

Wednesday, January 19, 2011

French Immersion in Prairie Valley School Division

The Board of Education for Prairie Valley School Division has voted in favour of a motion recommending the Government of Saskatchewan designate White City School as a French Immersion school.

At a Board meeting on Tuesday, January 18, trustees approved a request that, if granted, would result in French Immersion being offered at the kindergarten, grade one and grade two levels at White City School, effective the start of the 2011-2012 school year.

Board Chair Ed Geall said Prairie Valley School Division is committed to offering students a full range of courses and opportunities and has identified a need for more second language programming.

“As a Board, we are very excited about this new course offering for students,” Geall said, explaining the Division held public meetings and surveyed parents to determine interest in developing a French Immersion program within the Division.

That process resulted in White City being identified as a viable site for a French Immersion program beginning this fall.

Director of Education/CEO Ben Grebinski said, “This is a great opportunity to add programming choices within Prairie Valley School Division. Rural students deserve these learning opportunities.”

“The primary focus for our School Division is to ensure equitable program offerings that are appropriate to student needs and desires, that are sustainable within our means and that demonstrate our corporate mission to be a high performing School Division.”

There is already considerable interest within the Division for French Immersion programming. During the last school year, 130 Prairie Valley students were enrolled in French Immersion at schools in Regina, and it is estimated 160 students are enrolled this year.

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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