



Board of Education HIGHLIGHTS

Volume 12, Issue 3 | October 2022

Students from all Warman schools joined together to “Walk for Wenjack” and #dosomething on Wednesday, October 19.



Indigenous Perspectives, Partnerships and Outcomes

The Board received a report on Indigenous Perspectives, Partnerships and Outcomes at its meeting on October 17. Brad Nichol, Learning Superintendent, provided the update on this important work in the Division.

He explained that the name “Indigenous Perspectives, Partnerships and Outcomes” was chosen in Prairie Spirit as a useful and intentional way of thinking about and organizing this work in the Division. Nichol provided an overview of each aspect of this work:

Perspectives

Indigenous and non-Indigenous students will benefit from having Indigenous Perspectives permeate the learning experience. Adults working with students will also benefit from training and learning in the area of Indigenous Perspectives. Prairie Spirit provides professional development for adult learners in this area.

Partnerships

Prairie Spirit will grow stronger by nurturing and fostering authentic partnerships with Indigenous neighbours, communities and organizations. This commitment to partnerships is embedded in the Board’s policy and being lived out throughout the Division.

Some of the Division’s partnerships include: Muskeg Lake Cree Nation, Prairie Rivers Reconciliation Committee, Métis Nation Saskatchewan, Beardy’s and Okemasis Cree Nation, and others.

Outcomes

Prairie Spirit aspires to ensure that all learners achieve goals, regardless of gender, culture and ancestry. “In Prairie Spirit, we commit to goals of Truth and Reconciliation as a pathway toward a prosperous and shared future for all learners,” Nichol said. Key indicators for self-declared students are continuously monitored to ensure appropriate support is provided.

Nichol referenced the Ministry document: *Inspiring Success: First Nations and Métis PreK-12 Education Policy Framework* which is a foundational document for all school divisions. Its vision is a provincial Pre-K to Grade 12 education system where Indigenous knowledge systems, cultures and languages are foundational to ensuring an equitable and inclusive system that benefits all learners.

The goals of *Inspiring Success* are:

1. First Nations and Métis languages and cultures are valued and supported.
2. Equitable opportunities and outcomes for First Nations and Métis learners.

continued...

... continued from page 1

3. Shared management of the provincial education system by ensuring respectful relationships and equitable partnerships with First Nations and Métis peoples at the provincial and local level.
4. Culturally appropriate and authentic assessment measures that foster improved educational opportunities and outcomes.
5. All learners demonstrate knowledge and understanding of the worldviews and historical impact of First Nations and the Métis Nation.

Dr. Gordon Martell, from the University of Saskatchewan, presented to the Board on the provincial *Indigenous Education Responsibility Framework* as part of the Board's fall workshop earlier this month.

The *Responsibility Framework* is designed to assist school boards in actualizing the Ministry's *Inspiring Success: First Nation and Metis PreK-12 Education Policy Framework*. This resource will support divisions in their continuous efforts to establish effective First Nations and Métis education plans and assess their effectiveness.

Facilities Semi-Annual Report

Teresa Korol, Facilities Manager, provided an update to the Board on October 17, as part of a semi-annual report on the Division's facilities. The Provincial Auditor requires all school divisions to provide this report to their board of education.

The report included an overview of the risk management for Division facilities, for example: overall building condition, school capacity and infrastructure challenges. Korol noted that the Division's facilities are in good condition, thanks to significant provincial stimulus funding that has been directed for school renovations and repairs.

The new school project at Blaine Lake is continuing on schedule and on budget. Construction is expected to be complete by fall 2023.

The Board was updated on current utilization rates in Division schools. There is a need to move some relocatable classrooms within the Division to meet the needs of growing schools and to request new relocatables from the Ministry. As a result, the Board approved the following submission to the Ministry of Education for approval:

- two relocatable classrooms for Clavet Composite School
- two relocatable classrooms for Rosthern Community School
- one relocatable for South Corman Park School



*Stobart's Sky Boyz drummers and dancers presented to Hague students on September 27.
- photo credit: Shawn Flett, Hague Elementary*



Progress on the new school project in Blaine Lake

Renovation projects

At its September meeting, the Board received an update on all major renovation projects currently underway in Division schools. There are several major projects under construction and in the building planning stages:

Allan Composite School

This structural renovation project for the two-story administration wing and classrooms is funded by stimulus funding. This project also includes roof replacement and mechanical upgrades to a portion of the school. Work began in the spring of 2022 and has been ongoing throughout the summer.

