



Board of Education Highlights

All 45 Prairie Spirit schools presented their Learning for Life presentations during May, detailing their learning growth during the current school year and outlining their plans for the future. Following each presentation, schools had a chance to sit down together, discuss their work and ask questions.

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10 years of learning together in
Prairie Spirit School Division
2006 - 2016

Safe Schools in Prairie Spirit

Lori Jeschke, Learning Superintendent, Dave Carter, Coordinator of Schools and Learning, and Diane Kendall, Coordinator of Schools and Learning, represented the Division's Safe Schools team and presented to the Board at the May 2 meeting.

Jeschke provided an overview of the Division's lockdown procedure and how students and staff have become proficient in following protocol. "We are doing everything we can to keep our staff and students safe and to respond to whatever might happen," she explained. "This is big work that we are doing."

Diane Kendall explained the school division's role in the Community Threat Assessment and Support [Protocol](#) (CTASP). This protocol focuses on gathering information to assess the level of risk of violence at a school, in partnership with local police, mental health support and other community agencies. Following the protocol at the school level raises awareness and supports teachers and administrators in their work. "Being proactive and preventative is what safe schools is about," she added.

The Safe Schools team also explained how students are being supported outside Prairie Spirit classrooms. These students are considered "home-bound," due to health issues or threat of violence against staff or students. These students are being well supported, with the ultimate goal of returning to the classroom.

"I'm impressed we have such a strong process for working with students who need extra support," said Trustee Dawne Badrock.

Learning Support Services (LSS) in Prairie Spirit

Susan Protz, Coordinator of Schools and Learning, Holly Kruger, Registered Psychologist, Julie Mutch, Speech Language Pathologist, and Marnya Sokol, Occupational Therapist, made a presentation to the Board about the supports provided by their team of specialists.

They articulated that their role is to support school teams to meet student learning outcomes and to increase each student's independence.

Each LSS member has a focus school for the 2015/16 school year. All schools receive support, but each LSS member spends more time in a specific school throughout this year. Using this model allows the LSS staff to provide more support and to build more capacity. Because

they are spending more time in the school, they feel like part of the staff team.

"Focusing on strong relationships has helped us become more effective," said Mutch. Sokol spoke about the benefit of getting to know students better in the context of their own school. "Because I'm at the school more often, I can work more collaboratively with teachers and EAs," she added.

Kruger explained that as a result of being in one school throughout the year, she has had a more consistent schedule for supporting teachers and has felt more connected and involved. She was part of parent/teacher interviews this year.

Protz talked about the importance of interdisciplinary cooperation and working to support each other within this team of specialists.

Subdivision 8 schools reassigned

Due to the recent resignation of Trustee Joanne Brochu, the schools in her subdivision have been reassigned to the following Trustees for the remainder of the term:

- Aberdeen Composite School Sam Dyck
- Allan Composite School Dawne Badrock
- Colonsay School Dawne Badrock
- Riverview Colony School George Janzen

Brochu and her family have moved and she is not able to complete her term as Trustee with a residence outside the school division boundary. Because a general election for all Board members will be held in October 2016, the seat will remain vacant until the elections are held this fall.

Board approves structural repair projects

At its meeting on May 16, the Board approved structural repair projects for Prairie Spirit schools. A project to repair Clavet Composite School's library, IA shop and mezzanine was approved at a cost of \$950,000. Repairs to Hague schools were approved at a cost of \$375,000.

The funding for both projects is provided by the Ministry of Education as emergent funding, which is allocated for unexpected projects that are too large to be funded with the school division's annual Preventative Maintenance and Renewal (PMR) budget.

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Prairie Spirit's Annual General Meeting held at Martensville High School

Prairie Spirit's Annual General Meeting (AGM) for 2014/15 was held Tuesday, May 17, in the new theatre at Martensville High School. By legislation, school divisions must hold a public meeting every year to provide reports from the Chief Financial Officer, the Board of Education and the Director of Education.

Jim Shields, Chief Financial Officer, presented his final financial report at this year's AGM as he is retiring later this summer. He explained the school division's financial statements are extensively audited by both a local auditor and the provincial auditor. The audits are designed to ensure the financial statements are accurate, the school division has the necessary controls in place to safeguard public funds and the school division is complying with provincial legislation.

Shields provided an overview of the school division's revenues and expenses, noting that almost 70% of expenses are for instruction, the school division's core business.

The Board of Education report was presented by Larry Pavloff, Board Chair. "Our work as a Board of Education 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. "We believe our students have tremendous opportunities to learn and grow in each of our schools. We are so proud of the work that is being done throughout the school division." Pavloff thanked staff members and the administrative leadership team for their work guiding student learning in the Division.

Director of Education, John Kuzbik, presented his report, focusing on the strong work of Prairie Spirit's teachers and staff, despite budget constraints and reductions. Prairie Spirit students are achieving at and above the provincial level in all areas. "We believe all of our students and adults can learn to high levels if they are supported appropriately," Kuzbik said. He described the new Learning Facilitator role that is designed to support adult learning in the most practical and relevant way: embedded in the classroom.

"Our goal is to have classrooms that engage students to be curious, explore, question, experiment and discover," he concluded.

School reports

The AGM also had a strong learning focus, with reports from four Prairie Spirit schools: Martensville High School, Rosthern High



The Prairie Spirit AGM was held in the new theatre at Martensville High School on May 17

School, Dalmeny High School and Venture Heights Elementary School (Martensville).

Brad Nichol, Principal of **Martensville High School**, provided an overview of the school's busy year, which included a move into the school's new addition. The original school building is now undergoing extensive renovations. The school's theme for the year was "On the Move," which applied not only to the physical environment, but also to the learning environment in the school.

Ralph Epp, Principal of **Rosthern High School**, described the school's involvement in a University research project called "Flourishing Schools." The school has been studied by university personnel who are examining what makes a strong school environment. "I always knew that relationships were key to education," Epp said. "Now I know that the relationship between teachers is the most important element."

Andrew Merryweather, Principal of **Dalmeny High School**, and teacher Stephen Kowalchuk presented about the work at their school this year. The school is focusing on student outcomes and documenting what students understand. "If students are not meeting critical outcomes, there is an intervention," Merryweather explained. "We don't leave students behind."

Ron Biberdorf, Principal, Nicole Lacoursiere, Vice-Principal, and Learning Facilitator, Julie Kobussen, presented on the learning plan at **Venture Heights Elementary School**. This year the focus has been on assessment and rigour. The school has embraced the LF role and has developed a process to support adult learning. "Without adult learning, we can't support student learning," Lacoursiere explained.

Next Board of Education meeting:
Monday, June 6, Division Office, Warman

Prairie Spirit Board of Education



Subdivision 1

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
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

Vacant

*Aberdeen
Allan
Colonsay
Riverview Colony*



Subdivision 9

Bonnie Hope

Martensville



Subdivision 10

Sam Dyck

Board Vice-Chair

Warman



Subdivision 11

Deanna Greyeyes

*Muskeg Lake
Cree Nation*



Subdivision 12

Shantelle Watson

*Mistawasis
First Nation*



**PRAIRIE SPIRIT
SCHOOL DIVISION**

Learners for Life



Where everyone can grow.

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.