



## Board of Education HIGHLIGHTS

Blaine Lake students exploring at Askiy-Kamik, the Muskeg Lake Cree Nation land-based learning site, in December.

- photo credit: Jessica Barrington,  
Blaine Lake Composite School teacher, Twitter

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**PRAIRIE SPIRIT**  
SCHOOL DIVISION

*Learners for Life*

*Located within Treaty 6 Territory*

### Board approves capital project priorities

The Board of Education approved its priority list of capital projects for the upcoming year at its regular meeting on Monday, February 24.

The Board approved the following priority projects:

1. **Blaine Lake Composite School:** new school building
2. **Langham:** new school building, consolidating Langham Elementary and Walter W. Brown School
3. **Clavet Composite School:** addition and renovation

The Ministry of Education asks each of the 27 school divisions in the province to submit their priority projects to the Ministry every year. The Ministry prioritizes the lists from all divisions and determine which projects may receive funding in the budget. Priority is based on factors such as health and safety, capacity, structural issues, etc.

Blaine Lake was submitted as a priority last year and was on the Ministry's top 10 list, although funding was not allocated.

The Ministry will announce any capital project approvals as part of its annual budget plans.

### Prairie Spirit 2020/21 school year calendar

The Prairie Spirit Board of Education approved two draft school year calendars in principle for 2020/21.

In both draft calendars, students will start school on Tuesday, **September 1**, this fall.

All Prairie Spirit staff will vote on the two calendar options. The Board will approve the final 2020/21 school year calendar by May 1.

As a result of a change to provincial legislation in 2011, Saskatchewan students start school following Labour Day. However, because Labour Day falls on September 7 this year, all school divisions were given the flexibility to designate their first day of school before Labour Day.

### Mental Health Literacy supports in Prairie Spirit

Diane Kendall, Coordinator, and Heather Wegren, the Division's Mental Health Counsellor, provided the Board with an overview of the strategies in place to support mental health literacy in Prairie Spirit schools. They made their presentation at the February 24 Board meeting.

Indicators of good mental health include:

- Successful mental activities
- Productive daily activities
- Fulfilling personal relationships
- Adaptive to change
- Ability to cope with stress

Mental health problems may lead to difficulties in learning, behavioural difficulties and school failure, among other results.

The Division has created a comprehensive Mental Health Framework which details the many supports in place for students and schools. Kendall and Wegren shared some best practices for supporting mental health literacy in schools, including policies and partnerships.

The Division has trained a number of school staff in this area. The Division has also focused on professional development for Grade 9 teachers in this area, as this is a critical time for students in their development.

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Many schools have a mental health literacy team in place to support students. “When you have two or more people coming together to plan at the school level, this really helps create effective plans for schools,” Kendall explained.

Kendall pointed out that part of this work is helping students understand that natural emotion is healthy and helps build personal resiliency.

The Division’s Capacity Building Complex Needs team, comprised of behaviour and counselling specialists, is

designed to work with students with mental health issues and extreme behaviour.

Sam Dyck, Board Chair, thanked Kendall and Wegren for their comprehensive presentation.

“The work they do in this area is highly taxing and they care for people,” added Lori Jeschke, Director of Education. “We are grateful for this leadership.”



Prairie Rivers Reconciliation Committee at the declaration signing



### **Prairie Rivers Reconciliation Committee (PRRC) signs historic reconciliation declaration**

The Prairie Rivers Reconciliation Committee signed a reconciliation declaration at One Arrow First Nation on February 6. Prairie Spirit has been a partner in this committee since it was formed two years ago.

The province’s Lieutenant-Governor, Russ Mirasty, was part of the special event. Brad Nichol, Learning Superintendent, signed on behalf of Prairie Spirit School Division. Charmain Laroque, a Learning Support Facilitator for the Division, is on the Committee’s leadership team.

The Declaration outlines a commitment to a path of reconciliation and says:

“The peoples of PRRC are committed to travelling together on a path of reconciliation. In the spirit of Truth and Reconciliation and Calls to Action, we agree on the need to develop stronger relationships and trust among the people, organizations and communities making their home in the Treaty 6 territory and the homeland of the Métis.”

The Declaration was signed by representatives from local and First Nations governments, schools, businesses, and financial institutions.



Lieutenant Governor Russ Mirasty and Charmain Laroque, PRRC co-chair

The PRRC was formed in January 2018 in response to the reconciliation movement in Saskatchewan.

This work has evolved to include representatives from over 40 local organizations, including: Prairie Spirit School Division, City of Warman, Town of Osler, Affinity Credit Unit, Mennonite Central Committee, RCMP, Town of Aberdeen, Town of Duck Lake, Town of Rosthern, RM of Corman Park, and others.

# Prairie Spirit Board of Education

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	<p><b>Subdivision 9</b>  <i>Bonnie Hope</i>                      Martensville</p>		<p><b>Subdivision 10</b>  <i>Sam Dyck</i>                      Warman</p> <p><b>Board Chair</b></p>		<p><b>Subdivision 11</b>  <i>Kimberly Greeyes</i>                      Muskeg Lake                      Cree Nation</p>



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