



Board Notes

February 13, 2019

February Regular Meeting of the Prairie Valley Board of Education

2019-2020 Planning and Budget Development Process

This month the Board discussed the budget and program planning process for the 2019-2020 school year. The system-planning framework is our roadmap to align strategic planning, enrolment projections, student programming and timetabling, budget preparation, staffing and other operational supports. As we move into the spring, our time and attention as senior leaders will increasingly focus on planning for the 2019-2020 school year. The Province has confirmed budget day as March 20, 2019, which fits with the Division's planning structure.

2019-2020 Enrolment Projections

Enrolment trends and projections are crucial in every area of our work as a school division. Student numbers are used in budget development, facility planning, technology and learning resource purchases, programming decisions and transportation services. Enrolment projections and demographic data is produced annually using a combination of local knowledge and the Baragar Demographics Dynamics software.

For the 2019-2020 school year, enrolments are projected to remain the same at 8,315. This is an early projection, submitted to the Ministry of Education for funding calculation purposes. Projections will be monitored throughout the spring in order to accurately budget for school staffing and resources. Beyond next year, enrolments are projected to increase to 8,569 in 2023 and 8,760 by 2033.

Applications for Major Capital Project Funding

The Board has approved the following major capital project requests for submission to the Ministry of Education for consideration in the 2020-2021 provincial education capital priority list:

Priority 1 - New high school in the White City/Emerald Park area

Priority 2 - Modernization of Greenall High School

Priority 3 – Construction of a third elementary school in the White City/Emerald Park area.

The first two priorities remain unchanged from the past several years. Priority 1 - a new high school in the White City/Emerald Park area - remains a high priority, supported by both actual and projected enrolment growth in the area. Growth and development in the area is such that a high school is a necessary addition to the community. Priority 2 - modernization of Greenall High School to serve the north side of Highway 1 – addresses facility condition, programming requirements and efficiency opportunities at Greenall. A two-school model makes sense given the demographics of the area and offers advantages in terms of curricular and extra-curricular programming, transportation and student safety and was the option preferred by parents, particularly those with younger children.

Priority 3 – construction of a third elementary school in the White City/Emerald Park area – is new this year based on recent, detailed analysis of demographics along the Highway 1 east corridor. Enrolments

in École White City School and Emerald Ridge Elementary School are tracking closely to projections, and developments in progress in the area indicate the need to begin planning for a third elementary school.

The Ministry annually prioritizes the requests from every provincial school division and typically releases a capital update with the provincial budget.

Board-First Nations Governance Engagement

In the 2018-2019 strategic plan, the Board committed to continuing work to strengthen First Nations and Métis influence in education governance by participating in an Elders forum and by pursuing a First Nations Representative Council at Balcarres Community School. The Elders Forum was held at the Bert Fox Community High School in Fort Qu'Appelle on November 23, 2018. Elders from Carry the Kettle, Little Black Bear, Peepeekisis and Star Blanket were in attendance along with the Board and Prairie Valley senior Administration. The Elders were asked to share their vision as to how they see First Nations and Métis education and provided suggestions as to what Prairie Valley could do to support that vision. At the February meeting, the Board discussed steps in its efforts to build on this work and to continue enhancing First Nations and Métis involvement in education governance.

SCC Regional Meetings

Our annual regional SCC meetings are a highlight of the year for the Board, providing the opportunity to bring together school community council members and Board members. Please mark the following dates in your calendars:

- Bert Fox High School on March 28, 2019 7:00 – 8:30 p.m.
- Education Centre April 3, 2019 7:00 – 8:30 p.m.
- Broadview School April 4, 2019 7:00 – 8:30 p.m.

The focus this year will be your input into the provincial education visioning project that will chart the course for Pre-K to Grade 12 education in 2020 and beyond. Plan to join us and make your voice heard!

Intensive Needs Programming Update

Almost five percent of students in Prairie Valley School Division have intensive needs that require additional learning supports to help them learn, grow and succeed. The learning supports team in schools and the Education Centre provides targeted, specialized services to this diverse group of students. Although providing data and information to the Board is part of ongoing practice, earlier this year the Board identified a need for further examination and additional information about programming for students with intensive needs in Prairie Valley schools. At the February Board meeting, the superintendent responsible for learning supports provided a report on previous and current actions, follow up on a 2016 review of intensive needs programming as well as a framework for reporting learning supports data in quarterly Board of Education reports.

Board Remuneration

The Board adjusted its remuneration rates to account for changes to federal income tax rules that removed the historical one-third tax-free allowance effective January 1, 2019.

Director's Report Highlights

- On January 23, we had the pleasure of hosting the 2019 Annual General Meeting of Electors. Staff, Board members and the community had the opportunity to hear about the many achievement successes enjoyed by Prairie Valley Schools last year.
- I continue to make my presence felt in our schools visiting school staff and administrators. These are invaluable in learning about the strengths and challenges of Prairie Valley schools as

well as developing an organizational and cultural appreciation of the division, schools and communities.

- The Education Centre continues to lead in providing professional development, training and learning opportunities to all of employee groups. All of our staff is amazing and I would like to publicly acknowledge them for their selfless efforts and professionalism. We are truly committed to continuous learning for ourselves for the ultimate benefit of all students.
- We are beginning our course selection process and asking students to register for classes that will be offered in the 2019-2020 school year. This is important work as it provides us with the information needed to plan effectively for the upcoming school year and meet the needs and interests of our students.
- We continue with our planning for the expansion of French Immersion to Grade 10 and the credit system in Greenall High School and the expansion to Grade 6 in École Lumsden Elementary School.
- We are currently immersed in preparations for an exciting spring staffing season. Recruitment events are underway with visits to the University of Regina and the University of Saskatchewan and a comprehensive refresh of the tools we use at all stages of the spring hiring process will ensure we are well positioned to hire the best staff for our students.
- Staff appreciation ran from Feb 10 to 16 and to show our appreciation for all the great work our staff does to influence the lives of students, the Division delivered a creative piece to display in each school. The day-to-day running of the Division is a group effort and as our 1,200 employees go about their work each day, they do so with a common purpose – providing the best educational opportunities for students.
- Through the month of January, Facilities has continued to work on this year's preventive renewal and maintenance projects including the development of the plans for Whitewood School's primary wing replacement and École Lumsden Elementary School bathroom renovations.
- With the recent cold winter conditions, we have experienced some local bus service cancellations due to road conditions, a regional cancellation in the Broadview tower area and a Division-wide cancellation on February 8. Prairie Valley School Division uses four Environment Canada (www.weatheroffice.gc.ca) weather towers to track conditions and may cancel either division-wide or for individual weather tower areas based on severe cold weather temperature of -40 Celsius or colder without a wind chill or -45 Celsius or colder with a wind chill at 6:00 a.m. as reported by Environment Canada or in other extreme weather circumstances.

Upcoming Dates

February 13 – Regular Board Meeting

February 28 – March 1 – Planning and Development Committee

March 13 – Regular Board Meeting

SCC Regional Meetings:

Bert Fox High School on March 28, 2019 7:00 – 8:30 p.m.

Education Centre April 3, 2019 7:00 – 8:30 p.m.

Broadview School April 4, 2019 7:00 – 8:30 p.m.

April 11-12 – SSBA Spring Assembly

April 17 – Regular Board Meeting

May 8 – Regular Board Meeting

May 24 – Employee Long Service Awards

June 12 – Board Meeting and Flag raising ceremony