



**FRONTIER**  
SCHOOL DIVISION  
Excellence and Experience in Education

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# The Northerner

**Frontier School Division  
Board Activity Report**

**2021  
2022**



**HOWARD SANDERSON**  
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**DARLENE OSBORNE**  
.....

**HILBERT MOSIONDZ**  
.....

**TANYA FRIESEN**  
.....

**GRAEME MONTGOMERY**  
.....

**LINDA BALLANTYNE**  
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**MARION PEARSON**  
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**KATHLEEN ETTAWACAPPO**  
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**DONNA CALVERT**  
.....

**MARG IMRIE**  
.....

## Introduction

### The Strength of our Circle: Resiliency

The 2021-2022 academic year brought us back to a certain degree of normalcy in our communities. With a return to in-person learning and activities, it was apparent just how resilient we are as we navigated our way through the numerous challenges brought on by the Pandemic. As always, there is still much to celebrate.

We are most proud of our students, for demonstrating adaptability and resiliency throughout the pandemic. Now, with a return to school this September, students are demonstrating 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.

Our communities, staff, and parents also demonstrated adaptability throughout the pandemic, with students often needing to learn from home. We are grateful for every person throughout our Division who despite the challenges, continued to carry out their duties during the Pandemic. We are so grateful for your commitment to our children and their education.

The reality of learning may look different moving forward, but with all of us being positive and working together to reach our goals, our schools and communities will be better for our students.

**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 2022/23
- Confirmed meeting calendar for 2022-23, including meeting with Superintendent Group, Annual School Committee conference and School Visits
- Approval of the Division's Budget for 2022/23 (see Fiscal)
- Approval of the Five Year Capital Plan (see Fiscal)
- Acclamation of Trustee Linda Ballantyne as Chairperson and Trustee Marion Pearson as Vice-Chairperson
- Confirmation of the following Board committees:
  - o Finance Committee - Trustees Imrie, Calvert and Mosiondz, and Board Chairperson
  - o Policy Review Committee - Vice-Chairperson Pearson, Trustees Montgomery and Osborne, and Board Chairperson
  - o Employee Pension Committee - Trustees Imrie, Pearson and Sanderson
  - o Support Staff Liaison Committee - Trustee Montgomery (from Policy) and Trustee Imrie (from Finance)
  - o Employee Benefits Committee - Trustee Friesen
  - o Frontier Collegiate School Committee - Vice-Chairperson Pearson
- o Nikahihk 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 Ettawacappo
- o Awards Panel - Trustee Friesen, Board Chairperson Ballantyne and Vice-Chairperson Pearson.
- o Special Leave Sub-Committee - Vice-Chairperson Pearson and Trustee Montgomery
- o Divisional Hiring Committee for P.E.N.T. - Trustees Friesen and Osborne
- o Lobbying Committee - Board Chairperson, Vice-Chairperson, Finance Committee Chairperson, Chief Superintendent, and the Secretary-Treasurer
- Approval of the 2022 Special Levy Mill Rate (see Fiscal)
- Approval of the amendments to The Retirement Plan for Employees of Frontier School Division (see Fiscal)
- Approval of the recommendation from their Finance Committee to appoint the auditing firm of Deloitte as Division Auditor for 2021/22. (As outlined in The Public Schools Act, the Minister of Education will be notified of this appointment).



## 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 that we actively encourage community involvement, from parents and families, community leaders, and everyone who values education.

We're also accountable for providing a safe learning environment. This has special meaning this year as we continue to live with COVID-19. Every school has been adjusting and adapting to keep everyone – staff, students, teachers, visitors – safe and healthy, from the moment they step onto school grounds to the moment they leave for home. We've followed every recommendation from the top health officials, and we'll keep adapting as new information comes out. Because safety and health directly impact learning.

