

ANNUAL REPORT

TO THE ELECTORS

September 1, 2009 – August 31, 2010



Prairie South

School Division No. 210

Learning Excellence



Message from the Board Chair *Ron Gleim*

Report of the Prairie South Board of Education with respect to educational developments for the period September 1, 2009 to August 31, 2010.

New Board Members

Prairie South Board of Education welcomed six new members following the October 28, 2009 elections. At their first meeting, many trustees presented the platform they campaigned on and the changes they would pursue. Over the next several months ideas were brought forward for debate and review. Later in this report I will detail some of the changes made by the Board.

New Director of Education

The next major change for the Board was hiring Jeff Finell as Director of Education. Brenda Edwards, who had been the Director of Education since amalgamation, decided to superannuate August, 2010. The Board held interviews for the position of Director of Education in April and May, 2010 and hired Jeff who became Director in July, 2010.

Board Priorities

One of the first priorities of the new Board was to begin an annual review process of all Board policies. From the review process the following decisions were made by the Board:

- Revise the staffing formula for small schools, which resulted in a .5 average increase in the number of teachers in our small schools.
- Change direction from reviewing schools for closure to engaging rural School Community Councils (SCCs) and asking their input for the Board to assist schools and communities in order to enhance the offerings, increase the school usage with partnerships, retain a school in the community and support economic development. This decision led to the reopening of Chaplin School from a K-8 to a K-12 school.
- Engage and strengthen SCCs – started a process to meet all 16 rural SCCs which have only one school in their community.
- Create a committee to explore options for the enhancement of educational opportunities on South Hill in Moose Jaw, to increase enrolment at Riverview

Collegiate. This committee consists of three trustees, the three South Hill principals – from Westmount, Empire and Riverview – as well as administrative staff. The recommendations from this committee were presented to the Board to review, discuss and make appropriate motions.

- Put the Stantec review of our rural schools on hold indefinitely.
- Increase Board responsibility by reviewing certain policies in detail to provide essential oversights required by the Board. This will ensure that Policy Governance is working and administration is following policy.
- Form four committees with trustees and administrative staff to become more knowledgeable about how our policies are working.

Geography is still a challenge to the Board; there are some good signs in the future for our schools as the enrolment decline seen over the past four years is stabilizing.

Prairie South School Division has been unable to complete many of the maintenance projects on our schools as the government has not approved all of our applications at this time. However, the Board can choose to pay for projects independently without government support.

I am pleased to say that the Provincial Committee making recommendations to the government about funding maintenance and capital projects for School Boards has representation from our School Division. Bernie Girardin, Superintendent of Business and Operations, and Aline Kirk, Facilities Manager, as well as other staff are members of various Provincial and SSBA committees. I would like to thank our administrative staff for their diligent work on these provincial committees to expand Prairie South principles on future budget priorities.

The province has not finalized the budget process for School Boards to attain long-term sustainable education funding. With input from our staff I am confident the outcome will be good for Prairie South School Division.

Conclusion

I want to thank our Board members for their commitment to making the Prairie South Board of Education work. Our members commit to approximately 40-50 days per year of Board business and rural members travel thousands of kilometres per year, spending time away from their families. Most importantly, I want to thank them for their vision to meet the needs of our students in the future. I recognize the commitment of all Board members and as Chairman of the Board, I thank you.

In the coming year we anticipate both challenges and opportunities as we work with the administration team in our new committee structure. Our focus will be on making the best of our opportunities, while seeking creative responses to our challenges in order to provide meaningful education opportunities for all of our students.

Respectfully submitted,

Ron Gleim
Chair, Board of Education
Prairie South School Division





Message from the Director of Education *Jeff Finell*

Report of the Director of Education concerning the progress of education in the period September 1, 2009 to August 31, 2010.

September 1, 2009 to August 31, 2010 was very much a year of transition for the Prairie South School Division. Board elections were held in October with six new board members joining our 10 member Board of Trustees. On July 1st I took over as the Director of Education after Brenda Edwards' retirement. Throughout this period of transition in leadership Prairie South maintained its focus and commitment to learning excellence.

I want to highlight some key initiatives introduced throughout this reporting period.

