



The Board of Education had several guests at its March 9 meeting, including Learning Superintendents Kim Beaulieu, Lori Jeschke and Karen Campbell and Kendra Worman, Music Support Facilitator and the administrators from Hepburn and Laird Schools.

Board of Education meeting March 9, 2015

Provincial funding leads to \$6 million shortfall for Prairie Spirit

Prairie Spirit School Division may face a \$6 million shortfall for the 2015/16 school year due to provincial funding levels. At its meeting on Monday, March 9, the Prairie Spirit Board of Education approved the release of more information about the expected shortfall to inform parents and the community.

Prairie Spirit has launched a new [website](#) to provide further budget and funding details to staff, parents and the public and has distributed a funding shortfall communication to all parents in the Division.

“As a result of our funding shortfall, we will be challenged to maintain our graduation rates, literacy and math achievement results and the success of our First Nations and Métis students, all of which are among the highest in the province,” said Sam Dyck, Board Vice-Chair.

Last year, Prairie Spirit made cuts of approximately \$2 million and used \$3 million in limited reserve funds to balance the budget. The provincial budget will be released on Wednesday, March 18. At that time, the school division’s financial situation for the upcoming year will be determined.

The Prairie Spirit Board of Education, represented by Vice-Chair Sam Dyck and Trustee Joanne Brochu, met with the Minister of Education on Friday, March 13. The meeting was planned to discuss the school division’s extensive analysis of the education funding model. The Minister did not provide any further assurances about adequate funding for the 2015/16 school year.

The new education funding model (in place since 2012) was meant to fund school divisions equitably so that all students in the province would receive similar learning opportunities. However, Prairie Spirit is funded significantly lower per student when compared to other similar school divisions. In fact, Prairie Spirit is one of the lowest funded school divisions (on a per student basis) in the province.

Prairie Spirit has experienced a reduction in funding per student each year since the new funding model came into place,

despite significant growth in student enrolment. When compared to the highest funded school division, which is similar to Prairie Spirit, Prairie Spirit receives \$4,000 less per student.

Prairie Spirit has determined that its expenses and costs are average or below average when compared to other similar school divisions. In addition, the school division’s overall staffing practices are similar to other school divisions.

The Board of Education has consulted with the Ministry and local MLAs on numerous occasions to discuss the need for adequate funding. The Ministry has agreed with Prairie Spirit’s analysis of the provincial funding model’s negative impact on the school division.

“Our concern is that learning opportunities and supports for students who require them most will be reduced if equitable and adequate funding is not provided by the provincial government,” said Larry Pavloff, Board Chair.

Strategic Directions update: Music programming
Kendra Worman, Music Support Facilitator for the Division, and Kim Beaulieu, Learning Superintendent, presented an update on music programming in the Division at the March 9 Board meeting.

Worman and Beaulieu reviewed the goals and plans for music education for the 2014/15 school year. The work has focused on assessing the needs at various schools and building resources and supports for music teachers throughout the school division.

Worman also provided an overview of an innovative student music conference planned for Prairie Spirit students on March 19 and 20. The *Resonate Student Music Conference* is the first of its kind in the school division. The conference has been planned to encourage students in grades 7 through 12 to become more engaged in music. “We hope students return to



**PRAIRIE SPIRIT
SCHOOL DIVISION**

Learners for Life

Volume 5, Issue 3 | March 2015

**Funding shortfall [information](#)
for staff, parents and community**

Prairie Spirit budget [website](#)

... continued

their schools inspired to be catalysts for increased music learning opportunities,” Worman said.

Approximately 200 Prairie Spirit students from 18 different schools have registered for this inaugural conference. The two-day conference gives students the opportunity to choose their sessions from a variety of options, based on their musical interests. These sessions will be presented by music industry professionals and will be designed for students with a range of ability and knowledge.

Martensville High School update

The Board received an update regarding the renovation and construction project at Martensville High School. Students are expected to move into the newly constructed areas of the school by October, 2015.

The entire project—including an extensive renovation of the existing high school building—is scheduled to be completed in January, 2017.

Board approves grade configurations for new schools

At its March 9 meeting, the Board approved in principle the grade configurations for all schools in the communities of Warman and Martensville.

Both communities are scheduled to add a new elementary school in fall, 2017.

The grade configuration in Warman plans for evenly distributed enrolment numbers in each school and lends itself well to an elementary, middle and high school approach.

In Martensville, the grades were organized to maintain a consistent Pre-K to Grade 8 approach.

School presentations:

Laird School and Hepburn School

Dean Hignett, Principal of Laird School, and Ron Sigstad and Bruce Mellesmoen, the administrative team at Hepburn School, joined the Board meeting on March 9.

Laird School has 68 students in Kindergarten through Grade 8. Hignett highlighted the enhanced school library, which he called a “staff effort.” The school’s goals include increasing literacy by increasing comprehension in all subject areas and increasing communication between home and school. He said the school is using the workshop model with success.

“You’ve done a phenomenal job in Laird,” said Trustee Pam Wieler. “We appreciate all the work you do.”

Hepburn School, a K-12 school with 263 students, has three learning goals: K - 3 reading, K - 12 engagement, and graduation rates. Mellesmoen said that early interventions are put into place for students who need extra support in reading. Sigstad emphasized that teachers and staff work together to achieve the school’s learning goals. The teachers at the school are all aware of the plans in place for each student, Mellesmoen said. Wieler thanked the Hepburn School administrative team for their report to the Board.

The next Board of Education meeting:

Monday, March 23, Division Office, Warman

Warman	
Warman Elementary School	Pre-Kindergarten to Grade 5
Warman Comm. Middle School	Grade 6 to Grade 8
New P3 elementary school	Pre-Kindergarten to Grade 5
Warman High School	Grade 9 to Grade 12
Martensville	
Valley Manor Elementary School	Pre-Kindergarten to Grade 8
Venture Heights Elem. School	Pre-Kindergarten to Grade 8
New P3 elementary school	Pre-Kindergarten to Grade 8
Martensville High School	Grade 9 to Grade 12

Prairie Spirit is on Twitter

[@prairiespiritsd](https://twitter.com/prairiespiritsd) #pssdlearn

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



Subdivision 1

Pam Wieler

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



Subdivision 4

George Janzen

*Dalmeny
Hepburn
Osler*

***A by-election
for Subdivision 7
will be held on
Wednesday,
June 3, 2015***

Subdivision 7

Vacant

*Clavet
Dundurn
Hanley
South Corman Park
Hillcrest Colony*



Subdivision 10

Sam Dyck

Vice-Chair
Warman



Subdivision 2

Keith Wagner

*Duck Lake
Hague
Rosthern*



Subdivision 5

Larry Pavloff

Board Chair
*Asquith
Perdue
Eagle Creek Colony
Sunnydale Colony*



Subdivision 8

Joanne Brochu

*Aberdeen
Allan
Colonsay
Lost River Colony
Riverview Colony*



Subdivision 11

Deanna 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



Subdivision 12

Shantelle Watson

Mistawasis First Nation