



Board of Education HIGHLIGHTS

Venture Heights students basked in the morning sunlight during class early in January.
Photo credit: Lee-Anne Evans



Minister confirms no boundary changes

The Minister of Education has informed Prairie Spirit that there will be **no changes** to the boundaries of the school division.

This decision was made following the extensive work of the provincial Education Governance Renewal Committee, with input from school divisions.

The Minister expressed her appreciation to Prairie Spirit for the input and data provided to inform the work of this provincial committee.

Learning technology in Prairie Spirit

The Board received an update on technology supports in the school division at its regular meeting on December 18.

Clint Reddekopp, Learning Superintendent, provided an overview of the varied supports that the technology department provides. The department is responsible for all the technology needs of Division staff, schools and offices. In addition, this work is as varied as overseeing the installation of all phone and intercom systems, monitoring GPS units for all Prairie Spirit buses, ensuring internet access in Hutterite schools and preparing the Division for potential cyber attacks.

Reddekopp shared information on new innovations in learning technology, including classroom sets for coding, drones and 3D printing. "The primary requirement is an adult who is interested in learning alongside their students," Reddekopp said. This approach is currently in pilot in several classrooms and an official Innovations Guide is set to be circulated to all schools later this spring.

Technology is also working with the Ministry on the provincial direction to move to a unified student information system. Prairie Spirit currently uses PowerSchool to manage student data. Reddekopp indicated that a decision about a single system for all school divisions in the province is expected by the end of January, with early provincial adopters to cutover this June. All school divisions will join the system by June 2019. More information will be provided to Prairie Spirit staff as it becomes available.

Conveyance Report

Bill Steckler, Conveyance Manager, provided the Board with an overview of the transportation services in the school division at its regular meeting on January 8.

Every day, over 140 Prairie Spirit buses transport over 5,000 students and travel over 20,500 kilometres.

Prairie Spirit students and their parents will soon be able to track their bus through a new app called "MyStop". Steckler said the Bus Garage is looking forward to implementing this innovation in the next few weeks, as it will provide an up-to-date bus location for students waiting along the route.

Steckler reported that Prairie Spirit's transportation department has received very positive feedback from SGI for the Division's record keeping and training processes for bus drivers.

"The safety of our students is at the top of our list," said Larry Pavloff, Board Chair. "Thank you very much for all the work you do."

Human Resources in Prairie Spirit

Bob Bayles, Deputy Director of People and Finance, CFO, presented a Human Resources update for the Board on January 8.

Bayles reported the Division's focus on coaching conversations this year, as well as a continuing commitment to leadership development with the Division's Aspiring Principals Program. This popular program will have approximately 15 participants this spring.

In terms of hiring new teachers, Prairie Spirit focuses on strong interns in the Division's schools. "We're seeing phenomenal results in our new teachers," he reported.

Bayles also reported that the Division is projecting a \$43,000 savings in Workers' Compensation Board (WCB) premiums. "We're saving money as our rates are going down," he said. "In addition, strong safety statistics are one indicator of staff engagement, so this is good news for our school division."

Lori Jeschke, Director of Education, expressed her appreciation for the work being done in HR, particularly regarding staff growth and development.

"We support all staff as they continue to learn and grow; we're learners for life in Prairie Spirit," she said.

*The next Prairie Spirit Board of Education meeting will be held
Monday, February 5, at Division Office in Warman.*

The Prairie Spirit Board of Education



Subdivision 1
Pam Wieler
*Blaine Lake
Laird
Leask
Waldheim
Green Leaf, Riverbend
and Leask Colonies*



Subdivision 4
George Janzen
*Dalmeny
Hepburn
Osler*



Subdivision 7
Dawne Badrock
*Clavet
Dundurn
Hanley
South Corman Park
Hillcrest Colony
Lost River Colony*



Subdivision 10
Sam Dyck
Board Vice-Chair
Warman



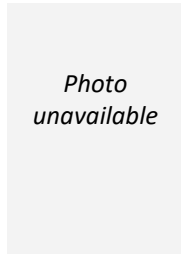
Subdivision 2
Trina Miller
*Duck Lake
Hague
Rosthern*



Subdivision 5
Larry Pavloff
Board Chair
*Asquith
Perdue
Eagle Creek Colony
Sunnydale Colony*



Subdivision 8
Garth Hetterly
*Aberdeen
Allan
Colonsay
Riverview Colony*



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unavailable*

Subdivision 11
Kimberly Greyeyes
*Muskeg Lake
Cree Nation*



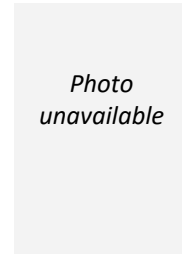
Subdivision 3
Ken Crush
*Borden
Langham*



Subdivision 6
Bernie Howe
*Delisle
Pike Lake
Vanscoy
Willow Park Colony*



Subdivision 9
Bonnie Hope
Martensville



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unavailable*

Subdivision 12
William Badger
*Mistawasis
First Nation*

Prairie Spirit is on Twitter
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Prairie Spirit is on Instagram
prairie_spirit

