

Highlights



Board Advocacy

The Board's strategic plan includes a goal of **"Innovative Stewardship"** with a focus on increasing supports through informed advocacy.

To fulfill this Board goal, the Prairie Spirit Board of Education invited the Minister of Education and local MLAs to attend a meeting with the Board on October 23.

The Board welcomed:

- Dana Skoropad, MLA Arm River - includes Hanley
- Carol Lafond, Muskeg Lake Cree Nation Councillor
- Terry Jenson, MLA Martensville-Warman
- Jeremy Cockrill, Minister of Education
- Delbert Kirsch, MLA Batoche - includes Duck Lake and Aberdeen

Discussion focused on the following Board priorities:

1. impact of the new Saskatchewan Distance Learning Corporation
2. Board's capital submission for a new K-12 school for South Corman Park School
3. need for increased government funding for Prairie Spirit's LINC agreement, which covers costs such as preparation time

This type of advocacy is an ongoing endeavour. Government and Opposition NDP representatives were in attendance at the provincial Saskatchewan School Boards Association awards dinner in Regina in November. Prairie Spirit Board Trustees had the opportunity to discuss the future of education with the politicians from both government and opposition. Trustees were invited to attend the Legislative Assembly on November 14, where both sides of the Legislative Assembly presented very kind introductions of the Trustees in attendance.



Board Trustees in the community

Seeing and doing is learning! Each year, the Board tours schools in the Division to see firsthand the pride and joy of students and staff in each school.

Leask School is currently undergoing a major renovation project with the gym recently reopened for students. A highlight was hearing how valued the students felt to see this impressive new space, just for them.

Blaine Lake Composite School is now complete and abuzz with school activity. A highlight on the tour was the unique artwork in the foyer done by staff and students, a testament to the importance of individual expression. The Board appreciated the effective library space and innovative use of moveable shelving.

Stobart Community School in Duck Lake was the last stop on this tour with a highlight being an unplanned, unexpected sharing of culture and learning as the staff and students had just finished creating a new drum. The students were excited to share so the tour took an appreciated detour into song and storytelling with the junior drummers and school staff.

Thanks to each school and their administrative teams for the warm welcome!



New Prairie Spirit Board Trustee

Kimberly MacLean (left) was acclaimed as the new Prairie Spirit Trustee for Subdivision 9 - City of Martensville. MacLean joined the Prairie Spirit Board of Education on November 23 for her first meeting as a Trustee.

"I am excited to join the Board of Education as a Trustee for the City of Martensville," MacLean said. "As a parent of two young children, I am interested in supporting the education system to ensure our students have every opportunity to learn."

The former Trustee for the City of Martensville resigned at the end of August. The next general election for school boards across the province will be held next fall.



Board organizational meeting

The Prairie Spirit Board of Education held its annual organizational meeting on November 23, and elected its Chair and Vice-Chair for the upcoming year. **Bernie Howe** (far left) will serve another year-long term as Chair, with **Kate Kading** (left) continuing to serve as Vice-Chair.

"Our Board is unified in our focus on student learning and supports that encourage classroom success and overall well-being. Our strategic plan and vision for the future brings innovation in education and strong collaboration with families," Howe said.

"I'm honoured to again be working beside Bernie Howe and be part of a Board that keeps students at the centre of the decisions we make," Kading said. "We're going into this year strong and I'm looking forward to what's ahead in education."



As part of the organizational meeting, all Prairie Spirit Trustees were assigned to a variety of roles on Board Committees for 2023/24.

Kimberly Greeyes (left), Prairie Spirit Trustee representing Muskeg Lake Cree Nation, continues her term leading the Indigenous Constituency at the Saskatchewan School Boards Association (SSBA). "I look forward to continuing to lead and support the very important work underway to advance Truth and Reconciliation in education for the benefit of all Saskatchewan students," Greeyes said.

Role of the Trustee

The primary duty of a Board of Education Trustee is corporate governance through oversight, direction and control of the school division. The Board makes decisions collectively that are in the best interest of the entire Division.

A Trustee uses the following tools in performing their duties:

- Division's strategic plan
- Enterprise risk management
- Annual budget
- Delegation of authority
- Financial statements
- Annual report
- Annual Board and Director evaluations



An important part of the work of Trustees is **advocacy**, which is building public support for the school division. The Board strives to create public support for public education in general and for the mission and goals of Prairie Spirit School Division in particular. This work focuses on relationship building with local and provincial levels of government.

The duties and powers of school boards, and the Trustees who serve on them, are set out in Section 85 of *The Education Act*.