



A message for Blaine Lake students posted by school staff in early April.

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**PRAIRIE SPIRIT
SCHOOL DIVISION**
Learners for Life
Located within Treaty 6 Territory

Prairie Spirit planning 2020/21 budget

The Prairie Spirit Board of Education discussed its plans for the 2020/21 budget at its regular meeting via Microsoft Teams on Monday, April 20.

Since the provincial funding announcement on March 18, the Prairie Spirit Board of Education and senior administration have been analyzing the impact of provincial funding on the school division. Because of the impact of the pandemic, the provincial government presented a plan for its expenditures, not a full provincial budget, for the upcoming year.

The funding increase to the school division for 2020/21 is approximately .55%. As a result, the Division's budget will be a less than status quo budget. The funding increase will not keep pace with the Division's inflationary costs.

"Since our funding does not match inflationary costs, the Division will need to find reductions," said Lori Jeschke, Director of Education.

Overall teacher staffing for 2020/21 will be status quo, with no new teacher positions added, despite a projected enrolment increase of over 180 students. With an increase of 180 students, the Division's staffing formula would calculate an increase of 8.5 FTE teaching positions.

2020/21 school year calendar

The Prairie Spirit Board of Education formally approved the calendar for the 2020/21 school year at its regular Board meeting on April 20.

Teachers will begin the school year on Monday, August 24. Students will start the school year on Tuesday,

September 1. Because of the timing of Labour Day this year, students will return to school prior to the Labour Day weekend.

The Division's Calendar Committee produced two calendar options and invited all staff to vote for their preferred calendar option. The results of the vote were shared with the Board of Education as they considered approving the 2020/21 calendar.

The Ministry of Education requires that all school divisions publish their school calendars by May 1 each year. Prairie Spirit's calendar is available on the school division website at www.spiritsd.ca.

Board plans for fall 2020 elections

At its April 20 meeting, the Board of Education approved a motion to re-establish Subdivision 5 (includes schools in Perdue and Asquith as well as Eagle Creek and Sunnydale Colony schools) and Subdivision 8 (includes schools in Colonsay, Allan, Aberdeen and Riverview Colony school).

These subdivisions were vacant due to Trustee resignations in 2018 and 2019. At that time, the Board decided not to hold by-elections and temporarily dissolved these subdivisions. The schools in these subdivisions will continue to be covered by other Trustees until the general election later this year.

The re-establishment of these subdivisions prepares the school division for the upcoming municipal elections which will be held around the province later this fall. Nominations for Trustee positions will be accepted starting in mid-September.

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Changes to French Immersion in Prairie Spirit

At its April 20 meeting, the Board approved a motion to move the French Immersion program at École Traditions Elementary School to Warman Elementary School, effective this fall.

École Traditions Elementary School (ÉTES) is at its maximum enrolment capacity and cannot accommodate the continued growth of the French Immersion program.

Prairie Spirit has been carefully monitoring the enrolment growth at Traditions over the past few years.

In planning for the future, the Division has applied to the Ministry for relocatable classrooms for the past two years to provide additional classroom spaces at this growing school.

In mid-March, the Ministry informed Prairie Spirit that relocatables would not be allocated to ÉTES since there is classroom space available in the community at Warman Elementary School.

The French Immersion program is designed to add a grade every year. For the 2019/20 school year, the program has students in Kindergarten through Grade 2.

There is a projected enrolment of 120 for the program this fall, for Kindergarten through Grade 3.

"Moving the program now reflects Prairie Spirit's commitment to a sustainable and growing French Immersion program into the future," said Lori Jeschke, Director of Education.

Grade configurations and programs - 2020/21

Warman Elementary School

English program	French Immersion program
Pre-Kindergarten	
Kindergarten	Kindergarten
Grade 1	Grade 1
Grade 2	Grade 2
Grade 3	Grade 3
Grade 4	
Grade 5	
Projected enrolment: 521	Projected enrolment: 120

École Traditions Elementary School

English program
Kindergarten
Grade 1
Grade 2
Grade 3
Grade 4
Grade 5
Projected enrolment: 430

Prairie Spirit Board of Education

	Subdivision 1 <i>Pam Wieler</i> Blaine Lake Laird Leask Waldheim Green Leaf, Riverbend + Leask Colonies		Subdivision 2 <i>Trina Miller</i> Duck Lake Hague Rosthern		Subdivision 3 <i>Ken Crush</i> Borden Langham <i>Interim:</i> Eagle Creek + Sunnydale Colonies Board Vice-Chair
	Subdivision 4 <i>George Janzen</i> Dalmeny Hepburn Osler <i>Interim:</i> Asquith, Aberdeen + Riverview Colony		Subdivision 6 <i>Bernie Howe</i> Delisle Pike Lake Vanscoy Willow Park Colony <i>Interim:</i> Perdue		Subdivision 7 <i>Dawne Badrock</i> Clavet Dundurn Hanley South Corman Park Hillcrest + Lost River Colonies <i>Interim:</i> Allan + Colonsay
	Subdivision 9 <i>Bonnie Hope</i> Martensville		Subdivision 10 <i>Sam Dyck</i> Warman Board Chair		Subdivision 11 <i>Kimberly Greyeyes</i> Muskeg Lake Cree Nation