



Thursday, January 26, 2012

Transportation director makes recommendations to Board of Trustees regarding potential grade re-configuration in Whitecourt schools

Transportation director, Rhett Czaban, spoke to NGPS Board of Trustees at yesterday's board meeting, about what changes would need to be made to student bus transportation in Whitecourt, should the Board approve the proposed grade re-configuration at Pat Hardy and Central Elementary schools.

Adding two additional bus routes to accommodate riders, would allow Northern Gateway to transport all students to where they need to be with no increases to current ride times. In fact, ride times would improve by approximately five to eight minutes for some of the earliest boarding in-town riders.

Czaban commented, "Currently, students are bused from the valley up the hill to Pat Hardy, and from up the hill down to Whitecourt Central in the valley. With students attending either one or the other, we can streamline our bus service, eliminate repetitive service (busing students from both up the hill and in the valley to both Pat Hardy and Whitecourt Central), and improve efficiency overall."

The division currently has combined bus stops, where both elementary and Jr/Sr high students can board the school bus, and elementary only stops for students in Kindergarten and Grades 1 through 6. Many of the new elementary students who will be riding the bus live closest to the elementary only stops, and will use those stops. Those who live closer to combined bus stops would have the option of getting on the bus either at the combined stop, or the elementary only stops, should they prefer that option. Out-of-town students currently ride to school together (elementary, Jr and Sr high students) without issue or concern.

For more information please contact Rhett Czaban, Director of Transportation.

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