

## Good News Items

- Several trustees commented on the high quality Remembrance Day ceremonies held at Northern Lights schools on November 10. Many ceremonies included representatives from 4 Wing Cold Lake who shared their experiences with students.
- Vice-Chair Arlene Hrynyk congratulated J.A. Williams High School student Sarah Adil on being selected as Lac La Biche's Jr. Citizen of the Year. Sarah recently represented Northern Lights at the Public School Boards' Associations Student Voice symposium.
- Trustee Garry Kissel congratulated the Glendon Girls volleyball team on their recent participation in Provincials. Vice-Chair Arlene Hrynyk also congratulated the Plamondon Senior Boys and Girls volleyball teams on participating in Provincials.
- Wandering River School recently received a certificate from Alberta Premier Rachel Notley acknowledging them as Heroes of the Wildfire for going "above and beyond to help Albertans respond to and recover from the 2016 Wood Buffalo wildfire.
- The Board thanked Trustee Rod Soholt for his nine years of service on the Alberta School Boards' Insurance Exchange board.
- The Board congratulated the Division's Communications Department on winning a BRAVO Award from the Canadian Association of Communicators in Education for the Division's 2015 Community Update brochure.

## Audited Financial Statement

The Board reviewed and approved the Division's 2015-2016 Audited Financial Statement.

Northern Lights ended 2015-2016 with a \$1.5 million

surplus overall, due to surpluses in instruction, plant operations and maintenance, and board and system administration that were slightly offset by a deficit in transportation.

## Fall Budget Update

The Board reviewed and approved a revised 2016-2017 budget that was adjusted to reflect the Division's new enrollment numbers. Expenditures were also increased to implement strategies included in the Division's Three-Year Education Plan. The Division plans to have a deficit at the end of 2016-2017, which will be covered by reserves.

## AERR & Three-Year Education Plan

The Board reviewed a new combined Annual Education Results Report (AERR) and Three-Year Education Plan for the Division. Previously these were produced as separate documents.

The new combined documents takes a look back at the Division's accomplishments and results in 2015-2016 and looks forward with strategies that are being implemented to address Provincial outcomes and Division goals over the next three years.

Bill Driedger, Associate Superintendent - System Improvement, noted that Northern Lights improved significantly in five of the 16 Accountability Pillar measures, improved in one, maintained in eight, and declined in just one. In particular, Driedger highlighted the Continuous Improvement measure which has improved significantly in each of the last two years and now sits well above the provincial average.

The new documents outlines Alberta Education's outcomes and what strategies Northern Lights is using in those areas, as well as the Division's three goals and the strategies being used or implemented to address those areas. Northern Lights continues to focus on

the three goals developed as a results of its extensive stakeholder consultation process in 2014-2015. Those goals are: Literacy and Numeracy Competencies; Improved Communication, Engagement and Partnerships; and Health and Wellness.

The full plan is available on the Northern Lights website [www.nlsd.ab.ca](http://www.nlsd.ab.ca).

### Winter Wellness Extravaganza

The Board agreed to provide up to \$1,500 in financial support to the Winter Wellness Extravaganza being planned by the ATA Local.

### Next Board Meeting

The next Regular Board Meeting will take place on December 14 at Division Office in Bonnyville.

For more information on Northern Lights and our schools, please go to:

[www.nlsd.ab.ca](http://www.nlsd.ab.ca)

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