



The Prairie Spirit LINC agreement was signed at a special ceremony on Monday, February 9 at Division Office. Representatives from the PSTA, Prairie Spirit and the Board of Education signed the agreement and were in attendance for the event.

Board of Education meetings January/February, 2015



**PRAIRIE SPIRIT
SCHOOL DIVISION**

Learners for Life

Volume 5, Issue 2 | February 2015

Board reduces governance budget

At its regular meeting on Wednesday, February 25, the Prairie Spirit Board of Education passed a motion to reduce its governance budget by 5% for the 2015/16 fiscal year, a reduction of approximately \$30,000. The governance budget covers expenditures relating to the work of the Board's 12 Trustees, including indemnities, travel, professional development, conferences and memberships and also includes the costs associated with any Board elections conducted during the fiscal year.

Prairie Spirit is facing a \$6 million shortfall for the 2015/16 school year, due to provincial funding inequities caused by the new education funding model. The Board has been actively advocating for equitable and adequate funding from the provincial government for over two years.

School year calendar - 2015/16

The Board approved, in principle, two calendar options for the 2015/16 school year at its regular meeting on February 9. The two options have now been shared with staff and will be voted on by the end of March.

School divisions must approve and post school year calendars no later than May 1 each year.

By-election in Subdivision 7

A by-election for Subdivision 7, represented by Cathy Taylor until her death in January, will be held Wednesday, June 3. The Board confirmed the timeline for the by-election at its meeting on February 9.

Invitational Shared Services Initiative grants

Prairie Spirit has received two provincial government grants designed to support partnership work between school divisions and local First Nations communities. These Invitational Shared Services Initiative (ISSI) grants recognize and provide financial support for the collaborative work that is already underway between Prairie Spirit School Division and two

neighbouring First Nations. The grants were awarded on February 9 at a day-long meeting in Saskatoon. Learning Superintendent Kim Beaulieu and Trustee Deanna Greyeyes represented Prairie Spirit at this event.

According to the provincial government, these funds are designed to bring together the provincial education system and First Nations education organizations so that students living on reserve benefit from the same supports for students and teachers that are available in provincial schools.

The two grant applications were made jointly by Prairie Spirit School Division and two neighbouring First Nations: Muskeg Lake Cree Nation and Beardy's and Okemasis First Nation.

Teachers and staff members from Prairie Spirit and both First Nations have already begun to work and collaborate together to share instructional practices and monitor student achievement results.

"We are pleased that the provincial government has awarded these grants to Prairie Spirit, as it acknowledges the good work that is already being done and the funds will support expanding this work in the future," said Larry Pavloff, Chair of the Prairie Spirit Board of Education.

As part of this partnership work, goals have been established for on-reserve students in the areas of literacy, numeracy and graduation rates. The funding provided by the grants will be used for instructional supplies, salaries and professional development costs.

The grants provide \$150,000 in funding each year for up to three years. The provincial government awarded a total of six ISSI grants.

Strategic Directions: Human Resources

The Board received a Human Resources update from Bob Bayles, Human Resources Superintendent, and Noel Roche,

**Prairie Spirit School Division
Annual General Meeting
Wednesday, April 29
Location to be determined**

... continued

Learning Superintendent, at its meeting on January 19. They reported on the Division's Human Resources goals:

- **Recruitment:** To ensure a representative and diverse workforce, ensure leadership positions are secured by top quality candidates, and schools are staffed to best meet student needs, given budget constraints.

The HR report focused on the Division's hiring practices. "Prairie Spirit has a five-year plan to ensure a representative and diverse workforce," said Roche. He said Prairie Spirit is building strong connections with interns from the Indian Teacher Education Program (ITEP) at the University of Saskatchewan and the Saskatchewan Urban Native Teacher Education Program (SUNTEP) at the Gabriel Dumont Institute, as well as the First Nations University.

Roche also described the Division's "Aspiring Principals" program which is designed to develop new administrators from within the Division. Seventeen people took part in the program last fall. "This is one way we can continue to have strong teachers ready to take on administrative roles," Roche added.

- **Staff Engagement and Wellness:** To increase staff engagement, reduce absenteeism and related costs and increase productivity resulting in better student outcomes.

Bayles said the Division is working with Superintendents, the Administrators' Leadership Team (ALT), Supervisors, Managers, CUPE and Out-of-Scope to build higher levels of engagement across the Division.

Bayles reported on the Prairie Spirit staff engagement survey which was conducted last fall. A new Prairie Spirit newsletter was also launched to share the survey results and other Division information with all Prairie Spirit employees.

School presentations:

Hanley Composite and Hague High School

Chris Tucker, Principal of Hanley Composite School and Clay Kirby and Brett Berry, the admin team at Hague High School, joined the Board meeting on February 9.

Hanley School (K-12) has 219 students and enjoys a strong "family" culture, Tucker said. The school is enjoying its newly renovated PAA and Home Ec. labs. Students have produced items such as a pool table and dining room table in their PAA classes.

Hanley School has structural issues that have led to the closure of the school's mezzanine. Tucker says this area is the hub of the school and everyone hopes the structural repairs can be done soon.

The school is continuing with its reading focus. Teachers are working on making reading enjoyable, comfortable and accessible. They are continuing their work on the common language of reading.

"It's so good to hear the value of relationships in our schools," said Larry Pavloff, Board Chair. "I really commend you on bringing that forward to your staff and students."

Clay Kirby and Brett Berry told the Board that Hague High enjoys great support from parents and the SCC. The school recently conducted its fourth student engagement survey, focusing on rigor, relevance and relationships. "The answers are telling for us. They give us information for planning," said Kirby. Berry said the school team is focusing on relationships with students. "We realized that we can't focus on academics unless you have that relationship to base it on," he said. Hague High School includes Grades 7 through 12, with a student enrolment of 180.

Trustee Keith Wagner congratulated the staff team for building the culture of HHS. "I commend you on your good work. It's good to see the community standing behind the school," he said.

The next Board of Education meeting:

Monday, March 9, Division Office, Warman

The purpose of the **Board of Education Highlights** newsletter is to inform Prairie Spirit staff about the work of the Board of Education and its impact on student learning and staff supports. The newsletter is distributed to all staff members following the first Board meeting of each month.

Prairie Spirit Board of Education



Subdivision 1

Pam Wieler

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



Subdivision 2

Keith Wagner

*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*

**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 8

Joanne Brochu

*Aberdeen
Allan
Colonsay
Lost River Colony
Riverview Colony*



Subdivision 9

Bonnie Hope

Martensville



Subdivision 10

Sam Dyck

Vice-Chair

Warman



Subdivision 11

Deanna Greyeyes

Muskeg Lake Cree Nation



Subdivision 12

Shantelle Watson

Mistawasis First Nation



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