

MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

COUNCIL OF COMMISSIONERS OCTOBER 19-20, 2021 | VIDEOCONFERENCE

Due to the COVID-19 outbreak in Iqaluit, the Council of Commissioners meeting was held via videoconference. In order to provide sufficient preparation time, most of the agenda items brought by individual Commissioners were postponed for discussion in December 2021. In view of the current public health situation in Nunavik, the commissioners also decided to hold their December 7 to 10, 2021 meeting by video conference.

The Commissioners reviewed and approved the summary financial statements and Auditor's Report for fiscal year 2020-2021. The Commissioners reiterated that the revenue accumulated by the school board, if any, should be used towards emergency repairs and maintenance of schools, housing units and northern buildings.

In the context of the COVID-19 outbreak in Nunavik, the commissioners were briefed on contingency planning in case of a pandemic-related school closure. In each Nunavik school, resources are in place to allow students to learn from home over a consecutive 28-day period.

The plan includes access to laptop computers with pre-downloaded material for students and teachers, as well as paper-based material for educational activities. Within the constraints of available resources and taking into consideration graduation requirements, Secondary III, IV, and V students have been prioritized for the allocation of electronic materials such as laptop computers.

Contingency plan material was shipped and received by Nunavik schools last year. Upon delivery, it was stored and will now be used during the on-going COVID-19 school closures. Senior management is following-up with school administrators on a weekly basis, to provide support and share information on the implementation of this contingency plan.

Parents are encouraged to explore educational resources available on the [Nunavik-IcE website](#). Resources featured on this web portal are culturally relevant. They feature extensive material in Inuktitut for age groups ranging from Kindergarten to Secondary V.

Despite delays and challenges caused by the COVID-19 pandemic over the past year, construction, maintenance, and repair work have progressed well. A new building section was delivered at Arsaniq School (Kangiqsujaq), Uqutaq High School in Inukjuak will be delivered before the start of 2022, and renovations were completed at Ikusik School in Salluit.

In addition to the completion of the new school section, renovation work is on-going and progressing well at Arsaniq School. Pigiurvik School in Salluit is undergoing a major renovation. The work, which includes the elimination of mold, started in July 2021, and is expected to wrap up very soon.

Tukisiniarvik School in Akulivik is undergoing a major transformation. Expansion and renovation work at the school started last summer, and Material Resources is expected to complete the project in the winter of 2023.

Last summer, work started on four new classrooms which will be added to the teaching space at the Nasivvik Adult Education Centre in Kangiqsujuaq. The goal is to complete the expansion by Fall 2022. Construction work is also progressing well for housing units in Kangiqsujuaq and Quaqtaq, as well as for a garage with warehouse space in Puvirnituk.

With COVID-19 meeting restrictions currently in place and taking into consideration that Education Research has yet to be concluded, the Commissioners were informed that the Education Council scheduled for February 2022 would be postponed to 2023.

This change of schedule will allow for participants to discuss proposed orientation that will be based on the Education Research. The research examines the school board's curriculums, programs and pathways to enhance Nunavik student success.

So far, the research has informed the Commissioners on gaps in students' preparation for post-secondary education in areas of English as a second language, mathematics and science.