



The official sod-turning for the new school project in Blaine Lake was held on May 20, with Premier Scott Moe and other special guests in attendance.



**PRAIRIE SPIRIT
SCHOOL DIVISION**

Located within Treaty 6 Territory

Volume 12, Issue 2 | June 2022



New Board policy: Indigenous Perspectives, Partnerships and Outcomes

A new Board policy approved by the Prairie Spirit Board of Education reflects the Board's commitment to Reconciliation rooted in learning.

The new [policy](#) - Indigenous **Perspectives, Partnerships, and Outcomes** – outlines the commitments of the Board, detailing that the Board will:

- Ground the work of Reconciliation in authentic learning that is informed by and with Indigenous voices and perspectives within our partners, neighbours, communities and organizations.
- Nurture and foster partnerships at all levels with First Nations and Métis neighbours, communities, and organizations.
- Direct the Director of Education to implement First Nations and Métis education within the Division, relying on the Ministry document: [Inspiring Success: First Nations and Metis PreK-12 Education Policy framework](#).
- Commit to innovative and evolving methods of recruitment and ongoing retention of employees with the background, knowledge and leadership skills to help achieve these goals.

"These steps will increase understanding for all learners about the contributions, content, perspectives, and ways of knowing of First Nations and Métis peoples," explained Bernie Howe, Board Chair. He said this new Board policy formalizes the work already undertaken by the Board and the school division.

"The Division is committed to working together with our Indigenous Partners on the journey toward Reconciliation," added Darryl Bazylak, Director of Education.

He noted that the Division's learning goals include the following statement: "Prairie Spirit Learners will possess intercultural understanding, empathy, and mutual respect with and for Indigenous Peoples of Canada (Calls to Action 63.3)."

South Corman Park School to expand grades

South Corman Park School will expand to include Grade 7 students this fall and Grade 8 students for the 2023/24 school year. South Corman Park School is currently a Kindergarten to Grade 6 school with 150 students.

"The Prairie Spirit Board of Education made this decision in response to requests from South Corman Park parents who expressed their preference for their children to continue to attend Grade 7 and 8 in their home school," explained Bernie Howe, Board of Education Chair.

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Prairie Spirit School Division will be conducting a facilities and demographic study of the South Corman Park area to determine long-term growth potential and possible future capital projects to support the continued growth at South Corman Park School.

"I know South Corman Park School staff members are looking forward to offering Grade 7 programming this fall and Grade 8 next year," said Darryl Bazylak, Director of Education. He noted that the school offers an exciting outdoor learning program which will expand to include students in Grade 7 and 8.

2022/23 school year calendar

The Prairie Spirit Board of Education formally approved the calendar for the 2022/23 school year at its regular Board meeting on April 11 (with slight amendments approved on May 2).

Teachers will begin the school year on Wednesday, August 24. Students will start the school year on Thursday, September 1. Because of the timing of Labour Day this year, students will return to school prior to the Labour Day weekend.

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: [PSSD-2022-23-school-year-calendar.pdf](#).

Board endorses Interim Provincial Education Plan

At its meeting on May 18, the Prairie Spirit Board of Education formally endorsed the extension of the Interim Provincial Education Plan for the 2022/23 year, as requested by the Ministry of Education.

The Interim Provincial Education plan focuses on the following three priorities:

1. *Learning Response*
Focus on: increasing student reading and math levels through professional development, sharing of resources and best practices.
2. *Reading*
Focus on: reading and writing support plans for students, including oral language and comprehension as the foundation for early literacy.
3. *Mental Health and Well-being*
Focus on: sharing knowledge of supports, services and programming, including the creation and refinement of mental health and well-being plans for each school division.

Learning Superintendents provided the Board with an overview of Division plans to support the provincial education plan learning goals in 2022/23. "We want to implement highly effective strength-based instructional strategies for reading, including early literacy strategies," explained Fay Cassidy, Learning Superintendent.

Brad Nichol, Learning Superintendent, explained that the workshop model is a high engagement instructional strategy. He added that the Division is ensuring an Indigenous perspective is represented in all areas of instruction.

"We want to support our students to be competent and confident in math," said Dean Broughton, Learning Superintendent. He highlighted the important work of the Division's Strategic Facilitators in all learning areas. "It would be challenging to move this work forward without their leadership."

The Board reviewed the Division's learning results compared to provincial results. "We do very well comparatively to the province," said Darryl Bazylak, Director of Education. "My *Prairie Spirit Classroom* is a focus that sets us apart from other divisions."



A Valley Christian Academy student reads his book in the school's Forest School.

- photo credit: Jessica Braun, Grade 4 teacher

Provincial funding for 2022/23

The provincial budget was announced in late March. The budget includes funding for all school divisions in the province for the upcoming year.

Prairie Spirit's funding from the provincial government will increase by 2.03% for the 2022/23 year, for a total of \$114.2 million. This increase will cover provincially negotiated teacher salary increases but will not fully cover other inflationary costs like gas, utilities and support staff salaries. The Division is concerned about the impact this will have on student learning.

The Division's funding is based on a projected enrolment of 11,929 students, an increase of approximately 150 students over last year.

Based on Prairie Spirit's projected enrolment increase, the Division has added a budget for four teacher positions to be placed as needs present this fall.

In terms of school facilities, the Division appreciates the following items in the provincial budget:

- An increase of \$250,000 in provincial funding for the maintenance and repair of the Division's school facilities.
- Provincial funding for the exciting new school project in Blaine Lake.
- The creation of a new school capital fund which will provide funding for smaller school projects.

The Prairie Spirit Board of Education will formally approve the Division's 2022/23 budget on Monday, June 27.

Minor Capital Projects

At its May 2 meeting, the Board approved the submission of two applications for the Ministry's new Minor Capital Projects funding.

This new Ministry fund is available for projects that meet the program parameters and cost less than \$10 million.

- **Langham:** Consolidated K-12 school
Project budget: \$7.1 million
- **Waldheim:** Structural renovation
Project budget: \$2.33 million

Architect's drawing of the new Blaine Lake School project, which will open for students in fall 2023.



Trustee Highlight

Grace Wudrick has served as a Trustee for Subdivision 8 (Aberdeen, Allan, Colonsay, Lost River Colony and Riverview Colony) since Board elections in November 2020.



Grace worked for 32 years as an Educational Associate in the area of speech and language at Aberdeen Composite School. "I loved every minute of it!" she says.

She was involved in many extra-curricular activities during her time at the school, including directing drama, coaching basketball and SRC adviser.

She retired in 2020 and decided to run for a Trustee position. "I made the decision to run so that I could continue to assist in providing students in Prairie Spirit with the best education possible," she explains.

Grace says a Trustee must be approachable, a good listener and willing to take concerns to the Board table. She said a highlight for her in her work as a Trustee has been sitting on the employer's side of the table on the Bargaining Committee after many years of bargaining for support staff as president of CUPE Local 4254.

She says she enjoys the interaction with students and staff whenever she visits a school in her role as a Trustee. "This work is all about the people," she says.

Grace has chaired the Aberdeen Parks and Rec Board and the Aberdeen Grounds Committee for over 20 years.

Grace and her husband have three children, five grandchildren (and one bonus grandchild) and their first great-grandchild.



Trustee Grace Wudrick with her husband and grandchildren

Prairie Spirit Board of Education

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