



Board of Education HIGHLIGHTS

Martensville High School (MHS) students painting like Michelangelo!
Photo credit: Kate McKinnon, MHS teacher

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Impact of Professional Development

At the Board of Education meeting on October 2, four PSSD teachers —Charmain Laroque (Stobart); Andrea Foster (Rosthern High); Jaren Vetter (Delisle Composite) and Brandon Hutchinson (Hanley) —made a presentation to the Board about their adult learning experiences in Penny Kittle’s classroom.

Penny Kittle is an internationally recognized author and expert in the area of reading and writing, particularly in the middle and high school years. Kittle invites teachers from around the U.S. and Canada to join her in her classroom in New Hampshire to observe her teaching and practices and discuss their own.

Over the past two years, 27 Prairie Spirit teachers have had the opportunity to experience Kittle’s classroom and learn from her.

Kittle emphasizes the importance of giving students choice in what they read and then giving them time to read and write.

Each of the presenters said they appreciated this unique learning opportunity, calling it a real and authentic learning experience for them as teachers.

“To see this in action, in reality, in practice, it shows how you can achieve it in your own classroom,” said Vetter. “It’s more impactful than a standard PD opportunity.” He also talked about how Kittle’s classroom is aligned with *My Prairie Spirit Classroom*, emphasizing the importance of teachers conferring and reflecting with students and taking risks in their own classrooms by modelling their learning with their students.

“This has changed me as a teacher,” said Foster. “I now model for my students with them, instead of telling them what to do.”

“Reading Penny Kittle’s book and seeing her in action was career altering,” said Hutchinson. “My classroom has changed. It’s been amazing for me as a new teacher to see something as valuable as this.”

“We’ve learned together,” said Laroque as she discussed the impact on how she teaches writing for her students. “Taking risks and being vulnerable is scary, but that’s authentic learning.”

The teachers who have visited Penny Kittle’s classroom have created a network of support throughout the Division. This group has started an after-hours book club. “It’s generated a lot of excitement,” said



Prairie Spirit teachers who participated in the Penny Kittle classroom experience presented to the Board on October 2. From left: Tracey Young (Learning Superintendent), Charmain Laroque (Stobart), Andrea Foster (Rosthern High), Jaren Vetter (Delisle Composite) and Brandon Hutchinson (Hanley)

“Taking risks and being vulnerable is scary, but that’s authentic learning.”

Vetter. As a reflection of the Penny Kittle classroom visits, over 60 PSSD teachers attended the Summer Literacy Institute, which featured Penny Kittle and Kelly Gallagher.

“Thank you for your passion and excitement,” said Larry Pavloff, Board Chair. “We are all learners.

Finding new and innovative ways to engage students can only be beneficial for our students and for us.”

“We believe in the power of adult learning,” said Lori Jeschke, Director of Education. “We’re proud of the learning leadership you demonstrate every day.”

Prairie Spirit submits resolutions to SSBA

The Prairie Spirit Board of Education approved the submission of two resolutions to the Saskatchewan School Boards Association (SSBA) Annual General Meeting in November.

School divisions around the province submit resolutions which are debated and voted on by all school board trustees during the AGM. If passed by more than 66% of the SSBA delegates, a resolution is submitted by the SSBA to the Minister of Education for further discussion and research.

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Prairie Spirit's resolutions received over 90% support from Trustees and were passed at the SSBA AGM last week.

Prairie Spirit resolutions:

Proposed:
BE IT RESOLVED that the Saskatchewan School Boards Association lobby the Government of Saskatchewan to ensure that student safety and wellness is a priority when developing new provincial legislation regarding marijuana possession by students and youth. In addition, the added responsibilities for both teachers and administrators must be considered when developing provincial legislation.
Prairie Spirit School Division No. 206

Proposed:
BE IT RESOLVED that the Saskatchewan School Boards Association request the Government of Saskatchewan amend the *Provincial Sales Tax Act* to exempt school boards from paying PST on insurance premiums and construction services.
Prairie Spirit School Division No. 206

The Board also approved the submission of a nomination for the Premier's Award for Innovation and Excellence in Education, an award that is presented by the SSBA at its AGM. The Prairie Spirit nomination was: *My Prairie Spirit Classroom: A shared vision for learning in Prairie Spirit School Division.*

Board Chair receives Life Membership

Prairie Spirit Board Chair, Larry Pavloff, was awarded a Life Membership in the Saskatchewan School Boards Association (SSBA) at its AGM in Regina on November 13. This award is given to individuals who have served on the SSBA's provincial executive over a number of years.

