



Board of Education HIGHLIGHTS

Grade 8 students from Stobart Community School enjoying cross-country skiing in early December. - photo credit: Chad Freeden



**PRAIRIE SPIRIT
SCHOOL DIVISION**
Learners for Life

Prairie Spirit celebrates music education

Prairie Spirit School Division and its staff have been recognized provincially and nationally for innovative work in music education.

Provincial award - Prairie Spirit School Division

Prairie Spirit was awarded the **Premier's Board of Education Award for Innovation and Excellence in Education** at the Saskatchewan School Boards Association annual meeting on November 16 in Regina. The award was presented in recognition of the Division's innovative work in music education, called Resonate.

"A culture of music is growing throughout Prairie Spirit School Division and this brings us great pride and joy," said Sam Dyck, Prairie Spirit Board Chair, who accepted the award. "The Board is very proud of this innovative approach that supports equitable access to music education in the Division."

Resonate started in the school division in 2015 and is designed to be an inclusive approach to music programming. Resonate promotes music education through a number of channels or outlets, including a student music conference, teacher professional development, performances and other events.

Resonate is designed to increase student engagement and develop communities of young musicians. This work is led in the school division by Dave Carter, Coordinator, Kendra Worman, Music Education Facilitator, and a team of enthusiastic teachers.

The Premier's Award recognizes educational innovations and improvements focused on student achievement that have been advanced or directed by boards of education. The \$3,000 prize is to be used to support or extend the innovation or project.

National award - Kendra Worman

Kendra Worman, Music Education Facilitator in Prairie Spirit School Division, was also recognized for her work in promoting and developing music education.

She was awarded the Canadian Music Educators' Association Builders Award during the Saskatchewan Music Conference in Saskatoon on November 17. The national award is designed to recognize an educator "who brings honour to the profession."

Worman is a leader in the Division's Resonate music programming, which includes a student music conference, teacher professional development and a variety of other channels, including authentic performance opportunities for students. In addition, she teaches music, band, jazz and guitar throughout the Division.

Music Presentation to Board

Members of Prairie Spirit's Music Education team presented their innovative work at the Board meeting on December 3. Dave Carter, Coordinator; and Kendra Worman and Will Martin,



Prairie Spirit Board Chair, Sam Dyck (holding award on left), accepted the Premier's Award from Todd Goudy, MLA, along with Trustees and Lori Jeschke, Director of Education (far left)

Music Education Facilitators provided an overview of their work in the Division.

Carter thanked the Board for its ongoing support for music education. "Prairie Spirit is leading the province in music education," he said.

Music education has been growing in the Division over the past several years. "We've gone from three band teachers to nine instrumental teachers," said Martin. A few years ago, 200 students

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were involved in band, whereas now there are over 1000 students engaged in instrumental instruction.

“The enjoyment of music for its own end is important and it’s for everyone,” said Carter. He said the music programming in the Division recognizes the engagement of all students and the ability of all teachers to teach music, with support.

The Music Education Facilitators are available to support classroom teachers in teaching music, specifically for the K-12 Arts curriculum.

“We work with teachers to build skill sets and gain confidence,” said Worman. The Music Education Facilitators are producing lesson and unit plans for teachers to access.



Dave Carter, Kendra Worman and Will Martin presented to the Board on December 3

The music team handed out PBuzz instruments—plastic instruments that are used to introduce students to playing wind instruments. The Trustees and administration had fun using the PBuzz to play “I Feel Good” by James Brown!

“The excitement you’ve brought to Prairie Spirit needs to be recognized,” said Trustee Bernie Howe, following the presentation.

“Beautiful things are happening for all of our kids with music,” said Lori Jeschke, Director of Education. “We are bursting with pride and joy. You’ve provided courageous leadership in this area.”



Trustees Bernie Howe and Pam Wieler play the PBuzz, used to introduce students to wind instruments

Board elects Chair and Vice-Chair

As part of its annual organizational meeting, the Prairie Spirit Board of Education elected its Chair and Vice-Chair on November 26. Sam Dyck was elected as Chair, while Ken Crush was elected Vice-Chair.



Sam Dyck
Chair



Ken Crush
Vice-Chair

Dyck thanked the Board for the “gift of leadership”, adding that Trustees have dared greatly to become public servants.

He said the leadership of the Board is a joint effort where Trustees work side by side.

Trustees were also assigned a variety of roles on Board and Staff Committees during the Organizational Meeting.

Quarterly Transportation Report

Noel Roche, Deputy Director, provided a transportation update to the Board at its meeting on November 26. Roche highlighted the extensive training provided to Prairie Spirit Bus Drivers.

“SGI recognizes the good work we do with driver training in our school division,” he said. “We have one of the strongest safety training programs in the province.”

The Conveyance Department is currently updating the Bus Driver handbook, as a resource for drivers.

Prairie Spirit transports over 6000 students on 140 bus routes every day

Prairie Spirit transports **6,000 students** on over **140 routes** every day. From September to November, the Bus Garage coordinated bus service for over **500 school charter trips**.

Premier’s Award for Excellence in the Public Service

This fall, the *Joint-Use School Early Learning Working Group Team* received the Premier’s Award for Excellence in the Public Service.

This award was given in recognition of the Working Group’s contributions to the development of the new Joint Use School Child Care model in the P3 schools, including École Traditions Elementary School and Lake Vista Public School.

This team includes Samantha Mirwald, Prairie Spirit’s Early Learning Support Facilitator. Congratulations, Sam, and thank you for your contribution to this important work!

This child care model is designed to support stronger linkages between early learning and child care, families, schools and the larger community so that children are supported in their learning.

The Premier’s Award for Excellence in the Public Service recognizes employees who have made outstanding on-the-job contributions to the government and citizens of the province, while exemplifying core values in action.



Samantha Mirwald

The next Prairie Spirit Board of Education meeting will be held Monday, December 17, at Division Office in Warman.



Merry Christmas and best wishes for 2019

from the Board of Education



Trustees will be delivering Christmas chocolates to schools and offices before the Christmas break, as a token of appreciation and thanks!



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

Board Vice-Chair
Borden
Langham
Eagle Creek and
Sunnydale Hutterite
Schools (interim)



Subdivision 4

George Janzen

Dalmeny
Hepburn
Osler
Lord Asquith School
(interim)



Vacant

Subdivision 5

Asquith
Perdue
Eagle Creek Colony
Sunnydale Colony



Subdivision 6

Bernie Howe

Delisle
Pike Lake
Vanscoy
Willow Park Colony
Perdue School (interim)



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 Chair

Warman



Photo
unavailable

Subdivision 11

Kimberly Greyeyes

Muskeg Lake
Cree Nation