



Board of Education HIGHLIGHTS

Lake Vista Public School students served the community at the Friendship Inn earlier this month.

Photo credit: Heather Wright-Ohryn

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First Nations/Métis Education in PSSD

Prairie Spirit’s strategies for First Nations/Métis Education (FNME) were presented to the Board of Education at its regular meeting on Monday, December 4.

“This is an exciting time in our country and in our school division for First Nations and Métis education,” said Brad Nichol, Learning Superintendent.

Prairie Spirit’s First Nations and Métis disaggregated achievement and graduation data is above the provincial average in all areas.

First Nations/Métis students represent approximately 8% of the school division’s enrolment.

In collaboration with local First Nations, Prairie Spirit receives government grants to support FNME in the school division. These funds are used to support a variety of strategies, including hiring a graduation coach at Leask Community School and supporting parent engagement in Division schools.

Following Their Voices (FTV) is another key strategy. FTV is a provincial initiative designed to engage and support students through improved relationships with their teachers that will result in increased FNM achievement and higher rates of Grade 12 graduation.

Blaine Lake Composite School is in its third year as a *Following Their Voices* school, while Stobart Community School is in its first year.

Nichol said the Division is planning professional development on reconciliation and Indigenous Ways of Knowing, in response to requests from teachers.

“Teachers are asking for PD about the Calls to Action from the Truth and Reconciliation Commission,” he said.

Nichol described the significance of a circle for First Nations. “The circle speaks to a sense of wholeness, a sense of kinship. We can learn a lot from a reconciliation stance,” he explained. “We can all benefit from learning about Indigenous Ways of Knowing.”

“We are excited about this work in our school division and the impact these strategies will have,” said Larry Pavloff, Board Chair.

Prairie Spirit Learning Goals approved

The Board approved revisions to the Division’s Learning Goals at its meeting on November 20.

The goals reflect the Education Sector Strategic Plan (ESSP) goals, as established by the Ministry of Education.

Early Learning: Reading to Learn

By June 2020, **90%** of students will exit Kindergarten ready to learn in the primary grades.

2016/17 Division results: **84%**
Provincial results 2016/17: **80%**

Grade 3 Reading

By June 2020, **80%** of students will be reading at grade level or above by the end of grade 3.

2016/17 Division results: **73%**
Provincial results 2016/17: **74%**

High School Graduation

Three-year graduation rate goal:

By June 2020, **85%** of students will graduate within three years of entering Grade 10.

2016/17 Division results: **85%**
Provincial results 2016/17: **76%**

Extended graduation rate goal:

By June 2020, **90%** of students will graduate within five years of entering Grade 10.

2016/17 Division results: **91%**
Provincial results 2016/17: **84%**

Learning Support Services (LSS) - Board Report

At the December 4 meeting, Fay Cassidy, Learning Superintendent, and Susan Protz, Coordinator, presented a report detailing the supports that are in place for students with complex needs in the school division, called Learning Support Services (LSS). They also discussed what inclusion means in our classrooms.

“Inclusion is about acceptance and appreciation of what each student brings into the classroom,” Cassidy said. “It’s about what all students learn from each other in an inclusionary classroom.”

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According to Ministry data, approximately 4% of Prairie Spirit's students require intensive supports. The Division provides over 37 full-time equivalent (FTE) positions in the LSS area, including School Counsellors, Occupational Therapists, Speech Language Pathologists, Psychologists, as well as other specialties. In addition, the Division employs 220 FTE Educational Associates.

Cassidy highlighted the Division's work in the area of transitions for students with special needs. A new comprehensive Prairie Spirit document details a consistent approach for the many transitions students will navigate as they proceed through their education.

Prairie Spirit recently organized a Community Agency Fair, showcasing over 20 community agencies that support students and their families. The event was designed for Prairie Spirit's Special Education Resource Teachers (SERTs) and Psychologists. This event provided SERTs and Psychologists with access to information they can use to support their students and their families.

Some of the agencies in attendance were: Ability in Me, Alvin Buckwold Child Development Program, Autism Services, CNIB, Community Living, Saskatchewan Ability Council and the Saskatchewan Down Syndrome Society.

Inclusion is about acceptance and appreciation of what each student brings into the classroom.

