



Board of Education HIGHLIGHTS

Vanscoy School students stand in front a tumbleweed "fort" in the school yard in October. - photo credit: Vanscoy School on Twitter

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**PRAIRIE SPIRIT
SCHOOL DIVISION**
Learners for Life
Located within Treaty 6 Territory

Board organizational meeting

The Prairie Spirit Board of Education elected its Chair and Vice-Chair on November 29 as part of its annual organizational meeting. Bernie Howe was re-elected as Chair, while Kate Kading was named Vice-Chair.



Bernie Howe

Bernie Howe has served as a Board of Education Trustee since 1991, representing Delisle, Vanscoy, Perdue, Pike Lake and Willow Park Hutterite Colony.

Howe thanked the Board for his re-election as Board Chair for a second consecutive one-year term. "We have moved forward over the past year," he said. "We all want to provide the best education for our students."



Kate Kading

Kate Kading has served as a Trustee for Subdivision 2 (Duck Lake, Hague and Rosthern) since November 2020.

"I look forward to working with this strong leadership team to continue to build relationships that benefit our students and their families," Kading said in accepting a term as Board Vice-Chair.



Kimberly Greyeyes

Kimberly Greyeyes, Prairie Spirit Trustee for Muskeg Lake Cree Nation, was re-elected to lead the Indigenous Constituency at the Saskatchewan School Boards Association (SSBA) annual general meeting last month.

In this role, she is also part of the SSBA's provincial executive and is the first Indigenous woman to be part of this leadership team.

Provincial Education Plan

The Ministry of Education has designed three interim Provincial Education Plans (PEPs) to be a learning response to the disruption of the COVID-19 pandemic:

1. Learning response
2. Reading
3. Mental health and well-being

These interim plans span the period between the end of the provincial Education Sector Strategic Plan in 2020 and the full unveiling and implementation of the *Provincial Education Plan 2030*, which is expected to be announced in 2022.

Prairie Spirit schools are actively designing their plans to address each area throughout the 2021/22 school year.

Over the past two months, the Board received presentations from the Division's Learning Superintendents regarding the Division's work in the areas targeted in the provincial plan. The Learning Superintendents noted that the provincial plan is very connected to the work already underway in Prairie Spirit schools.

Learning Response

Dean Broughton, Learning Superintendent, provided a presentation about the Learning Response plan to the Board at its November 8 meeting.

Learning Response includes the various ways that students experienced (and are experiencing) the COVID-19 pandemic. Some students and their families experienced significant interruptions, stresses, and strains over the course of this phase of the pandemic and may need supports to access and meaningfully re-engage in Kindergarten to Grade 12 learning.

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The work in this area will support diverse learners to access, re-engage and thrive in Prairie Spirit schools this year, Broughton explained.

He said that the Division's Strategic Facilitators are critical to this work. Professional development opportunities have been designed to support and align with the Provincial Education Plan.

Reading

The Board received a presentation about the Reading plan from Fay Cassidy and Brad Nichol, Learning Superintendents, at its November 8 meeting.

Some student reading levels and results have been impacted by pandemic-related disruptions, particularly in the early years. Reading levels for some students have not progressed over the past two years due to pandemic-related disruptions in learning.

In response, the Division provided strong professional development in reading for all early years teachers at the end of the 2020/21 school year. In addition, Prairie Spirit developed a Literacy Instruction Framework as a support for teachers in their work with students. "The Division has a strong focus on literacy instruction," Cassidy explained.

As part of this work, teachers are placing a priority on promoting engagement and belonging while cultivating a love of reading.

The Division believes that increased staff professional knowledge of trauma-informed classrooms and schools will contribute to student success, Nichol said. A number of parent engagement sessions have offered supports to families during these challenges times and transitions.

Mental Health and Well-Being

The plan for supporting mental health and well-being was highlighted by Dave Carter, Learning Superintendent, at the Board's October 4 meeting.

Carter and the Division's Mental Health and Well-Being team provided an overview of the number of strategies in place throughout the Division to support students and staff.

This work focuses on supporting learning, practices and strategies to support mental health and well-being among staff and students, acknowledging that COVID-19 has and will continue to negatively impact the mental health and well-being of students and staff.

The Division's work in this area has a three-pronged approach:

1. mental health promotion and prevention
2. early identification and intervention
3. treatment

"The Provincial Education Plan is a gift for us and a validation of our work already underway in this area throughout the Division," said Carter. "Prairie Spirit is engaged in province-leading work in the area of mental health and well-being."

Blaine Lake students learning outside in "Forest School" with teacher Tirzah Reilkoff

- photo credit: Denise Heppner, BLCS on Twitter



Trustee Highlight



Christa-Ann Willems was elected as the Prairie Spirit Board of Education Trustee for Subdivision 4 (Dalmeny, Hepburn and Osler) in November 2020.

She was one of five newly elected Trustees on the Prairie Spirit Board. "I have learned a lot from past board members and have also had the pleasure

of being involved in a changing season for our Board," she says.

Christa-Ann brings her past experience from municipal government as well as employment with the Saskatchewan Teachers' Federation and Sask Polytechnic to her role as a Trustee.

"It's an honour to serve my community," Christa-Ann says. She said she decided to run because she wanted to address the gaps in communication that she had identified between the school division and communities, for the benefit of students.

"As a trustee, I have the great privilege to listen to those who have elected me into this position and also to the needs of the school division as a whole," she says. "By

listening, I can gain a better and well-rounded understanding of the needs which I can then share back to my communities and around our board table."

Christa-Ann and her husband farm by Hepburn, with their three small boys. She is a published children's book author and serves on a variety of boards.



Trustee Christa-Ann Willems with her husband Salton and their three sons

Prairie Spirit Board of Education

 Subdivision 1 <i>Pam Wieler</i> Blaine Lake Laird Leask Waldheim Green Leaf, Riverbend + Leask Colonies	 Subdivision 2 <i>Kate Kading</i> Duck Lake Hague Rosthern	 Subdivision 3 <i>Ken Crush</i> Borden Langham
 Subdivision 4 <i>Christa Willems</i> Dalmeny Hepburn Osler	 Subdivision 5 <i>Angela Bothner</i> Perdue Lord Asquith Eagle Creek Colony Sunnydale Colony	 Subdivision 6 <i>Bernie Howe</i> Delisle Pike Lake Vanscoy Willow Park Colony
 Subdivision 7 <i>Dawne Badrock</i> Clavet Dundurn Hanley South Corman Park Hillcrest Colony	 Subdivision 8 <i>Grace Wudrick</i> Aberdeen Allan Colonsay Lost River Colony Riverview Colony	 Subdivision 9 <i>Bonnie Hope</i> City of Martensville
 Subdivision 10 <i>Adin Dereiwski</i> City of Warman	 Subdivision 11 <i>Kimberly Greeyes</i> Muskeg Lake Cree Nation	PRAIRIE SPIRIT SCHOOL DIVISION

