

# Northern Gateway Public Schools

*opening the gateway to a lifetime of learning*

## Board Synopsis

From August 23 meeting

For Immediate Release

### New Division Office

· The Board of Trustees held their 1<sup>st</sup> Board Meeting in the new Division Administration Building on August 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2011. The new Northern Gateway Public School building is located at 4816 – 49 Ave., Whitecourt, AB.

### Resignation of School Board Trustee

· At their regular Board meeting held on August 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2011, the Board of trustees accepted, with regret, the resignation of School Board Trustee Cheryl Miner. Ms. Miner was the trustee for Ward 1, Electoral Subdivision No. 3. The resignation is effective immediately.

### By-Election Date

· At their regular Board meeting held on August 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2011, the Board of trustees passed a motion to hold a By-election to fill the vacant trustee position for Ward 1, Electoral Subdivision No. 3. The By-election will be held on October 17<sup>th</sup>, 2011.

### ENCANA

· Administration is continuing discussions with Encana. Encana is exploring a pilot project to run school busses on natural gas. This project would involve some of Northern Gateway's busses on natural gas, in the Valleyview area.

There are about 75 natural gas school busses currently in use in Canada. Most of these busses are older aftermarket conversions of gasoline engines to bi-fuel natural gas/gasoline operation.

## A+ for Energy Program

· BP Canada Energy Company is a Canadian oil and gas company that is a subsidiary of British-owned BP p/c (formerly British Petroleum). The A+ Energy program was developed by BP to recognize teachers for innovation and excellence in teaching energy and/or energy conservation.

Since 2007, BP Canada has provided \$2 million to support 161 winning energy projects across Alberta, benefiting nearly 40,000 students.

In 2011 there were 31 projects across the province – two of these projects were from Northern Gateway's Fox Creek School. Project facilitators were Jennifer Ferguson and Kevin Thesen.

Jennifer Ferguson's project "Food for Thought" received a grant of \$7,000.00.

Fox Creek School will build and maintain a self-sufficient greenhouse in an effort to introduce a lifestyle to students who are from a community where gardening is not in the vocabulary. While the intention for this solar-powered greenhouse is to be far reaching in scope, this opportunity will inspire students and teachers to make connections to their curriculum and seek every opportunity to enrich their lives and community with energy literacy.

Kevin Thesen's project "Re-Juiced Beetle" received a grant of \$10,000.00.

In their first year with this project, Fox Creek School took on the task of converting a 1974 Volkswagen Beetle into an electric car. This year, with the addition of regenerative braking, more solar power and possibly wind generation, students will learn how they can really make a difference in the reduction of their carbon footprint by making the car 100 per cent self sufficient.

The Board congratulates Jennifer and Kevin for their initiative and innovation in promoting energy conservation with students and encourages other teachers across the Division to take up the energy conservation challenge through the "A+ for Energy" program.

The next regular Board meeting will take place Tuesday, September 13<sup>th</sup>, 2011 at 10:00 a.m. at the Division Office in Whitecourt. Members of the public are welcome to attend. For more information, please call (780) 778-2800 or toll free at 1-800-262-8674.

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