

## NEWS RELEASE

*August 17, 2018*

### **Trustees Prepare for 2018-19 School Year**

The Board of Trustees of the Newfoundland and Labrador English School District held a public meeting on Saturday, August 11 to discuss a number of items in preparation for the upcoming school year. The meeting, held at the District Conference Centre in St. John's, was broadcast live on the District website.

Trustees were pleased to note the new Teacher and Learning Assistant (TLA) positions have been established in anticipation of the upcoming school year. The TLA positions are a result of a recommendation made by the Premier's Task Force on Improving Educational Outcomes, and the subsequent Education Action Plan, released by the Provincial Government in July. In the first phase of implementation, 53 TLAs will begin working with students this September in select District schools.

"Our Board has been eagerly anticipating the roll-out of these new positions within our province's education system and we are pleased to see the District and the Provincial Government working together to get these resources to the students who need them," said Board Chair Goronwy Price. "The positions have been posted to the District's website and we are anticipating they will be in place for the start of the school year. Much work has been undertaken over the summer months to ensure our schools are ready to welcome students back, and we are looking forward to continuing our work to improve educational outcomes in 2018-19."

The Board was taken through an examination of student achievement data from the 2017-18 school year, which indicated a 92 per cent rate of Grade 12 graduation across Newfoundland and Labrador. Also encouraging was the news that 73.5 per cent of students had achieved either honours or academic status. The graduation rate is expected to increase once all supplemental exams are completed and marks entered.

Trustees also continued discussion on the Provincial Government's upcoming review of the Schools Act, 1997; the Chair provided an update on the July 4-8 meeting of the Canadian School Boards Association meeting in Halifax, N.S., and the Board passed a new fundraising policy which will come into effect in September, 2018.

A recording of the August 11 meeting is available at: [www.nlesd.ca](http://www.nlesd.ca)

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