



**PRAIRIE SPIRIT  
SCHOOL DIVISION**

*Learners for Life*

## Prairie Spirit's 2015/16 Budget Update

Prairie Spirit has balanced its 2015/16 budget with the use of unrestricted reserve funds. The school division used reserves as a result of a directive from the Ministry of Education.

This is the second consecutive year that Prairie Spirit's budget has been balanced through the use of reserve funds.

At the end of June, the Prairie Spirit Board of Education submitted a \$2.5 million deficit budget to the Ministry of Education, along with a request for additional provincial funding to balance the budget.

The decision to submit a deficit budget and request additional funding was made because the Board had approved \$4.6 million in reductions to the budget. To achieve a balanced budget without additional funding, significant staff layoffs would have been required, resulting in program reductions and larger class sizes.

Additional provincial funding was not provided to the school division, due to the downturn in the provincial economy.

Since 2012, when the new education funding model came into effect, Prairie Spirit has made budget reductions of \$12 million in response to decreased funding from the province.

The Prairie Spirit Board has been actively advocating for equity in provincial education funding for the past three years. As a result of this advocacy, the Ministry of Education has initiated a review of the provincial education funding model and the distribution of funding to school divisions.

The Board remains optimistic that the funding review and the subsequent response from the Ministry will result in positive funding changes for Prairie Spirit.

In addition to a positive result from the funding review, the Board is hopeful that student enrolment increases will be funded in the next budget year. For 2015/16, the school division has over 300 additional students for whom the school division has not received funding.

The Prairie Spirit Board continues to collaborate with the Ministry on financial matters relating to Prairie Spirit.

Despite these challenges, the Board remains committed to its "student first" approach, ensuring Prairie Spirit classrooms continue to be safe, caring and engaging learning environments.

Prairie Spirit's student achievement results are very positive and exceed the provincial average in all areas, including graduation rates. We want to maintain and improve on these results as we support student learning with equitable funding.

**We want to maintain and improve our student achievement results as we support student learning with equitable funding.**

## Board approves application for relocatables

At its meeting on Monday, October 19, the Board approved an application for additional relocatable classrooms for the following schools:

- Warman Elementary (2 classrooms)
- Valley Manor Elementary (2 classrooms)
- Venture Heights Elementary (1 classroom)

The Ministry of Education requires that all school divisions submit applications to the 2016/17 Relocatable Classroom Program by the end of October.

## Da Vinci Project nominated for SSBA award

The Prairie Spirit Board of Education has nominated the **Da Vinci**

**Project** for the 2015 Premier's Award for Innovation and Excellence in Education. The award is presented annually by the Saskatchewan School Boards Association at the organization's annual meeting in November.

The Premier's Innovation and Excellence Award recognizes educational innovations and improvements focused on student achievement that have been advanced or directed by boards of education.

The philosophy of the Da Vinci Project grew from the Prairie Spirit Board of Education's strategic plan and beliefs about desirable conditions to facilitate learning. The project was named after Leonardo Da Vinci, a self-taught individual and the master of a variety of trades.

The Da Vinci Project began in the fall of 2013 at Walter W. Brown School in Langham, with a focus on construction. Earlier this year, the Langham students completed the construction of four modular housing units in partnership with Habitat for Humanity - Saskatoon.

In addition to the valuable work experience, students earned high school credits (Construction 10/20/30 and Career and Work Experience 20/30), as well as logging apprenticeship hours for future journey-person work.

Students were involved in preparing the site for the housing units and received training in foundation preparation. They were engaged in the project from the very beginning until the units were installed in Saskatoon.

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**Da Vinci Project**  
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This year, the Da Vinci Project continues, with students at Walter W. Brown constructing a duplex for Habitat for Humanity. Please go to the Da Vinci Project [blog](#) for more information.

The criteria for the Premier's Award for Innovation and Excellence includes the support and influence of the Board of Education in the work, the innovative nature of the project and the sustainability of

the innovation. The criteria also considers the impact of the work on student achievement results.

The philosophy behind the Da Vinci Project is also being embraced by teachers in problem-based, inquiry or experiential learning opportunities in a variety of ways throughout the school division.

**Next Board meeting:** Monday, November 2, 2015  
Division Office, Warman

**Prairie Spirit is on Twitter**  
[@prairiespiritsd](#) #pssdlearn

## Prairie Spirit Board of Education



**Subdivision 1**  
**Pam Wieler**  
*Blaine Lake  
Laird  
Leask  
Waldheim  
Green Leaf, Riverbend  
and Leask Colonies*



**Subdivision 2**  
**Keith Wagner**  
*Duck Lake  
Hague  
Rosthern*



**Subdivision 3**  
**Ken Crush**  
*Borden  
Langham*



**Subdivision 4**  
**George Janzen**  
*Dalmeny  
Hepburn  
Osler*



**Subdivision 5**  
**Larry Pavloff**  
**Board Chair**  
*Asquith  
Perdue  
Eagle Creek Colony  
Sunnydale Colony*



**Subdivision 6**  
**Bernie Howe**  
*Delisle  
Pike Lake  
Vanscoy  
Willow Park Colony*



**Subdivision 7**  
**Dawne Badrock**  
*Clavet  
Dundurn  
Hanley  
South Corman Park  
Hillcrest Colony*



**Subdivision 8**  
**Joanne Brochu**  
*Aberdeen  
Allan  
Colonsay  
Lost River Colony  
Riverview Colony*



**Subdivision 9**  
**Bonnie Hope**  
*Martensville*



**Subdivision 10**  
**Sam Dyck**  
**Vice-Chair**  
*Warman*



**Subdivision 11**  
**Deanna Greyeyes**  
*Muskeg Lake Cree Nation*



**Subdivision 12**  
**Shantelle Watson**  
*Mistawasis First Nation*

The purpose of the **Board of Education Highlights** newsletter is to inform Prairie Spirit staff about the work of the Board of Education and its impact on student learning and staff supports.