



Board Meeting Digest

Monday, Jan. 25, 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.

☆ **Accounts Paid September 1 - 30, 2009; October 1 - 31, 2009; and November 1 - 30, 2009 and Financial Statements for Periods Ended September 30, 2009; October 31, 2009 and November 30, 2009.**

☆ **2008-2009 Public Accounts Statement**

Consent Items: The first item on the agenda, marked with a star, was received by the Board of Education through a single motion that indicated trustees approved of all recommendations contained in the above-noted item.

Academic Year: Saskatoon Schools

Trustees reviewed and approved the academic year calendar presented for Saskatoon schools.

Changes to the calendar year are as follows:

- staff begin the school year one day earlier, with a professional learning day that was traditionally held during the week of February when students were on their break.
- the STA Teachers' Convention, normally held in February, has been tentatively rescheduled to April 8, 2011.
- the week of February 21-25 will be a break for all 10-month school staff.

The calendar is based on 197 school days, which has traditionally been the number of school days set by the Minister of Education. Once the Minister has formally approved the number of school days for the 2010-2011 school year, the calendar will be distributed.

Board Faith Formation and Planning Retreat

The Board participates annually in a faith formation retreat and a planning session. The focus of this year's session will be developing the Board's priorities and goals for its upcoming term in

office, which runs until October 2012. Trustees will also be reviewing the Board policy manual. The Board decided on Monday evening to continue with its recent practice to hold the retreat at St. Peter's Abbey in Muenster. It will be held on Sunday, March 28 and Monday, March 29.

School Division Nutrition Policy

Supt. Greg Chatlain and Co-ordinator Johnny Marciniuk presented the school division's new Nutrition Policy to the Board. The policy is the result of work that a division-wide committee began during the 2008-2009 school year.

During this process, committee members noted the nutrition policy document published by the provincial government in October 2009: "Nourishing Minds: Eat Well, Learn Well, Live Well." Consultation with school-based administration also played a role in development of the Greater Saskatoon Catholic Schools Nutrition Policy.

The policy encompasses all foods served or sold to students 24 hours a day, every day and at all school-sponsored events. While some media coverage has focused on one specific part of the policy – the fact energy drinks aren't allowed in schools – the policy in fact has eight main sections:

1. Healthier Choices of Food
2. Student Access to Food
3. Food Safety
4. Environment
5. Nutrition Education
6. Marketing and Promotion
7. Community Partnerships
8. Fundraising

In terms of implementation, the report to the Board about the policy acknowledges the diversity that exists in the school division regarding nutrition. "Our school communities are at various places in this journey: for some, this direction will mean a number of changes while for others, many of these elements are in place. With this policy, common expectations and vision are shared such that each school community can continue its journey towards not only educating about good nutrition, but 'walking the talk' through good modeling."

The policy in its entirety is available online in the Administrative Policy Manual – Policy HDA.