



Prairie Valley School Division

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- News Release -

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STRATEGIC PLAN AND BUDGET FOCUSES ON STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT

The school year for 2009-2010 at Prairie Valley School Division will see the implementation of several new projects and priorities within a balanced financial plan.

A new model of service delivery will see each diverse school in the Division receiving individualized support from the Division office staff. Each school will examine data—such as reading, writing, mathematics, science, attendance, attitudes, behaviour and demographics—in four goal areas. The four goals are in line with Ministry of Education priorities: Higher Literacy and Achievement, Equitable Opportunities, Smooth Transitions, and System Accountability and Governance. From there, schools will identify areas to target for learning improvement, called a Learning Improvement Plan.

“This will allow resources to be targeted according to individual school needs as identified in the Learning Improvement Plan, giving the supports needed at the time and place to do the most good,” says Director of Education Ben Grebinski. Results of these goals will be monitored and reported throughout the year.

Each school in the Division will also be using the new 310 minute school day calendar that will maximize student contact time with regular teachers and protect continuity of instruction for students. The first day of classes is Tuesday, September 8.

Student achievement, equity and responsible management are the main themes of the budget for the 2009-2010 school year.

Several capital projects are underway for 2009-2010. The strategic plan and budget address modernizing and adding library space and improving life-safety systems at Balcarres School as well as adding relocatable classrooms to alleviate space shortages at Greenall High School in Balgonie. In addition, the Division will be starting planning work for modernization and other projects at a number of other schools including Lumsden Elementary, Kipling and Vibank. The timing of these projects is dependent on provincial project and funding approvals.

Work is also in the early planning stages on a second elementary/middle years school in the White City area to address enrolment growth. Planning will also begin soon on a new regional high school to replace the current Greenall High School.

Total estimated revenue is \$95.7 million, with \$95.5 million in total estimated operating and capital expenses. Student fees have been eliminated for compulsory courses, and information technology networks are being upgraded in all schools.

“This is the first full school year where the changes to financing of Pre-Kindergarten to Grade 12 education in Saskatchewan take effect,” says Board Chair Janet Kotylak.

“School divisions no longer establish education property tax mill rates, but rather rely on an increased share of funding from the provincial government. The Board is keenly interested in the development of a new provincial funding mechanism for school divisions, based on principles of fairness, sustainability and openness.”

Funding allocated by the provincial government and other sources will be carefully managed in the best interests of the students and residents of the Division and taxpayers of the province.

The Board approved the Strategic Plan and Budget for 2009-2010 at the August 19, 2009 Board meeting. Both documents are available at www.pvsd.ca.

Prairie Valley School Division serves approximately 8,000 students in 38 schools throughout southeast Saskatchewan. In support of the vision “Leadership in Learning and Life”, the Division strives to ensure a high-quality education that provides students with the tools to reach and exceed their potential.

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