



Board of Education HIGHLIGHTS

This group of Martensville High School (MHS) students received the “Yes I Can” Award for Employment from the Council for Exceptional Children - Saskatchewan last month. They participate in the LifeSkills Program at MHS and operate a coffee business called “The Royal Bean.” These students operate a full coffee delivery service twice daily to Martensville High School staff and have made road trips to Ventures Heights, Valley Manor and the Division Office.

Volume 7, Issue 4 | June 2017



PSSD Annual General Meeting

Prairie Spirit’s Annual General Meeting (AGM), held Thursday, May 25, at the Division Office in Warman, was called “a tribute to the work of the Board of Education.” John Kuzbik, Director of Education, thanked the Board for their leadership in setting the direction for the school division, with a focus on improving student and adult learning.

Kuzbik highlighted the value of adult learning in education. “Adult learning is necessary to increase and deepen the learning of all learners, especially those who are required to achieve the most growth in a school year,” he explained.

He reported that Prairie Spirit is the fastest growing school division in the province. Unfortunately, this growth has coincided with a downturn in the Saskatchewan economy which has impacted funding for education.

Kuzbik provided provincial school division context and explained that the Prairie Spirit Board allocates a larger percentage of its budget to instruction and to students with intense learning needs, while spending less on administrative costs.

He added that the focus on improving student learning in the Division has not changed, despite the funding reductions over the past few years. “It’s great to be a part of such a strong school division,” he concluded.

Larry Pavloff, Board Chair, presented on behalf of the Board of Education. “Our work as a Board is all about our students. We make decisions, set strategic directions and create policy all designed to support student learning as our highest priority,” he said.

Pavloff provided an overview of student achievement results from 2015/16 and thanked the Prairie Spirit staff who have supported students in a variety of ways. He reported that 86% of Prairie Spirit students are graduating within three years of starting Grade 10 (considered the “on-time” graduation rate), which is 10% above the provincial average. The Division’s First Nations and Métis “on-time” graduation rate is 57%, which is 15% above the provincial rate.

Prairie Spirit is regarded as a highly effective and efficient school division

The graduation rate for Prairie Spirit students who take up to five years to graduate increases to 92%, while the First Nations and Métis graduation rate for this category is 74%.

“Prairie Spirit is regarded as a highly effective and efficient school division, with strong student achievement results,” he said.

Pavloff also talked about the Board’s role as an advocate for students in the school division. “The Board is committed to ensuring ongoing student success in Prairie Spirit School Division,” he said.

Lionel Diederichs, Chief Financial Officer, explained “the story within the financial statements.” The level of accountability for Prairie Spirit is greater than for most school divisions in the province, he explained.



Larry Pavloff, Board Chair, presented at the Annual General Meeting

As the school division with the fourth largest annual budget, the school division is audited by an independent auditor and the provincial auditor every year.

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"I want to commend the Board's good stewardship for the school division," Diederichs said.

The school division has received considerable capital funding over the past few years for the Martensville High School expansion and renovation project and the new P3 schools in Warman and Martensville. Consistent with current accounting practices, the costs of large facility projects are distributed over the life cycle of the project, with only a portion of the actual cost of the project being reflected annually.

School presentations

Three Prairie Spirit schools presented their learning stories at the AGM: Dalmeny High School, Warman Community Middle School and Hague Elementary School.

Andrew Merryweather, Principal of **Dalmeny High School** and teacher Stephen Kowalchuk reported that assessments are being designed to capture deep student learning. Students are responding by being more present in their learning. Merryweather said the students are being challenged to critically examine complex problems and offer solutions. The school's new motto is: Challenge, Persist, Success.

Greg Tebay, Principal of **Warman Community Middle School (WCMS)**, said their goal this year has been to actualize *My Prairie Spirit Classroom* (MPSC) with their teachers. Teachers have been encouraged to take risks, with a focus on adult learning that will change their practices in their classrooms to improve student learning throughout the school year.

"We learned a lot from each other," said Lisa Mason, WCMS Vice-Principal. They explained that MPSC is not a checklist or a recipe, but represents a lifetime of work.

