



**Saskatoon Public Schools**  
Inspiring Learning

## **Saskatoon Board of Education Highlights Public Board meeting – October 4, 2011**

### **Restorative Action Program**

Trustees were given an update on the Restorative Action Program (RAP) which has operated in Division schools since 2003. RAP began as a partnership between the Rotary Club of Saskatoon and Mount Royal Collegiate eight years ago. The program expanded to Bedford Road Collegiate in 2004 and then to Walter Murray Collegiate. Tommy Douglas Collegiate is the newest school to join the program. RAP is a community driven initiative providing conflict resolution training and services, leadership development and life skills to youth in Saskatoon through the services of a RAP worker in each of the participating schools. Funding comes from a wide variety of community sponsors including all five of the city's Rotary Clubs, the Government of Saskatchewan, the City of Saskatoon and Saskatoon Public Schools.

### **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 between 450 and 500 new students in Division schools this year. The division is experiencing the highest number of Kindergarten students in this century. Over the past two years, Saskatoon Public Schools has seen a significant increase in students who require English as an additional language (EAL) programming. Since June, 2009, EAL student numbers at the elementary level have quadrupled and student numbers at the secondary level have tripled. A complete enrolment report, with the final enrolment numbers will be presented at the October 18<sup>th</sup> public board meeting.

### **English as an additional language update**

Trustees were given a very comprehensive update on English as an additional language (EAL) programming by Superintendent of Education Mrs. Donnalee Weinmaster, and Mrs. Shauna Tilbury, Facilitator, EAL.

This fall, Saskatoon Public Schools continues to experience an increase in newcomer students registering in the school division. During its first six weeks of operation, the Division's Newcomer Student Centre registered and assessed almost 300 students requiring English as an additional language programming. The Centre, located in the

Division's down town office, introduces and orients newcomer families to public schools. Centre staff assess students' language and mathematics skills; register students in school; and recommend support and programming for students needing EAL services

Trustees also learned about the new delivery model of providing EAL services and received an update on the increase in the number of EAL teachers employed by the Division. Mrs. Tilbury spoke of the *culture cafes* held at schools after hours where members of different cultures come together to educate others; locally developed courses that help newcomer students at the high school level transition into regular programming; and EAL handbooks developed for elementary and secondary teachers.

## **Assessment for Learning**

Saskatoon Public Schools participates in 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 Grades 4 and 8 students and will be given to Grade 10 students for the first time in the fall of 2011. This test measures basic literacy and numeracy skills against Canadian norms.
- Assessment for Learning (AFL) is a provincial initiative that assesses student performance relative to provincial curricular objectives. The 2011 assessment focused on Reading (Grades 4, 7 and 10) and Mathematics (Grades 5 and 8).

Trustees were updated with information regarding the 2011 Assessment For Learning protocol, including results and next steps. Saskatoon Public School students are doing very well in comparison to their provincial counterparts in the areas of reading and math thanks in part to the Division's *Literacy for Life* initiative which is entering its eighth year, and a focus on math.

*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*

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