



Board Notes

April 18, 2018

Regular Meeting of the Prairie Valley School Division Board of Education

Humboldt Strong

Before the start of the meeting, the Prairie Valley Board of Education took a moment of silence to remember the 16 lives lost in the tragic Humboldt Broncos bus crash, and to show support for those injured. All those affected remain in our hearts.

2018-2019 School Calendar

The Prairie Valley Board of Education has approved the 2018-2019 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). Then, similar to previous years, a calendar focus group was established consisting of representatives from the Prairie Valley Teachers' Association, CUPE Local 5252, Conditions of Employment staff and administrative staff to provide input into the placement of non-instructional days and breaks.

2018-2019 calendar highlights include:

- A similar calendar structure to last year, providing continuity for students, parents and staff
- Staff are scheduled to return on Monday, August 27, 2018.
- Students are scheduled to return on Tuesday, September 4, 2018.
- 950 hours of instruction for students; 310 minute instructional days
- 195 scheduled days for staff (an increase from 194 last year but below the common standard of 197 days and the maximum allowed 200 days)
- Four teacher preparation days strategically placed throughout the school year
- Two system professional development days
- 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 and sent to all Prairie Valley staff, students and parents prior to May 1.

Regina Attendance Area Boundary

The Board passed a motion to formally dissolve the Regina attendance area and adjust adjoining attendance areas for White City, Lumsden, Milestone, Pilot Butte and Southey. This means effective with the 2019-2020 school year, students who were historically zoned and transported to attend school in Regina will be transported to Prairie Valley schools (with the exception of some grandfathered students who cannot be accommodated within Prairie Valley's French Immersion program).



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The decision to eliminate the Regina attendance areas was made by the Board in 2015 following detailed analysis and consultation and was phased in over four years to allow transition time for students and families. As a result of programming enhancements, specifically the introduction of French immersion, as well as improved busing efficiency, Prairie Valley is able to educate all students who reside within our boundaries.

The change is effective September 2019, but boundary decisions were made now to provide ample notice and full information to families. More details will be available on our website at www.pvsd.ca. All those affected will receive communication from the transportation department prior to the end of this school year.

Prairie Valley on Social Media

The Board committed to building a social media presence for school division. Last year, it heard from parents and SCC members that they were interested in communicating with the division through social media. Communities will soon be able to find information from the division on Facebook, Twitter and YouTube.

Director's Report

- We're happy to report that 96 per cent of students who were eligible to graduate in September remained on track to graduate at the end of semester 1, up from 93 per cent at this time last year.
- School-based administrators are busy determining courses and schedules for the 2018-2019 school year. Superintendents of education recently held scheduling workshops to walk through the process with school administrators.
- As basketball season wraps up, congratulations to: Lumsden High School senior girls, who won bronze in the SHSAA 3A girls championship and Greenall High School junior girls, who won the RHSAA tier 2 city championship. In QVDA junior basketball, the champions were Indian Head High School girls and Balcarres boys and in Prairie Valley School Division elementary basketball, the champions were Emerald Ridge girls and Pilot Butte boys. Congratulations to all student athletes and coaches for your hard work and dedication.
- Budget preparation that began in January is now in high gear. Prairie Valley School Division's funding is up \$1.3M (1.3 per cent) from last year. While funding remains tight, the incremental funding is most welcome and will be put directly into classroom teachers in 2018-2019, consistent with our pre-budget staff consultations and the Board's budget priorities.

Upcoming Board Events

- May 16, 2018 - Regular Board Meeting
- June 13, 2018 - Regular Board Meeting

Board packages, including Celebrate! and meeting minutes, are available at www.pvsd.ca under Board of Education.