

# School Community Council Update

Saskatchewan Rivers School Division

September 20, 2010

## CONTENTS

- **New Format for SCC Consultation and Development**
- **Regional Workshops: A learning opportunity for School Community Councils**
- **Response to SCC questions from the May 10, 2010 meeting with the Board of Education.**
- **School Division Report Card Development Consultation Process: A Call for Volunteers**

## PAC Replaced by New Format

On March 15, 2010, representatives from each School Community Council in the school division were invited to meet with the Board of Education. At that meeting, participants discussed the future of the Parent Advisory Council (PAC) and concluded that the current format of PAC should be changed. The new format proposed that representatives from each School Community Council would meet with the Board of Education one or two

times per school year and SCC development workshops would be held on a regional basis.

The first meeting with the Board of Education under the new format was held at the Education Centre on May 10, 2010. Twenty-four School Community Council members representing fifteen schools attended the meeting.

## Regional Workshops Planned

During the May 10, 2010 meeting with the Board of Education, members of School Community Councils provided a clear message that they needed a workshop to help them clarify their roles and responsibilities.

Therefore, a workshop on SCC Roles and Responsibilities will be held at the following locations. The workshop

will begin at 7:00 pm and end by 8:30 pm.

### Locations and Dates

- Canwood Community School on **November 16, 2010**;
- Education Centre in Prince Albert on **December 2, 2010**.

School Community Council members should choose the location that is most convenient to them. Travel costs at Board of Education rates

will be provided.

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

**Chairpersons:** Please let Tom Sutherland know the number coming from your SCC a week prior to the workshop.



## Volunteers Wanted!

The school division is developing a new Kindergarten to Grade 12 report card that describes a student's progress based upon the learning outcomes expected by each curriculum.

The outcomes must be written in language that is free of jargon and meaningful to parents

and students. In partnership with the Ministry of Education, the school division is beginning a process to write parent-friendly outcomes for every subject area.

This is an opportunity for members of School Community Councils to volunteer to review the outcomes and the

layout of the report card and provide comments for improvement.

### Interested?

Please contact Tom Sutherland at the Education Centre by **October 15, 2010.**

*"Education is not  
the filling of a  
bucket but the  
lighting of a fire."*

Yeats

## 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. These questions will be answered in this and subsequent newsletters.

### What is a Professional Learning Community (PLC)?

The school division

expects that schools will organize Professional Learning Communities to facilitate planning to improve student learning. The school division provides planning time in the school year calendar and facilitators to help schools implement and maintain Professional Learning Communities.

Essentially a

Professional Learning Community is a group of staff who meet regularly to discuss student achievement and steps staff can take to improve student learning. A Professional Learning Community seeks answers to four (4) critical questions:

- What do we want students to learn?
- How will we know when each student

has learned it?

- What will we do to facilitate learning?
- What will we do when students have not learned?

The responses to these four questions guide all aspects of teachers' day-to-day practice, instruction, allocation of resources, and staff development.

If you are wondering what SMART Goal(s) your school is working on during a PLC day, please ask your school principal. You can find your school's SMART Goal(s) in the school's Learning Improvement Plan (LIP) which is posted on the school division's website

at: [www.srsd119.ca/continuousimprovement.html](http://www.srsd119.ca/continuousimprovement.html).

**When SCC's apply for grant money, what is the procedure?**

When a School Community Council wishes to apply for funding from government or another agency, the SCC should:

1. Discuss the grant proposal with the school principal;
2. If approved by the principal, the application is sent to the Superintendent of Schools who will guide the proposal

through the rest of the application and approval process.

All grants over \$2, 500 will be administrated by the Finance Department at the Education Centre. An administration fee will be levied and must be included in the grant application as one of the budgetary items for expenditure. The administration fee schedule is as follows:

- \$5,000 and over 5%
- \$3,500 to 4,999 4%
- \$2,500 to 3,499 3%

*(Continued on page 4)*

# Support for School Community Councils

In addition to the Regional Workshops mentioned on page 1 of this newsletter, 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)*

**All the extra-curricular programs are very important. Are teachers being compensated?**

The Teachers' Local Bargaining Agreement provides compensation for teachers who volunteer to supervise extra-curricular activities. After fifty hours of extra-curricular involvement a teacher earns one half day of leave with pay. Rather than taking a leave, a teacher may choose

to be paid for the leave at an amount equal to one half day of substitute teacher salary. A teacher may earn a maximum of two half days per academic year.

## Questions

If you have questions about the school division, **please ask your school principal.** If your principal can not answer your question, he or she will know who to contact to obtain the information you are requesting.

“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](#)