



Saskatoon Board of Education Highlights Public Board meeting – September 6, 2011

The Butterfly Project

Trustees were treated to a presentation about “the Butterfly Project” by two Grade Two students and their teacher from John Lake School. Last year Quinn and Olivia were students in Ms. Richelle McMahon’s Grade One class. They used the Picture Word Inductive Model (an integral part of the Board’s *Literacy for Life* strategic learning priority), and studied a photograph of the Painted Lady butterfly as they learned to read and write. Thanks to an elementary technology grant, all of the students in the class learned basic computer technology skills throughout the year. Students interviewed and videotaped one another using Flip cameras and added sound effects and music to produce a radio show which was played over the school’s intercom. They also created a comic book about the Painted Lady butterfly and raised butterflies from larvae in the classroom. They ended their year by releasing their butterflies into the butterfly garden at John Lake School.

Summer Youth Internship Program

Janet Uchacz-Hart, executive director of the Saskatoon Industry Education Council (SIEC) updated the Board on the Summer Youth Internship Program, an initiative of the SIEC. The SIEC is a non-profit organization that works with the public and separate school divisions in Saskatoon, with Prairie Spirit School Division, and with community-based organizations, government agencies, and employers to provide career development and exploration opportunities for youth. A Board of Directors representing business, education and organizations governs the SIEC. The vision of the Council is to create a community of shared responsibility, preparing youth for quality careers. It’s a career education conduit between students and employers.

The summer youth internship program provides high school students with an opportunity to experience and work in the construction, manufacturing, automotive, tourism and information technology sectors. The Program Coordinator, Job Coaches and Executive Director work with both employers and students to ensure a successful internship. Students are compensated for their work at competitive wages and some receive apprenticeship hours. The program is a career education opportunity supported by Saskatoon Public Schools due to the Division’s increased emphasis on career education opportunities for students. Career education is an important part of Saskatoon Public Schools’ *Collegiate Renewal* strategic learning priority. Learn more about collegiate renewal at <http://schools.spsd.sk.ca/cgtrenewal>

2011 Major Capital Request List

In July, the Ministry of Education released its 2011 Major Capital Request List for all Saskatchewan School Divisions. Trustees were updated on the status of a number of capital project requests made to the Ministry by Saskatoon Public Schools including renovations to Pleasant Hill, Mayfair, King George, Caswell, Victoria and Westmount Schools, renovations to Evan Hardy and Walter Murray Collegiates; an addition to Montgomery School; and requests for new public schools in the neighbourhoods of Evergreen, Rosewood, Kensington, Hampton Village, and Stonebridge. A new public school in Willowgrove was approved by the Ministry in March 2010 and is anticipated to open in the fall of 2013.

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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