



Delisle Composite School held its Heritage Fair in March and shared this photo on Twitter.

Provincial budget presented April 10

The Board reviewed the Division's 2018/19 funding at its meeting on Monday, April 23. The provincial government presented its overall budget on April 10.

The provincial budget for K-12 education will increase by \$30 million over last year, an increase of approximately 1.6%.

"The Minister of Education said that not a wheel turns in our province without education," said Larry Pavloff, Board Chair. "Our Board strongly agrees that education plays a central role in the success of our communities and our province as a whole."

For Prairie Spirit, the 2018/19 budget represents a funding increase of 2.46% (\$2.61 million) over last year. This increase is in recognition of the Division's growing enrolment. The Division is projecting an increase of 200 students this fall. Pavloff said this year's provincial budget will be an improvement for Prairie Spirit, compared to previous years.

Funding for the new Rosthern School project was highlighted in the provincial budget. At a recent meeting, Pavloff thanked the Minister of Education for the government's commitment to this project. Rosthern's two schools will be consolidated into a new Pre-Kindergarten to Grade 12 school facility, to be open for students by September 2020.

The provincial budget also included a 14.8% increase for facility repairs and maintenance for 2018/19. Prairie Spirit's annual allocation in this area will be \$2.3 million for 2018/19, an increase of \$400,000.

The Division's 2018/19 budget will be prepared by administration and finalized by the Board at the end of June.

School year calendar approved

The Prairie Spirit Board of Education formally approved the 2018/19 school year calendar at its regular meeting on April 9.

"We believe the 2018/19 calendar will maintain our focus on student learning while also supporting students, staff members and families," said Pavloff.

**Education plays a central role
in the success of our communities
and our province as a whole**

Teachers will begin the school year on Monday, August 27. Students will start on Tuesday, September 4, following Labour Day, as determined by the Ministry of Education.

The Division's Calendar Committee produced two calendar options and invited all staff to vote for their preferred calendar option. The results of this vote were shared with the Board.

The Ministry of Education requires that all school divisions publish their school calendars by May 1 each year. Prairie Spirit's calendar is available on the school division website at www.spiritsd.ca.

Career and Work Exploration presentation

The Board received a presentation from the Division's Career and Work Exploration (CWE) team at its meeting on April 9. Peggy Mattila-Bains (Coordinator), Mike Hallgrimson and Kelly Bararuk, (both Career and Work Exploration Facilitators), described the opportunities students have through Career and Work Exploration.

"This program has a profound impact for students," said Mattila-Bains. "This is one way we make learning meaningful for some students."

This program has evolved to become a five-day work week experience for students each semester. "This type of model works well for the employers and the students and provides the most authentic learning," said Bararuk.

For the program to be successful, relationships with workplaces are key. The Division has a database of over 820 local businesses that have offered work placements for Prairie Spirit students. They noted that they will often see a former Prairie Spirit student working at one of these businesses years later, an indication that both the employer and the student had a good experience during their work placement.

Hallgrimson and Bararuk pointed out that more special needs students are participating in Career and Work Exploration. These requests are coordinated through Special Education Resource Teachers (SERTs), as part of the student's transition plan.

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Prairie Spirit's partnership with the Saskatoon Industry Education Council (SIEC) provides opportunities for students to experience different types of work through the SIEC Spotlight events. This typically highlights specialized work that students cannot access during CWE.

In addition, SIEC offers a variety of other opportunities for students and also offers resources from Sask Coding for interested teachers.

Reading, Writing and Mathematics Update

The Board received a Monitoring Report for Reading, Writing and Mathematics in the Division at its meeting on April 9. Learning Superintendent Tracey Young introduced her report by asking Trustees to annotate the document and discuss their reflections, an effective strategy used with students in Prairie Spirit classrooms.

Young discussed the different ways that we read, including skimming, regular reading and close reading. She said comprehension strategies work in all of these types of reading.

The Board receives regular updates on student achievement through data wall walks at Division Office. Young noted that this is the first year that the Division's Grade 3 provincial reading assessment results are below provincial results. Overall provincial results are at 74%, while Prairie Spirit's results are at 73%.

The Division has articulated specific goals for reading, writing and mathematics for our students:

Prairie Spirit Readers

- Read for both pleasure and growth
- Demonstrate depth, passion and stamina in reading
- Cultivate a lifelong love of reading

Prairie Spirit Writers

- Know they have something to say
- Are confident, independent and interdependent
- Read like a writer and write for a reader
- Believe writing is a worthwhile endeavor because it contributes to a life well lived

Prairie Spirit Mathematicians

- Are accurate, efficient and flexible when working with numbers
- Confidently and competently deal with every day and new situations that demand the use of mathematical concepts

"An advantage we have in our school division is our strong pedagogy," she said, adding that similar teaching strategies can be used for reading, writing and math. She also highlighted the good work being done at Division elementary schools to engage parents and encourage reading at home.

