

December 5, 2016

Dear Staff,

As you may know, there has been significant discussion in government and in the media about transformational change. The discussion has included some concerning ideas about potential amalgamation to create even larger divisions or possibly the loss of locally elected school boards. Your Board of Education continues to advocate for the needs of staff, students and the community and trustees want you to know that:

- The SRPSD Board is committed to efficient operations and over the last several years have found \$1.2 million cost reductions through joint purchasing, renewed tendering processes, and refurbished (not new) equipment renewal.
- The SRPSD Board continues to explore a wide variety of reductions and efficiencies to meet the challenging economic circumstances. Some of the areas the board is exploring include transportation, technology and purchasing.
- The SRPSD Board has established effective partnerships and continues to work to enhance those partnerships with major partners such as Prince Albert Parkland Health Region, Tribal Councils, Community Mobilization Prince Albert and others.
- The SRPSD Board is committed to maintaining the momentum of the provincial Education Sector Strategic Plan (ESSP). This plan has already transformed the way the Ministry and School Divisions work together to provide education to the provinces children and any disruption or reorganization of school divisions puts in danger any further success of the ESSP.
- The SRPSD Board believes that further amalgamation is not necessary to achieve some of the benefits and efficiencies that are being suggested as only possible through amalgamation. There are mechanisms in place to establish joint services between school divisions such as joint purchasing of supplies and equipment, joint transportation services and others.
- The SRPSD Board is dedicated to democracy. Taxation without locally elected representation is counter to the principals of democracy, while locally elected and autonomous Boards of Education actively represent local needs of both rural and urban communities.

It is essential that those in government who are considering decisions about transformational change know that education belongs to the community. We encourage you to learn more about the importance of the community's voice in education and invite you to show your support with one or more simple actions:

- Share your voice by participating in this online survey at <http://saskschoolboards.ca/education-belongs-to-community/> ,
- Show your support and share your ideas on Facebook, Twitter or other social media,
- Send a message, phone call or letter to your MLA. The list of MLAs and contact information is here <http://www.legassembly.sk.ca/mlas/>
- Encourage your family, friends, and neighbours to get involved in showing support for education in the community.

- Contact the any of the trustees on the Board for more information or conversation. Trustee name and contact information is here: https://www.srsd119.ca/?page_id=25

The Board of Education knows that you value excellence in education for the children and youth in our community. Your locally elected trustees continue to work on behalf of all students and hopes that you will join them in showing support for education in our community.

Yours in Education,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Barry Hollick".

Barry Hollick
Chairperson
Board of Education