



Special Board Meeting

Agenda Package

September 13, 2021

☞ *New Horizons Charter School Society* ☞

AGENDA**Type of Meeting:** Board**Date:** September 13, 2021**Page:**1 of 1*"TOWARDS NEW HORIZONS"**Is it in the best interest of our students?**Does it support excellence?*

**NEW HORIZONS CHARTER SCHOOL SOCIETY
BOARD OF DIRECTORS' SPECIAL MEETING
September 13, 2021**

AGENDA

Vision: New Horizons School will enable gifted students to strive for excellence in a positive academic learning environment that fosters social and emotional support for each student.

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| 1. | Call to Order | D. Hanson | 7:00 pm |
| 2. | Statement of Territorial Acknowledgment | D. Hanson | 7:01 pm |

The Board of Directors of the New Horizons Charter School Society respectfully acknowledges that the land on which we meet is Treaty 6 territory, a traditional home, gathering place, and travelling route for diverse Indigenous Peoples, including Cree, Saulteaux, Blackfoot, Nakota, and Sioux, as well as the homeland of the Métis Nation. We recognize our responsibility as Treaty members and honour the heritage and gifts of the First Peoples of this land.

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| 3. | Adoption of Agenda | D. Hanson | 7:02 pm |
| 4. | Disclosure of Conflict of Interest | D. Hanson | 7:03 pm |
| 5. | New Business | | 7:05 pm |
| | 5.1 Truth and Reconciliation Day | D. Lindquist | |
| 6. | Adjournment | D. Hanson | 7:30 pm |

Next Board Meeting – September 22, 2021



Dean Lindquist
Superintendent
Phone: 780-416-2353
Email: dlindquist@newhorizons.ca

MEMORANDUM

September 7, 2021

To: Board of Directors

From: Dean Lindquist - Superintendent

Re: Truth and Reconciliation Day - September 30, 2021

Background:

The day was officially created on June 3 this year, when Bill C-5 was passed by both houses of Parliament. This is a federal statutory holiday. The day is to commemorate the tragic legacy of residential schools and to honor the survivors, their families and communities from across Canada. A good article with more information about this day can be found at <https://harrisco.com/national-day-for-truth-and-reconciliation/>. As this is a federal statutory holiday, currently only federal workers will receive this statutory day unless businesses and organizations choose to incorporate it into their schedule.

As late as August 30, 2021, the press reported that the Alberta Government will not make this day a statutory holiday in Alberta. However businesses and organizations in Alberta may choose to adopt the statutory holiday. Some school boards (e.g. Edmonton Public Schools) have changed their calendars, while others are still planning to maintain their calendars as they were approved in the spring. These boards that are maintaining September 30 as an instructional day appear to be planning special events to support student learning about the residential schools and Indigenous education. This is also the case for New Horizons School in that special events were to be planned.

Elk Island Public Schools made an announcement on Tuesday, September 7 that they will make September 30 a statutory holiday for staff and students. The implication for New Horizons School is that no transportation would be available for our students on September 30 if we remain open. To date we have not been informed whether EICS will close their schools for Truth and Reconciliation Day.

The NHS Board has two options:

1. Keep September 30 as an instructional day. Administration and teachers plan for and implement special events that provide students with increased knowledge about residential schools and other Indigenous learning.
 1. Implication: No transportation services for students. Parents will need to drive their children to school and or students walk to school.
 2. Calendar remains as passed in June.
 3. Notification to parents will be sent out advising that no transportation services will be available on September 30.

2. Declare September 30 a statutory holiday and the school will be closed for that day.
 1. The board will have a few options available to them in the event that the board chooses to declare the day as a statutory holiday:
 1. Do not replace the day with another day and instructional days move from 180 instructional days to 179 instructional days. There are currently 965 annual hours of instruction in the current calendar. This would result in 959.58 hours of instruction for the current year if the day becomes a statutory holiday. 950 hours of instruction is required as identified in legislation and regulation.
 2. Add 325 minutes of instruction to the remaining instructional days. Currently each day has 325 instructional minutes, so we would need to add approximately 2 minutes per day. There would be little to no educational impact made by adding these minutes. However, if we lose further time during the year, these lost hours may need to be made up.
 3. Add an instructional day at the end of the school year or adjust fall break. Not recommended as any adjustment to fall break at this time could impact planning that families have done for travel. Furthermore, adding a day at the end of June would add little instructional value and may complicate how parents will get their children to school for the additional day.

Recommendation:

The Board approve amending the school calendar to include September 30, 2021 as a non-operational day and that total instructional days be reduced to 959.58 hours for the 2021-22 school year;

Or

The Board, through resolution, make the decision to keep September 30, 2021 as an instructional day with the school providing learning opportunities for students about Truth and Reconciliation.

Sincerely,
Dean Lindquist