

Board Meeting Digest

Monday, October 24, 2011 Regular Meeting of the Board

DISCUSSION/DECISION

Selection of Willowgrove Childcare Operator

The Board received a report from administration indicating that Preston Early Learning Centre Inc. was chosen as the childcare operator for the daycare that will be located in-between Holy Family Catholic School and Willowgrove Public School. This operator was jointly chosen by Greater Saskatoon Catholic Schools, Saskatoon Public Schools and the Ministry of Education-Early Learning Branch.

Enrolment Report

Trustees learned that enrolment in Greater Saskatoon Catholic Schools on Sept. 30, 2011 increased by 531 students from Sept. 30, 2010. Increases were seen in the number of students in pre-kindergarten, kindergarten, Grades 1-8, Grades 9-12 and home-based students. The number of English as an Additional Language students increased by 221. There are also 97 additional French Immersion students and 57 more students enrolled in the Cree Bilingual program.

Staffing Report

Supt. Al Boutin reported there were 1733.21 full-time equivalent positions (all employee categories) at Greater Saskatoon Catholic Schools on Sept. 30, 2011, up from 1674.98 on the same date in 2010. Approximately 30 teachers were hired to accommodate the enrolment increase in the division. The report also indicated that during the past year (August 1, 2010 to July 31, 2011) there were 64 retirements and 54 resignations in all employee groups across the division.

Board Monitoring Report: Improving Student Learning and Achievement

Board members reviewed the results of provincial student assessments in treaty education, math and reading.

The treaty education assessment was administered to Grade 7 students in spring 2011. Results indicate that, like Grade 7 students across the province, GSCS students are growing in their understanding of treaties. In fact, GSCS students achieved stronger scores than the provincial

results in all areas: Treaties, Treaty Relationship, History, Worldview, Symbolism and Contemporary Issues.

In Assessment for Learning (AFL) - Math, Grades 5 and 8 were assessed in May/June of 2011. Skills assessed include number, shape and space, patterns and relations, statistics and probability, applications and problem-solving, computation.

- Grade 5 performance was strong, with two of three key assessment areas (concepts, application, computation) meaningfully higher than the province.
- Grade 8 performance was also strong, with two of the three subsections meaningfully higher than the province.

In AFL- Reading, students in Grades 4, 7 and 10 were assessed in reading comprehension skills, including explicit, implicit and critical comprehension and reader response, which evaluates how well students respond to questions based on text they have just read.

- Grade 4 results were similar to the province in all areas.
- Grade 7 students performed meaningfully higher than the province in 5 areas and similar in 5 areas.
- Grade 10 students performed meaningfully higher than their provincial counterparts in 5 areas and similar in 5 areas.

Catholic School Community Councils Liaison

Trustees met with Catholic school community council (CSCC) representatives on Wednesday, October 12 at Bethlehem Catholic High School, where the agenda focused on roles and responsibilities of CSCC members. Supt. Darryl Bazylak, in reviewing the evening with trustees, said council members and school administrators indicated they would like to schedule three liaison meetings with trustees in order to keep the meeting schedule manageable. Trustees discussed this suggestion and indicated that two further liaison meetings would be held: at the Annual Meeting of Electors in February and another in spring. Chair Diane Boyko said that to continue to build ties with councils, trustees could attend individual CSCC meetings as their schedules allow.