



Board of Education Highlights

Board Chair Larry Pavloff was interviewed by various media outlets following the release of the Board's first communication to parents in March, prior to the provincial budget.



PRAIRIE SPIRIT SCHOOL DIVISION

Learners for Life

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Board of Education meeting
April 13, 2015

Board confirms \$7 million shortfall

At its regular meeting on Monday, April 13, the Prairie Spirit Board of Education approved the release of budget information to update parents and the community about the school division's funding shortfall.

The school division's \$7 million funding shortfall is greater than the Board predicted and foreshadowed in the information letter sent to parents prior to the release of the provincial budget in March.

"We're very disappointed that the budget does not address the needs of students in Prairie Spirit School Division," said Larry Pavloff, Board of Education Chair. "The funding shortfall is greater than we anticipated due to some unexpected funding changes from the Ministry." For example, increases in student enrolment will no longer be funded. Prairie Spirit is projecting a student enrolment increase of over 300 students for 2015/16.

"The shortfall is the amount of provincial funding compared to the cost of maintaining our current levels of programming and services for Prairie Spirit students," explained John Kuzbik, Director of Education.

Since the provincial budget was released, the Board has met on numerous occasions to analyze the budget's impact on the school division. In addition, the Board met with the Minister of Education to continue to advocate for adequate funding.

Prairie Spirit's 2015/16 funding increase of \$3.6 million covers the cost of the provincially-negotiated teacher salaries, leaving the school division with the same funding as last year. New costs, such as increased enrolment, contractual obligations and inflationary costs, are not covered with additional funding.

Prairie Spirit's funding shortfall and inequities began in 2012 when the new provincial education funding model came into effect. The complex formula does not recognize some of Prairie Spirit's operating costs, while providing funding to other school divisions that is not available to Prairie Spirit.

Board budget priorities:

- Improving student learning
- Improving adult learning
- Retaining staff
- Maintaining class sizes

Prairie Spirit is funded significantly lower per student when compared to other similar school divisions.

Over the past two years, Prairie Spirit has made programming cuts of approximately \$2 million. The Board of Education used \$3 million of limited reserve funds to balance last year's budget, with the assurance that the funding model would be adjusted to address significant inequities.

The \$7 million funding shortfall will challenge Prairie Spirit to maintain graduation rates, literacy and math achievement results and the success of First Nations and Métis students, all of which are among the highest in the province.

Last fall, the Board of Education identified its priorities for preparing the budget. The priorities continue to be: maintaining a strong focus on improving student and adult learning, retaining staff and maintaining current class sizes.

Budget communication - [April 2015](#)

Budget communication - [March 2015](#)

Prairie Spirit budget [website](#)

School year calendar 2015/16

The Prairie Spirit Board of Education formally approved the [calendar](#) for the 2015/16 school year on Monday, April 13.

Teachers will begin the school year on Monday, August 24, while students will start on Tuesday, September 1, prior to Labour Day.

The provincial government passed new legislation late last fall that allows an earlier school start date in exceptional years when Labour Day falls after September 5.

"We believe the calendar will maintain our focus on student learning while also supporting students, staff members and families," said Larry Pavloff, Board Chair.

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Calendar approved
continued...

Each year, the Prairie Spirit school year calendar is created through a collaborative process including input from the Board of Education, Division administration, teaching staff, out-of-scope support staff, unionized support staff and parents.

The Division's Calendar Committee produced two calendar options and asked all staff to vote for their preferred calendar option. The results of this vote were shared with the Board.

The Ministry of Education requires that all school divisions publish their school calendars by May 1 each year.

The next Board of Education meeting:

Monday, April 27, 4:30 p.m., Division Office, Warman

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

Prairie Spirit Schools Foundation

The Board approved a motion to continue to financially support the Prairie Spirit Schools Foundation. The Board's approval reflects ongoing support for the Foundation's mandate.

The Foundation was established in 2014 to encourage and facilitate community and corporate support and involvement in public education. The Foundation employs a full-time Executive Director, Deb Donaldson.

While public education must be funded by the provincial government, funding from other sources could help support innovative learning opportunities, noted Trustee George Janzen.

Prairie Spirit Schools
FOUNDATION

Supporting innovation in public education

Vision

A community that values innovation in public education and supports a lifetime of learning.

Mission

We engage partners in public education to enrich opportunities for students to become contributing citizens and learners for life.

Mandate

We support innovation in public education by funding a range of experiences that help students to realize their potential.

We develop partnerships and provide opportunities to donate and invest in enriched learning opportunities for our students.

We inspire passion for and engagement in public education.



For more information and a registration form, please go to the following [link](#).

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*

**A by-election
for Subdivision 7
will be held on
Wednesday,
June 3, 2015**

Subdivision 7

Vacant

*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