

Board Highlights

February 1, 2011

Prairie Rose School Division No 8



1. Ralston School Review

Assistant Superintendent Brad Volkman provided a summary of the Ralston School Review. Recommendations from the report include attempting to build PLC time into the regular school day timetable for the Division 3 teachers, adding a few minutes of instruction to each day in next year's timetable, more French options for students, more input from parents and support staff, addition efforts towards increasing the overall Math results, better use of the library and its resources and continued efforts to promote and publicize various anti-bullying programs. Aspects of the school that were acknowledged include providing students with a broad range of core, co-curricular and extra-curricular programs, a positive school council relationship, an effective orientation package for new students, positive leadership and good communication with the parents and the military community.

2. Audit Services

Secretary Treasurer Pat Cocks explained that administration was recommending that the Board extend its three-year contract with *Young Parkyn McNab Chartered Accountants* to provide external audit services for the 2010-2011 fiscal year. The recommendation was approved.

3. Attendance Area Appeal – Redcliff to Ralston

Superintendent Doug Nicholls explained that a parent had approached him with some concerns with one of the Redcliff schools. Due to this concern the parent was requesting that the division transport her youngest child outside of the Redcliff attendance area boundary to Ralston School. The request was denied.

4. Professional Leave

Superintendent Doug Nicholls explained that a Prairie Rose employee had submitted an application for professional leave. There is a provision in the Collective Agreement for teaching professionals to pursue additional education opportunities at a cost to the Board. The provision also requires the individual to return to the division following their leave for a minimum two year period. The request was approved.

5. Policy EL#11

Secretary Treasurer Pat Cocks presented Policy EL#11 – Attendance Area for approval. The policy has been amended to transfer the attendance area for Bindloss School to Warren Peers School. The policy change was approved.

6. Policy E#4 – Learner Outcomes

Secretary Treasurer Pat Cocks presented Policy E#4 – Learner Outcomes for approval. The policy has been amended to reflect the four goals in the 2010-2013 Three Year Education Plan. The policy change was approved.

7. Policy GP#19 – Student / Board Advisory

Secretary Treasurer Pat Cocks presented Policy GP#19 – Student / Board Advisory for approval. The policy has been amended to include three trustees as members of the committee. The policy change was approved.

8. Video Presentation

Communications Coordinator Angela Baron presented the *Around the School Yard* video newsletter. The December edition highlighted activities from Parkside, Irvine and Bow Island schools and can be viewed online at www.prrd.ab.ca.

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Trustee Reports

B. Wickens reported that he had attended a series of School Council meetings in Redcliff. Items discussed included transportation and the tripartite discussions.

S. Angle attended the school council meetings in the Bow Island / Burdett area.

G. Westgard reported that she, M. Peers and D. Nicholls had attended the Joint Northern School Council meeting together. Many items were discussed.

M. Peers shared her thoughts on the Joint Northern School Council meeting. In other news, the schools all participated in a large curling bonspiel on January 31, 2011.

A. Frank explained that he had attended the Eagle Butte School Council meeting. Items discussed during the meeting included student phone rules and student feedback forms. Jenner held their Missoula Theatre production in December. While the school had some concerns about the administration of the Missoula program, it was well received by the parents and students. It was noted that Jenner School has great parent council representation. At Margaret Wooding, students received a presentation on anti-bullying. The school has also looked at adding an outdoor sign to promote school activities. Costs are being considered before a decision will be made. At Parkside, the dance elective has been well received. The students are excited about showing off their work at this year's Kaleidoscope.

P. Heller shared that she had attended the Schuler School Council meeting. A school fun day is scheduled for February 2nd. At Irvine, the school recently hosted a curling bonspiel. It was a great day and a lot of fun for students.

The next Regular Board Meeting will take place March 8, 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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