



*Saskatchewan Rivers
School Division*

Excellence for Every Learner

Annual Report

of the
Saskatchewan Rivers School Division
for the year ending
August 31, 2008

Kinistino School
Box 650
KINISTINO, SK S0J 1H0

Monday, March 23, 2009
7:00 p.m.

EDUCATION CENTRE

545 - 11 Street East

Prince Albert, SK S6V 1B1

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AGENDA FOR ANNUAL MEETING

1. Call to Order Bill Cooke
2. Nomination of Chairperson
3. Appointment of Secretary
4. Board Chair's Report Wayne Steen
5. Financial Statement for 2007-2008 Dennis Moniuk
(See Financial Statements)
6. Open Forum
7. Adjournment

THE BOARD

Board Chair:	Mr. Wayne Steen Weldon, SK S0J 3A0	(H) 887-4430 (W) 887-2020
Vice-Chair:	Mr. Mark Tweidt 419 - 11 th Street East Prince Albert, SK S6V 1A8	922-3181
Trustees:	Mrs. Joy Bastness Hagen, SK S0J 1B0	749-2491
	Mr. Grant Gustafson 331 - 20th Street West Prince Albert, SK S6V 4G7	922-2150
	Mr. Barry Hollick #208 - 3590 - 4 th Avenue West Prince Albert, SK S6V 8B4	922-2491
	Mr. George McHenry 1245 Gillmor Crescent Prince Albert, SK S6V 6A8	763-6705
	Dr. Jan Moe Kinistino, SK S0J 1H0	864-3559
	Mr. Roger Provencher Box 74 Canwood, SK S0J 0K0	468-2930
	Mr. Rodney Thomson 678 - 21st Street East Prince Albert, SK S6V 1M7	763-3350
	Mr. Arthur Voyer R.R. #1, Site 2, Comp. 12 Shellbrook, SK S0J 2E0	747-3207

The Board of Education usually holds its Regular meetings on the first and third Monday of each month commencing at 8:00 p.m. in the Board Room of the Education Centre, 545 - 11th Street East, Prince Albert, Saskatchewan. The Regular meeting agendas are posted to the web site prior to the meeting date. The minutes are posted to the web site once approved by the Board.

The following table illustrates trustee attendance at Board meetings for the period of September 1, 2007 to August 31, 2008:

TRUSTEE	Number of Board meetings attended out of 26
Joy Bastness	20
Grant Gustafson	26
Barry Hollick	24
George McHenry	25
Jan Moe	16
Roger Provencher	18
Wayne Steen	26
Rodney Thomson	25
Mark Tweidt	23
Arthur Voyer	24

BOARD THREE YEAR PLAN

During the 2007-08 fiscal year the Board, Director of Education and senior administration developed a Three Year Plan to chart the direction for the school division in all areas of operation. The plan was adopted by the Board at its April 19, 2008 meeting.

The plan can be printed or viewed online on the school division's web site at www.srsd119.ca and clicking on Board of Education/Three Year Plan.

FINANCIAL REPORT

The financial statement for the 2007-08 fiscal year is presented separately from this report. The document is available on the school division's web site at www.srsd119.ca. The financial statement reports a combined surplus on 2007-08 operations of \$2,499,964.00. This is the third consecutive year that the school division has operated with a surplus.

SCHOOL DIVISION DEBT

The school division has borrowed to meet its capital needs. As of August 31, 2008, the school division had outstanding capital loans totaling \$4,734,242.00. The following table provides additional information with respect to the school division's debt load:

PROJECT	LOAN DATE	PRINCIPAL	INT. RATE	TERM
Bus Garage	2003	\$ 100,800.00	5.15%	5-years
Vincent Massey	2005	\$1,297,710.00	4.85%	7-years
Debden	2005	\$ 733,332.00	Prime	3-years
Johnson Controls	2005	\$2,602,400.00	4.54%	10-years

Please Note: The Loan for Johnson Controls is for facility upgrades and improvements to schools in the former Sask. Rivers School Division. The loan is being repaid through savings generated from reductions to natural gas and electrical consumption.