"I see coaching as a strong approach we can use to support teachers," she said. "We are focusing on how we can have the greatest impact for each of our students in our classrooms."

The Division will be moving to a single reading assessment tool next year, which will provide greater consistency throughout the Division.

The Ministry is introducing provincial writing assessments this spring and will develop a provincial mathematics assessment to be used in 2019.

The Ministry's overall goal (part of the Education Sector Strategic Plan) is for 80% of students to be at grade level in reading, writing and mathematics by June 2020.

Learning is in
Prairie Spirit's DNA

Public Information Meeting: Learning for Life in Prairie Spirit School Division

Prairie Spirit hosted a public meeting on April 23, following the Board's regular meeting.

Recent changes to the provincial *Education Act* removed the legal requirement for school divisions to hold a formal Annual General Meeting. The Prairie Spirit Board chose to hold a public meeting as a way to ensure continued transparency and openness.

Trustee Sam Dyck introduced the Board's "Compelling Why" statement, which succinctly describes the Board's purpose:

"TO inspire learners for life SO THAT together we can learn without limits in a world of possibilities."

"Learning is in Prairie Spirit's DNA," Dyck said. "We are modelling learning in our Boardroom as well.

Dyck described the Board's new document called *Our Prairie Spirit Boardroom* which reflects the Division's foundational document *My Prairie Spirit Classroom* and articulates the Board's roles and responsibilities.

Two Prairie Spirit schools presented their learning stories during the public meeting. Staff from Dalmeny High School and Waldheim School shared the journey of learning at their schools, highlighting innovative approaches for student assessment and

parent engagement.

Bob Bayles, Deputy Director and Chief Financial Officer, provided an overview of the provincial budget and its impact on Prairie Spirit. Bayles said the Division is more optimistic following this budget than in previous years.

Lori Jeschke, Director of Education, concluded the meeting by highlighting the Division's unwavering focus on student and adult learning. She said the Division will continue its commitment to the *My Prairie Spirit Classroom* document and the strong pedagogy it describes.



Waldheim School - Principal Bruce Mellesmoen (left) and Vice-Principal, Jesse Reis



Dalmeny High School - Principal Andrew Merryweather (right) and Stephen Kowalchuk, teacher



Sam Dyck
Vice-Chair

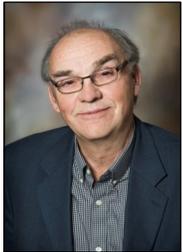


Larry Pavloff
Chair

The Prairie Spirit Board of Education



Subdivision 1
Pam Wieler
*Blaine Lake
Laird
Leask
Waldheim
Green Leaf, Riverbend
and Leask Colonies*



Subdivision 4
George Janzen
*Dalmeny
Hepburn
Osler*



Subdivision 7
Dawne Badrock
*Clavet
Dundurn
Hanley
South Corman Park
Hillcrest Colony
Lost River Colony*



Subdivision 10
Sam Dyck
Board Vice-Chair
Warman



Subdivision 2
Trina Miller
*Duck Lake
Hague
Rosthern*



Subdivision 5
Larry Pavloff
Board Chair
*Asquith
Perdue
Eagle Creek Colony
Sunnydale Colony*



Subdivision 8
Garth Hetterly
*Aberdeen
Allan
Colonsay
Riverview Colony*



*Photo
unavailable*

Subdivision 11
Kimberly Greyeyes
*Muskeg Lake
Cree Nation*



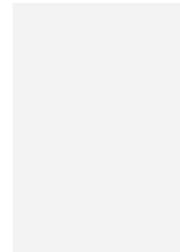
Subdivision 3
Ken Crush
*Borden
Langham*



Subdivision 6
Bernie Howe
*Delisle
Pike Lake
Vanscoy
Willow Park Colony*



Subdivision 9
Bonnie Hope
Martensville



Subdivision 12
Vacant
*Mistawasis
First Nation*

Prairie Spirit is on Twitter
[@prairiespiritsd](https://twitter.com/prairiespiritsd) #mpscpsd
Prairie Spirit is on Instagram
prairie_spirit

*The next Prairie Spirit Board of Education meeting will be held
Monday, May 14, at Division Office in Warman.*