



Box 809 • 121 Collins Street
Warman SK CAN • S0K 4S0
Phone: 306-683-2800
Fax: 306-934-8221
www.spiritsd.ca

June 27, 2022

Dear Prairie Spirit families:

We want to say a sincere thank you to all Prairie Spirit families as we come to the end of the school year. This year has had it all – changing guidelines and restrictions, a return to regular school activities and everything in between! We did it!

Thank you for your support as we navigated the challenges, disruptions and opportunities. We are so proud of our students and staff as they adapted to these changes throughout the year and maintained their focus on learning.

Board strategic plan – parent survey

Thank you to everyone who took the time to respond to the Board’s strategic plan parent survey in April. In total, we received over 3,000 responses from parents and families. The information and data collected through the survey will be invaluable. We are continuing our work on the renewed strategic plan and will present it to our staff and families later this fall.

Prairie Spirit 2022/23 budget

The Prairie Spirit Board of Education approved its 2022/23 budget on Monday, June 27. The balanced budget – described as a “maintenance” budget in an unprecedented time – was achieved through past and ongoing strategic reductions, conservative budgeting practices and the use of internally restricted reserves.

These restricted reserves were set aside to support student learning goals as outlined in the interim provincial education plan. The funds will be used to support initiatives including:

- mental health and well-being
- pandemic response
- student and family engagement
- attendance supports
- distance education

The interim provincial education plan has three main priorities for 2022/23:

1. **Learning Response:** Increasing student reading and math levels through professional development, increasing awareness and sharing of resources and best practices; engaging students and families returning to schools.

2. **Reading:** Reading strategies and reading support plans for students in Grades 1 - 5 and development of oral language and early literacy strategies.
3. **Mental Health and Well-being:** Awareness and sharing of supports, services and programming for mental health and well-being including a focus on mental health and well-being plans to address concerns and share best practices.

Provincial funding to Prairie Spirit for 2022/23 will increase by 2.03% over the previous year. This increase will fund the 2% salary increase for teachers as part of the provincial Teachers' Collective Bargaining Agreement 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.

There will be no Division-wide reductions to staff assigned to schools, although there will be the usual adjustments and changes made to school staffing, based on enrolment. The Division's funding is based on a projected enrolment of 11,929 students, an increase of approximately 150 students over last year. In total, approximately 70% of Prairie Spirit's budget is dedicated to instruction.

Edsby

Prairie Spirit will be moving to a new parent communication program called **Edsby** this fall. The use of PowerSchool will conclude at the end of June. These changes are as a result of Prairie Spirit's move to the new provincial student information system for all school divisions in the province.

The Edsby program works well with this new provincial information system and provides resources to connect families with teachers and the latest school news and information.

Edsby will provide parents and caregivers with the opportunity to follow their child's progress at school, receive school updates, and much more. Edsby manages information about each of your children and their classes and presents it in one accessible location, even if they are attending different schools.

You will receive more information from your school by the end of August, including detailed instructions for signing up for Edsby.

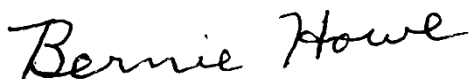
2022/23 school year calendar

The 2022/23 school year calendar is posted on the Division's website: [PSSD-2022-23-school-year-calendar.pdf](#)

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.

Thank you for your support and partnership throughout this school year. Best wishes for a wonderful summer season filled with fun, family and friends.

Sincerely,



Bernie Howe, Chair



Darryl Bazylak, Director