Curriculum Renewal

The province of Saskatchewan is undergoing a complete curriculum renewal in all subjects and grades. The focus is on student learning outcomes, stated as end results that students are expected to learn. This requires a shift in traditional practice that creates changes in the ways we address curriculum, assessment and evaluation, and instruction in all subjects. During the past two years Prairie South math teachers in elementary, middle years and high school (for English and French) have been unwrapping curricula for better understanding. We have also been developing common assessment measures to use across the division. Our intention is to develop systemic processes that may be shared to benefit student learning.

Provincial Assessments for Learning

The province requires students to write biannual assessments in math (grades 5, 8, 11), reading (grades 4, 7, 10), writing (grades 5, 8, 11) and Treaty Essential Learnings (grade 7). We use the results to celebrate the learning successes of our students and teachers, as well as address areas of improvement.

First Nations, Inuit and Metis Learning

According to the annual survey 96% of students participated in treaty learning. Plans are in place to increase their understanding of the six aspects of treaty history that has been mandated by the Ministry.

Changes to Grading

The school division has researched new effective practices for grading students. Consequently, schools are being asked to understand and consider the introduction of changes to grading practices.

Early Learning

The 2009-2010 school year saw the completion of our three year federally funded Understanding the Early Years projects, which allowed us to learn more about the supports, services and needs of the 0-5 population in our region. Working in partnership with Holy Trinity Catholic School Division and the Regional Intersectoral Committee we now have critical information needed to impact positive change for this vulnerable population. Results show that our children are doing well compared to both provincial and national data. However we still have work to do, and we will continue to work with our regional partners to improve the life outcomes for our littlest people.

Differentiated Instruction (DI)

In the 2009-2010 school year the student support services team worked closely with classroom teachers and administrators to implement differentiated instruction strategies or 'DI' into all classrooms in Prairie South. DI strategies allow students to know themselves as learners and lets teachers direct their efforts more broadly in the classroom reaching all kinds of learners – visual, auditory or kinaesthetic to name a few. We applaud our teachers for having an open mind and a willingness to do whatever is needed to ensure that all students learn to the best of their individual abilities.

School Community Councils

School Community Councils were introduced to Saskatchewan schools during the 2006-2007 school year. Prairie South has 35 SCCs. Training and opportunity for networking amongst the SCCs was provided on November 23, 25, 30, and December 2, 2009. The training focused on moving our councils along the SCC continuum of **inform – involve – engage** in the support of student learning.

Respectful Schools/Safe and Caring Schools

A Safe Schools Handbook was developed by a committee of school administrators. This handbook provides a foundation for schools to create crisis response protocols within the context and circumstances of their respective communities.

Online Learning and Distance Learning

Online learning support was provided to 234 learners in the areas of: Math A30, B30, C30; Calculus; Chemistry 20, 30; Accounting 10, 20, 30; Psychology 20, 30; CWEX 10, 20, A30, B30, 18, 28, 38; French 90 and French 10.

Transportation Department

Our regular routes travel approximately 25,000 kilometres a day which is over one-half the way around the earth; about 4,795,030 kilometres a year (approximately 120 times around the earth in one year).

A pilot project commenced in 2009 using a small school bus to transport students involved in the Teen Parent Program in Moose Jaw. To accommodate infant and toddler car seats, we installed safety tethers and seatbelts, in a 24 passenger bus so that we could transport students and their children to Peacock Collegiate. This proved successful and was fully implemented as a designated route in the current school year. The bus is also used instead of a taxi to transport some in-town special needs students. As a result we have consistent drivers who can provide a safe experience for these students.

We also initiated a driver re-evaluation program during this period. In this program our safety officer rides with the driver on their route (or a predetermined route) to evaluate their driving skills and habits as well as their student management practices. We also do an analysis of any efficiencies that we may be able to make as well as look for any potential safety concerns. Approximately 57 regular drivers were evaluated during the reported period.

