

# Board of Education Highlights

Brad Bellegarde, Prairie Spirit's Artist in Residence, worked with students from Martensville and Allan at Martensville High School on Thursday, December 8.

Volume 7, Issue 1 | January 2017



## PSSD response to Governance Report

Prairie Spirit has submitted its response to the recently released Educational Governance Review Report, prepared for the Government of Saskatchewan by Dan Perrins. Prairie Spirit's response to the Perrins Report focuses on improving student learning and preserving democratic processes. The Prairie Spirit Board of Education and senior administration made a formal presentation to the Governance Review Panel on January 11.

Prairie Spirit believes a strong focus on improving student learning must not be negatively impacted by organizational restructuring.

"Deep and meaningful student learning and ongoing adult learning must remain the priority for education and guide any governance or organizational restructuring," said Larry Pavloff, Prairie Spirit Board Chair. He pointed out that the report does not provide details of how system-wide student learning improvement would be supported following major organizational change.

The Perrins Report provides four options for education governance structure, with changes including reducing the number of public school divisions in the province and re-drawing public school division boundaries. Prairie Spirit would be affected by all four of the options if they were implemented as detailed in the report. The four options do not include any such changes for separate school divisions.

The Perrins Report seems to identify improving effectiveness and efficiencies as the reason for restructuring education governance and school divisions. "Prairie Spirit is achieving high effectiveness and efficiencies and is the fourth largest school division in the province with over 10,000 students," said Pavloff. "I think it's important that the Ministry and the public are reminded that Prairie Spirit made significant budget reductions over the past four years totaling well over \$11 million," he added.

According to the Ministry of Education's own data, Prairie Spirit is one of the most efficient and effective school divisions in the province. Prairie Spirit has low governance and administration costs

**Deep and meaningful student learning and ongoing adult learning must remain the priority for education in Saskatchewan**

and is one of the highest performing school divisions. The graduation rate for Prairie Spirit students—both aboriginal and non-aboriginal—is well above the provincial average.

The Perrins Report identifies the strengths of the current governance model, including local accountability, communication, strong local voice and a local culture of learning. The Prairie Spirit Board of Education believes that these strengths would be strikingly absent in the proposed governance models presented in the Perrins report.

The Perrins Report introduces the concept of moving from democratically elected Boards of Education to appointed Boards of Education. The Prairie Spirit response focuses on the importance of preserving a democratic process that includes elected trustees to represent communities at the board table. "High levels of accountability are already embedded in the current governance structure," said Pavloff. Boards are accountable to government and their communities. In addition, Boards hold their administration accountable to ensure the school division operates effectively and efficiently.

In its presentation to the Governance Review panel, the Board said that government could meet its goals for greater accountability in education by changing regulations and legislation, avoiding large scale changes to school division structure. The amalgamation of school divisions is not cost effective and is disruptive to the learning improvement initiatives in school divisions.

The Board's presentation to the panel voiced concern that the proposed changes include only public school divisions. If the goal is to improve efficiencies within the education sector, all school divisions—including separate school divisions—should be included in the restructuring process as described in each of the options.

**Citizens and stakeholders are invited to provide their response to the report and feedback to the government at the following [link](#) by Monday, January 23.**

## Transportation Progress Report

Prairie Spirit's Conveyance Department provided the Board with an update on student transportation at the Board meeting on Monday, January 9. Bill Steckler, Conveyance Manager, told the Board that the Division's compliance with SGI regulations and requirements is a focus of their work. Prairie Spirit bus drivers are doing good work and meeting these requirements.

Another focus for the department is supporting driver development, including providing extensive driving and safety training for bus drivers.

"The work in Prairie Spirit School Division around safety training, including Violent Threat Risk Assessment training, is unique in the province," explained Lionel Diederichs, Chief Financial Officer.

### Student transportation in Prairie Spirit:

140 routes

20,393 km

5,475 students transported  
every day!

## Human Resources Strategic Directions report

The Board received a Human Resources Strategic Directions report at its regular meeting on January 9. Bob Bayles, Superintendent of Human Resources, reported that the Division is focusing on:

- Recruitment and succession planning, and
- Staff engagement and wellness

The goals for Prairie Spirit include a workforce that is:

- Highly engaged
- Diverse
- Healthy and well
- Emotionally committed to the success of the Division allowing all students to learn without limits

"The key for student learning in our school division is staff engagement," said Larry Pavloff, Board Chair.

Bayles reported that Prairie Spirit continues to be a provincial leader in the implementation and innovation of HR systems, including the current SRB program that includes integrated modules allowing process optimization.

Prairie Spirit employs over 1200 FTE employees in 45 schools and offices throughout the school division.

## Prairie Spirit Board of Education



### Subdivision 1

#### Pam Wieler

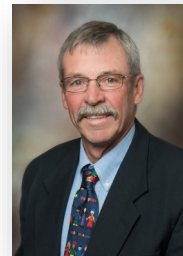
Blaine Lake  
Laird  
Leask  
Waldheim  
Green Leaf, Riverbend  
and Leask Colonies



### Subdivision 2

#### Trina Miller

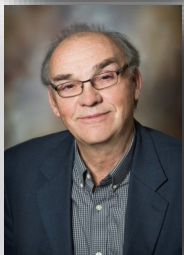
Duck Lake  
Hague  
Rosthern



### 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



### Subdivision 11

#### Kimberly Greyeyes

Muskeg Lake  
Cree Nation



### Subdivision 12

#### William Badger

Mistawasis  
First Nation