

# Board Highlights



## January 11, 2022 Regular Board Meeting

### **Human Resources Accountability Report**

Our Human Resources Superintendent, Amy Johnson, shared with the Board how the work of the Human Resources Department supports and contributes to the success of Prairie South Schools. In 2020-21 we employed over 1270 people in all types of positions within our division. The salary and benefits for our staff make up about 75% of our total budget. When our employees are healthy and at work our students and our school division benefit. We had no grievances filed with the STF and one grievance was filed and resolved with CUPE. The CUPE Collective Agreement is set to expire on August 31, 2022 so bargaining will begin later this year.

## February 1, 2022 Regular Board Meeting



### **Provincial Education Interim Plan: Reading Priority**

The Board received an update on one of the three priorities associated with the Provincial Education Interim Plan – Reading Response. We have seen a significant decline in overall reading proficiency in grades 2 and 3 which is not unexpected after the loss of instruction during the pandemic. This year we are focusing our reading priority on grade 3s (dependent on school data this could be grade 1 or 2). A few things we have encouraged schools to do is to increase the instructional time spent on reading, use Student Support Teachers for intervention, use resources available and ensure students are in appropriate instructional groupings.

Our most recent data from November 2021 shows that we are moving in the right direction! Our reading scores show that the number of Grade 2 students reading at or above grade level is up 10% from last November and for Grade 3 its up 9%. We are still about 10% away from pre-pandemic proficiency but students are making significant progress. A little progress each day adds up to big results! We will continue to support kids where they are at and we look forward to celebrating their ongoing progress.

### **Transportation Accountability Report**

The Transportation Accountability Report was presented by Lonny Holmes, Transportation Manager. We have 107 regular bus drivers who transport 2591 students daily over 18,012 kilometers. The average ride time for students living in the country is 33 minutes and students in the City of Moose Jaw spend an average of 15 minutes on the school bus. We have fantastic mechanics at both our Moose Jaw and Assiniboia shops who perform annual "bumper to bumper" safety inspections on all 152 buses in our fleet. They focus on preventative maintenance which keeps our buses and students safe. Due to the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic, all extra-curricular activities were postponed and no charter trips took place in 2020-2021. An ongoing challenge has been recruiting bus drivers in all areas of our division. We will focus on holding recruitment fairs and sending out pamphlets in community mailboxes next school year.

### **Treaty Land Entitlement Agreement**



We received a request to enter into a Treaty Land Entitlement Agreement with the Kawacatoose First Nation. This is a significant and important initiative which is intended to settle the land debt owed to those First Nations who did not receive all the land they were entitled to under historical treaties. The Agreement is intended to compensate for any tax loss when the lands are removed from the tax rolls as reserve lands.

### **School Playgrounds**

The Board received a report from our Facilities Manager that detailed all the different playground components at each of our schools. Each year our playgrounds are thoroughly inspected and the report showed that the majority of our playgrounds are in great condition!



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