

FROM THE BOARD

Highlights of the Horizon Board of Education Monthly Meetings

March, 2021

SSBA Executive Delegation

During our March meeting, we were happy to welcome Saskatchewan School Boards Association (SSBA) executives to our virtual Board table. President, Shawn Davidson, Vice President, Jaimie Smith-Windsor, and Executive Director, Darren McKee joined our meeting to review the key priorities of the SSBA in the coming year. These include things like the Provincial Education Plan, class size and composition, student engagement, planning challenges, and the upcoming provincial budget. Our own Christine Gradin, Subdivision 6 Trustee, also serves on the SSBA Executive as our Central Constituency rep, and she does a great job of keeping us informed on the ongoing work of the SSBA.

We had a great conversation, and as always, we are very grateful to have the support of the SSBA in our province.

- Jim Hack, Board Chair

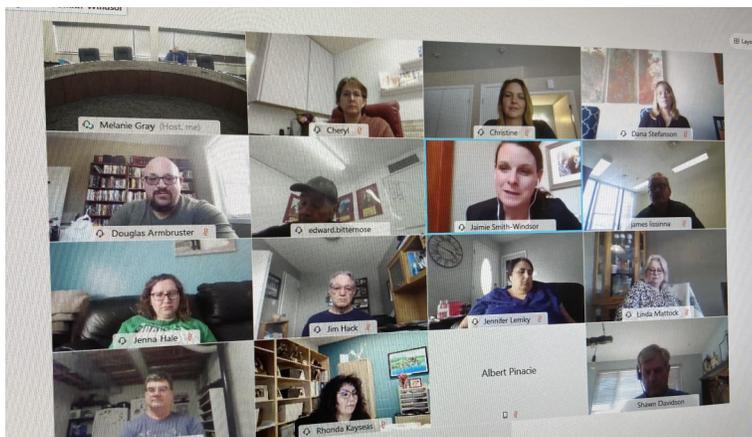
“We are very grateful to have the support of the SSBA in our province.”

*- Jim Hack,
Board Chair*

March 2021 Meeting

The regular monthly meeting of the Board took place on Wednesday, March 10. Jim Hack (Chair), Linda Mattock (Vice Chair), Jenna Hale, Jennifer Lemky, Mark Fedak, Dana Stefanson, Christine Gradin, James Lissinna, Cheryl Vertefeuille, Douglas Armbruster, Edward Bitternose, Paul Crow-Buffalo, Albert Pinacie, and Rhonda Kayseas were in attendance for this virtual meeting.

Director of Education / CEO, Kevin Garinger, Superintendent of Finance Services / CFO, Sandy Gessner, Superintendent of Operational Services / COO, Justin Arendt, and Deputy Director, Randy MacLEAN joined the meeting to provide reports.



Discussion Items:

- Re-Entering Horizon School Division Plan
- Board Committees
- Service Reports
- And more...

School Community Council Engagement Committee Report

SCC Engagement Committee Chair, Dana Stefanson, shared a report from the committee's recent meeting on February 22. Members of this committee include Jennifer Lemky, Douglas Armbruster, Cheryl Vertefeuille, with Chair Jim Hack and Vice Chair Linda Mattock as ex-officio members.

Re-Entering Horizon Plan Review

Director of Education, Kevin Garinger led a review and discussion regarding the latest COVID-19 restrictions and recommendations from Health and the provincial Response Planning Team. Practices continue to evolve, and updates are being shared with the Board, staff, and Horizon families as they occur.

2020-2021 School Year Calendar Review

The Board reviewed survey results and feedback from Horizon staff and SCC members regarding their thoughts on the draft school year calendars that have been developed. Feedback was overwhelmingly positive, and the survey deadline has been extended for SCC members to respond by March 21. Horizon's Board has set a special meeting for March 22, during which they will review the remainder of the survey results, discuss, and pass a motion to finalize the 2021-2022 calendar.

Graduation 2021

The Board reviewed dates currently set for this year's graduation ceremonies. Director of Education, Kevin Garinger, then shared preliminary information from the provincial committee he serves on that is developing guidelines for safe and effective ceremonies this spring.

Numeracy Report

Darrell Paproski, Superintendent of Student Services, Katherine Oviatt, Assistant Superintendent, and Lana Steiner and Heidi Linford (Numeracy Coaches) joined the Board to provide insights into the work that goes on in Horizon schools to support student numeracy.

Governance Budget Review

Superintendent of Finance Services/CFO, Sandy Gessner, led the Board in a preliminary review of their proposed 2021-2022 Governance budget. This budget includes funds allocated for Board remuneration, Board professional development, membership dues for the Saskatchewan School Boards Association, and other items associated with Board operations.

Budget Development Priorities

As the 2021-22 budget process continues, Superintendent of Finance Services/CFO, Sandy Gessner, reviewed Horizon's top priorities tied to our Three Goals of Safe & Caring Schools, Literacy & Numeracy, and Graduation Rates.

Human Resource Services Report

Deputy Director Randy MacLEAN shared information regarding the work of HR Services, staffing plans for 2021-2022, and class size and class configuration.

Operational Services Report

Superintendent of Operational Services / COO, Justin Arendt, shared reports from the areas of Transportation Services, Facility Services, and Information Services. Highlights of this report included updates regarding ongoing facilities projects — including the Lanigan School project — and information on the ongoing technology needs being met by the Information Services team.

March 2021 Celebrations

Good-news items discussed at the Board table during the regular monthly meeting.

Reading Around the World at William Derby School

Travis Edwards and a group of other teachers at William Derby School had the idea to spend the month of March celebrating literacy. They came up with “Reading Around the World”, which will see each student tracking their reading minutes all month long, and learning about cities of the world in the process. For this project, 1 minute of student reading time equals 1 kilometer on their journey. Each student, K-12, has a logbook that they use to keep track of their reading (both in school and at home counts). Students submit their minutes to Mr. Edwards each day, and he calculates how many kilometers they’ve “travelled”. They share facts about the nearest city on their route during morning announcements. As of March 4, WDS students had already read 6,152 minutes and travelled 6,152 kms, taking them to Santiago, Chile.

Mr. Edwards calculated that if each student reads for 45 minutes per day, they will get around the world through most major cities by the end of the month. Students have already exceeded that goal so far. He says they’ve seen lots of engagement and excitement about the project from all ages. The idea came about as staff was brainstorming fun activities to engage in as a school, without being able to bring all students together physically. They are in the early stage of their “trip”, and staff are in the process of developing an ongoing Friday celebration to incorporate along the way for the remainder of the month.

Celebrating Kindness and Positivity at Raymore School

This past Valentine’s Day, Raymore School provided heart-shaped cards to all students, K-12, and asked them to write their own messages of kindness, motivation, and positivity. These cards were then posted and shared throughout all areas of the school, so they can be seen no matter what part of the school you’re in. This project was a new idea this year, as staff was looking for new ways to bring the school together and spread cheer in a safe and positive way.

Teachers, Nerissa Digney and Courtney Bisson led the project, distributing cards and instructions to all classrooms. A short video of the finished project can be seen in a video posted to the school’s [Facebook page](#).

Submissions & Feedback

To submit photos or stories regarding the Board of Education or an individual Trustee in your school community, please contact the Horizon School Division Communication Services Officer at lance.hiltz@horizonsd.ca.

We want this newsletter to be as informative and beneficial as possible, so feedback on how we can improve is always welcome.

Thanks for reading!

Next Regular Board Meeting Scheduled for April 19, 2021

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