



Saskatchewan Rivers Public School Division

Excellence for Every Learner

Board Highlights

April 17th, 2023

Board Struggles to Balance Budget

CFO Jerrold Pidborochynski walked the Board through the current state of the 23/24 budget. The Board heard in a previous meeting the provincial budget leaves a substantial shortfall for SRPSD. As they begin to grapple with how to manage a 1.8 million dollar deficit in the face of rising costs the Board must look at all options to balance the budget. The SRSPD administrative team has begun to tackle this and have already made difficult cuts to begin to close the gap. The Board is faced with the decision to either look more deeply into cuts, or anticipate potential changes in the coming year that would positively impact the budget. Using surplus funds to balance the budget is an option but, will this set the Board up for having to make much harder decisions in the coming year? The board continues to advocate at the provincial level and beyond for sufficient and sustainable funding to meet the needs of all of SRPD's learners.

Facilities Accountability Report

Facilities Superintendent Mike Hurd presented the Facilities Accountability Report to the Board in their most recent meeting. Hurd walked the Board through the projects his team has undertaken to ensure the maintenance and safety of our facilities. Through the preventative maintenance renewal program the facilities team has been able to keep our buildings updated to the same standard as other school divisions across the province, and typically in Canadian school systems. The Board expressed concern that if funding levels are not maintained our preventative maintenance could leave facilities in a crunch. The preventative maintenance renewal budget did face a significant cut back this year which adds to the concern. Hurd ended his presentation with a thank you to our maintenance staff, caretakers, support desk, and managers who work so hard to keep our facilities in tip top condition. The Board echoed these remarks and are proud of the work Hurd and his team do.

SCC Gathering Feedback Received

Superintendent Garette Tebay presented the consolidated feedback from the March 28th SCC gathering. Board members had the opportunity on March 28th to have table conversation with SCC members and school leaders in their school clusters. Tebay consolidated the conversations and presented the Board with the table notes as well as an overview of the themes in the evenings conversations. Conversations centered around the importance of mental health supports in our schools and community, the advocacy work of the SRSC in the inequities of departmental exams, and around family engagement strategies so that the Board hears from a wide variety of voices.

SRPSD Board of Education

Darlene Rowden, Chair
drowden@srsd119.ca

Alan Nunn, Vice Chair
anunn@srsd119.ca

Cher Bloom
cbloom@srsd119.ca

Bill Gerow
bgerow@srsd119.ca

Grant Gustafson
ggustafson@srsd119.ca

Barry Hollick
bhollick@srsd119.ca

Arne Lindberg
alindberg@srsd119.ca

Jaimie Smith-Windsor
jsmith-windsor@srsd119.ca

Michelle Vickers
mvickers@srsd119.ca

Bill Yeaman
byeaman@srsd119.ca

The Board hopes this brief update can provide information and promote communication. If you want further details about the Board and its meetings, you can find information at this under the "About Us" Tab at www.srsd119.ca. You are also encouraged to contact your local trustee.