

# School Community Council Update

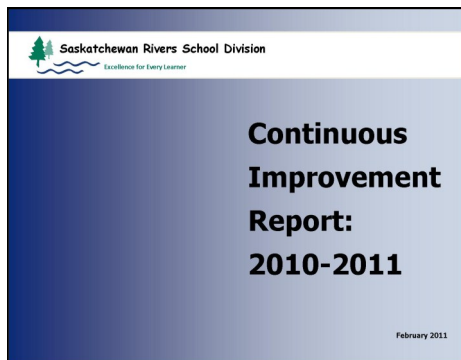
Saskatchewan Rivers School Division

March 2011

## CONTENTS

- CIF Report
- Annual Meeting with the Board of Education
- Learning Improvement Plans
- Support for School Community Councils
- Response to SCC questions from the May 10, 2010 meeting with the Board of Education.

## CIF Report Released



On February 7, 2011, the Board of Education accepted the school division's 2010-2011 Continuous Improvement Report. A copy of this report has been sent to each SCC Chairperson and additional copies are available from your school, the Education Centre or online at: [www.srsd119.ca/continuousimprovement.html](http://www.srsd119.ca/continuousimprovement.html).

## Annual Meeting with the Board of Education: May 9, 2011

The Annual Meeting of the Board of Education will be held on May 9, 2011 followed by a meeting of School Community Council members and the Board of Education.

The Annual Meeting begins at **7:00 PM** at



**Vincent Massey Community School** located at 2999 3<sup>rd</sup> Avenue East in Prince Albert. (Please see the map on page 2.)

Topics for the School Community Council meeting include:

- A roundtable sharing session where each SCC has an opportunity to discuss one or two of their accomplishments over the 2010-2011 school

year.

- A discussion about the Role of School Community Councils Workshops held this school year and the additional support SCC's want for 2011-2012.

**Your whole School Community Council is invited to participate in this meeting.**

**LOCATION OF THE ANNUAL MEETING**



## Learning Improvement Plans

Each school has prepared a Learning Improvement Plan which contains information about the school and its programs along with the school's 2010-2011 SMART Goal(s).

Each School Community Council

Chairperson has been provided with copies of your school's Learning Improvement Plan. Additional copies are available from your school principal and online at: [www.srsd119.ca/continuousimprovement.html](http://www.srsd119.ca/continuousimprovement.html).

## School Division Answers SCC Questions

During the May 10, 2010 meeting with the Board of Education, SCC members had a number of questions on many topics. This is the second installment of answers to these questions.

### How and When are Playgrounds Inspected?

The school division has a weekly playground

inspection process.

Caretakers complete a written checklist which contains the following items:

- Check for and remove loose garbage, debris, broken glass, and animal droppings on play area ground surface.
- Check play structure

for obvious signs of damage, vandalism, or broken parts. (Advise management immediately if service is needed.)

- Check for and remove skipping ropes or any other ropes or climbing devices which have been attached to but are not a permanent part of the



playground structure.

- Rake sand/gravel to replenish areas beneath swing bays, slide exits and fire poles.
- Empty garbage can(s) located in the playground area.

Caretaking staff are asked to record any action they have taken.

Staff from the school division maintenance department inspect playground equipment monthly. However, if equipment is in urgent need of repair, the school principal can submit a service request.

If members of the community notice an unsafe condition in a playground, they should contact the school principal.

### **Do you have any ideas on encouraging community members to become involved with the SCC?**

The Government of Ontario has provided the following Parent Involvement Checklist to help School Community Councils review current parent engagement activities and to stimulate discussion and ideas for future activities and events.

- Have we used surveys and other information-gathering tools to assess what parents need and want, and to ask for their opinions and suggestions?
- Have we determined the barriers which may prevent some parents from participating?
- Do we understand the needs of parents whose first language is other than

English?

- Have we explicitly invited parents to volunteer in a variety of school activities?
- Do we know how parents are getting our information, and how they would like to receive it?
- Do we routinely gather parent contact information and use it effectively to keep parents informed?
- Do we have an organized plan for parent engagement activities this year?
- Do we respond immediately when parents indicate a willingness to volunteer or participate in other ways?
- Do we have a school information package for newcomers?
- Do we have an organized method for meeting and welcoming new families?
- Do we actively encourage parents to attend School Council meetings?
- Do we acknowledge and involve parents who attend Council meetings for the first time?
- Do we provide information or an information event

*(Continued on page 4)*

## **Support for School Community Councils**

School Community Councils continue to have access to Toni Cooke, our SCC Facilitator. If requested, Toni will attend one of your SCC meetings and provide support on a

wide variety of topics. She can be reached at 764-5952.

As well, information about School Community Councils is available on

the school division web site at: [www.srsd119.ca/parentinformation.html](http://www.srsd119.ca/parentinformation.html).

This information includes all the SCC Constitutions, SCC manuals and past issues of this newsletter.



## Education Centre

545 11<sup>th</sup> Street East

Prince Albert, SK S6V 1B1

Phone: (306) 764-1571

Fax: (306) 763-4460

Website: [www.srsd119.ca](http://www.srsd119.ca)

Dr. William O. Cooke, Director of  
Education

**SCC Contact Person:** Tom  
Sutherland, Superintendent of  
Schools

Saskatchewan Rivers School Division is a publicly funded, public school division. As such, we welcome students of all faiths and backgrounds, and provide a range of programming that is the envy of school divisions across the province. Students looking for that wide range of programming, provided in a values-laden environment, have found great comfort, and success, in our schools.

We take tremendous pride in the relationships we have with parents and guardians and associated groups, and in the many ways we work with other agencies in the community, all on behalf of what's in the best interests of students. We are also very proud of our staff, and commend them, no matter what their role, for the part they play in addressing the educational, spiritual, and social needs of our students.

## Excellence for Every Learner

*(Continued from page 3)*

specifically geared to the needs of newcomers?

- Have we successfully addressed barriers to parent participation such as childcare, transportation, language services and off-site / off-hours events and programs for those who cannot attend regular events?
- Do we regularly provide school events that showcase student work and activities, address issues of concern, and provide information of interest to parents?
- Do we involve the community in the life of the school through such events as career and community fairs?
- Do we offer training for volunteers to help ensure that they feel confident and equipped for their roles?
- Do we provide parents with the information they need to work effectively with school staff, and to support their children's education at home?
- Do we celebrate our multicultural community by offering events that feature

varied traditions, customs and sports?

- Do we prominently display information about School Council in a high visibility area of the school?
- Does School Council have a presence at school events?
- Do we have a School Council newsletter and/or is the School Council represented in the school newsletter?
- Does the School Council have a presence on the school website?
- Do we send frequent reminders to parents?
- Do we participate as guest speakers wherever possible in the community, outside of school?
- Do we recognize the efforts of parents and School Council members, to encourage greater involvement and participation?

Source: [www.edu.gov.on.ca/eng/parents/involvement/checklist.html](http://www.edu.gov.on.ca/eng/parents/involvement/checklist.html)



“School  
Community  
Councils are  
ideally situated  
to support  
parents and  
families in  
becoming  
directly involved  
in their  
children’s  
learning.”

Ministry of Education: [A Handbook for School Community Councils and Principals](#)