



Saskatoon Board of Education Highlights Public Board meeting – November 8, 2011

Election of Board Chair

Mr. Ray Morrison was elected at Chair of the Saskatoon Board of Education for 2011-2012 at the Board's inaugural meeting. Mr. Morrison, who was first elected as trustee for Ward 10 in 2003, begins his sixth year as Board chair. "As Chair, I will work to ensure each trustee contributes his/her views on all decisions and our discussions are balanced and fair," said Morrison. A priority for the Board will be to continue advocating for a new funding formula to meets the need of students in Saskatoon Public Schools. "Our context is different than any other school division in the province," said Morrison. "We need to make sure our voice is heard. We represent the largest, fastest growing, most diverse student population in the province."

Donna Banks, trustee for Ward 3 was elected Vice-Chair for the first six-month term. Kevin Waugh, trustee for Ward 9 was elected Vice-Chair for the second six-month term.

Resolution on full day every day kindergarten

The Saskatoon Board of Education submitted the following resolution to the Saskatchewan School Boards Association (SSBA) for debate at the SSBA's Annual General Meeting being held in Saskatoon on November 28th and 29th – *that the Association petition the Government of Saskatchewan and the Ministry of Education to expand Kindergarten programming to a full day, every day program supported by full educational grant resources for Kindergarten aged students in the province of Saskatchewan.*

Saskatoon Public Schools was the first division in Saskatoon to introduce full day every day kindergarten beginning with five pilot schools in the fall of 2005. Currently 17 of the Division's 44 elementary schools offer full day every day literacy enhanced kindergarten.

Treaty education – we are all treaty people

All instructional staff at Saskatoon Public Schools have embraced treaty education. They are working to become culturally responsive as they understand the historical and contemporary contexts of the treaty relationship. Trustees heard from Ms. Janna Piro, a treaty catalyst teacher at Mayfair Community School and two of her students. They spoke about their "Treaty Smarts" project and the *promise card* they developed.

Saskatoon Public Schools has worked closely with the Office of the Treaty Commissioner, the Ministry of Education and other partners to ensure our staff has the necessary supports to learn about, and teach, treaties. We are all treaty people.

How technology empowers learning

Ms. Bernajean Porter, an external consultant who has been working with Saskatoon Public Schools over the past couple of years, enlightened trustees on how she has been facilitating the use of technology in our classrooms and enabling students to go places they could not go without the technology. Trustees heard about digital storytelling, the writing of graphic novels, and the use of web 2.0 tools including voice threads and collaborative word processing. For Ms. Porter, who regularly sets brains on fire, "it's all about the head ware, not the hard ware!"

Saskatchewan School Boards Association Award of Distinction

Trustee Dan Danielson has been nominated by his fellow trustees for the SSBA Award of Distinction. The Award was created in 2003 and is presented annually to a school board member who has "demonstrated outstanding service and made a significant contribution to enhance education and provided outstanding service to education on local and/or provincial levels."

Dan Danielson was first elected to the Saskatoon Board of Education in 2000 and served as chair for one term (2006 to 2009). In their nomination letter, Trustee Danielson's fellow trustees commented on his passion for life-long learning, his advocacy and support for older students who want to improve their education, his interest in the development of a new funding model for education, his ability to lead in times of change, and his sense of humour that draws on his farming background.

Continuous improvement report – how are we doing?

The Board of Education establishes our school division's strategic direction. The Board uses our strategic plan as the tool to determine our priorities and the resources needed to fund those priorities. Our annual strategic planning and budgetary process brings our strategic direction to life and is influenced by the Ministry of Education through its continuous improvement framework. Trustees were treated to highlights from our Continuous Improvement Report, and our Report to the Community, both available at www.saskatoonpublicschools.ca

Saskatoon Public Schools is the largest school division in the province operating 43 elementary schools, 10 secondary schools, and two associate schools. We serve almost 21,300 students and employ approximately 2,300 professional and support staff.

Saskatoon Public Schools.... Inspiring Learning

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For more information contact:

Joy Adams Bauer
Communications Officer
(306) 683-8325