

Board Highlights

April 14, 2011

Prairie Rose School Division No 8



1. Isabel F. Cox School Child Care Proposal

I.F. Cox Principal Melissa Gogolinski explained that the recent Board decision to reduce Kindergarten programming for the 2011-12 year is a concern for parents who need to access childcare. The school is proposing the addition of a daycare program to be run out of the school to meet the needs of the new part-time kindergarten program. The hours of operation would match the current afterschool program. This would reduce the number of students seeking access to the afterschool program and open up more spaces for additional students. The proposed cost for parents would be \$5 per hour (plus a \$30 registration fee and \$100 non-refundable deposit) with the program would open to government subsidies. Four possible options were presented to the Board as possible schedules for parents. The designated space for the daycare can hold up to 23 children. The program would be self-sustainable and would not receive any Board funding. An individual with an Early Childcare diploma would need to be hired to run the program. The Board moved to grant the request.

2. Foremost Teacherage Sales

Secretary Treasurer Pat Cocks explained that the Division had received a number of bids on the sale of two teacherage rental properties in Foremost. While lower than the 2007 appraisals, the bids were very close indicating the current market value. Trustee Kathy Cooper asked if the Board could reject the offers and continue to rent the properties until the market improves. Pat Cocks explained that there are still two other properties that the Division owns in the community that are empty. It was explained that there would need to be some maintenance done on the buildings if the Division were to continue to rent the properties. The Board moved to approve the highest bids on both units.

3. Bussing Requests

Two separate transportation appeals were brought forward to the Board for review. One request asked for transportation from the Senator Gershaw attendance area to Foremost School, while the other was for transportation of three children from the Warren Peers attendance area to Oyen. The Board moved to uphold the current attendance area boundaries and deny both requests.

4. Superintendents' Reports

Superintendent Doug Nicholls reported that the Division would like to do more to recognize school bus drivers. Transportation Supervisor Val Miller explained that some schools already put on small event recognitions for the drivers and make them feel like part of the staff. It was suggested that a Driver Appreciation Day be established to thank our drivers for all their work in ensuring that our students get to and from school safely on a daily basis.

Superintendent Doug Nicholls shared that a Prairie Rose Budget Task Force has been established to discuss possible cost saving measures for the 2011-12 school year. The first meeting has been set for April 18th. Staff and parents who are not involved in the task force will still be able to make recommendations through email and letters.

Deputy Superintendent Brian Andjelic shared that the Red Cross had been in contact with him to congratulate the Division for fundraising over \$10,000 for communities who have been hit by flooding. A certificate of thanks has been issued. The news will be shared with school staff through email.

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Trustee Reports

M. Peers shared that G. Westgard, S. Angle, members of the Administration team and herself met with the Minister of Education in Edmonton in March to share the Board's concerns about budget funding for 2011-12. A delegation also travelled to Hanna to present to the Special Areas group.

B. Wickens explained that the recent transportation meetings in Redcliff to discuss changes to bussing for the upcoming year in the community are now over and went very well. Two Mennonite students have graduated through the ESL Evening Program at Margaret Wooding School. This is the first group of graduates through the program.

S. Angle shared that the road situation in the Bow Island area continues to be a concern. S. Angle explained that he had put a call into MLA Len Mitzel about the Edmonton budget presentation however there is nothing new to report.

G. Westgard explained that the Board was able to run a successful videoconference meeting together. Although videoconferencing is never as effective as having a face to face conversation, it was nice to meet without the long commute. The northern schools have all been very busy with various activities.

G. Dennis reported that the Seven Persons Jump Rope for Heart was a big success this year. The roads in the Seven Persons region continue to be an issue.

P. Heller shared that Badminton season is underway in all the schools. Congratulations were passed along to the Eagle Butte girls curling team who went to provincials. They were awarded the Sportsmanship Award. The Board was reminded to check out the Eagle Butte website to listen to the Eagle radio station.

K. Cooper shared that the Foremost School had put on a big drama production. The school also hosted their spring carnival with a Minute to Win It theme. The Foremost School review is currently underway. A report will come forward to the Board in the next couple of months.

Video Presentation

A. Baron shared the *March Around the School Yard* video. Featured schools included Eagle Butte High, Beyond Walls Outreach School and Senator Gershaw. The video can be viewed on the Prairie Rose website at www.prrd.ab.ca.

The next Regular Board Meeting will take place May 10, 2011 at 10:00 a.m. at Division Office in Dunmore, AB.

For more information regarding the Prairie Rose School Division and its Board of Trustees please visit www.prrd.ab.ca.

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