

# Strategic Planning Consultations

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Prairie Valley School Division is currently developing the four-year strategic plan for the division for the 2013-2017 school years. The Ministry of Education's Continuous Improvement and Accountability Framework (CIAF) guides school divisions in their efforts to improve student learning and be accountable as publicly funded organizations.

As members of the Prairie Valley School Division community, your input on several key questions around division priorities is critical to the development of a strategic plan that we can all move forward with over the next four years as we strive to meet the learning needs of all Prairie Valley School Division students.

## Focused Questions:

1. What curricular programs and learning opportunities should be areas of focus for Prairie Valley School Division to meet the needs of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century learner?

### Background

Prairie Valley School Division has focused on expanding elective options, particularly Practical and Applied Arts, on a magnet basis. The magnet program allows high school students to travel to other schools within their area to participate in elective courses. The combination of student registrations from several schools allows the Division to offer courses which would not be otherwise available.

Prairie Valley School Division has also focused on the expansion of language programming with the introduction of a French Immersion program at École White City School and enriched French 30 at Lumsden High School. Additionally, Cree language is being offered at Bert Fox High School and Balcarres School.

Prairie Valley School Division has also expanded Prekindergarten programs. There are now Prekindergarten programs at 10 of 18 elementary schools.

2. Which extra-curricular areas should Prairie Valley School Division focus on in the future: athletics, the arts or activities/clubs?

### Background

Prairie Valley School Division has active athletics programs at schools across the Division. Over the past few years, we have funded the creation of new football programs in several Prairie

Valley communities. Prairie Valley School Division has also fostered an interest in the Arts through curricular opportunities such as the expansion of the band program and by holding a division-wide Arts Gala. Students have been given opportunities to participate in social justice type events such as We Day Saskatchewan.

3. How can Prairie Valley School Division continue to support and prepare students as they transition from elementary school to high school?

#### **Background**

Administrators and teachers currently work together to plan for student transition from grade to grade, teacher to teacher and school to school. Students are given the opportunity to participate in activities to familiarize them with their new school. These activities include spring school tours, orientations and presentations and meet the teacher activities.

4. How can Prairie Valley School Division continue to support and prepare students as they transition from high school to post-secondary education or the workforce?

#### **Background**

Career Counseling services are available at all Prairie Valley high schools. Career Counselors work with students in Grades 10 to 12 but also share their expertise with teachers and students in the Middle Years. Grade 6 to 12 students also utilize an online career planning website called Career Cruising.

Prairie Valley School Division also collaborates with other agencies and institutions to create transition opportunities. This includes working with the University of Regina, University of Saskatchewan, SIAST, the Regina Trades and Skills Centre and the Saskatchewan Construction Association. Students are also given Career and Work Exploration opportunities through a Career Spotlight program which offers “hands-on” career explorations experiences in a variety of areas.

Prairie Valley School Division continues to promote participation in Career Fairs including the Stepping Stone Career Fair, the Prairie Valley Career Fair and the University of Regina *See Your Future* fair.

5. What additional information would you like to have to better understand how the school division is funded, how the Board of Education makes resource funding decisions and how those funds are spent?

## Background

To demonstrate accountability and transparency, Prairie Valley School Division publishes an Annual Report and annual budget document as well as a Strategic Plan. The annual budget document contains a breakdown of the budget for each Prairie Valley school which contains staff allocation and salary costs, building operating and maintenance costs and total operating costs. The budget document also contains a detailed description of the annual capital budget.

Prairie Valley School Division also publishes a Public Accounts document which includes Board remuneration, remuneration of employees and vendor payments.

All documents are posted online and published in a hard copy, the online archives date back to 2006. <http://www.pvsd.ca/Publication/Pages/default.aspx>

6. What opportunities can Prairie Valley School Division offer to ensure further engagement of families and the public in your school communities?

## Background

The Prairie Valley Board of Education meets annually with School Community Councils to discuss various topics related to Prairie Valley School Division. Prairie Valley School Division also meets with the First Nations and Métis Advisory Council on topics identified in the First Nations and Métis Action Plan. Prairie Valley School Division publishes the In Touch newsletter three times a year. It is distributed more than 20,000 homes, health care facilities and First Nations and highlights the events and activities happening in the school division.

*Leadership in Learning and Life*

