

Waldheim School celebrated their graduates earlier this month. - photo credit: Bruce Mellesmoen, Principal of Waldheim School, on Twitter Volume 10, Issue 4 | June 2020

PRAIRIE SPIRIT SCHOOL DIVISION

Learners for Life Located within Treaty 6 Territory

Board approves 2020/21 budget

The Prairie Spirit Board of Education approved the Division's 2020/21 budget at its meeting via videoconference on June 15.

The provincial government announced an overall average funding increase of 2.2% for school divisions for 2020/21, with specific school division increases varying from 0% to 4% for the province's 27 school divisions.

Prairie Spirit will receive an increase in operational funding of 1.66% which includes a 2% teacher salary increase. The Division is forecasting cash expenses to increase by \$1.8 million (1.5%) from 2019/20.

Overall teacher and support staffing will remain status quo for the 2020/21 school year, despite a projected enrolment increase of over 180 students.

The Division made a number of reductions to balance the budget, including reducing the operational funds allocated to purchase new buses.

The budget reflects the Division's rising fixed costs in a variety of areas, including utilities, employment costs and facilities.

COVID savinas

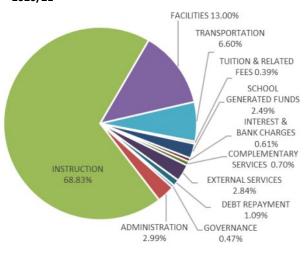
The Board discussed the Division's anticipated savings as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic which caused the suspension of classes from March 20 until the end of June.

The Ministry of Education has provided criteria for school divisions to follow when determining how to use the funds that have been saved as a result of the pandemic.

Division administrators have estimated that the Division will save approximately \$1.8 million directly related to the suspension of classes.

The Board approved the Division's initial plan for these funds, which includes one-time costs for instructional supports for teachers, technology for schools, hands-free water bottle filling stations, sanitizing stations, plexiglass shields and transportation needs.

The Division's approved 2020/21 budget and COVID savings reinvestment plan will now be submitted to the Ministry of Education for approval.



Prairie Spirit Expenses 2020/21

Rosthern Community School

The new Rosthern Community School has been turned over to the Division, effective June 15. This project remains on schedule and slightly under budget.

The staff from Rosthern Elementary School and Rosthern High School will now begin to move into the new building.

The Board approved the demolition plans for the old high school and elementary school buildings, as well as the budget for this work. The demolitions will start in July and be finished by the end of November.



Drone view of Rosthern Community School, June 2020 (Rosthern High School is on the far right with the white/brown roof)

Prairie Spirit Board of Education





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