TAXATION

The Board set the uniform mill rate for the 2008 taxation year at 18.90 mills. This was the first year that the uniform mill rate was applied to all assessable property in the division as provisions to utilize a variable mill rate under section 285(1) of *The Education Act, 1995*, ended in 2007.

The following table is provided as a comparison of tax rates of provincial school divisions:

<u>SCHOOL DIVISION MILL RATES</u>	
Sun West School Division No. 207	21.69
Prairie South School Division No. 210	24.80
Prairie Valley School Division No. 208	22.25
S. E. Cornerstone School Division No. 209	23.00
North East School Division No. 200	21.00
Horizon School Division No. 205	23.50
Living Sky School Division No. 202	24.25
Northwest School Division No. 203	20.00
Good Spirit School Division No. 204	21.95
Chinook School Division No. 211	23.70
Prairie Spirit School Division No. 206	22.86
Regina School Division No. 4	19.74
Regina Catholic Schools	19.74
Prince Albert Catholic School Division	19.60
Saskatoon Greater Catholic School Division	18.78
Saskatchewan Rivers No. 119	18.90
Saskatoon Public School Division No. 13	18.78

The school division's mill rate (when compared to similar school divisions in the province) is one of the lowest in the province with only the Saskatoon Public School Division (18.78) and the Saskatoon Greater Catholic School Division (18.78) having mill rates that are lower.

By having one of the lowest mill rates in the province, we definitely contribute to the competitive advantage that our municipal counterparts have in attracting investment and economic development to the area.

ASSESSMENT

The Saskatchewan Rivers School Division encompasses a variety of municipalities within its boundaries including the City of Prince Albert, rural municipalities, and resort communities, as well as towns and villages. There are a total of 39 taxing authorities that levy and collect school taxes on behalf of the division.

As of January 1, 2008, the total assessment of the school division (including assessment for Grant-In-Lieu of tax purposes) is \$1,810,510,137.00. One mill levied against the assessment generates \$1,810,510.14 of tax revenue.

The following table illustrates the taxable assessment of the school division since amalgamation in 2006:

TAX AUTHORITY	2006	2007	2008
Urban Municipalities	\$ 941,067,789.40	\$ 963,048,812.00	\$ 986,830,699.00
Rural Municipalities	\$ 805,636,637.00	\$ 811,908,310.00	\$ 823,679,438.00
TOTAL ASSESSMENT:	\$1,746,704,426.00	\$1,774,957,122.00	\$1,810,510,137.00

The Saskatchewan Rivers School Division is fortunate to be located in an area of the province that is experiencing economic development and growth. During the 2007 and 2008, local tax revenue increase by 1.5% and 2.0% as a result of assessment growth due to these developments. The Board has worked in cooperation with our taxing authorities to attract investment dollars and economic development opportunities to the school division.

Growth of revenue is essential for a school division to be able to obtain the tax dollars required to operate without increasing the mill rate and the taxes paid by all ratepayers.

COST EFFECTIVE GOVERNANCE & ADMINISTRATION

The Board believes that the cost of administration should be less than 4% of the annual school division budget. In 2007-08, the cost of the Board and Administrative Services totaled \$2,703,167.00 or 3.54% of the annual expenditures.

***The cost of administration includes salaries paid to Senior Administrative Educational Personnel accounted for in our Financial Statement under the Instruction Category.*

CAPITAL PROJECTS

In 2007-08 the Board received capital funding from Ministry of Education for the following projects:

- | | |
|---|---------------|
| 1. Arthur Pechey School Roof Project | \$ 555,537.00 |
| 2. Westview Community School Roof Project | \$ 81,749.00 |
| 3. West Central School Roof Project | \$ 226,432.00 |
| 4. Kinistino School Glulam Beam Replacement | \$ 81,521.00 |
| 5. Carlton Comprehensive High School Roof Project | \$ 278,544.00 |

The construction of a new gymnasium at Carlton Comprehensive High School remains the number one priority for the Board. During the past year, AODBT Architects have been hired to complete the preliminary design work for the facility. The Board continues to lobby the provincial government for funding to construct the facility.

