



## Media Release

### **June 24, 2011 – Saskatoon Board of Education passes 2011-2012 budget**

The Board of Education for Saskatoon Public Schools has passed its budget for the 2011-2012 school year with operating expenses of \$207.2 million and capital expenditures of \$14.3 million.

The budget, passed at the June 21<sup>st</sup> public Board meeting, provides increased funding for the Board's two main learning priorities – *Literacy for Life* and *Collegiate Renewal* - making strategic advancements to improve learning across the school division. The budget also includes plans to address an increased student population and facility improvements.

“Despite the uncertainty associated with the delay in implementation of a provincial funding formula for public education, our Board is committed to addressing the needs of our growing and diverse student population,” said Board Chair Ray Morrison. “We are continuing support for our two strategic learning priorities in addition to funding a number of new initiatives.” Highlights from the budget include:

- Elimination of basic student fees in elementary schools;
- Expanding full day every day Kindergarten and the addition of four new pre-kindergarten programs;
- Enhanced English as an Additional Language (EAL) programming for students in Kindergarten to Grade 12 including the opening of our Newcomer Student Centre in our downtown Education Centre in mid-August;
- Additional acquisition and use of technology to enhance our 21<sup>st</sup> century learning environment;
- Increased funding for facility improvement projects at a number of schools;
- Enhancement of special education programming through instructional technology and staff development;
- New career education initiatives enhancing the work of the Industry Education Council and the Saskatoon Skills and Trades Centre at Mount Royal Collegiate; and
- Development of the PotashCorp Eco Science Centre at our Brightwater site.

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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