Clavet Composite School

Clavet continues to be a major construction project that has been underway for over a year. There has been considerable progress made and the estimation for completion is end of October. Interior work in the classrooms is approaching completion so that more student spaces are available.

Walter W. Brown School

This project included new heating and ventilation to the entire school, installation of a sprinkler system, new roof and new exterior walls and windows throughout. Work is ongoing on the exterior, the gymnasium and the roof, with some connection work occurring in classrooms and hallways, as needed. This project is expected to be complete by the end of October and is on budget.

Leask Community School

This project is in design development following extensive consultation with the school community. This project is being planned to match the budget available and the needs of the facility.

Prairie Spirit reports enrolment growth

Prairie Spirit School Division is reporting another year of enrolment growth, with an increase of 220 students this fall. This enrolment increase exceeds the projected enrolment by 70 students. Prairie Spirit has 11,999 students in its 47 schools, effective September 30, 2022.

All school divisions in the province must report their official enrolment numbers to the Ministry of Education at the end of September each year. Enrolment is a key factor in determining provincial funding to school divisions. Prairie Spirit's student enrolment has increased by over 3000 students since the Division was formed through the amalgamation of three school divisions in 2006.

Assessment presentation to Board

Katie White, a Saskatchewan educator and author of assessment resources, presented to the Board about current assessment practices as part of the Board meeting on September 19.

White talked about the changing culture of assessment in the province and beyond. "There is a move from measuring and reporting student performance to diagnosing and improving student performance," she explained. With best practices in assessment, student confidence is being built and supported, she added.

White's books include: *Softening the Edges: Assessment Practices That Honor K - 12 Teachers and Learners*; and *Unlocked: Assessment as the Key to Everyday Creativity in the Classroom*.



Katie White presenting to the Prairie Spirit Board of Education. (l - r: Tracey Young, Deputy Director; Grace Wudrick, Trustee; Katie White; Dave Carter, Learning Superintendent and Bernie Howe, Board Chair

Trustee Highlight

Angela Bothner has served as a Trustee for Subdivision 5 (Perdue, Lord Asquith, Eagle Creek Colony and Sunnydale Colony) since Board elections in November 2020.



After moving to Prairie Spirit in 2017, Angela says she noticed an opportunity for more collaboration between the community and the school. When the Board elections came up in 2020, she took the chance to learn more about the Division by running for the Board.

Angela is a Certified Professional Accountant (CPA) and former post-secondary educator. She currently works for Jubilee Residences, an affiliate organization of the Saskatchewan Health Authority.

Angela says a highlight so far in her work as a Trustee has been the strong response and engagement from communities and staff for the Board's work on a renewed strategic plan.

She has appreciated being able to go out to schools and present service awards to staff members. "It's important to take time and celebrate milestones and the commitment of people to our students and communities," she says. She has enjoyed learning more about the Colony schools in her subdivision and visiting a few of these schools.

Since Angela joined the Board during the pandemic, she is looking forward to getting into the communities and connecting with families and staff more. She is proud to be a member of such a strong, diverse and skilled Board of Education. She is also proud of the changes achieved by the Board over the past two years.

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 <i>Board Vice-Chair</i> Duck Lake Hague Rosthern</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 <i>Board Chair</i> Delisle Pike Lake Vanscoy Willow Park Colony</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>
 <p>Subdivision 10 Adin Dereniwski City of Warman</p>	 <p>Subdivision 11 Kimberly Greyeyes Muskeg Lake Cree Nation</p>	 <p>PRAIRIE SPIRIT SCHOOL DIVISION</p>