

Highlights



The Prairie Spirit East Band performed their winter concert at Lakeview Church in Saskatoon on Monday, December 7, with Band teacher Will Martin.



PRAIRIE SPIRIT
SCHOOL DIVISION

Learners for Life

Board finalizes budget framework for 16/17

At its regular meeting on Monday, December 7, the Board confirmed its [Budget Decision-Making Framework](#) for the 2016/17 year. The framework includes the priorities, principles and commitments that will guide the development of the 2016/17 budget. The Board's budget priorities continue to be **student and adult learning**.

The Board identified the fundamental values that will direct their budget decisions for 2015/16:

- Supporting a "student first" approach
- Supporting the [My Prairie Spirit Classroom](#) philosophy
- Gathering voice
- Ensuring transparent communication
- Following respectful practices

The Board has committed to continuing its advocacy work for equitable funding with the provincial government and to submitting a balanced budget in June 2016.

Audited Financial Statements and Annual Report

The Board approved the audited financial statements for the school division for the 2014/15 year. In addition, the Board also approved the Division's Annual Report for 2014/15.

The Board of Education's annual report follows a template developed by the Ministry of Education to ensure consistent reporting by all boards. The report provides fiscal and performance outcomes and accountability to government, education stakeholders and the public.

Both documents will be posted to Prairie Spirit's website once they are tabled in the Saskatchewan Legislative Assembly at the end of the year.

Board approves tender process for new buses

The Board approved proceeding with a tendering process for the purchase of up to 15 new buses and two service trucks for the Division. The cost would be covered by \$1.9 million in reserve funds that had been set aside for the replacement of school buses.

Setting and following a bus replacement schedule helps to manage repair costs. "The increase in the average age of our buses has a direct impact on the regular maintenance required," explained Jim Shields, Chief Financial Officer. "Our buses travel more than four million kilometres each year and, as a result, require more frequent servicing, as well as expensive repair costs as the bus continues to operate."

The Conveyance Department will develop a tender for these vehicles and the Board will approve the final tender.

Board approves purchase of 15-passenger vans

The Board approved the purchase of 15-passenger vans for Blaine Lake Composite School and Leask Community School.

These two vehicles will be purchased with government grant funding. Prairie Spirit received two provincial government grants of \$150,000 annually, designed to support partnership work between school divisions and local First Nations communities.

These Invitational Shared Services Initiative (ISSI) grants recognize and provide financial support for the collaborative work that is already underway between Prairie Spirit School Division and two neighbouring First Nations: Muskeg Lake Cree Nation and Beardy's and Okemasis First Nation.

The use of these vehicles will be governed by a specific protocol and procedures.

The grant funding is also meant for instructional supplies, salaries and professional development costs. The Division's grant application articulated the goal that everyone will have access to an education where "the student is the centre and the learning experience is welcoming, relevant and demanding."

Board approves application for emergent funding

The Board approved an application to the Ministry of Education for emergent funding for structural work at **Clavet Composite School**.

The school's gym mezzanine and resource centre are both currently closed until structural restoration can be completed. Temporary shoring has been installed to keep the drafting lab open until permanent structural restoration is complete.

The Board's application is for emergent funding, which is designed by the Ministry of Education for unexpected projects that are too large to be funded with the school division's annual repair budget.

Prairie Spirit to celebrate 10th anniversary

In 2016, Prairie Spirit will mark its 10th anniversary. The school division was formed through the amalgamation of three smaller school divisions. The official date of amalgamation was January 1, 2006.

10 years of learning together in
Prairie Spirit School Division
2006 - 2016

Learning Facilitators

continued...

Learning Facilitators presentation for Trustees

Three Prairie Spirit Learning Facilitators—Josh Hindmarsh (Martensville High School), Heather Baergen (Clavet Composite School) and Neda Wilson (Rosthern High School) —made a presentation to the Board about their roles in Prairie Spirit schools.

The Learning Facilitator role is designed to work side by side with teachers to develop a common understanding of [My Prairie Spirit Classroom](#), to support teachers and to reflect with staff on their teaching practices.

“There are a lot of timely, collaborative learning conversations happening at school,” said Wilson. “I think there is also an increased understanding of each other as professional learners.”

Hindmarsh highlighted the importance of collaboration and working with teachers side by side.

“We are all hungry to learn,” added Baergen, noting the importance of building strong relationships with colleagues.

“Our challenge is to support effective adult learning in the school setting, with a limited budget,” said Larry Pavloff, Board Chair. “It sounds like the Learning Facilitator model is working very well. The Board is pleased with how this has developed.”

Stobart Community School presentation

Principal Marty Johnson made a presentation to the Board about Stobart Community School in Duck Lake. Stobart is a Pre-K to Grade 12 school with 366 students.

The school has a focus on student engagement and has partnerships with Habitat for Humanity - Prince Albert, Wal-Mart and Rona, providing opportunities for students to gain work experience during high school. Johnson highlighted and thanked his staff for their commitment to their students.

Trustee Keith Wagner thanked Johnson and his staff for their good work with their students. “Thank you for the work you are doing,” said Wagner. “It’s a total team effort at Stobart and everyone is on board.”

Next Board of Education meeting:

Thursday, December 17, 2015
Division Office, Warman



Best wishes for a wonderful Christmas season!
from the Prairie Spirit Board of Education



Subdivision 1

Pam Wieler

*Blaine Lake
Laird
Leask
Waldheim
Green Leaf, Riverbend
and Leask Colonies*



Subdivision 2

Keith Wagner

*Duck Lake
Hague
Rosthern*



Subdivision 3

Ken Crush

*Borden
Langham*



Subdivision 4

George Janzen

*Dalmeny
Hepburn
Osler*



Subdivision 5

Larry Pavloff Board Chair

*Asquith
Perdue
Eagle Creek Colony
Sunnydale Colony*



Subdivision 6

Bernie Howe

*Delisle
Pike Lake
Vanscoy
Willow Park Colony*



Subdivision 7

Dawne Badrock

*Clavet
Dundurn
Hanley
South Corman Park
Hillcrest Colony*



Subdivision 8

Joanne Brochu

*Aberdeen
Allan
Colonsay
Lost River Colony
Riverview Colony*



Subdivision 9

Bonnie Hope

Martensville



Subdivision 10

Sam Dyck

Board Vice-Chair
Warman



Subdivision 11

Deanna Greyeyes

*Muskeg Lake
Cree Nation*



Subdivision 12

Shantelle Watson

*Mistawasis
First Nation*