AESOP

Managing employee absences of over 1400 staff can be very challenging. Using a software service offered by a company called AESOP Prairie South has embarked on a new automated solution for absence management and substitute placement challenges. Starting in August of 2010 we went live with the new system. AESOP allows employees to register their absences and enables subs to find and accept jobs – anytime, anywhere – using a phone or computer. Approvals can be handled completely electronically, including multiple levels of approval and alerts to personnel.

Public Sector Accounting Board (PSAB)

Prairie South adopted new reporting standards for external financial statements in compliance with the Saskatchewan Ministry of Education. The school division follows standards set out by the Canadian Institute of Chartered Accountants (CICA) and the Public Sector Accounting Board (PSAB) standards. The PSAB standards enhance generally accepted accounting principles (GAAP) for external reporting of federal, provincial, territorial and local governments, including those of school divisions. The school division has changed the financial statements from reporting by fund (operating, capital etc.) to a consolidated statement with lines reflecting categories of revenue, expense, assets and liabilities on the appropriate statements. The school division's financial statements now include all funds collected and used at the school level in a separate category. The school division is also reporting physical assets such as buildings,

vehicles, etc. at cost and using amortization to expense items that previously were reported in the capital fund. The new reporting standards require the annual expense to be calculated over the estimated life of each type of asset rather than expensing the asset in its entirety in the year of acquisition. The school division has developed a comprehensive cost list of each category of assets acquired over the existence of all the legacy divisions, and since amalgamation to Prairie South, in determining the net book value of these assets.

Facility Projects

In addition to the day-to-day maintenance that is required in all of our schools, a number of capital projects were either in progress or completed during the 2009-2010 school year and they included:

- Assiniboia Seventh Avenue: Energy efficient lighting upgrade.
- Assiniboia Composite High: Washroom and staffroom renovation; energy efficient lighting upgrade.
- Central Collegiate: Change room renovations, elevator installation and a new Voice Over Internet Protocol system (telephone/intercom/paging).
- Mortlach: Complete shingle replacement including fall protection system.
- Palliser Heights: Window replacement and cladding; new Voice Over Internet Protocol system (telephone/intercom/paging).
- Prince Arthur: Partial roof replacement including fall protection system and a new Voice Over Internet Protocol system (telephone/intercom/paging).
- Riverview Collegiate: Partial roof replacement including fall protection system.
- Rouleau: Crawlspace remediation.
- Sunningdale: New Voice Over Internet Protocol system (telephone/intercom/paging).

Other non-school capital projects included the completion of the new transportation shop in Moose Jaw which became operational in December 2009. Gravelbourg started a daycare consisting of three re-locatable classrooms.

Several school ground/playground projects were also realized at the following schools: Assiniboia Seventh Avenue, Bengough, Empire, Kincaid, Palliser Heights and Sunningdale. These projects are jointly funded by the school division and the school community through various fundraising efforts.

Conclusion

The 2009-2010 school year was indeed a busy and productive time. We are very proud of the initiatives that were introduced during this reporting period and how they have added to our capacity to support and enhance student learning. Our work is leading the way provincially, and even nationally.

