



# Board of Education HIGHLIGHTS

Laird School students enjoying the snow in November.  
- photo credit: Rebecca Gudhason, on Twitter

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## PRAIRIE SPIRIT SCHOOL DIVISION *Learners for Life*

Located within Treaty 6 Territory

### Prairie Spirit Board elections

The new Prairie Spirit Board of Education elected its Chair and Vice-Chair as part of its annual organizational meeting on November 30. Bernie Howe was elected as Chair, while Bonnie Hope was elected Vice-Chair.

Trustees were also assigned a variety of roles on Board and Staff Committees.



Bernie Howe

**Bernie Howe** has served as a Board of Education Trustee since 1991, representing Delisle, Vanscoy, Perdue, Pike Lake and Willow Park Hutterite Colony.

Prior to the formation of Prairie Spirit School Division through the amalgamation of three school divisions in 2006, Bernie was a Trustee for the Saskatoon West School Division, where he served as Board Chair.

“I consider it a privilege to serve our students and our communities as a Trustee, supporting education and community wellness,” he said.



Bonnie Hope

**Bonnie Hope** has served as a Board of Education Trustee since 2009, representing the City of Martensville. Prior to joining the Board, she was active as a School Community Council member and SCC Chair.



Kimberly Greeyes

**Kimberly Greeyes**, Prairie Spirit Trustee, was re-elected to lead the Indigenous Constituency at the

Saskatchewan School Boards Association (SSBA) annual general in November. In this role, she is also part of the SSBA’s provincial executive.

The results of the Prairie Spirit Board elections, held on November 9, are detailed below:

Subdivision	Communities	Trustee	Status
1	Blaine Lake, Leask, Waldheim and Green Leaf, Leask + Riverbend Colonies	Pam Wieler	Acclaimed
2	Duck Lake, Hague and Rosthern	Kate Kading	Elected
3	Borden and Langham	Ken Crush	Acclaimed
4	Dalmeny, Hepburn and Osler	Christa-Ann Willems	Elected
5	Asquith, Perdue and Eagle Creek and Sunnysdale Colonies	Angela Bothner	Acclaimed
6	Delisle, Pike Lake, Vanscoy and Willow Park	Bernie Howe	Elected
7	Clavet, Dundurn, Hanley, South Corman Park and Hillcrest	Dawne Badrock	Acclaimed
8	Aberdeen, Allan, Colonsay and Riverview and Lost River Colonies	Grace Wudrick	Elected
9	City of Martensville	Bonnie Hope	Elected
10	City of Warman	Adin Dereniwski	Elected
11	Muskeg Lake Cree Nation	Kimberly Greeyes	Acclaimed

**Facilities report to the Board**

Teresa Korol, Facilities Planner, presented the semi-annual Facilities report to the Board on November 30.

The report highlighted the many maintenance and repair projects underway throughout the Division. Prairie Spirit has also received significant stimulus funding from both the provincial and federal government to use for major repair projects at a number of Prairie Spirit schools, including:

School	Project
Leask	Roof replacement
Aberdeen	Roof replacement
Clavet	Mechanical and electrical update
Hanley	Window replacement
Hepburn	Furnace replacement + HVAC upgrade
Walter W. Brown	Heating and cooling upgrades
Allan	Structural repairs
Hague Elem/High	Structural repairs
Delisle Composite	Roof replacement

Earlier this year, the Ministry of Education announced that a new school will be built in Blaine Lake. The new school is expected to be open by 2023. The project is currently in the design and consultation phase.

**Pandemic planning**

The Board received an update on the Division’s pandemic financial planning from Bob Bayles, the Division’s Chief Financial Officer, and Sherry Todosichuk, Controller, at both the November 30 and December 14 Board meetings.

To date, the provincial government has developed two phases for pandemic funding for school divisions. Prairie Spirit submitted a plan for both phases of funding. The Division received approval for \$1.6 million in funding in the first phase and an additional \$1.3 million from the second phase of pandemic funding, which was announced last week.

The province has indicated that there will be no reduction to the operating grants for school divisions for the 2020/21 school year.

The Division’s pandemic funding has been used for expenses including the purchase of personal protective equipment (PPE), sanitization supplies, the creation of an online school (Spirit eLearning), staff recruitment expenses, etc.

*A beautiful sunrise frames a Prairie Spirit bus about to pull into Clavet Composite School in early December*



## Leask student chosen for Provincial Youth Council

Dahnis Duquette, a Grade 12 student at Leask Community School, has been selected as a member of the Provincial Youth Council for the 2020/21 school year.

The Ministry of Education describes the Youth Council as an opportunity for students to “address meaningful issues directly with the Minister of Education... while also providing guidance on how to better engage students.”

Dahnis is an active and committed student at Leask Community School, a Pre-K-12 school with an enrolment of 130 students. Dahnis is a leader in her school who has received several school awards for academics and sports.

She is a proud Dakota-Cree youth who says she hopes she can positively impact the education system for every student in Saskatchewan through her participation on the Youth Council. “I was so excited to be nominated for the Youth Council,” Dahnis said.