Janet Jackson, Principal of **Hague Elementary School**, said the school has experienced more adult learning throughout the past year than they could have imagined. Jackson, Nicole Lavallee (Vice-Principal) and Carissa Laughren (teacher) reported that their school's learning has been influenced by Penny Kittle's learning philosophy, the workshop model and teachers observing their colleagues in classrooms throughout the school year.

Hague Elementary believes that expectations for adult learning should mirror expectations for student learning.

Board approves appointment of new Director of Education



Lori Jeschke

At its regular meeting on June 5, the Prairie Spirit Board of Education formally approved the appointment of Lori Jeschke as the new Director of Education for Prairie Spirit School Division, effective August 1, 2017. The Division's current Director, John Kuzbik, will retire July 31.

"The Board is very pleased to congratulate Lori on her appointment as Prairie Spirit's Director of Education," said Larry Pavloff, Board Chair. "Prairie Spirit is fortunate to have Lori lead the school division with her extensive and varied experience,

exceptional leadership skills and commitment to excellence and learning."

Jeschke is an accomplished professional educator with a track record of improving student learning, building school culture and leading system initiatives through vision and reflection, shared leadership and collaborative team building.

She brings over 29 years of experience with Prairie Spirit School Division to her new position as Director of Education. Jeschke has been a Learning Superintendent with Prairie Spirit since 2011, working in the areas of assessment, evaluation, research and adult learning. She has also been a classroom teacher, vice principal, principal, Human Resources Principal and Coordinator. She completed a Master of Educational Administration from the University of Saskatchewan in 2006.

Most recently, Jeschke has co-presented with national and international education leaders in conferences and institutes in several provinces and states. Her presentations, supported by research, reference the learning excellence that occurs in Prairie Spirit School Division.

Safety training for Prairie Spirit Bus Drivers

At the Board meeting on June 5, Trustees learned that Prairie Spirit's work providing safety training for school bus drivers has been recognized by other school divisions and SGI.

Bill Steckler, Prairie Spirit's Conveyance Manager, recently presented at the Saskatchewan Association of School Business Officials (SASBO) conference. He described the Prairie Spirit model for providing safety training for bus drivers. Because of the level of interest from other school divisions, there may be opportunities for Prairie Spirit's Conveyance Department to share their expertise.

Rosthern School Project

The Board received a brief update on the Rosthern School project at the June 5 meeting. The Board is pleased with the Ministry's funding to start the new school project in Rosthern, which was announced as part of the 2017/18 provincial budget. There are currently two schools in Rosthern: Rosthern Elementary School and Rosthern High School. The new school project will consolidate the two schools into one facility with Pre-Kindergarten through Grade 12.

There are a number of community interests that are part of the consultation process for this project. A Project Manager will be retained to oversee the project.

The Board will ensure work begins on this urgently-needed project as soon as possible to serve the students and staff in Rosthern schools.

Next Board of Education meeting:

Monday, June 19, Division Office, Warman



Prairie Spirit is on Twitter
[@prairiespiritsd](https://twitter.com/prairiespiritsd) #pssdlearn

Prairie Spirit Board of Education



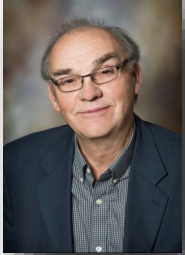
Subdivision 1
Pam Wieler
*Blaine Lake
Laird
Leask
Waldheim
Green Leaf, Riverbend
and Leask Colonies*



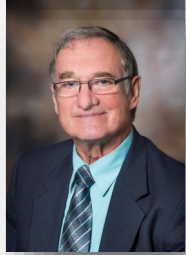
Subdivision 2
Trina Miller
*Duck Lake
Hague
Rosthern*



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

*Photo
unavailable*

Subdivision 11
Kimberly Greeyes
*Muskeg Lake
Cree Nation*

*Photo
unavailable*

Subdivision 12
William Badger
*Mistawasis
First Nation*



**PRAIRIE SPIRIT
SCHOOL DIVISION**
Learners for Life

