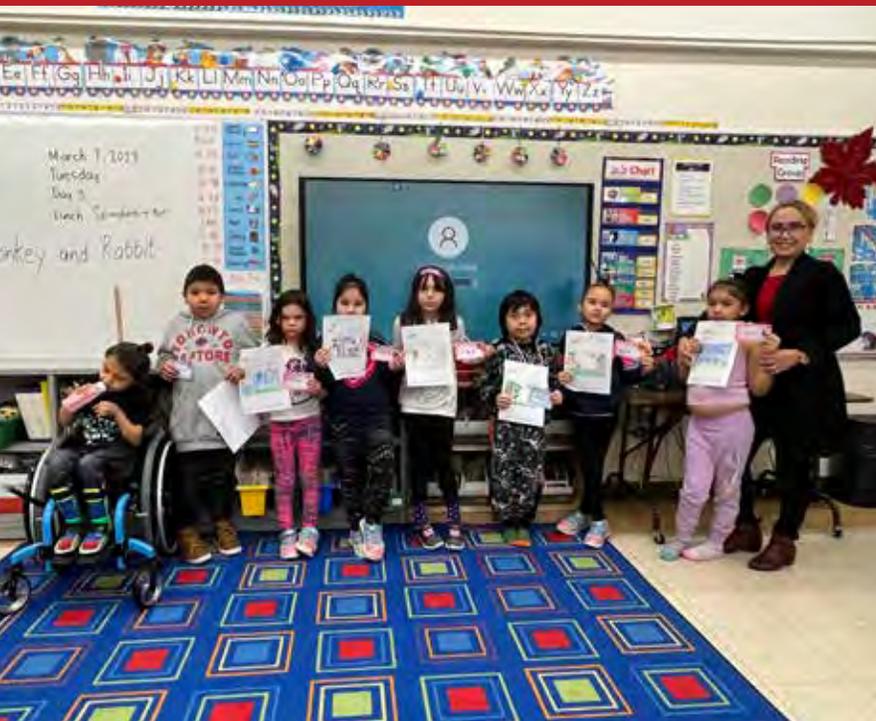
The Board is pleased to announce the three recipients of the 2023 Award for Outstanding Contribution – Employees: Lalaine Tugade, Angela Thiessen and Karen Batenchuk.



Summary

This school year has been a year of healing and growth for students, staff, and administrators. Our circle of family, friends and community continues to strengthen with the return to normalcy with in-person learning, meetings, and many educational outings. We continue to work together in commitment to our students in ensuring the best possible education.

Thank you for being part of our circle – and for helping make it stronger.







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