Other projects that are a high priority include:

- Renovation of W. P. Sandin School in Shellbrook.
- Construction of a new gymnasium at P.A.C. I. in Prince Albert.

WESMOR TEEN FACILITY CENTRE

The school division received the funding and approval to construct a child care facility at Wesmor Community High School. The facility, designed by AODBT Architects, provides twelve child care spaces (eight for student and four for community) in a warm, healthy and caring environment.

The facility was constructed with the support of the school division, community, Wesmor Community High School, and the provincial government at a total cost of \$160,914.57. On March 17, 2008 the Grand Opening of the Centre was held prior to the 2007 Annual Meeting of the Saskatchewan Rivers School Division.

CONTINUING IMPROVEMENT FRAMEWORK

The Continuous Improvement Framework (CIF), introduced in 2006, places an emphasis on the education of children and youth function of schools and its ultimate goal “is to strengthen teaching and learning and increase opportunities for improved student learning and outcomes.”

The Ministry of Education has set four CIF priorities:

- Higher levels of literacy and student achievement;
- Equitable opportunities for all students;
- Smooth transitions into and through the system; and,
- Strong system-wide accountability and governance.

The Ministry of Education has provided the Provincial Core Indicators data that indicate the progress the school division and the province are making to achieve the four provincial priorities outlined above.

The school division has responded to each of the provincial priorities. However, since our focus is principally on student achievement, the Board’s annual School Division Improvement Plan focuses on the school division’s response to the provincial priority of Higher Literacy and Achievement. To achieve higher student achievement the school division has outlined a series of goals expectations for the school division, schools and classrooms.

For more details about the 2008-2009 School Division Improvement Plan, please visit the school division web site: www.srsd119.ca/continuousimprovement.html.

TRANSPORTATION SERVICES

The Board operates and contracts for transportation services in both the rural and urban areas of the school division to transport 3,450 students to school on a daily basis. All transportation services are administered from the Bus Maintenance Facility located south of the City of Prince Albert on Elevator Road. The total cost of transporting students to school for the 2007-08 school year was \$5,944,466.06.

The transportation of our students in a safety-first manner is the number one transportation priority of the Board. To achieve this priority, the Board provides the funds to ensure that buses are properly maintained, drivers receive appropriate in-service/training, and the bus fleet is modern and up-to-date. In 2007-08, the Board allocated \$662,266.68 towards purchasing new buses for the fleet.

MAINTENANCE OF FACILITIES

The Board believes that, given the lack of capital funding available from the provincial government, it is important that sufficient resources are allocated for facility maintenance. The annual allocation for facilities is between 9% and 11% of the operating budget.

In 2007-08, the school division expended \$7,680,742.00 for plant operation and maintenance. Some of the major projects undertaken in the 2007-08 year included:

