



**Saskatoon Public Schools**  
Inspiring Learning

## **Saskatoon Board of Education Highlights Public Board meeting – January 17, 2012**

### **New Director of Education**

Mrs. Avon Whittles, Deputy Director of Education, was announced as the new Director of Education, effective August 1, 2012. As Deputy Director of Education for the past five years, Mrs. Whittles has played a key role in implementing the Board's *Literacy for Life* and *Collegiate Renewal* strategic learning priorities, and in developing the Board's Strategic Plan. She is an enthusiastic champion for early learning and literacy and has worked tirelessly to help the students at Saskatoon Public be the best they can be.

"I am deeply honoured to lead a vibrant Saskatoon Public Schools' team at what is a very exciting time for public education in Saskatchewan," said Avon Whittles. "It is the care and compassion at Saskatoon Public that sets our Division apart. We consider it an honour to care for, and learn with, so many young people and to shape the future with our students. I am looking forward to continuing the strong relationships among our staff, families and community partners as we focus upon improving learning outcomes and creating inspiring learning environments for our students."

### **Enrolment growth means 14 additional teachers hired**

Saskatoon Public Schools has experienced very positive student enrolment growth over the past three years. The Division predicted an increase of 175 students and gained 480 this school year. A large number of these students require English as an additional language support. This unforeseen growth, combined with the great diversity of the student population at Saskatoon Public, means 14 additional teachers were hired.

Since 2008, the number of students attending Saskatoon Public Schools has grown by over 1200 students. Since June, 2009, EAL student numbers at the elementary level have quadrupled and student numbers at the secondary level have tripled.

## **School community councils thriving**

School community councils are advisory bodies focused on enhancing student learning and well-being. They are made up of elected individuals from the community who help advance the educational objectives of their school. Trustees heard highlights from administration's semi-annual report on the work of school community councils at Saskatoon Public Schools.

School community council assembly meetings are held twice a year and are a rich opportunity to support council operations, provide updates from the Board of Education, and provide networking opportunities for trustees, senior administration and council members. School community council members assemble next in late January. Trustees were provided with a list of individuals filling the five to nine elected seats on each school community council, as well as the appointed members.

## **Saskatoon Public Schools' top student**

Marnie Howlett, a graduate of Marion M. Graham Collegiate, recently received the Saskatoon Board of Education's 2011 Award of Excellence. The award is given each year to the student who best exemplifies the goals and values of Saskatoon Public Schools. Trustees were treated to highlights of Marnie's high school experience and the reasons why Saskatoon Public Schools is so proud of her.

- She is very involved in the Ukrainian community as an understudy of Pavlychenko Folklorique Ensemble, a member of the Lastiwka Ukrainian Orthodox Choir and as a Sunday school assistant teacher.
- She had an average of 99.14% in her Grade 12 graduating credits!
- She organized the Marion M. Graham Collegiate Christmas hamper campaign for three years.
- She is a community tennis and volleyball instructor and also finds time to tutor.
- Through her four years at Marion M. Graham Collegiate, her lowest mark was 92%.

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