

# Northern Gateway Public Schools

*opening the gateway to a lifetime of learning*

## Board Synopsis

From December 13 meeting

For Immediate Release

### Notice of Motions

· At the December 13<sup>th</sup>, 2011 regular meeting, the Board of Trustees issued the following Notice of Motions, arising from the Annual School Operational Viability Report for the following Whitecourt schools:

*“That a Notice of Motion be issued indicating that Northern Gateway Regional Division # 10 Board of Trustees will consider a motion to close Grades 3, 4 and 5 at Pat Hardy Elementary School effective June 30<sup>th</sup>, 2012 in accordance with Board Policy 16 (School Closure) and Alberta Regulation 238/1997 (Closure of Schools Regulation) at a Board meeting to be held April 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2012.”*

*“That a Notice of Motion be issued indicating that Northern Gateway Regional Division # 10 Board of Trustees will consider a motion to close Grades K – 2 at Whitecourt Central Elementary School effective June 30<sup>th</sup>, 2012 in accordance with Board Policy 16 (School Closure) and Alberta Regulation 238/1997 (Closure of Schools Regulation) at a Board meeting to be held April 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2012.”*

The Division is contemplating reconfiguring grades in Pat Hardy Elementary School and Whitecourt Central Elementary School with the intent of creating a Pre-school to Grade 2 program at Pat Hardy Elementary and a Grade 3 – 5 program at Whitecourt Central Elementary. As this requires the moving of 3 grades from each school to the other, Provincial “School Closure” regulation must be followed, though it must be emphasized that neither Pat Hardy nor Whitecourt Central Elementary are closing.

There will be consultations held in the new year to gather and share information related to the programming change in Whitecourt Elementary Schools.

### Pilot Project at Fox Creek School

· The Board approved a pilot project for full-day kindergarten at Fox Creek School. This project was approved for one and a half years, to commence on January 9<sup>th</sup>, 2012. Annual evaluations of the project will be conducted to determine the success/satisfaction with the kindergarten program.

### Field Trips

· The Board approved in principle the Onoway High School out of province “Encounters with Canada” field trip to Ottawa, Canada, scheduled for April 1<sup>st</sup> – April 7<sup>th</sup>, 2012. Encounters with Canada, is our country’s largest and foremost youth forum. Every week of the school year, 120 to 148 teens from across Canada (ages 14 to 17) come to Ottawa. Here they discover their country through each other, learn about Canadian institutions, meet famous and accomplished Canadians, explore exciting career options, develop their civic leadership skills and live an extraordinary bilingual experience. Over 88,000 youth have lived the EWC experience, to date.

· The Board approved in principle the Hilltop High School’s Senior Boys and Girls Volleyball excursion to Honolulu, Hawaii, tentatively scheduled from October 6<sup>th</sup> – October 14<sup>th</sup>, 2012. Extracurricular activity, specifically sports, teaches life skills to students outside of the regular classroom setting. Representatives from Hilltop High have been invited to present to the Board of Trustees, further information on the Volleyball Tournament.

### Christmas Lunch

· Northern Gateway Division Office staff and the Board of Trustees enjoyed a lunch together to celebrate the Christmas season.

The next regular Board meeting will take place Tuesday, January 24<sup>th</sup>, 2012 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.

Box 840 ● Whitecourt, AB ● T7S 1N8 ● [www.ngrd.ab.ca](http://www.ngrd.ab.ca) ● [learn@ngrd.ab.ca](mailto:learn@ngrd.ab.ca)