



## **Saskatoon Board of Education Highlights Public Board meeting – October 18, 2011**

### **Enrolment update**

Director of Education, Mr. George Rathwell gave trustees some very good news about enrolment. The Division had predicted a modest enrolment increase for the 2011/2012 school year and is happy to report the increase is greater than predicted with an enrolment increase of 480 students. Total student enrolment at September 30<sup>th</sup>, 2011 is 21,297. Since 2008, the number of students attending Saskatoon Public Schools has grown by over 1200 students!

Interesting statistics shared with trustees include:

- The number of students in grades 1-12 requiring the services of English as an Additional Language (EAL) teacher rose from 1,109 on June 30<sup>th</sup> to 1,311 on October 12<sup>th</sup>, 2011. Since June, 2009, EAL student numbers at the elementary level have quadrupled and student numbers at the secondary level have tripled.
- The French Immersion enrolment is 1,495 students, which is an increase of 123 students from 2010.

For the third consecutive year, Saskatoon Public Schools has experienced an enrolment increase.

### **Education for Sustainability Awards**

Our *Celebration of Excellence* item had trustees hearing from teachers, students, and partners at the City of Saskatoon and the University of Saskatchewan about the *Regional Center of Excellence Recognition Awards* given by the United Nations University-Regional Centre of Excellence for Education on Sustainable Development. The Earthkeepers students at Aden Bowman Collegiate received an award for the development of a Green Energy Park at the Saskatoon landfill; the Division received an award for curriculum resources developed for use with the zero energy Ver-Eco home at the Western Development Museum; and the Ecoquest program at Buena Vista School received the award for a partnership with the University of Saskatchewan.

## **Nutana Collegiate renovations**

Trustees were given an update on the renovations to Saskatoon's oldest high school, Nutana Collegiate. Construction continues in various parts of the building. It is expected the total cost of the project will be in the range of \$12.1 million. Some additional work in the third floor auditorium will be funded by alumni donations, and includes provision of new stage lighting, sound system and curtains, as well as a recognition plaque. It is expected that all interior work at the school will be substantially completed by end of December 2011, with target for 100% completion by the end of February 2012. A ceremony to celebrate the completed project will be planned by the Nutana Collegiate administration and staff early in the new year.

## **Willowgrove Public School**

Willowgrove Public School will be the newest public school in Saskatoon when it opens in the fall of 2013. Trustees viewed the current design and heard that the design team continues to refine the design of the new school, based on feedback from a variety of Saskatoon Public Schools' stakeholders, including Mr. Shane Armstrong (future Principal, Willowgrove Public School), Dr. David Wipf (Principal, Dr. J. G. Egnatoff School), Mr. John Dewar (Superintendent of Education), Mr. Stan Laba (Superintendent of Facilities), Ms. Kristin Dawson (Manager Contract Services), and Mr. Randy Holfeld (Manager Operations & Maintenance).

Tendering of the project is scheduled for February 2012, with an anticipated award of contract in March 2012. Construction of Willowgrove Public School is scheduled for completion by August 2013.

## **PotashCorp Eco-Science Centre at Brightwater**

The PotashCorp of Saskatchewan Inc. has provided a \$1.1 million donation for the development of a Eco-Science Centre at the school division's Brightwater site (close to Beaver Creek).

A steering committee of representative stakeholders, design team leaders and administrators has developed programming and design parameters for this project. A tentative construction budget of \$650,000 has been identified, with the balance of the funds set aside for other costs (i.e. design fees, furniture and equipment, site work development, including access road, bus turnaround, parking area, and provision of utilities and other infrastructure services. Trustees were shown a site location and a design concept. The design will continue to be refined, with a final design and budget brought to the Board for its approval later this year.

The Eco-Science Centre will then be readied for public tender in February or March 2012, with construction expected to be complete by August 2012.

*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 21,000 students and employ over 2,400 professional and support staff.*

*Saskatoon Public Schools.... Inspiring Learning*

- 30 -

For more information contact:

Joy Adams Bauer  
Communications Officer  
(306) 683-8325