



Coordinator Jon Yellowlees (far right) led Board of Education Trustees and Director of Education, John Kuzbik (fourth from left), on a "Conversation Wall Walk" at Division Office on Monday, December 15.

Board of Education meeting Monday, January 5, 2014

Strategic Directions: Student Engagement

The Board received a presentation about student engagement at its meeting on December 15, 2014. Learning Superintendent Kim Beaulieu said the Division's goal is for high levels of both student and adult engagement.

He reported that Prairie Spirit's levels of engagement for students, as measured by the Tell Them From Me (TTFM) survey, are at national levels. All Prairie Spirit schools (with students in Grade 4 and higher) conducted the TTFM survey this fall. As part of a provincial initiative, every school (Grades 4 - 12) in the province is conducting the TTFM survey this year.

Based on research on engagement, it is important to focus on relationships (collaboration), relevance (purpose), rigour (belief that they can succeed) and assessment (autonomy and feedback), Beaulieu explained. He said student engagement is patient, long-term work.

"Part of this is staff engagement, which impacts student engagement," said Board Chair, Larry Pavloff. "As well, if our parents are engaged, our students are engaged."

John Kuzbik, Director of Education, added that student engagement is also based on strong classroom practices.

Strategic Directions: Assessment

Learning Superintendent Lori Jeschke and Dave Carter, Coordinator of Schools and Learning, provided an update on assessment for the Board at its December 15 meeting.

Jeschke reviewed the process that has been in place in Prairie Spirit over the past seven years to support changes in student assessment. Professional development opportunities have been offered to all staff, with over 180 teachers participating in assessment residencies at their schools.

"Our focus is on students as problem solvers and critical thinkers," Jeschke explained. She said this requires a shift in what is expected from students as learners.

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The goal is for students to be able to answer the following questions in terms of their progress:

- How am I doing?
- How do I know how I am doing?
- What do I need to do next?

The school division's assessment team has been collecting feedback from parents, students and the community about assessment practices in Prairie Spirit. Of those parents who responded to a survey about the new progress reports, 87% said they know where their child needs to improve.

Jeschke clarified that Prairie Spirit does not have a "no zero" policy, but supports encouraging students to do everything they can to complete their work.

The assessment team has developed four main assessment messages that are being shared with staff, parents and the community:

1. Earning to learning
2. Feedback for learning
3. Preparing our children for the real world
4. Parents as partners in learning

Prairie Spirit has developed an assessment blog — www.earning2learning.ca — as a support and resource for parents and teachers.

Facilities report

Kerry Donst, Facilities Planner, presented a report on December 15 detailing structural and roof repairs that are urgently required at a number of Prairie Spirit schools. If there is an area of a school that has been determined to be unsafe by structural engineers, it has been closed, Donst reported.

Prairie Spirit will send a report to the Ministry to request urgent funding for these needs.



**PRAIRIE SPIRIT
SCHOOL DIVISION**

Learners for Life

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The next Board of Education meeting:

Monday, January 19, 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



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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
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Eagle Creek Colony
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Warman



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Muskeg Lake Cree Nation



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Shantelle Watson

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