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

- Ratification and approval of higher care (on the land learning) educational trips including canoeing and horseback riding instruction:
  - o Helen Betty Osborne Ininiw Education Resource Centre to travel to:
    - Joseph H. Kerr
    - Helen Betty Osborne Ininiw Education Resource Centre
    - Frontier Collegiate - blanket sports travel to Creighton, Saskatchewan for the 2021-22 school year
    - Engaged Learners Program for the school year, and trips in September and October for dormitory students
    - Falcon Beach School
  - o The Board ratified several higher care trip requests that took place in September/October:
    - Jack River School, September and early/mid-October
    - Helen Betty Osborne Ininiw Education Resource Centre, September and early/mid-October
    - Black River Anishinabe School, September and early/mid-October
    - Chan Kagha Otina Dakota Wayawa Tipi School, late October
    - Helen Betty Osborne Ininiw Education Resource Centre (January 31-February 25, 2022; and March 2-25, 2022)
    - Frontier Collegiate Dormitory (February 5-March 5, 2022; and February 19, 2022).
  - o The Board ratified a number of higher care trips that took place:
    - Falcon Beach, Peonan Point
    - Frontier Collegiate
    - Helen Betty Osborne Ininiw Education Resource Centre
    - Gypsumville
    - Matheson Island
    - Skownan
    - Jack River
    - Minegoziibe Anishinabe, Helen Betty Osborne Ininiw Education Resource Centre
    - Skownan
    - Gillam

- o The Board approved a number of higher care trips that are scheduled to take place:
    - Minegoziibe Anishinabe
    - Waterhen
    - Duck Bay
    - Grand Rapids
    - Helen Betty Osborne Ininiw Education Resource Centre
    - Jack River
  - o The Board approved a number of higher care trip requests:
    - Berens River School
    - Matheson Island School
    - San Antonio School
    - Skownan School
    - Peonan Point School
    - Frontier Mosakahiken School
    - Frontier Collegiate, Cold Lake School
    - Helen Betty Osborne Ininiw Education Resource Centre
    - Mosakahiken School
    - Gillam School
  - o Approved a number of new higher care trip requests :
    - Black River Anishinabe,
    - Jack River (2),
    - Philomene Chartrand,
    - Duke of Marlborough,
    - Matheson Island, Stevenson Island,
    - Helen Betty Osborne Ininiw Education Resource Centre (2),
    - Cold Lake, Minegoziibe Anishinabe,
    - Wanipigow, Falcon Beach).
  - o Approved request from Lakefront School to hold religious exercises for the 2021-22 school year.
  - o The Board approved “Thunderbird School” as the new school name for the school located in South Indian Lake, Manitoba.
  - o Participated in an online Celebration Activity with schools involved with the Educational Prosperity Program. Participating schools included:
    - D.R. Hamilton
    - Grand Rapids
    - Berens River
    - Black River Anishinabe
    - Cold Lake
    - Cormorant Lake
    - Cranberry Portage Elementary
    - Frontier Mosakahiken
    - Joseph H. Kerr
    - Staff from Areas 1, 2, 3, and 4
    - Representatives of The Learning Bar
  - o The Board reviewed and approved a request for refinements to the Frontier Collegiate Advisory Committee Constitution and Terms of Reference. The refinements were based upon the template documents approved by the Board in 2018.
  - o The Board finalized plans for the May 17-19, 2022 conference including their address to school committee delegates.
- The Board, Chief Superintendent Klassen and Secretary-Treasurer Spurrill provided regular updates and discussion regarding pandemic planning:
- o In-person learning, remote learning and community restrictions
  - o Directives for vaccination of students
  - o School trips off-site and overnight guidelines.
  - o Mask mandates
  - o COVID-19 impacts and effects on schools/ communities.

## 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:

- Approval for implementation of:
  - o G.1.A-R – A Safe and Inclusive Learning Environment
  - o G.1.A-EX1 – Code of Conduct and Emergency Response Plan Checklist for Principals (Regulation)
  - o C.2.L - Security Cameras in Schools
- Approval of policies for comment:
  - o A.1.H – Public Interest Disclosure and Whistleblower Protection

o C.2.M – Smudging

o E.1.H.1 – Employee Use of Social Media

o G.1.O – Seculsion/Restraint.