Twelve students from around the province were chosen to participate in the Youth Council. Students were nominated to be part of the Youth Council through their school divisions, with the Ministry of Education making



*Dahnis Duquette*

the final selections. The Youth Council participants all attend different school divisions in the province.

The Youth Council met online twice in September and will have meetings throughout the school year.

“I cannot wait to see what this next year will bring us!” Dahnis said. “Overall, great experience so far, wonderful people, lots of responsibility. it’s a really great group of people; everyone’s so positive and smart. I really couldn’t have asked to be a part of a better team.”

The Youth Council work has centered on the education plan framework. Some of the topics include: inclusive, safe, and welcoming learning environments; ensuring students have the skills and knowledge for their futures; forming connections and relationships; and supporting mental health and well-being.

“Mostly I think we’re focusing on curriculum and we’re thinking about how we can incorporate more things into the curriculum for younger students, like diversity, inclusivity and reducing the stigma around mental health,” Dahnis explained.

She said that the Council will present their ideas to the Minister of Education and these ideas will be considered for future education plans.

*First week of school at  
Leask Community School  
in September*



## Thank you and best wishes

We want to thank the following Trustees who did not return to the Board following Board of Education elections in November.

### Sam Dyck, Subdivision 10



Sam was the Board Chair for the past two and a half years. He also served as the Board's Vice-Chair for several years. He was a Trustee with Prairie Spirit from the time of amalgamation in 2006 until 2020.

Sam says his focus as a Trustee was on student and adult learning and he is proud of the Division's high priority on learning. He says he will miss the creative and visionary leaders he worked with in the school division in "the quest to make a positive difference in the lives of students and communities."

**Reflections:** "In this ever changing world, I believe there is still work to be done in creating a provincial model of education that more closely aligns with the needs of all students compared to the current model where the major emphasis is academic study."

### George Janzen, Subdivision 4



George was first elected to the Board in a by-election in 2011. He represented Prairie Spirit on the provincial executive of the Public Section during his time as a Trustee.

George says he enjoyed the relational aspect of his work as a Trustee as well as the opportunity to participate in shaping Prairie Spirit.

**Reflections:** "I would say that a public school system remains one of the primary unifying institutions for a liberal democratic society. Preserving the integrity of that system requires that educational decisions be made, as much as possible, at the local level, and that it be adequately funded. Both of those have been challenges during my time on the board. It has been a privilege to serve."

### Trina Miller, Subdivision 2



Trina was elected to represent Subdivision 2 in 2016. She was also active in provincial advocacy for inclusive education during her time as a Trustee.

**Reflections:** "Over these four years, I have grown as an advocate, a leader, a decision maker, a community member, a team player, a mother, and a person. For this, I am so grateful! And education in Saskatchewan still requires much advocacy and engagement from all stakeholders. I won't be too far away on the sidelines, loudly cheering on the best school division I have had the privilege to work with!"



Sam Dyck speaking at the provincial announcement of a new school in Blaine Lake (September 2020).



Prairie Spirit Board members accepting an SSBA award in 2018.



Sam Dyck and Trina Miller participating in the sod turning for Rosthern Community School in fall 2018.



The Prairie Spirit Board at their last meeting before Christmas, 2019.

# Prairie Spirit Board of Education

	<p><b>Subdivision 1</b>  <i>Pam Wieler</i>                  Blaine Lake                  Laird                  Leask                  Waldheim                  Green Leaf,                  Riverbend + Leask                  Colonies</p>		<p><b>Subdivision 2</b>  <i>Kate Kading</i>                  Duck Lake                  Hague                  Rosthern</p>		<p><b>Subdivision 3</b>  <i>Ken Crush</i>                  Borden                  Langham</p>
	<p><b>Subdivision 4</b>  <i>Christa Willems</i>                  Dalmeny                  Hepburn                  Osler</p>		<p><b>Subdivision 5</b>  <i>Angela Bothner</i>                  Perdue                  Lord Asquith                  Eagle Creek Colony                  Sunnysdale Colony</p>		<p><b>Subdivision 6</b>  <i>Bernie Howe</i>                  Delisle                  Pike Lake                  Vanscoy                  Willow Park Colony</p> <p><b>Board Chair</b></p>
	<p><b>Subdivision 7</b>  <i>Dawne Badrock</i>                  Clavet                  Dundurn                  Hanley                  South Corman Park                  Hillcrest Colony</p>		<p><b>Subdivision 8</b>  <i>Grace Wudrick</i>                  Aberdeen                  Allan                  Colonsay                  Lost River Colony                  Riverview Colony</p>		<p><b>Subdivision 9</b>  <i>Bonnie Hope</i>                  City of                  Martensville</p> <p><b>Board Vice-Chair</b></p>
	<p><b>Subdivision 10</b>  <i>Adin Dereniwski</i>                  City of Warman</p>		<p><b>Subdivision 11</b>  <i>Kimberly Greyeyes</i>                  Muskeg Lake                  Cree Nation</p>	<p><b>PRAIRIE SPIRIT                  SCHOOL DIVISION</b></p>	