Preliminary plans for Rosthern School Project

The Board reviewed preliminary plans for the new school project in Rosthern at its meeting on December 4. An architect with Group2 described the design consultation process which has included the community, teachers, administrators and students.

"The architects have taken Prairie Spirit's input to heart," said Kerry Donst, Facilities Planner for the school division. "They are attentive to our concerns and the input that Prairie Spirit has given."

"Students feel invested and heard," agreed Lori Jeschke, Director of Education.

The Ministry of Education provided initial design and development funding for the Rosthern project in the March 2017 provincial budget.

There are currently two schools in Rosthern: Rosthern Elementary School and Rosthern High School. The new school project will consolidate the two schools into one facility with Pre-Kindergarten through Grade 12. The new school is expected to be open for students by September 2020.



Larry Pavloff

Board of Education organizational meeting

The Board re-elected Larry Pavloff as its Chair at the Board's organizational meeting on November 20. Pavloff has been a Prairie Spirit Trustee since the school division was formed through the amalgamation of three legacy school divisions in 2006 and has been Board Chair since 2010.

"I appreciate the Board's support and I will continue my commitment to this role," said Pavloff. "We have a strong, diverse Board that cares about students and putting their needs as our first priority."

Trustee Sam Dyck was re-elected as the Board's Vice-Chair, a position he has held since 2007. He was first elected as a Trustee of the legacy Sask Valley School Division in 2000, after serving as a District Board Trustee for nine years.

"We have to challenge the status quo when it's in the best interest of students," said Dyck. "I want to speak on behalf of the students of Prairie Spirit and will represent the Board to the best of my ability."

In addition to the election of the Chair and Vice-Chair, the Board approved membership in a variety of Board and Staff Committees.



Sam Dyck



Bonnie Hope

Public Schools of Saskatchewan: New Section Chair

Bonnie Hope, Prairie Spirit Trustee, was recently elected Chair of the Public Schools of Saskatchewan for a two-year term.

Prairie Spirit is one of the 15 public school divisions within the Public Schools of Saskatchewan organization, which was formed to support advocacy for issues common to public Boards of Education in the province and to communicate the fundamental worth of public education in a democratic society.

Hope has been on the Executive of the Public Schools of Sask. since 2012.

Premier's Award of Excellence awarded to PSSD

Three Prairie Spirit staff members and the Board Chair were awarded the *Premier's Award of Excellence in the Public Service* at a special event in Regina in November.

John Kuzbik, former Director of Education, Kerry Donst, Facilities Planner, Amber Moar, Facilities Technologist and Larry Pavloff, Board Chair, received the award to recognize their work and contributions to the province's Joint-Use Schools Team (P3 schools).

This major project included Traditions Elementary School in Warman and Lake Vista Public School in Martensville.

The [Premier's Award for Excellence](#) recognizes employees who have made outstanding on-the-job contributions to the government and citizens of the province. The Joint-Use Schools Team was one of seven teams/individuals who received an award this year.

Go to the following [link](#) for the 2017/18 PSSD budget overview and 2016/17 achievement indicators

The next Prairie Spirit Board of Education meeting will be held Monday, December 18, at Division Office in Warman.



Merry Christmas & Best wishes from

the Prairie Spirit Board of Education



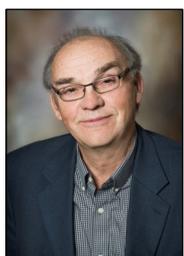
Subdivision 1
Pam Wieler
*Blaine Lake
Laird
Leask
Waldheim
Green Leaf, Riverbend
and Leask Colonies*



Subdivision 2
Trina Miller
*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
Lost River Colony*



Subdivision 8
Garth Hetterly
*Aberdeen
Allan
Colonsay
Riverview Colony*



Subdivision 9
Bonnie Hope
Martensville

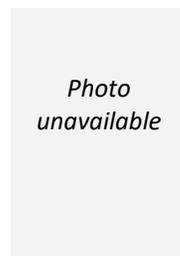


Subdivision 10
Sam Dyck
Board Vice-Chair
Warman



*Photo
unavailable*

Subdivision 11
Kimberly Greeyes
*Muskeg Lake
Cree Nation*



*Photo
unavailable*

Subdivision 12
William Badger
*Mistawasis
First Nation*

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



PRAIRIE SPIRIT
SCHOOL DIVISION
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