1. As part of our safety plan, \$15,000 was expended to improve playground surfaces at schools in the division. A further \$20,000.00 was expended to improve the playground at Meath Park School by:
 - a) Improving the playground surface to meet standards.
 - b) Purchasing and installing new playground equipment.
 - c) Relocating playground equipment from Prince Charles School.
2. New telephone/intercom systems were installed at Canwood Community School and St. Louis Community School at a cost of \$46,500.00. Integrated internal and external communications systems are provided to enhance the safety of staff and students in our schools.
3. Over a two-year period, alarms systems will be installed in schools without systems and alarm system in all other facilities will be replaced, at a projected cost of \$80,000.00. During the 2007-08 year all schools in the rural area of the school division had new alarm systems installed at a cost of \$44,000.00.
4. Paving of parking lots at Carlton Comprehensive High School and the Bus Maintenance Facility at a cost of \$95,000.00.
5. Replacement of flooring at East Central, Kinistino, and Canwood Community Schools at a total cost of \$73,000.00.
6. Replacement of the flooring in the Princess Margaret gymnasium at a cost of \$23,000.00.
7. Refinishing of the gym floors at P.A.C.I., St. Louis Community, and W. P. Sandin Schools at a cost of \$37,000.00.
8. Construct storage garages at Kinistino, Spruce Home, P.A.C.I., Debden, and Red Wing Schools at a cost of \$35,000.00.
9. Replaced the air handling units at Canwood Community School at a cost of \$54,000.00.
10. The following schools were included in the painting program:
 - a) P.A.C.I. hallway & stairwells \$12,000.
 - b) T. D. Michel Elementary \$38,000.
 - c) Canwood Community School \$28,000.
 - d) W.P. Sandin East Wing \$16,000.
11. Exterior renovation of Princess Margaret School to reduce the number of windows in each classroom and install new energy efficient units to provide the required daylight at a cost of \$67,000.00.
12. Repair the roof over the library and administration area of John Diefenbaker School at a cost of \$21,000.00.
13. Upgrade air handling units at Westview Community School at a cost of \$7,000.00.
14. Install 100 lockers at St. Louis Community School at a cost of \$16,000.00.
15. Replace 100 lockers at Carlton Comprehensive High School at a cost of \$16,000.00.
16. Purchase of desks, chairs and tables to meet division needs at a cost of \$60,000.00.

COMMITMENT TO TECHNOLOGY

The Board is committed to enhance the use of technology in all aspects of school division operations. A Five Year Technology Plan to provide direction for implementation of technology across the school division has been developed and approved by the Board. An annual budget of \$746,000.00 is provided for technology purchases and a further \$60,000.00 is allocated to deal with computer security issues.

The plan's focus is on the use of technology in the classroom as part of the curriculum through the deployment of lap top computers for teachers and students, implementation of SMARTboard technology, and the expansion in the use of sound field systems in classrooms. The technology expansion and changes are enhanced through extensive staff development being provided to assist our teachers in making the transition.

SAFE SCHOOLS PROJECT

The Board is very concerned about the safety of our students. They believe a safe and orderly environment is a priority because when students feel safe, they are more able to learn and the school climate is conducive to teaching. During the 2007-08, the school division expended over \$140,000.00 to enhance student safety.

Ongoing and new initiatives for 2007-08 included:

- Upgrade the communications (telephone/intercom) systems at West Central, W. P. Sandin, and Spruce Home Schools. This is part of an ongoing plan to ensure student and staff safety to ensure that communication is capable to all rooms within the school.
- Ongoing installation of AED's (defibrillators) and training of staff in our schools to use them. AED's have been installed at Carlton Comprehensive High, Wesmor Community, P.A.C.I., W. P. Sandin High Schools.
- Police Liaison Program in partnership with the Prince Albert Police Service that places an officer in Carlton Comprehensive High School.
- Our partnership with the Prince Albert Police Service and the Royal Canadian Mounted Police to have police officers as a resource in our schools.
- Provide Basic First Aid and CPR training to ensure that at least one staff member in each school is trained.
- Developed a driver training program to ensure that all individuals who drive school division vans for extra curricular purposes receive the appropriate training prior to operating the vehicles.
- Provide our employees with staff development opportunities such as the Threat Assessment Workshop and the Anti-Bullying programs.
- School bus safety advertising on local television stations.
- Expansion of the use of security cameras in our schools.
- Maintaining our Emergency Response Manuals.

CURRICULUM IMPLEMENTATION/ACTUALIZATION

The Board has been committed to upgrading our curriculum on a planned basis both prior to and since the amalgamation of school divisions in 2006. To this end, the Board has established an annual budget allocation of \$200,000.00 for curriculum upgrades.

