

## NEWS RELEASE

*September 29, 2020*

### **Trustees Meet to Discuss School Reopening, Ongoing Challenges**

The Board of Trustees of the Newfoundland and Labrador English School District discussed this year's school reopening, along with ongoing and upcoming challenges, during its September 26, 2020 public meeting, live-streamed through the District website.

“Given the unprecedented circumstances, this year's September reopening went very well - not perfect, but very well considering the enormity of the challenges faced,” said Goronwy Price, Chair of the Board of Trustees. “On behalf of the Board, I commend the tireless work of the District leadership team and staff, who have been adapting and adjusting their operational protocols over the past six months - sometimes with very little notice - to ensure students and staff could return to a safe teaching and learning environment under as near normal conditions as possible.”

Chair Price noted there are still some outstanding issues and, with the Covid-19 situation constantly evolving, the District is proceeding cautiously, with student and staff health and safety top of mind.

Among the other topics discussed at the weekend meeting were: student transportation, extra-curricular activities, recruitment and hiring (in light of recent Provincial Government investments), building remote learning capacity, school travel, implementation of the District's new financial management system (Cayenta), and an infrastructure update as it pertains to ongoing construction of new schools/renovations to existing facilities.

“With respect to busing, the District and independent contractors started the school year under a tremendous challenge to find additional capacity to accommodate over 6,200 eligible riders who were displaced due to Covid-19 restrictions,” said Chair Price. “We now anticipate busing service will be in place for all eligible students by the end of this week or early next. Families of eligible riders will be notified by their school as soon as seating is available.”

The Newfoundland and Labrador English School District represents about 63,400 students, over 8,200 employees and more than 250 schools throughout the province.

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