

Viable and Sustainable School Division

As anyone who is familiar with our division and the priorities of the Board, will know, provincial funding has been a critical factor since we amalgamated as Prairie South. Each year, provincial funding declined, seemingly based on a falling enrolment. However, some divisions across the province both rural and urban were also losing students, yet not losing grant money.

Our Board made funding advocacy a high priority. We invited local MLAs to a Board meeting and shared with them information on how the funding model was failing our division and more importantly, our students. We shared the same information with the Minister of

look at the facts we presented and not see the flaw in the formula, and the Minister assured us he had heard us and other Boards like us who carried a similar message.

In March 2009, the province announced sweeping changes to how education was funded. They eliminated the enrolment-based grant system that had so negatively affected our students, and provided

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rate, instituting provincial rates instead. While some boards were opposed to the changes, our Board was cautiously supportive. We knew the old system was broken, and we hoped the change would provide an opportunity to ensure a new system was more responsive to the needs of all divisions, and all students whether rural or urban. We will continue to proactively share information and insights with the Ministry, ensuring we have a voice in how education funding will be distributed in the future.

School of Opportunity

community for School of Opportunity status to prevent its closure in August 2009, as per a May 2007 Board decision. The decision meant that students from Grades 9 to 12 would have to attend school elsewhere, while younger students could stay in Chaplin for at least three years, while the community had an opportunity to demonstrate that its plans for growth would bear fruit and students.

In the end, the decision seemed to surprise almost everyone, and satisfy no-one: the school remained open, requiring staffing, maintenance and utility costs; the community lost its high school; families were separated. For its part, the Ministry has indicated that it feels the community has a better chance of reaching the minimum

enrolment for a K-8 school (51) than a K-12 school (88), thereby giving it a better chance of success. Time will tell.

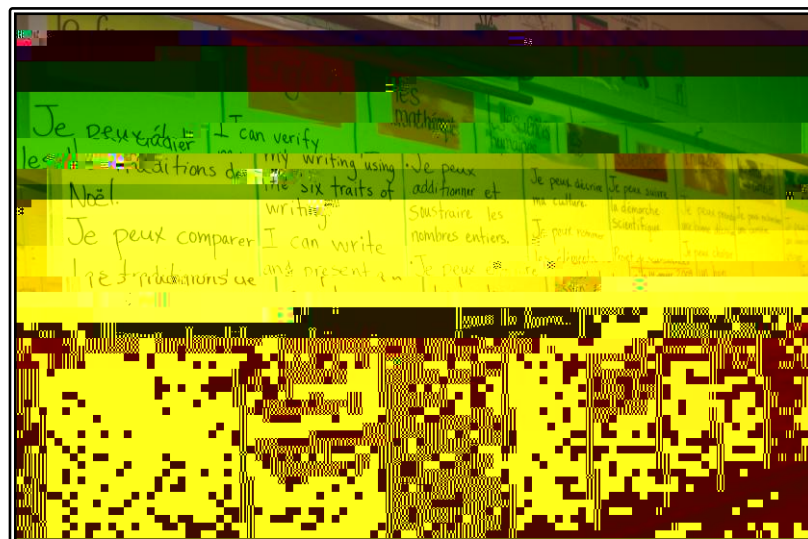
Farewells and Future Thoughts

Early in 2009, trustee Ray Boughen resigned from the Board, following his election as a Member of Parliament for Palliser. We also missed the presence of trustee Marion Piché, who was unable to join us in the latter part of the school year due to health complications.*

In the coming year, we will continue to advocate for adequate education funding, supports for students and schools and equity for students. We will continue to improve our communication sharing information and listening for feedback. And we will continue to hold true to our vision of *Learning Excellence* for all.

Respectfully submitted,
Ron Gleim
Chair, Board of Education

** Subsequent to year-end, trustees Lance Bean, Neil Buckler, Claude Duke and Marion Piché chose not to run in the October 2009 election, while trustee Wilf Lethbridge was defeated. We thank all of the former trustees for their years of dedicated service to the students of Prairie South.*



need to learn successfully in school. Our Extended Transitions program identifies older students who have not successfully transitioned into the workplace or further education following high school, and provides supports for them to follow through on a career action plan. Speech-language therapy, occupational therapy, bicycle restoration programs, equine therapy and student and family

identified with specific learning needs and help those students to achieve their potential.

government agencies, non-profit organizations and others continue to extend student and staff learning beyond classroom and school

Federation, introduces students not only to ice-fishing on Buffalo Pound Lake, but also to fish biology and the ecology of their habitat. High school Practical and Applied Arts students produce screwjacks and metal carts for local industries, providing real-world experience for the students and a useful service to the industry partner. Donations from partners help to provide swimming lessons and student conference packages; and for their part, students continue to visit with seniors in their communities and help to prepare fundraising information packages.

We continue to celebrate the academic, athletic and artistic achievements of our students, and to urge and encourage them to reach ever higher in setting their goals. We remain committed to preparing our students to meet the future even though the future that

true to our vision of *Learning Excellence*, and all of the possibilities that creates.

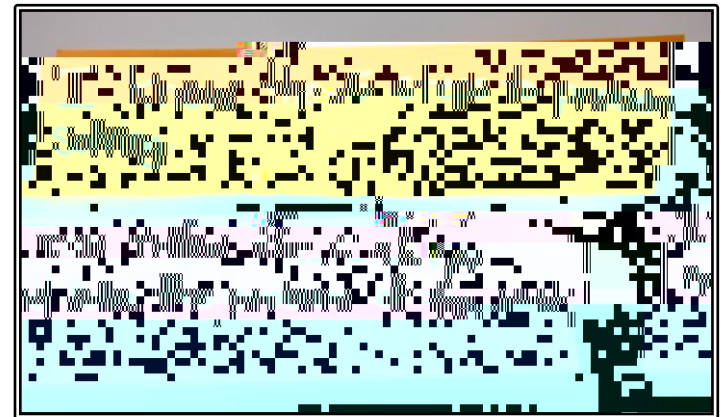
Our commitment to excellence begins with students, but it extends far beyond the classroom walls into every area of our operations. Our transportation team works diligently to refine routes, reduce ride times and transport our students safely and efficiently. Our IT team works hand-in-hand with our curriculum team to ensure the tools and technology are in place to support student learning across the division. Our business team ensures each of our valuable resources human, financial and capital are managed efficiently and in such a manner as to ensure the viability and success of the division. Our curriculum and

their areas of specialty into programs and practices that work for Prairie South students.

As Director of Education, I am thrilled to celebrate the achievements of our staff and students, as well as the effort behind those achievements.

commitment to student learning and meeting student needs is so I see

Respectfully submitted,
Brenda Edwards
Director of Education



Foundational Statements

Our Mission Nurturing Communities of Learners

Our Vision Learning Excellence

Our Guiding Principles

Learning

Accountability

Respectful, caring communities

Unity

Excellence

Communication

Financial Highlights

