

October 23, 2017

Building on success, the plan for 2017-2018 is released

Building on the success achieved in the 2016-2017 school year, the Prairie Valley School Division today released its new 2017-2021 Strategic Plan.

Approved by the Board of Education in September, the new plan was developed with input from students, parents, school community councils and staff and includes an array of new and continuing efforts as Prairie Valley's 39 schools continue to grow well-rounded, contributing citizens.

"The Board is committed to representing parent and school community council views, working with our First Nations and Métis partners at a governance level, advocating for a strong public education system, and demonstrating effective governance practices. These priorities will guide the work of the Board over our term," said Janet Kotylak, Chair of the Board of Education. "Working together, we can make a difference in the lives of students, families, communities, our province and the world beyond."

Overall, students in the Prairie Valley School division achieve better than average results when compared provincially. Graduation rates are 10 percentage points higher than the provincial average for both our First Nations and non-First Nations students.

Last year, Prairie Valley students achieved a graduation rate of 86 per cent; for the 2017-2018 school year that target is 88 per cent. FNM students achieved a 54 per cent graduation rate last year and the target for the current school year is 66 per cent.

The new strategic plan includes some new elements balanced with approaches proven over the past ten years, including:

- A sustained focus on reading and math education.
- A consistent framework for supporting credit attainment and graduation, led by a division Graduation Team.
- Enhancing academic and life skills programming for students with intensive needs.
- Continuing to develop safe and inclusive environments for teaching, learning and working.

"Our focus in the classroom this year will be on more than outcomes. We are committed to ensuring students' incremental achievements are recognized and celebrated.

"Every student can improve and this year we are committed to celebrating every step of that improvement," said Ben Grebinski, CEO and Director of Education for the Prairie Valley School Division.

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The 2017-2018 Budget

Despite a challenging provincial economic and financial context, the 2017-2018 budget is balanced on a cash basis and shows a deficit of \$2.7 million on an accrual basis. Since 2013, the Division has achieved cumulative savings of \$12.6 million in internal efficiencies in technology, program delivery structures, facility consolidations, central purchasing and staff travel. This includes base budget savings of \$2.9 million per year as well as various one-time savings.

“As we enter into another year of transition and change with the education sector in Saskatchewan, we do so with an optimistic attitude and focused organizational position. We are confident in our practices and our performance results are evidence of our efforts and the contributions made by our dedicated staff,” Grebinski said.

For more information on the Division’s 2017-2021 Strategic Plan and 2017-2018 Budget, visit PVSD.ca.

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