



# Board of Education HIGHLIGHTS

Lake Vista students enjoying the sunrise at the end of January.  
- photo credit: Lake Vista Public School, on Twitter

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**PRAIRIE SPIRIT**  
**SCHOOL DIVISION**  
*Learners for Life*

*Located within Treaty 6 Territory*

## Board approves Annual Report

The Board approved the Division’s Annual Report for 2019/20, at its meeting on December 14. This document is posted publicly on the Division’s [website](#). The annual report details Prairie Spirit’s results in the Ministry’s sector plan and includes the audited financial statements. An overview of the 2020/21 Division [budget](#) is also posted on the website.

The government will announce the upcoming provincial budget on April 6. The provincial budget will detail the funding for school divisions for the 2021/22 year.

## French Immersion program expansion

The French Immersion program at École Warman Elementary School (ÉWES) will expand to include Grade 4 for the 2021/22 school year, as part of the long-term plan to add a grade each year to this program. The Board approved this program expansion at its meeting on January 18.

This fall, the French Immersion program at ÉWES will include Kindergarten to Grade 4 classes.

## Transportation report

Tracey Young, Deputy Director, provided a quarterly transportation update to the Board at its December 14 meeting.

Prairie Spirit bus drivers have received training to disinfect buses according to new COVID guidelines. The Transportation Department produced a [video](#) to assist drivers. “Disinfecting procedures on our buses are going well,” said Young. “We appreciate how our drivers are supporting our COVID guidelines on their buses.”

The Division has added eight new buses to its fleet to replace older vehicles. An additional route in both Warman and Martensville has been added to meet COVID guidelines for established seating plans on buses.

All Prairie Spirit bus drivers have completed an online course regarding life-threatening conditions. This course profiled four life threatening conditions (i.e., diabetes, asthma, anaphylaxis, seizure) and explained how to identify and manage each condition while on the school bus, until professional medical help arrives.

The Division operates 146 daily bus routes, transporting over 6,300 students every day.

## Technology report

The Board received its annual technology update at its January 18 meeting. Clint Reddekopp, Learning Superintendent, provided an overview of the technology supports in place, particularly during the pandemic.

Reddekopp provided an overview of the support provided by the Division’s Technology Department throughout the past year. “We couldn’t have done this level of online learning 10 years ago,” he said.

Most schools doubled their bandwidth in the past 12 months. NED (need extra data) devices were provided to students who did not have internet access. The NED devices are essentially hotspots and are used to support student learning from home.

The Division spent \$600,000 of provincial COVID funding to support schools with remote learning, including the purchase of Chromebooks and iPads.

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Prairie Spirit will be adopting a Learning Management System to support online learning. The new system— called Canvas — will be available to all staff and students this month.

The Division is committed to protecting staff from phishing attacks. External emails have a banner alerting the recipient that it is from outside the Division. Another banner identifies if the email has an attached file that may be malware. A third banner alerts the recipient that the email may be impersonating a Prairie Spirit staff member.

**CAUTION:** This email originated from outside of Prairie Spirit. Exercise caution when viewing attachments, clicking links or responding to requests.

**WARNING: MALWARE** An attached file may not be safe to open and may contain malware. Please contact the sender to verify the attachment.

**WARNING: IMPERSONATION** This email appears to be impersonating a Prairie Spirit staff member. **DO NOT** respond directly to this email. Contact the staff member using another form of communication to verify.

The Technology Department plans to move to an automated phish reporting system for staff.

Prairie Spirit maintains over 11,000 networked objects across all schools and offices. This includes the phone system, copiers, video surveillance, projectors, smart boards and iPads, Chromebooks and laptops. In addition, approximately 7,000 personal devices connect to the Division's network every day.

*A unique moon dog captured outside Traditions Elementary School at the end of January.*

*- photo credit: Traditions Elementary School, on Twitter*

## Human Resources in Prairie Spirit

Jon Yellowlees, Learning Superintendent, presented the annual Human Resources update for the Board at its meeting on January 14.

Yellowlees highlighted the Division's work in recruitment in a variety of areas, including French Immersion, administration and special education. He pointed out that the Division is focusing on recruitment to substitute and casual lists and staffing to match demand.

Positions have been added to mitigate effect of increased absences due to COVID-19 as well as an enrolment shift, including: HR Dispatcher, five Itinerant caretakers, additional caretaker time, additional teachers for Spirit eLearning School and additional centralized SERT support. These positions are supported by provincial COVID funding.

Yellowlees said the Division is placing priority on succession planning for administrator positions in the Division as well as leadership development through *Leading from the Coach Approach*.



*Prairie Spirit's Human Resources priorities*



# Prairie Spirit Board of Education

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

## Trustee Highlight

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

Prior to the formation of Prairie Spirit School Division (through the amalgamation of three school divisions in 2006), he was a Trustee and Board Chair for the Saskatoon West School Division.

"I consider it a privilege to serve our students and our communities as a Trustee, supporting education and community wellness," he said.

Bernie is a very practical Trustee who is described as having a "no nonsense" and "down to earth" approach to issues. In 2019, he was awarded the Saskatchewan Schools Boards Association's (SSBA) Life Membership for his service with the SSBA at the provincial level.

Bernie was elected Board Chair at the Board's organizational meeting in November.

Bernie worked as prison staff for the Saskatoon Correctional Centre for over 30 years, retiring as an Assistant Deputy Director in September 2015. He now operates his own company moving buildings around the province.

Bernie and his wife Thea have been very active as volunteers in their home community of Pike Lake. Bernie is a member of the Goose Lake Lodge of Masons, an organization that presents new bikes to elementary students in the community to encourage reading, through their *Books for Bikes* program.

