



Saskatoon Public Schools
Inspiring Learning

Saskatoon Board of Education Highlights Public Board meeting – December 13, 2011

Employee saves team mate's life

On November 20th, Saskatoon Public Schools employee Jim Murray saved the life of a member of his recreational hockey team. He saw his friend collapse in front of him and sprang into action as a certified first aider and operator of an automated external defibrillator (AED). Another team member performed CPR and Jim used the AED to shock his friend's heart. The group continued performing CPR until paramedics arrived.

Jim Murray is a humble man and did not want his actions recognized. However, he agreed to speak to the Board of Education in order to highlight the importance of having employees of Saskatoon Public Schools trained in first aid and in the use of AED's. As Occupational Health and Safety Liaison, Jim has been actively involved in overseeing the addition of AED's to all school division buildings and he arranges for first aid training throughout the school division.

Restated 2011-2012 budget

Trustees passed a motion to approve the division's restated 2011-2012 budget as per a directive from the Ministry of Education. The restatement is due to miscommunication from the Ministry of Education about the funding of pre-kindergarten, which reduces grant revenues by \$900,000. A further \$500,000 reduction to grant revenues was made to cover the increased costs in the Local Implementation and Negotiation Committee (LINC) agreement. Until a decision is made by the Ministry of Education, the funding for LINC will not be included in the 2011-2012 budget.

Saskatoon Public Schools Foundation

Trustees received the 2010-2011 annual report of the Saskatoon Public Schools Foundation. The Foundation had an excellent year with a \$1 million donation from PotashCorp to build the PotashCorp Eco-Science Centre at the Division's Brightwater site. The Centre will enable students to experience the natural environment of Brightwater while learning about western science and Indigenous ways of knowing.

The Foundation gave \$500 grants to 48 of the Division's 55 schools. Grants allow schools to pursue educational initiatives in the areas of **citizenship, cultural responsiveness, student leadership, and healthy active living**. Learn more about the Saskatoon Public Schools Foundation at www.spsfoundation.ca

Canadian Achievement Test results for 2011-2012

Students at Saskatoon Public Schools complete two large scale assessments for which we receive division-level data. The Canadian Achievement Test (CAT/4) is a standardized test given annually to all students in Grades 4, 8 and 10. This test measures basic literacy and mathematics skills against Canadian norms.

Assessment for Learning (AFL) is a provincial initiative that assesses student performance relative to provincial curricular objectives. The 2010 assessment focused on reading for Grades 4, 7 and 10, and mathematics for Grades 5 and 8.

Trustees were given highlights of both assessments and examples of how division teachers are working to address the results.

Premier's Board of Education Award for Innovation and Excellence in Education

Collegiate Renewal – one of the Board's two strategic learning priorities - received the Premier's Board of Education Award for Innovation and Excellence in Education at the Saskatchewan School Boards Association's (SSBA) recent Annual Assembly. Belonging, potency, relevancy and competency are the four dimensions of Collegiate Renewal.

Saskatoon Public Schools has received this award four times in the award's thirteen year history. Previous winners include Royal West Campus in 2003, Literary for Life in 2006 and the Okiciyapi Educational Partnership in 2007.

The Premier's Innovation and Excellence Award recognizes educational innovations and improvements focused on student achievement which have been advanced or directed by boards of education. The winning Board receives a \$3,000 prize from sponsor Xerox. The prize is used to support or extend the innovation or project.

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