

April 17, 2019

**April Regular Meeting of the  
Prairie Valley Board of Education**

**2019-2020 School Calendar Coming Soon**

The Prairie Valley Board of Education has approved the 2019-2020 school year calendar. Working within legislative parameters, the Board discussed and set the framework for the calendar (e.g., number of school days, minutes per day) in January. Then, similar to previous years, staff representing all employee groups had the opportunity for input into the placement of non-instructional days and breaks. This year's staff consultations started earlier and were more robust to encourage employee understanding of the calendar process and stimulate collaborative input into the calendar. At the outset, our hope was that well-structured conversations would lead to a consensus calendar, and that has proved to be the case. The 2019-2020 calendar highlights include:

- A similar structure to last year, providing continuity for students, parents and staff.
- Staff are scheduled to return on Monday, August 26, 2019.
- Students are scheduled to return on September 3, 2019.
- 954.3 hours of instruction (same as in 2018-2019); 310 minute instructional days
- 195 days for staff, the same as last year Not sure about telling parents this?
- A full-day teacher collaboration day at the end of September and a half-day in mid-January combined with a half preparation day to provide a new opportunity for teacher-led professional development.
- Preparation days aligned with report card preparation and semester turnaround.
- Two full weeks off at Christmas; one full week off for the February break and Easter break

The calendar will be submitted to the Ministry of Education for review and will be posted at [pvsd.ca](http://pvsd.ca) and sent to all Prairie Valley staff, students and parents prior to May 1.

**Fort Qu'Appelle-Indian Head Attendance Area Review Results**

After extensive analysis and public consultation, the Board passed a motion to change the attendance boundaries in the Fort Qu'Appelle-Indian Head Attendance Area. The attendance area review began in January and in February, the public consultation invited input from all affected families, SCC chairs and local governments, as well as website notifications to explain the reason for the review and provided current and proposed attendance area maps. Consultations showed that the proposed boundary changes respond to the preference of the majority of families currently attending Indian Head schools and are feasible from a transportation operations perspective. The attendance area change will be effective for the 2019-2020 school year.

## **Facilities Master Plan**

The Division's updated Facilities Master Plan will guide the Division's infrastructure work over five to ten years and help ensure that our schools will meet the long-term needs of students. At the Board meeting, the external consultants, aodbt architecture + design, presented a draft Phase 3 Facilities Master Plan report to the Board. Phase 3, the final of the three-phase plan, began in October 2018 and focused on 14 schools. The Phase 3 Facilities Master Plan report provides the Board a summary of each school examined as well as recommendations for capital project priorities. Once finalized, the report will be posted on the website. The recommendations in the report will be taken into account as the Division plans maintenance and renewal work and develops longer term major capital requests over the coming years. Thank you to the many SCC members and other community representatives who participated in the consultations!

## **Director's Report Highlights**

- Prairie Valley is once again hosting summer literacy camps thanks to the Ministry of Education's continued funding.
- The Prairie Valley Science Fair was held on March 26 at Milestone School. There were 106 students representing 11 different schools in attendance.
- Prairie Valley is hosting a Mental Health First Aid training event on May 8 & 9 for teachers, student support teachers and superintendents.
- Spring staffing is underway! We have announced our school based administrator placements and in the next number of weeks, look forward to placing best-fit candidates into vacancies throughout our division.
- The second of two annual school cleanliness inspections are being completed through March and April, which are key in maintaining clean and healthy learning environments for our students.
- On March 20 the provincial budget was released. Staff, in consultation with the Board, has been working very diligently in making decisions to manage effectively and efficiently these resources and ensure continued delivery of excellent service.
- We are excited to host a Bus Driver Recruitment Fair at the Grenfell Bus Shop on April 30, 2019 from 4:00 to 7:00 p.m.! We offer a paid orientation and training program, a safe and modern bus fleet, competitive wages and full benefits, and lots of support. Everyone is encouraged to come out, enjoy a barbeque and learn more about bus driving opportunities in Prairie Valley School Division. We love our drivers!

## **Upcoming Dates**

May 8 – Regular Board Meeting

May 24 – Employee Long Service Awards

May 29 – Arts Gala, University of Regina

June 12 – Board Meeting and Flag raising ceremony

*Board packages, including Celebrate! and meeting minutes, are available at [www.pvsd.ca](http://www.pvsd.ca) [under Board of Education.](#)*