- Approved twenty (20) applications for Special Leave for 2022/23

## 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.



Key components of the 2021-2022 budget include:

- Academic Focus: continued emphasis on English Language Arts and Mathematics
- Way of Life Focus – cultural and language programs enhanced
- Wellness Focus – continued emphasis on well being

In addition to setting and monitoring the budget, the Board’s major accomplishments in this area during the past year include approval of:

- Approval of the Five Year Capital Plan
- Approval of the audited financial statements for the year ended June 30, 2021 as presented by Deloitte
- Approval of amendment for “The Retirement Plan for Employees of The Frontier School Division”, with updates to allow members to cease active membership upon reaching their Normal Retirement Date (age 65); and effective September 6, 2022 removal of the three (3) month waiting period for employees to become a member of the Plan.
- Mill rate of 13.16089 mills to be used for the 2022 Special Levy

The Board also received reports were received from the following committees:

- o Finance
- o Support Staff Liaison
- o Employee Pension
- o The Board approved a recommendation from their Finance Committee and appointed the auditing firm of Deloitte as Division Auditor for 2021-22.
- o The Board approved the Division’s Budget for 2022/23. The Budget is based on the Division’s Strategic Plan and provides continued emphasis on the three focus areas (Academics, Indigenous Way of Life, Wellness).
- o Chairperson Ballantyne and senior administration provided a report on the meeting held and presentation to Manitoba Education’s Funding Review Commission.

## 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:

- Regular discussion at monthly board meetings on the three focus areas: Academics, Indigenous Way of Life, and Wellness
- Confirmation of the plans for mandated Divisional Administration Days
- Reports from Superintendents:
  - o Finance
  - o Support Staff Liaison
  - o Employee Pension Committee
  - o N.O.F.I. Board of Directors
  - o Collective Bargaining
  - o Teacher recruitment initiatives.
  - o Indigenous Way of Life
  - o Technology
  - o High Schools and Career programs including the Engaged Learners Program
  - o Fine Arts
  - o Student Services programs
  - o F.S.D./F.T.A. Liaison Committee
- Discussion regarding administrative successes and challenges during the pandemic
- presentation and discussion took place regarding Jordan's Principle and the Division's Mental Wellness Worker program
- Discussion on the 43rd Annual School Committee Conference (scheduled for May 17-19, 2022 in Winnipeg)
- Directed administration review emergency school procedures in light of the recent school tragedy in the United States

## 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.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, pandemic planning was discussed regularly at meetings.

On October 22, 2021 the Board met with the Divisional senior leadership team. Discussion focused on and group discussions on topics important for schools/communities (recruitment, housing, wellness).

The Board met with their Senior Administration leadership team to discuss the Department of Education's new "Framework for Learning" and teacher recruitment.

## Collective Bargaining

The Board received regular updates from their Collective Bargaining Team.

The Board ratified the Collective Agreements reached in-committee with the following employee bargaining units (pending ratification by the respective employee groups):

- United Steelworkers Local 8223-16 (Leaf Rapids)
- Manitoba Government and General Employees Union Local 446 (Churchill)

## Education Partnership Renewed

The Board renewed their partnership with the Skownan First Nation (May 2019), and Berens River First Nation (May 2019), and Black River First Nation (June 2019), culminating in the signing of a revamped Education Agreement.

## Awards and Recognition

The Board approved recommendations from their Awards Panel for the 2022 Frontier Achievement Award and the 2022 Award 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 four recipients of the 2022 Award: Donna Barker, Madeleine Cook, Laura Kelly, and Audrey Seymour-Spence.

## Summary

This school year has been a year of recovery, where students, staff, and administrators enjoyed a return to a degree of normalcy. Our circle of family, friends and community were strengthened with the return of in-person learning, meetings, and educational outings. As we continue to adjust to a new normal, we continue to work together in commitment to our students in ensuring the best possible education, regardless of the challenges that may arise.

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







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