

BOARD CHAIR'S REPORT for 2015-2016

It is my pleasure to present the Board Chair's report for the Saskatchewan Rivers Public School Division for the 2015-2016 year.

The school division is governed by a locally elected Board of Education. Ten trustees are elected to the Board, with five from the City of Prince Albert and five elected from wards in the rural area of the school division. Our trustees for 2015-2016 included Grant Gustafson, Arne Lindberg, George McHenry, Rodney Thomson and myself in the City of Prince Albert, along with Wayne Steen in Subdivision 1, Darlene Rowden in Subdivision 2, Jaimie Smith-Windsor in Subdivision 3, John McIvor in Subdivision 4 and Jeanette Wicinski-Dunn in Subdivision 5. School board elections took place this year on October 26, 2016. The newly elected SRPSD Board includes Grant Gustafson, Arne Lindberg, George McHenry, Michelle Vickers and myself in the City of Prince Albert, along with Bill Yeaman in Subdivision 1, Darlene Rowden in Subdivision 2, Jaimie Smith-Windsor in Subdivision 3, John McIvor in Subdivision 4 and Bill Gerow in Subdivision 5.

Our Division is the sixth largest school division in the province, covering a geographical area from Big River in the northwest to Kinistino in the southeast, from Meath Park in the northeast to MacDowall in the southwest, from Elk Ridge in the north to St. Louis in the south. Our Board is focused on its mission to achieve excellence for every learner. This focus has enabled the division to consistently improve and empower staff to provide the best possible programs for our 9000+ Prekindergarten – Grade 12 students in 32 school communities. We take great pride in the range of programs offered to our students, in the relationships we have with our families and in the many ways we work with other agencies in the community, all on behalf of what is in the best interests of our students.

School divisions underwent a significant shift in strategic planning in recent years when the Ministry of Education and all school divisions created a common strategic plan. Saskatchewan's education sector worked together to develop an Education Sector Strategic Plan (ESSP) for 2014-2020. The ESSP describes the strategic direction of the education sector and its priorities and outcomes align the work of school divisions and the Ministry of Education. The plan will shape a new direction in education for the benefit of all Saskatchewan students. Saskatchewan Rivers Public School Division's Board of Education approved the strategic plan, along with the other boards of education in the province and the Government of Saskatchewan. 2015-16 was the second year of deployment of the 2014-2020 ESSP.

Our Board is a leader in the province in hearing from students. The Saskatchewan Rivers Students for Change (SRSC) which is made up of three representatives from each of our 11 high schools achieved its goal by having a rural and urban student trustee at the Board table during 2015-16 school year. The Board Committee (Jaimie Smith-Windsor, Rodney Thomson and myself) along with the SRSC worked hard together and developed a constitution for the SRSC. We are excited to have student trustees join us at the Board table.

Our SRSC meets on a regular basis at the SRPSD Education Centre and is involved in a myriad of leadership activities such as national level conference youth panels, workshops with trustees, media events, charity work, board meetings and even Chamber of Commerce community functions.

In addition to attending meetings and events within the school division, some highlights of the Board’s work during the 2015-2016 school and fiscal year include:

September 2015

- Review Board Development and Advocacy Plans annually.
- Met with Minister Don Morgan to discuss facilities and vulnerable students – *September 16, 2015*
- Jointly sponsor the provincial Student Leadership Conference at WP Sandin Public High School “Fire is Catching” – *September 16 – 18, 2015*

October 2015

- Attend workshop on Marketing Schools (SSBA) – trustees, principals and SCC representatives – *October 7, 2015*
- Met with Rural Taxing Authorities – *October 27, 2015*

November 2015

- SSBA Fall General Assembly – *November 8 – 10, 2015*
- Public Section General Meeting – *November 9, 2015*
- Board & Director Seminar – *November 20 and 21, 2015*

December 2015

- Met with local MLAs to advocate for continued support of education at Christopher Lake Public School – *December 14, 2015*
- Celebrate Christmas season with many concerts, celebrations and special events in schools

January 2016

- Linkage meeting with Prince Albert Separate School Division – *January 18, 2016*
- Held Annual meeting at Education Centre – *January 25, 2016*
- Linkage Meeting with PAATA – *January 20, 2016*
- Establish Board budget priorities and begin 2016-2017 budgeting process

February 2016

- Budget process discussion continues
- SRSC - rural and urban student trustee at Board table begins– *February 1, 2016*

March 2016

- Budget process discussion continues
- Attend Rural Congress in Saskatoon – *March 20 - 22, 2016*

April 2016

- Attend SSBA Spring General Assembly – *April 14 and 15, 2016*
- Met with newly elected local Saskatchewan Party MLAs (Joe Hargraves, Delbert Kirsch, Scott Moe, Nadine Wilson) – *April 18, 2016*

May 2016

- Met with Prince Albert & Area Chamber of Commerce to discuss common goals and address common issues – *May 2, 2016*
- Met with newly elected local NDP MLA, Nicole Rancourt – *May 2, 2016*
- SRPSD Art Show – *May 5, 2016*
- Day 1 of school tours of several schools (Kinistino, Birch Hills, Winding River, St. Louis, Osborne, Arthur Pechey, PACI, King George) – *May 3, 2016*
- Day 2 of school tours of several schools and programs (Westview, Wesmor, Queen Mary, Learners with Purpose, Riverside, Princess Margaret, W.J. Berezowsky, École Vickers, John Diefenbaker, East Central) – *May 10, 2016*
- Attend achievement nights and graduation ceremonies

June 2016

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- Final budget approval – *June 20, 2016*
- Public Section annual meeting – *June 2 and 3, 2016*
- Long Service banquet – *Tuesday, June 14, 2016*

July 2016

- CSBA congress to connect with trustees from across the country over common concerns and best practices in school divisions – convention held in Winnipeg, MB – *July 6 - 9, 2016*

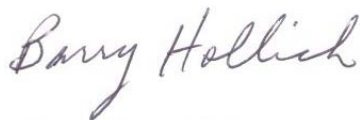
August 2016

- Hosted all staff to a welcome back BBQ with Prince Albert Roman Catholic Separate School Division at St. Mary – *August 31, 2016*

Highlights about increasing student achievement, sound fiscal management, safe and reliable transportation, updated technology, well-maintained facilities and many other important aspects of the operation of the school division are highlighted in the full Annual Report. I encourage you to review it thoroughly and share with us your comments and questions. It is available at www.srsd119.ca or by contacting the Education Centre at 306-764-1571.

On behalf of the Board of Education, I would like to thank all of our employees for their efforts and contributions during the 2015-2016 school year. We are very proud of our staff, and commend them, no matter what their role, for the part they play in addressing the educational needs of our students. It is only through the efforts of every one of our employees and the support of the public that we provide “Excellence for Every Learner”.

Sincerely,



Barry Hollick,
Board Chair