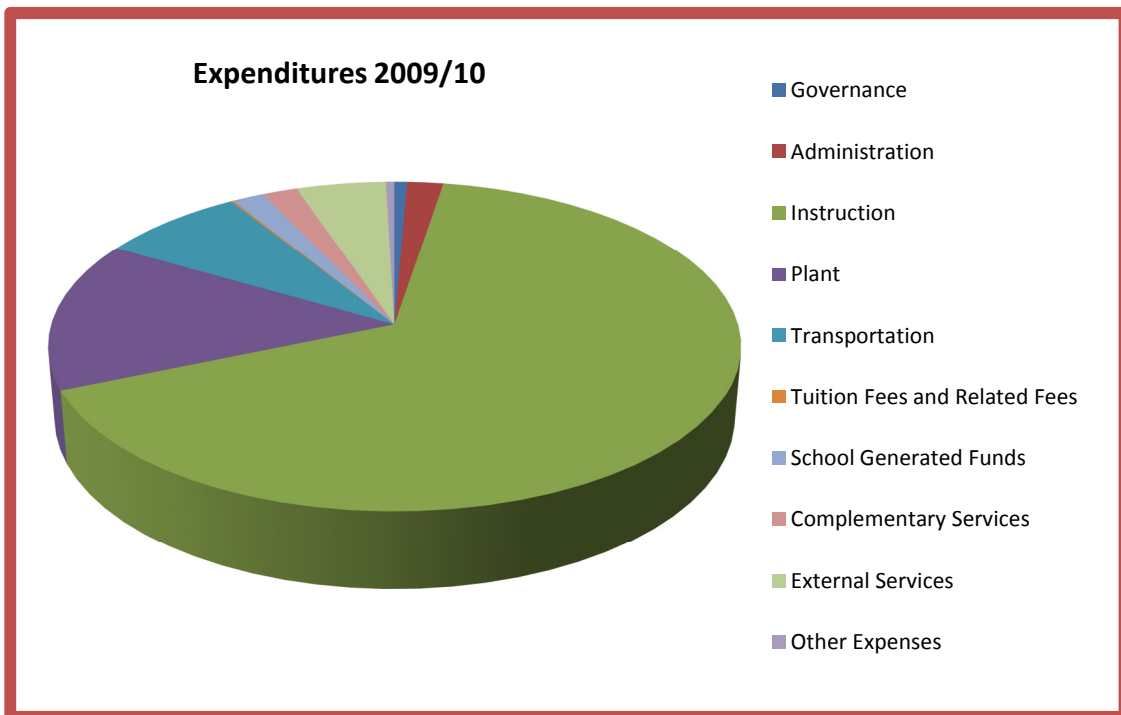
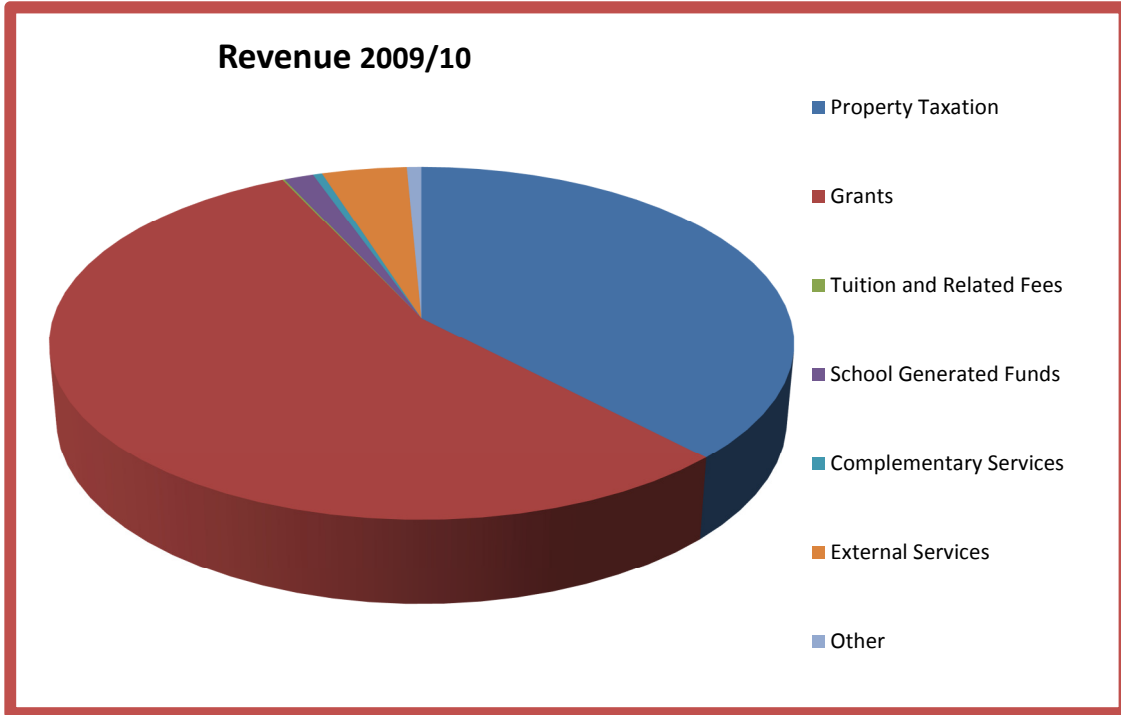
As leadership in the organization has transitioned, opportunity for organizational renewal has emerged. As a result, Prairie South has reconfirmed its commitment to engaging stakeholders and strengthening partnerships to enhance support for students and improve learning outcomes for all students. It is a very exciting time to be part of the organization. I am very proud to be part of Prairie South and to work with a Board and staff who are committed to these values and goals.

