

20 April 2016
For Immediate Release

Prairie South Board of Education Adopts Staffing Levels for 2016-2017 School Year

The Prairie South School Division Board of Education adopted a school level staffing plan for the 2016-2017 academic year at their regular meeting in Moose Jaw on April 19th. Board Chair Dr. Shawn Davidson explained, “The Board chose to move forward with staffing prior to the completion of the global school division budget, so that our HR staff can begin the work of preparing for the start of school in the fall.”

The school division anticipates having a global budget completed in June, after the release of the provincial budget on June 1st. Superintendent of Business Bernie Girardin clarified that this is a departure from the process in other years. “The provincial election this spring pushed back some of the work we normally do in March, so we have been working with budget models rather than actual numbers.” Girardin went on to say that the change has not been unmanageable for Prairie South. “Getting the staffing plan in place helps, as this is the work that we need to be working on now. If we need to wait until June for the rest of the budget, we will still have lots of time to complete our process.”

Director of Education Tony Baldwin said that the staffing plan had some adjustments from previous years. “The biggest single change is an adjustment to the way recess supervision will be done in Moose Jaw elementary schools and, unfortunately, this means the loss of some positions.” Baldwin attributed the need for the change to a variety of factors. “In the past, Moose Jaw schools have had a unique model of recess supervision, and the cost of this model has increased significantly in the past couple of years. We will be working with principals in the coming weeks to complete the realignment of recess supervision.” Baldwin expressed regret for the Prairie South staff who will suffer job losses. “Our primary concern in the next few days is to ensure that we have an appropriate process for affected staff. The Board knows that this is a difficult time for several loyal employees, and we want to do this in as compassionate a way as possible.”

For additional information, please contact Director of Education Tony Baldwin at (306)694-1200.