Board of Education
Highlights

Prairie Spirit Board Trustees were given a tour of Lake Vista Public School, the new elementary school in Martensville, on April 5. Left to right: Larry Pavloff (Chair), Bonnie Hope, Trina Miller, Sam Dyck (Vice Chair), Ken Crush and Chris Mason, Lake Vista's first principal.

Both Lake Vista Public School and Traditions Elementary School (Warman) will open this fall.

PRAIRIE SPIRIT
SCHOOL DIVISION
Learners for Life

2017/18 Budget

Prairie Spirit School Division received its 2017/18 budget information as part of the provincial budget announcement on March 22.

Prairie Spirit's overall discretionary operational budget for 2017/18 has been reduced by $1.6 million, a decrease of 1.2% (the Division's overall budget is over $107 million).

With inflationary costs, the funding reduction and other factors, Prairie Spirit is estimating a budget shortfall of **$4.5 million** for 2017/18.

Prairie Spirit will balance its budget for 2017/18 with a commitment to avoid reductions that directly impact the classroom, recognizing that any reductions will diminish classrooms supports. This commitment was established by the Board of Education in October.

Please go to the following link to view the complete Prairie Spirit response to the 2017/18 provincial budget.

Report on graduation rates

The Board received a presentation on the Division's graduation rates at the regular Board meeting on April 10. Jon Yellowlees, Learning Superintendent, and Dave Carter, Coordinator of Schools and Learning, presented the Division's plan for improving grad rates.

The provincial goal for graduation rates is: "By June 30, 2020, Saskatchewan will achieve an 85% graduation rate and the First Nations Métis and Inuit (FMNI) graduation rate will be at least 65%." This provincial goal is part of the provincial Education Sector Strategic Plan (ESSP).

Yellowlees reported that the Prairie Spirit graduation rate was 86% for 2015/16, noting that was a slight decrease over previous years. "We are paying attention to this data," Yellowlees said. "The next step is to look at school-specific data to see what interventions are having an impact there."

"We believe that graduation rates are the responsibility of all teachers at all grade levels," Yellowlees added.

Part of the Prairie Spirit graduation strategy is to focus on credit completion, as this is a strong predictor of graduation rates.

> **Graduation rates are the responsibility of all teachers at all grade levels**

Students earning eight or more credits per year are more likely to graduate within three years of beginning Grade 10 than those who do not achieve eight or more credits per year. Prairie Spirit is developing Division procedures and supports for administrators regarding credit completion.

Another aspect of this overall grad rates strategy is to employ an outreach teacher working with Prairie Spirit students who cannot attend school in the regular classroom. This approach has been very successful, with students beginning to be integrated back into their own schools.

Carter described the provincial focus on improving graduation rates, which includes a new website called: saskgraduates.com. A Prairie Spirit Graduation Rates Improvement team has been formed to develop graduation strategies in the Division. This team participated in a provincial graduation symposium last fall.

"Graduation rates are an important focus for our Board and the province," said Larry Pavloff, Board Chair. "Our Board is also concerned that we are preparing students for life after graduation and that they experience a smooth transition after high school."

Provincial assessments for math, reading and writing

Learning Superintendents Lori Jeschke and Tracey Young presented the Board with an update on student and adult learning on April 10. Jeschke described the Ministry of Education's provincial assessment for reading (Grade 3) and said there will be similar assessments for writing (Grades 4, 7 and 9) and math (Grades 2, 5 and 8) over the next two years.

Young said Prairie Spirit will continue to focus on supporting adult learning to ensure that the pedagogy in the classroom supports student learning in these areas. Learning Facilitators have been integral in the work in reading and they will continue to be capacity builders in writing during 2017/18.

"Our focus is not only on the Ministry assessment data," said Jeschke. "A provincial assessment provides one part of the variety of

evidence gathered on student learning in our classrooms. Our goal is to gather evidence from a variety of sources over time and that helps us to determine next steps in learning for our students."

"We want to develop our students into great thinkers," said John Kuzbik, Director of Education. "I really appreciate the work that's being done in these areas to focus on adult learning for improved student learning."