Respectfully submitted,

Jeff Finell
Director of Education
Prairie South School Division



Financial Highlights



Operating Highlights

Total Revenue: \$86.7 million (38% property taxes; 55% provincial grant; 7% other revenue)

Total Expenditures: \$77.5 million (67% instruction; 15% plant; 8% transportation; 10% other)

Surplus: \$9,246,377

Total municipalities (*cities, towns, villages and rural municipalities*): 82

Total schools: 40 (including two associate schools and five Hutterian colony schools)

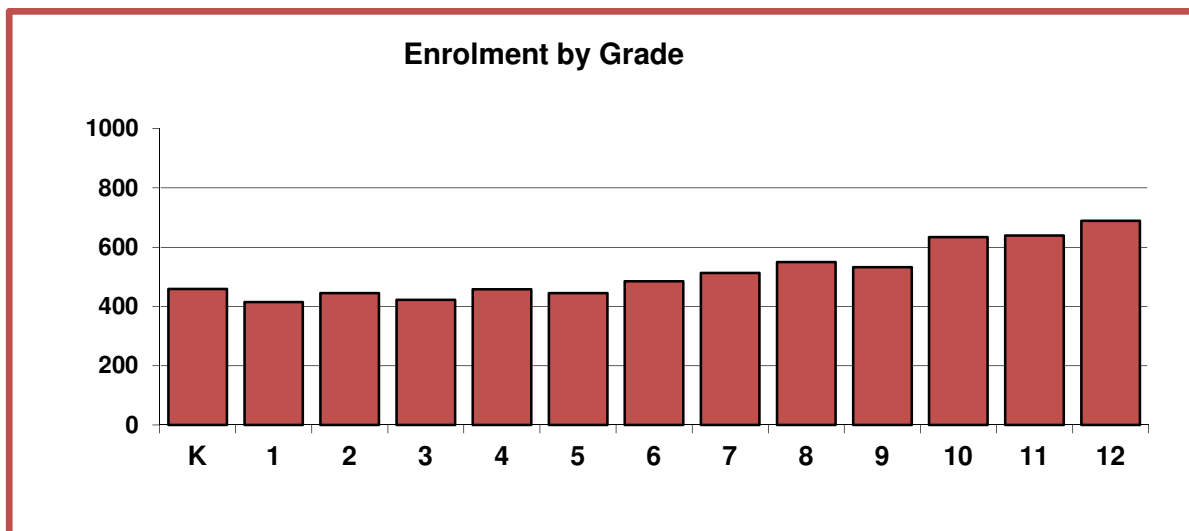
Total students: 6546 full-time equivalents, Prek to Grade 12 (prekindergarten and kindergarten students are counted at 50% to reflect the level of program offered at this age)

Total teaching staff: 502.4 full-time equivalents

Pupil-to-teacher ratio: 14.1

Total non-teaching staff: 474.17 FTE, including bus drivers

Total rural and city school bus routes: 130



Board of Education

Prairie South School Division is governed by a 10-member Board of Education. Five trustees are elected from rural subdivisions (subdivision 1-5) and another five are elected within the City of Moose Jaw (subdivision 6).

- Subdivision 1: Ron Gleim
- Subdivision 2: Jackie Jelinski
- Subdivision 3: Al Kessler
- Subdivision 4: Colleen Christopherson-Cote
- Subdivision 5: Shawn Davidson
- Subdivision 6: Darrell Crabbe
Joan McMaster
Gord Stewart
Brian Swanson
Lew Young



Back row (l-r): Darrell Crabbe, Ron Gleim, Gord Stewart, Jackie Jelinski, Colleen Christopherson-Cote, Joan McMaster
Front row (l-r): Shawn Davidson, Brian Swanson, Lew Young, Al Kessler