



Waldheim School made a presentation about the school's learning improvement plan at the Prairie Spirit Annual General meeting on April 29 at Waldheim School.

Board of Education meeting May 4, 2015

Prairie Spirit AGM held at Waldheim School

Prairie Spirit's Annual General Meeting focused on supporting student achievement and developing learners for life. The meeting – held at Waldheim School on Wednesday, April 29 – included reports from the Board of Education, the Director of Education and the Chief Financial Officer. In addition, school teams from Hague Elementary School and Waldheim School made presentations highlighting their learning improvement plans.

Board Chair, Larry Pavloff, provided the Board's report and made comments about both the work of the Board and the success of the Division's staff and students.

"Our work as a Board of Education is all about our students. We make decisions, set strategic directions and create policy, all designed to support student learning as our highest priority," Pavloff said. Pavloff thanked Prairie Spirit staff for the variety of ways they support student learning throughout the Division.

Pavloff also addressed the school division's current financial funding shortfall of \$7 million for 2015/16, a result of the new provincial education funding model, in place since 2012. "Although the provincial government has provided some additional funds to Prairie Spirit in each budget since 2012, the funding does not keep pace with rising costs and growing enrolments," Pavloff explained.

Throughout 2013/14, significant programming and staffing reductions of approximately \$2 million were made. In addition, the Board used \$3 million in limited reserve funds to balance the 2014/15 budget, with the assurance from the Ministry that the funding model would be adjusted to correct significant inequities.

"As a Board, we take our role as an advocate for our students very seriously," Pavloff said. "Perhaps this role as advocate has never been as important as it is now, with the school division facing significant funding shortfalls."

Jim Shields, Chief Financial Officer, provided an overview of

**Student learning is
our highest priority**

the 2013/14 fiscal year. Instruction costs accounted for 69% of the Division's overall expenses, with plant expenses at 15% and transportation costs at 8%.

Director of Education, John Kuzbik, commented on the Board's strategic learning goals, which align very well with the recently established provincial education sector plan.

"As a school division, we are successful because of parent, staff and community support," Kuzbik said. "We are in difficult financial times, but what remains of primary importance is our focus on student and adult learning."

School reports

Hague Elementary is in its third year of a reading comprehension goal. A team from the school described the various ways that this goal is being accomplished, including using the Reader's Workshop model. Hague Elementary staff members are creating a culture of professional learning at the school, including reading the book *No More Independent Reading Without Support* as part of a staff book club.

"I see our story as a success story," said Tracey Young, Hague Elementary Principal. "Our staff members have embraced the role of lifelong learner. They have examined a variety of research, examined their own practices and consulted and collaborated with others. As professionals, we will always work to get better; learning is our work."

Chris Mason, Principal of Waldheim School, described the dedication of his staff to adult and student learning. At the beginning of the school year, the staff worked together to develop a clear understanding of what matters in a classroom where optimal learning is occurring. "This allowed us to take an in-depth look at the *My Prairie Spirit Classroom* document and align our thinking," Mason said. The school is working on improving the school environment to make it more inviting.

Reg Pauls, Vice-Principal, described the school's focus on engaging students in the learning process. The school is using



**PRAIRIE SPIRIT
SCHOOL DIVISION**

Learners for Life

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student survey data to guide the work of the staff and to give students a voice. "We are excited to see where our journey takes us over the next number of years," said Pauls. Waldheim School is using the Reader's Workshop philosophy as it gives students the opportunity to engage in and take ownership of their own learning.

School presentations at May 4 Board meeting: Blaine Lake School and Martensville High School

Crissy Sutherland and Derek Zacharias, administrators at Blaine Lake Composite School and Brad Nichol and Peggy Mattila-Bains, the administrative team from Martensville High School, joined the Board meeting on Monday, May 4.

Blaine Lake Composite School has approximately 150 students in Kindergarten through Grade 12. The school has been chosen by the Ministry to participate in a three-year initiative called *Following Their Voices*. "*Following Their Voices* has a focus on First Nations and Métis students, but this approach is basically how all students learn," said Sutherland.

The school is exploring more effective ways of reporting student achievement to parents and is working with the school division's assessment residency this year. The school is also working with neighbouring communities to share best practices. "I believe you are leading the province in the work you are doing," said Trustee Pam Wieler.

Martensville High School (MHS) is in the midst of an expansion and renovation building project. The school's theme for the year has been "Build on!" To accommodate the construction schedule, the school has been on an alternate calendar throughout 2014/15 and students will complete the school

year on June 5. MHS has almost 400 students in Grades 9 through 12.

MHS participated in the school division's assessment residency last year and is using this year to build on that work. Nichol highlighted student involvement in Skills Canada competitions this year and noted that enrolment in Practical and Applied Arts classes is growing.

"There are many great things happening at Martensville High School," said Trustee Bonnie Hope.

Board approves GSA guiding document

At its meeting on April 27, the Board received and accepted the *Prairie Spirit School Division: Safe, Caring and Accepting Schools Supporting Gender and Sexual Diversity* document as presented by Administration. The document provides guidelines for schools to follow when establishing a Gay-Straight Alliance.

Prairie Spirit School Division is committed to establishing and maintaining a safe, equitable and welcoming learning and teaching environment for all members of the learning community.

Dawne Badrock acclaimed as new Trustee

Dawne Badrock is the new Trustee for Subdivision 7, by acclamation. Subdivision 7 includes the communities of Clavet, Hanley, Dundurn, South Corman Park and surrounding areas.

Badrock plans to join the Board for her first meeting as a Trustee on Tuesday, May 19.

The next Board of Education meeting:

Tuesday, May 19, 4:30 p.m., Division Office, Warman

Prairie Spirit is on Twitter
[@prairiespiritsd](https://twitter.com/prairiespiritsd) #pssdlearn

Prairie Spirit Board of Education



Subdivision 1

Pam Wieler

*Blaine Lake
Laird
Leask
Waldheim
Green Leaf, Riverbend
and Leask Colonies*



Subdivision 4

George Janzen

*Dalmeny
Hepburn
Osler*

*Photo
unavailable*

Subdivision 7

Dawne Badrock

*Clavet
Dundurn
Hanley
South Corman Park
Hillcrest Colony*



Subdivision 10

Sam Dyck

Vice-Chair
Warman



Subdivision 2

Keith Wagner

*Duck Lake
Hague
Rosthern*



Subdivision 5

Larry Pavloff

Board Chair
*Asquith
Perdue
Eagle Creek Colony
Sunnydale Colony*



Subdivision 8

Joanne Brochu

*Aberdeen
Allan
Colonsay
Lost River Colony
Riverview Colony*



Subdivision 11

Deanna Greyeyes

Muskeg Lake Cree Nation



Subdivision 3

Ken Crush

*Borden
Langham*



Subdivision 6

Bernie Howe

*Delisle
Pike Lake
Vanscoy
Willow Park Colony*



Subdivision 9

Bonnie Hope

Martensville



Subdivision 12

Shantelle Watson

Mistawasis First Nation