

Highlights

Director of Education, John Kuzbik, speaking to the Prairie Spirit Board of Education and the Division's senior leadership team during the Board's recent planning retreat.

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



Board planning retreat

Prairie Spirit's Board of Education Trustees and senior leadership focused on future planning at a retreat held at Waskesiu from January 29 - 31.

The Board discussed a wide variety of topics, including risk management, P3 schools under construction in the Division, the Prairie Spirit Schools Foundation and the upcoming 2016/17 budget.

2016/17 budget update

At the Board's regular meeting on Monday, February 8, Larry Pavloff, Board Chair, reported that the provincial education funding review will not have any impact on school division budgets until 2017/18. This update was shared with Board of Education Chairs at a provincial meeting in January. Prairie Spirit continues to be very concerned about equity in education funding in the province.

In addition, funding of enrolment increases remains uncertain. The provincial government has not yet provided funding for the Division's enrolment increase of 300 students in September 2015, a cost of approximately \$2 million. The Division is projecting another increase of approximately 300 students this fall. If Prairie Spirit does not receive provincial funding for enrolment increases for the current year and the upcoming school year, that would represent a total unfunded cost of \$4 million. These significant costs are in addition to the \$2.5 million shortfall that was covered by limited reserve funds to balance the 2015/16 budget and will be carried into the upcoming budget.

The last two years have been very challenging for Prairie Spirit, with significant budget reductions resulting in staffing and program cuts. In addition, the school division used reserve funds to balance the budget for two consecutive years. These measures were specifically designed to preserve classroom staffing and school programming.

As the Board considers the upcoming budget, challenging decisions will be guided by principles and commitments that the Board has developed, all in support of the school division's main priorities: student and adult learning. The Board has developed a budget decision-making [framework](#) to guide the Board's budget planning.

Because of the upcoming provincial election, the provincial budget will not be released until May instead of its usual release time in March.

Prairie Spirit is on Twitter
[@prairiespiritsd](#) #pssdlearn

Board approves bus tender

At its meeting on Monday, February 8, the Board approved a tender to purchase 15 new buses and two used trucks for the Division's Bus Garage. The tender was created in partnership with two other school divisions. "We partnered with Northeast School Division and Prairie South School Division to produce this tender," explained Jim Shields, Chief Financial Officer. "This is in response to the province's mandate that school divisions find opportunities for greater efficiencies."

The total cost of the new buses and trucks will be approximately \$1.9 million and will be covered with funds from the Board's restricted reserves, as part of the Board's established replacement cycle for the Division's bus fleet.

Valley Manor Elementary School presentation

Valley Manor administrators, Garth Harrison and Michael Cox, made a presentation to the Board about their Pre-K to Grade 8 school with over 750 students in Martensville.

Harrison reported on the school's steady growth over the past several years, noting that growth is focused on the younger grades. The school will have over 100 Kindergarten students this fall.

The school has consistently grown by approximately 50 students every year and is expected to grow to over 800 students this fall. In total, 24 relocatable classrooms have been added to the original school building. An application has been made to the provincial government for two more relocatables for the school.

Harrison said the school staff is focusing on knowing and caring for each other, which can be challenging with such a large school staff. In addition, school staff are focused on knowing and caring for their students, including providing a welcoming learning environment.

Trustee Bonnie Hope thanked the administrators for their presentation. "Valley Manor is the largest school in the Division and I know that brings challenges," Hope said. "We so appreciate your leadership and the work of your staff members."

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
Lost River Colony*



Subdivision 8

Joanne Brochu

*Aberdeen
Allan
Colonsay
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*



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SCHOOL DIVISION**

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