



Board of Education HIGHLIGHTS

Borden School students enjoyed a presentation from Shakespeare on the Saskatchewan earlier this month.

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**PRAIRIE SPIRIT
SCHOOL DIVISION**
Learners for Life

Prairie Spirit planning budget for 2019/20

The Prairie Spirit Board of Education discussed its plans for the 2019/20 budget at its regular meeting on April 8.

This year's provincial budget (announced on March 20) provided details of the funding for all school divisions in the province. Since the budget announcement, the Prairie Spirit Board of Education and senior administration have been analyzing the impact of the provincial funding on the school division.

Although Prairie Spirit will receive an overall funding increase of \$1.9 million over the previous year, reductions will be needed in order to cover the Division's inflationary costs.

Funding for Preventative Maintenance and Renewal (PMR) projects has increased for all school divisions. These funds are determined based on the square footage of school division buildings and must be used for maintenance projects.

Now that the provincial budget has been delivered and Prairie Spirit's funding has been analyzed, Prairie Spirit's Human Resources department will start planning staffing for the upcoming 2019/20 school year.

The province's 27 school divisions will receive \$1.9 billion in provincial funding to operate schools for 2019/20. This represents a 1.4% increase over the previous year.

School year calendar approved

The Prairie Spirit Board of Education formally approved the 2019/20 school year calendar at its April 8 meeting.

Teachers will begin the 2019/20 school year on Tuesday, August 27. Students will start on Tuesday, September 3, following Labour Day, as determined by the Ministry of Education.

Two calendar options were presented to staff in March, with an invitation to vote for their preferred calendar option. The results of this vote were shared with the Board for its consideration.

The Ministry of Education requires that all school divisions publish their school calendars by May 1 each year. Prairie Spirit's calendar is available on the school division [website](#).

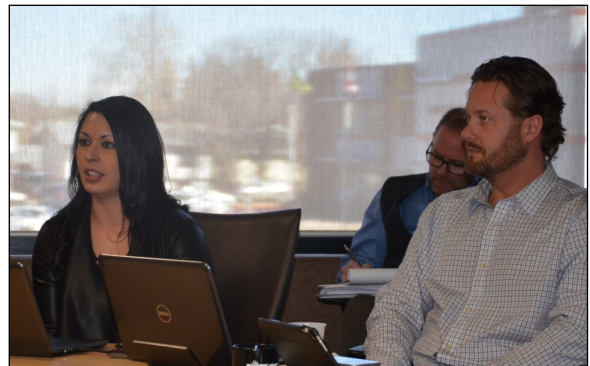
School presentations: Blaine Lake and Leask

Two Prairie Spirit schools provided a joint presentation to the Board on April 8, describing their work collaborating and planning together.

School administrators from Blaine Lake Composite School (BLCS) and Leask Community School described how their two schools are working with the Muskeg Lake Cree Nation school to highlight and celebrate the variety of cultures in their communities.

The three schools are collaborating to offer a Round Dance, Culture Days and a community Pow Wow this year.

Sean Lockwood, BLCS Principal, described the second annual community Round Dance, which was hosted by Blaine Lake in February and attended by Leask and Muskeg Lake students, staff and community members.



Lindsey Burym, Principal of Leask Community School (left) and Sean Lockwood, Principal of BLCS, present to the Board

"The energy at the Round Dance is so positive. It brings the best out of people," he said. He described the Round Dance as an example of land-based learning.

"Our kids at BLCS are blessed to have so much learning at their doorsteps," Lockwood said. "They are much further in reconciliation than most students. I feel that's very important for us."

Lindsey Burym, Principal of Leask Community School, presented an overview of Culture Days, a special week in March filled with cultural events, special speakers and cultural foods that was hosted by Leask Community School and attended by students from BLCS and Muskeg Lake.

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Special activities included ethnic dancing (Ukrainian dancers, jingle dancing and Métis jigging), language presentations (Cree, Hungarian and Ukrainian), foods from a variety of cultures, First Nations medicines, drumming and other cultural presentations.

"We are all learning together," Burym said. "All of our presenters encouraged questions."

A community Pow Wow in May is being planned and will be hosted by Muskeg Lake Cree Nation and attended by BLCS and Leask students and staff.

"I'm very thankful and humbled to see how well everyone came together for these events," said Kimberley Greyeyes, Board Trustee representing Muskeg Lake Cree Nation. "Three schools are coming together and this assists student transitions. People are starting to feel more comfortable."

"The community is really starting to see the value of what we're doing," said Lockwood. "We're doing some good work and it's an honour to be part of that."

He said the schools are working toward the same goals and the different cultures can learn from each other.

Teaching students about who they are and where they come from is good medicine, Greyeyes added.

"The relationships these administrators have with their students is amazing," said Trustee Pam Wieler. "I'm just so proud of these schools."



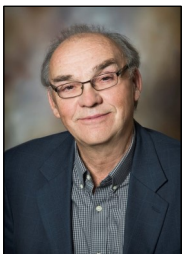
Ukrainian, First Nations and Métis dancers at Culture Days at Leask Community School

Prairie Spirit Board of Education



Subdivision 1
Pam Wieler

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



Subdivision 4
George Janzen

*Dalmeny
Hepburn
Osler
Asquith, Aberdeen +
Riverview Colony (interim)*



Subdivision 9
Bonnie Hope

Martensville



Subdivision 2
Trina Miller

*Duck Lake
Hague
Rosthern*



Subdivision 6
Bernie Howe

*Delisle
Pike Lake
Vanscoy
Willow Park Colony
Perdue (interim)*



Subdivision 10
Sam Dyck

*Board Chair
Warman*



Subdivision 3
Ken Crush

*Board Vice-Chair
Borden
Langham
Eagle Creek + Sunnydale
Colonies (interim)*



Subdivision 7
Dawne Badrock

*Clavet
Dundurn
Hanley
South Corman Park
Hillcrest + Lost River
Colonies
Allan + Colonsay (interim)*



Subdivision 11
Kimberly Greyeyes

Muskeg Lake Cree Nation