"I am very honoured to be given a Life Membership in the SSBA," Pavloff said. "I have been extremely fortunate to work with many dedicated and passionate people who care for the students of our province."

Pavloff has been a member of the SSBA Executive for several years, representing the Central Constituency. In addition, he has served on a number of provincial education committees, including the Provincial Panel on Student Achievement, the Provincial Capital Restructuring Committee, the Provincial Infrastructure Advisory Committee and several others.



Larry Pavloff

Pavloff has been a Trustee with the Prairie Spirit Board of Education since the school division was formed through amalgamation in 2006. He has been the Board's Chair since 2011.

Prairie Spirit reports enrolment growth

Prairie Spirit School Division is reporting another year of enrolment growth, with an increase of over 30 students this fall. Prairie Spirit has over 10,800 students in its 47 schools, effective September 30, 2017. All school divisions in the province must report their official enrolment numbers to the Ministry of Education as of this date each year.

The official enrolment for 2017/18 exceeds the school division's projections.

Two new elementary schools opened in Prairie Spirit this fall: Traditions Elementary School in Warman and Lake Vista Public School in Martensville. In addition, two new Catholic schools opened in these communities.

Since Prairie Spirit was formed through the amalgamation of three school divisions in 2006, student enrolment has increased by approximately 2,000 students.

Board approves Architect for Rosthern School Project

At its October 2 meeting, the Board approved Group2 Architecture as the Rosthern School project architect.

A project manager has also been selected to oversee the project and reduce overall costs for a major project of this size.

A number of stakeholder consultations have been led by Group2, including students, staff and community members. In addition, a public meeting was held in Rosthern earlier this month, with a number of community members in attendance.

The Ministry of Education provided initial design and development funding for the Rosthern project in the March 2017 provincial budget.

There are currently two schools in Rosthern: Rosthern Elementary School and Rosthern High School. The new school project will consolidate the two schools into one facility with Pre-Kindergarten through Grade 12. The new school is expected to be open for students by September 2020.

Prairie Spirit Schools Foundation: Fund Development Manager



Denise Kendrick

The Prairie Spirit Schools Foundation (PSSF) is pleased to introduce Denise Kendrick as the new Fund Development Manager. Denise joined the Foundation this summer.

"We are so excited to have Denise working with us, and appreciate the experience she brings with her background in fundraising and events planning," said Bonnie Hope, Foundation Chair. Kendrick has extensive experience in sales, marketing and event planning, and worked most recently in Fund Development with the Shock Trauma Air Rescue Service (STARS).

The PSSF Learning Grant application deadline for 2017/18 is December 15. Please go to the Foundation website for more information:

www.prairiespiritschoolsfoundation.ca

**Prairie Spirit Schools
FOUNDATION**

The next Prairie Spirit Board of Education meeting will be held on Monday, November 20, at Division Office in Warman.

Prairie Spirit Board of Education



Subdivision 1

Pam Wieler

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



Subdivision 2

Trina Miller

*Duck Lake
Hague
Rosthern*



Subdivision 3

Ken Crush

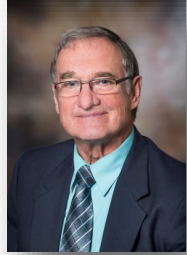
*Borden
Langham*



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
Lost River Colony*



Subdivision 8

Garth Hetterly

*Aberdeen
Allan
Colonsay
Riverview Colony*



Subdivision 9

Bonnie Hope

Martensville



Subdivision 10

Sam Dyck

Board Vice-Chair
Warman



*Photo
unavailable*

Subdivision 11

Kimberly Greyeyes

*Muskeg Lake
Cree Nation*



*Photo
unavailable*

Subdivision 12

William Badger

*Mistawasis
First Nation*

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

Prairie Spirit is on Instagram
prairie_spirit



**PRAIRIE SPIRIT
SCHOOL DIVISION**

Learners for Life



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