



Board Notes

November 14, 2018

Regular and Organizational Meetings of the Prairie Valley Board of Education

Board Chair and Vice-Chair Elected

During the Organizational Meeting, Janet Kotylak was re-elected by acclamation to the position of Board Chair and Judy Bradley was elected by acclamation to the position of Vice-Chair. As usual, the Board also confirmed its meeting dates for the year, which are posted at www.pvsd.ca under Board of Education, and membership on Board committees.

2016-2017 School Year Close-Off

Prairie Valley has completed the close-off for the 2017-2018 school year. On an accrual basis, the school division ended the 2017-18 year with a deficit for the year of \$9.9M, which is \$7.1M higher than estimated in the 2017-2018 budget due to one-time changes in tax collection resulting from changes to education property tax administration earlier this year.

As of January 1, 2018, the provincial government has assumed full responsibility for setting, administering and collecting education property taxes. This necessitated some one-time financial adjustments to school divisions as part of the transition. The increase in the deficit from the planned \$2.7M to \$9.9M is a result of:

- Lower than budgeted Ministry grant revenues as a result of a final tax cash reconciliation for the 2017 calendar year of \$4.2M.
- Higher than budgeted expenses due to a one-time transfer of net education property taxes receivable of \$3.2M to the Province, which shows in the statements under Other Expenses.

Together, these one-time adjustments explain the full variance between the budgeted and actual deficit. Items within the Division's control show continued strong expenditure management and accurate in-year financial projections. Excluding the expense impact of the provincial tax change and facilities overspending that was largely offset by additional grant funding, total expenses are about \$400K below budget. This means that base expenditures are stable and manageable within status quo revenue levels on a cash basis, affirming the ongoing financial sustainability of the organization.

While the transition year had an unfavorable impact on the 2017-2018 financial statements, going forward, revenues and cash flows will be more predictable and there will no longer be any risk to the school division related to the collection of education property taxes.

The final financial statements and public accounts will be posted on our website by the end of November at www.pvsd.ca/Publications. The annual audit proceeded smoothly and resulted in clean audit opinions again, thanks to the skill and hard work throughout the entire year of our Finance group.

The Board also approved the *2017-2018 Annual Report* and the *2017-2018 Community Report*. Both reports include a review of our actual progress for the year as compared to the strategic plan released at



the beginning of the year. The community report contains detailed information regarding performance targets, student achievement in core curricular areas and other successes across the Division. The 2017-2018 community and annual reports will be available on the website at www.pvsd.ca/Publications and copies will be sent to schools and School Community Councils (SCCs).

Student achievement results from 2017-2018 are strong, among the best ever for our school division. Prairie Valley students also continue to compare favourably to provincial averages in 12 areas of common measurement across all school divisions – a summary is attached to these Board notes. The Division also continued progress toward our system objectives and targets for student academic results. The community report also includes a detailed report on the activities and work of the Board of Education.

Prairie Valley staff, Board, students, parents and guardians and community members should be very proud of the system performance results. We encourage everyone to review these important accountability documents.

Preservation of School Memorabilia

Upon its formation in 2006, Prairie Valley School Division inherited a rich historical legacy from the school divisions and school units that preceded the amalgamated organization. The Board of Education recognizes the historical value of memorabilia, including photographs, awards, plaques and other artifacts that serve to document the history of our schools and inform our students, staff and communities and therefore has developed a draft policy to guide retention and disposal of school memorabilia.

As part of the policy development process, SCCs will be asked to review and comment on the draft policy. Board members will bring this feedback to the full Board when we finalize the policy early in the new year. We will send a letter to SCC chairs very soon providing details.

Director's Report

I recently completed my first month of work as your Director of Education. Time is going by much too quickly as I am enjoying the opportunities I have had to connect with people in Prairie Valley School Division. During my visits to schools I have seen people very engaged in their duties and school facilities that look very good. People have been very welcoming.

I have also spoken with Luc Lerminiaux (the Division's newly hired permanent Director of Education) several times on the phone, and met with him on November 8, 2018. Our goal is to see to it that there is a smooth transition of school division leadership as I finish my tenure as Director and Luc begins his on December 1, 2018.

Meetings have been scheduled for November 23, 2018 at Bert Fox High School for the Elder's Forum and at Balcarres Community School for the Balcarres First Nations Representative Council. Tours of both Bert Fox Community High and Balcarres Schools will take place prior to the meeting.

Upcoming Dates

December 4 – Student Senates

December 12 – Regular Board Meeting

January 23 – Regular Board Meeting

2017-2018 Provincial Comparative Results

The Ministry of Education requires all school divisions to report on a standard set of student achievement indicators. The Ministry collects data for the indicators and provides it to school divisions for inclusion in our annual reports. The table below summarizes the 2017-2018 results for Prairie Valley School Division as compared to the provincial results, which includes the results of all 28 school divisions. Green shading indicates where Prairie Valley results are higher than the provincial average.

Indicator	Prairie Valley Results	Provincial Average
Early Years Evaluation - School Readiness	84%	79%
FNM	67%	55%
Non-FNM	87%	83%

Student Attendance over 80% (all grades)		
FNM	71%	68%
Non-FNM	91%	91%

Student Attendance 90% or more (all grades)		
FNM	50%	50%
Non-FNM	75%	77%

Grade 3 Reading at or above level		
FNM	60%	55%
Non-FNM	79%	79%

Writing at or above grade level		
Grade 4	63%	63%
Grade 7	59%	64%
Grade 9	60%	68%

Student Attendance 80% or more (Grades 10 to 12)		
FNM	53%	48%
Non-FNM	84%	83%

Student Attendance 90% or more (Grades 10 to 12)		
FNM	32%	32%
Non-FNM	60%	65%

8 or more credits (Grade 10)		
FNM	56%	34%
Non-FNM	92%	85%

8 or more credits (Grade 10-12)	72%	61%
FNM	52%	31%
Non-FNM	77%	71%

On-time (3 year Graduation Rate)	87%	77%
FNM	60%	45%
Non-FNM	92%	86%

Extended-time (5 year) Grad Rate	90%	84%
FNM	68%	59%
Non-FNM	95%	91%

Average Final Marks - Select Courses		
English Language Arts A 10	72.8%	74.2%
English Language Arts B 10	73.8%	73.6%
Science 10	75.3%	72.7%
Math: Workplace and Apprenticeship 10	75.2%	73.5%
Math: Foundations and Pre-calculus 10	73.7%	73.7%
English Language Arts 20	74.1%	74.8%
Math: Workplace and Apprenticeship 20	69.1%	67.8%
Math: Foundations 20	75.9%	74.7%