The Board is committed to the implementation and actualization of CORE Curriculum. In 2007-08 the Board expended \$200,000.00 to facilitate curriculum actualization in the following subject areas:

- Math for Grades K-8
- English Language Arts Grades 6-9
- Early Literacy for Grades K-3
- Life Skills and Career Guidance Grades 6-9
- Arts Education Grades 1-5
- Science Grades 6-9

COMMITMENT TO SCHOOL FUNDING

In the 2007-08 fiscal year,\$2,335,213.00 was decentralized to the school level for the purchase of textbooks, library material, photocopying, consumable materials, telephone usage, equipment repair, extra-curricular travel, and student supervision.

The funds are decentralized to schools utilizing a formula that ensures that all schools are funded in an equitable manner based on the number of students attending and the programs offered. The funds decentralized to a school are retained by the school as a surplus if they are unexpended. By allowing schools control over their funds,we promote good planning and accountability at the school level

On behalf of the Board of Education I would like to thank all of our employees for their efforts and contributions during the 2007-08 fiscal year. Through careful management of our resources, we have enhanced the operation of our school division in all areas that benefit the education of our students. As a school division, we are a leader in the province and can take pride in our many accomplishments as we strive to continually improve.

Sincerely,

Wayne Steen, Board Chair
On behalf of the Board of Education

FINANCIAL STATEMENT FOR 2007-2008

Please refer to the Financial Statement for 2007-2008 (*condensed version*) that has been provided in addition to this report.

OUR SCHOOLS

Arthur Pechey School (K-8)	2675 – 4 th Avenue West	922-9229
Big River Community High School (7-12)	Big River	469-2288
Birch Hills School (K-12)	Birch Hills	749-3301
Canwood Community School (Pre-K-12)	Canwood	468-2150
* <i>Carlton Comprehensive High School</i> (9-12)	665 – 28 th Street East	922-3115
Christopher Lake School (K-8)	Christopher Lake	982-2131
* <i>Debden School</i> (K-12)	Debden	724-2181
East Central School (K-8)	R.R.#1, Prince Albert	922-8329
* <i>École Vickers School</i> (K-8)	2800 Bradbury Drive	922-6446
John Diefenbaker School (Pre-K-8)	1090 Branion Drive	763-6031
King George Community School (Pre-K-8)	421 – 23 rd Street East	763-7571
Kinistino School (Pre-K-12)	Kinistino	864-2252
Meath Park School (K-12)	Meath Park	929-2131
Osborne School (K-8)	R.R. #2	922-8078
Prince Albert Collegiate Institute (9-12)	45 – 20 th Street West	763-6485
Princess Margaret School (Pre-K-8)	351 – 13 th Avenue East	763-5217
Queen Mary Community School (Pre-K-8)	1010 – 15 th Street West	763-7672
Red Wing School (K-8)	R.R. #5	763-5375
Riverside Community School (Pre-K-8)	511 – 5 th Avenue East	763-6495
Shell Lake School (K-9)	Shell Lake	427-2194
Shellbrook Elementary School (K-5)	Shellbrook	747-2588
Spruce Home School (K-8)	Spruce Home	764-8377
St. Louis Community School (Pre-K-12)	St. Louis	422-8511
STAR Program (ungraded)	511 – 5 th Avenue East	922-6522
T.D. Michel Community School (Pre-K-6)	Big River	469-2128
Vincent Massey Community School (Pre-K-8)	2999 – 3 rd Avenue East	763-7494
Wesmor Community High School (9-12)	1819 – 14 th Avenue West	764-5233
West Central School (K-8)	R.R. #3	922-8339
Westview Community School (Pre-K-8)	620 McArthur Drive	922-4094
Wild Rose School (K-8)	R.R. #1 Shellbrook	747-2323
W.J. Berezowsky School (Pre-K-8)	566 McIntosh Drive	763-7404
W.P. Sandin School (7-12)	Shellbrook	747-2191
Won Ska Cultural School (ungraded)	2005 – 4 th Avenue East	763-3552

* & *italics* = English and French Immersion