



# Board Meeting Digest

## Monday, May 3, 2010 Regular Meeting of the Board

### DISCUSSION/DECISION

**Consent Items:** The first items on the agenda, marked with a star, were received by the Board of Education through a single motion that indicated trustees approved of all recommendations contained in the items.



### **Campaign Disclosure Report – Election 2009**

This report is a summary of the campaign contributions and campaign expenses of each candidate in the October 2009 election, as per the division's policy for campaign disclosure and spending limits.

### **EcoJustice Program at St. Edward School (Environmental, Cultural and Spiritual Education)**

Supt. Joanne Weninger and EcoJustice teachers Mel Sysing and Dustin Kasun presented trustees with an overview of the program, which was originally approved by the Board of Education in April 2009. EcoJustice is comprised of a Grade 8 classroom at St. Edward School. The program's purpose is to immerse students in a learning experience that explores issues of social justice through an environmental lens. Spirituality is also central to the program – it endeavours to promote a God-centred and sacramental view of the universe and an understanding of the need for equitable use of the Earth's resources and an option for the poor.

The effectiveness of the program is determined through three sets of indicators:

- Student learning outcomes
- Participant satisfaction
- Contribution to program innovation – rejuvenating students to challenge themselves to reach their full potential.

Learning innovations include:

- One-to-one computers
- Inquiry-based learning
- Interest-based programming
- Learning in Community

Trustees voted to continue the program at St. Edward School and make it available to current Grade 7 students from all Saskatoon Catholic schools.

## **World Catholic Education Day**

Director of Education Bev Hanson outlined plans for World Catholic Education Week. This year celebrations will include the entire week of May 10- 14 and highlight the theme “Rejoicing in Hope.” Daily prayers focusing on this theme have been provided for each school. World Catholic Education Day will be celebrated on Thursday, May 13, when each Catholic school in Saskatchewan will gather at 9:15 a.m. to celebrate a common liturgy.

Schools in our division also have the option of doing a neighbourhood walk to publicly celebrate the day. Parishes will be asked to acknowledge the week by displaying posters and using intentions written by the school division. Saskatchewan bishops have also written a joint letter supporting World Catholic Education Week. Radio ads about the week will also be aired on C95, Magic 98.3 and Rock 102. Brief interviews with Board Chair Diane Boyko will be aired on CJWW, Magic 98 and 92 The Bull.

## **Proposed Facility Tour**

Trustees are scheduled to visit the following facilities on June 14:

- St. Matthew – a facility study recommends the renovation of 2,250 square metres and the addition of 2,125 square metres. Enrolment projection: 448 students, fall 2010
- Georges Vanier – facility study recommends renovation of 1,504 square metres and new construction of 1,671 square metres. Enrolment projection: 333 students, fall 2010.
- Holy Cross – facility study recommends renovation of 9,000 square metres and the addition of 1,539 square metres. Enrolment projection: 1,310 students, fall 2010.

## **Catholic School Community Councils**

Trustees will hold their final liaison meeting of the year with Members of the division’s Catholic School Community Councils on May 11. The meeting will focus on the impact of budget plans for the 2010-2011 school year and the division’s response.

A team of two trustees has been assigned to each of the five mainstream high schools, where trustees will meet with council members and principals from the area’s feeder schools and collect feedback regarding how schools anticipate they will be affected by this year’s budget and what challenges the CSCCs feel they can attend to.

## **Secondary Mathematics Renewal**

The Board of Education heard a presentation from Ass’t Supt. Cindy Coffin, Principal-on-Assignment Diane Côté and Krista Hayes, a math teacher-on-assignment.

The delegation outlined how high schools will begin renewing secondary mathematics curriculum in the 2010-2011 school year. The Ministry of Education's renewed secondary math curriculum will see courses divided between three math pathways: Workplace and Apprenticeship, Foundations of Mathematics and Pre-Calculus. The courses target future student pursuits and the mathematics they will need in those areas. [Read Frequently Asked Questions here.](#)

Implementation will start with in the 2010-2011 school year, when the new courses will be offered in Grade 10. Information nights are planned to help parents learn more about the new pathways.

Trustees also heard about the various online math tools in use by teachers and parents:

- **elementary school math blog:** <http://blog.scs.sk.ca/sproat/>
- **high school math blog:** <http://blog.scs.sk.ca/hayes/>
- **online math learning community for parents:** register by visiting <http://www.scs.sk.ca/cyber> Under registration" choose "Student Math Materials." Members gain access to the English version of the student textbooks (Grades 3-9) and Student Practice and Homework books (Grades 1-9)

### **Full-Day, Every Day Kindergarten at St. Frances School**

The Board of Education approved administration's recommendation to extend the full-day, every day kindergarten program to the English and Cree bilingual programs at St. Frances.

Director of Education Bev Hanson noted that while full-day kindergarten is not funded by the Ministry of Education it does result in positive outcomes for students.

In the report to the Board it was noted that St. Frances has become an innovative early learning site with a Reggio Emilia-inspired pre-kindergarten program, Cree bilingual program and the English language kindergarten. A partnership with the Saskatoon Tribal Council is a key relationship for St. Frances.

### **St. Matthew Information Item**

This item was added to the agenda by trustees at the beginning of the Board meeting. Trustees noted the discussion and feedback received from the St. Matthew community after an April 27 meeting held to discuss the school's need for space until a major renovation is done. At this meeting, a plan was put forward to bus middle years students to the Sion facility.

Ministry of Education officials attended the April 27 meeting and division administration continued to work with the ministry afterwards. As a result of these discussions, the school division received written approval and funding from the Ministry to construct two modular classrooms for St. Matthew. The classrooms are to be completed in the fall.

The division will continue with a review of transportation boundaries in light of existing and continued residential development in the northeast part of the city. This review will begin next year and is scheduled to be completed by fall 2011. School communities will be invited to participate in focus groups during the review.