Prairie Spirit's Grade 3 reading results for 2015/16 are featured below. This data was prepared by the Ministry of Education for each school division as part of the annual report process. Prairie Spirit's complete 2015/16 annual report is available on the Prairie Spirit website.
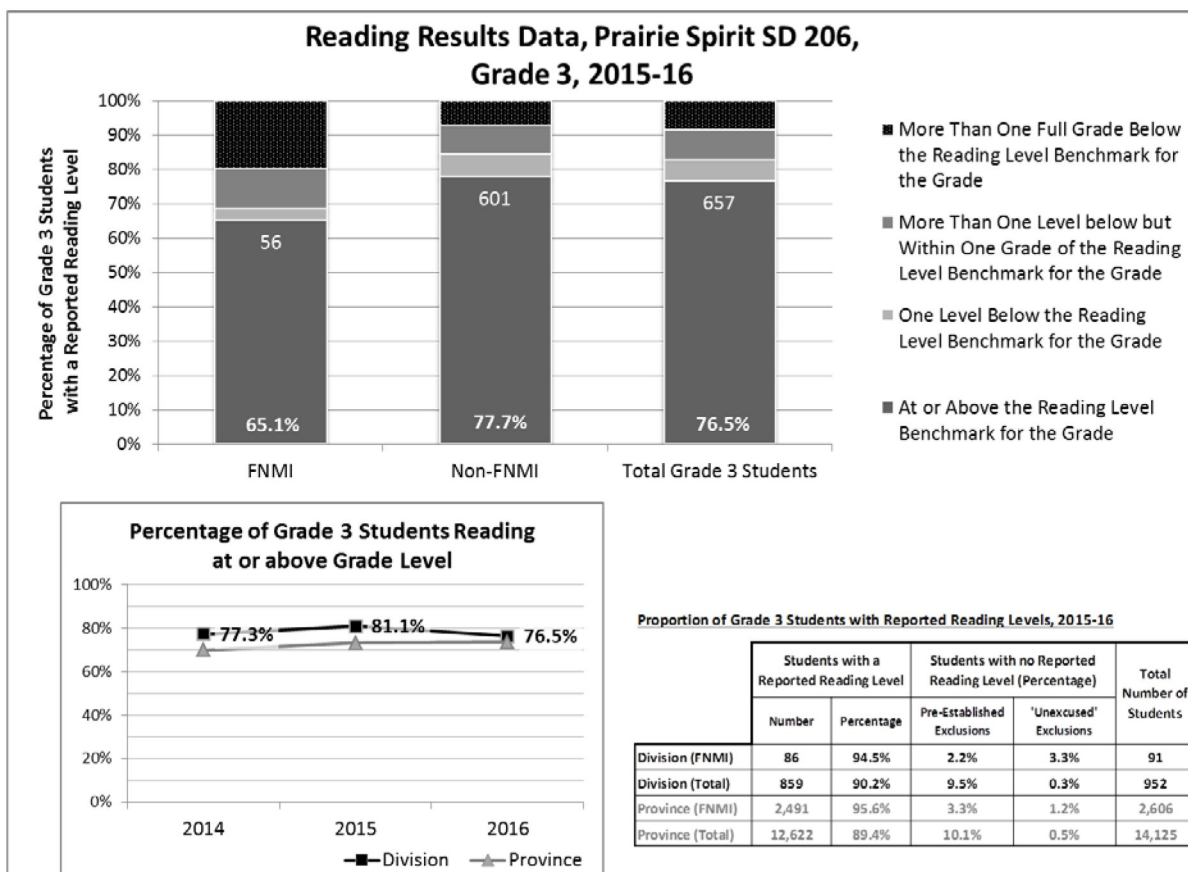
Educational Governance Advisory Panel Review

The Educational Governance Advisory Panel presented its formal report to the Minister of Education on March 20. Please go to the following link to view the report.

Next Board of Education meeting:
Monday, May 15, Division Office, Warman

Proportion of Grade 3 Students Reading at or Above Grade Level

The following bar graph displays the percentage of Grade 3 students (FNMI, non-FNMI, all) by reading level grouping. The charts below the graph indicate the percentage of Grade 3 students in the province reading at or above grade level, as well as the proportion of Grade 3 students with reported reading levels.

	Students with a Reported Reading Level		Students with no Reported Reading Level (Percentage)		Total Number of Students
	Number	Percentage	Pre-Established Exclusions	'Unexcused' Exclusions	
Division (FNMI)	86	94.5%	2.2%	3.3%	91
Division (Total)	859	90.2%	9.5%	0.3%	952
Province (FNMI)	2,491	95.6%	3.3%	1.2%	2,606
Province (Total)	12,622	89.4%	10.1%	0.5%	14,125

Notes: Reading level groupings are based on provincially developed benchmarks. The percentages of students in each of the reading level groupings were found using the number of students with reported reading levels as the denominator in the calculations. Students who were excluded or who did not participate in the reading assessment were not included in the denominator for these calculations. Results for populations of fewer than 10 students have not been reported to avoid identifying individuals or very small groups of students. FNMI students are those who choose to self-identify as First Nations (Registered/Treaty/Status Indian, Non-Status Indian), Métis, or Inuit/Inuk. Non-FNMI students are those who do not identify as FNM or I, however this category may include FNMI students who choose not to self-identify.

Source: Ministry of Education, 2016

Analysis of Results

The percentage of Grade 3 students in Prairie Spirit reading at or above grade level has decreased since the previous year. As a whole, 76.5% of Prairie Spirit Grade 3 students are reading at or above grade level, while 65.1% of FNMI students are at or above grade level.

Over 94% of Prairie Spirit's Grade 3 FNMI students have a reported reading level while over 90% of all Grade 3 students in the Division have a reported reading level.

In terms of a provincial comparison, the overall percentage of Prairie Spirit Grade 3 students reading at or above grade level (76.5%) exceeds the provincial average of 73.7%.
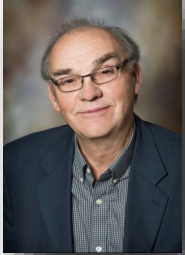
Prairie Spirit Board of Education

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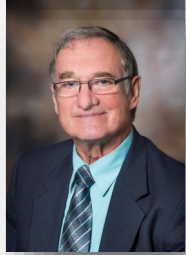*Green Leaf, Riverbend and Leask Colonies*

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 SCHOOL DIVISION
Learners for Life

PUBLIC SCHOOLS OF SASKATCHEWAN
Where everyone can grow.