

The South East Cornerstone Public School Division

presents

Bryan Wilson



for outstanding service and
significant contribution to
enhance education

 SASKATCHEWAN
School Boards
ASSOCIATION
Award of Distinction 2012

Background Information

With a mission of ***providing passionate and committed leadership to ensure success for all*** and a vision ***to ensure success and achievement for every student in every school***, the South East Cornerstone Public School Division was officially formed on January 1, 2006 with the amalgamation of six school divisions. Rural/urban in its geographic structure, the Division has 39 schools (inclusive of a Virtual School) in 27 communities and an enrolment of 8,275 student; 4% of whom are First Nation/Metis students.

Nestled in Weyburn, SECPSD serves communities from the Manitoba border in the east, to Ogema in the west, to Rocanville and Fillmore in the North and the United States border in the south. The Division encompasses a wide area of southeast Saskatchewan and sits gracefully on approximately 31,000 square kilometers, with a 44% K-Grade 5 configuration, a 30% Grade 6- Grade 9 configuration and a 26% Grade 10-Grade 12 configuration. The South East Cornerstone Public School Division is a leader in instructing students and showcasing and utilizing technology to enhance education in all schools.

The South East Cornerstone Public School Division nominates Bryan Wilson for the Saskatchewan School Boards Association Award of Distinction for 2012. Bryan is a strong advocate for the vision of the Division and is dedicated to ensuring ***“Success and achievement for every student in every school.”*** This passion and drive is evident in his involvement at the provincial level.

Rationale

From humble beginnings in Wawota Parkland, Bryan Wilson had a vision not only for educational pursuits, but a vision that one day he too would make significant contributions to enhance education and ensure equitable opportunities for all. After graduating with distinctions for a Bachelor of Education and a Bachelor of Arts from the University of Regina and the University of Saskatchewan, Bryan went on to achieve Post Graduate Studies in Educational Administration and Leadership from the University of Regina and the San Diego State University. These accomplishments he believed were foundational for engagement in, and contribution to educational nation building.

Serving as Teacher and Principal in the rural areas of Kipling and Weyburn, Bryan built his experiences and understanding of education in the province and gained insight into the lives and experiences of school communities. After retiring from teaching in 2000, his passion for moulding lives and shaping destinies propelled him to demonstrate service to education at the local and provincial levels. With 30 years professional experience in one hand, and over 14 years academic training in the other, Bryan was ready to offer his time, expertise and talent as a school Board trustee.

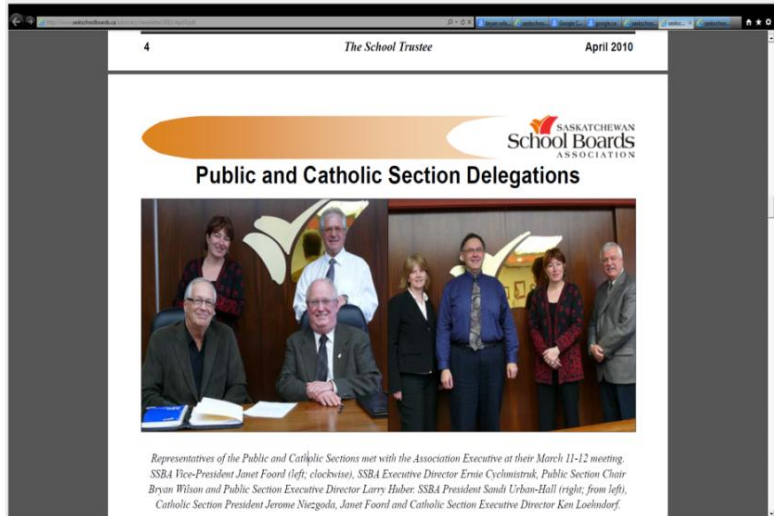
As a trustee with the Sunrise School Division for two years, Bryan garnered the skills and experiences needed to serve a larger student base with the amalgamation of six school divisions, which formed the South East Cornerstone School Division (SECSO); now referred to as the South East Cornerstone Public School Division. Over the past six years with the SECPD, Bryan's bold creativity, matched with sharp educational instincts allowed him to create opportunities for growth and development and solutions that have been fundamental to the educational sector.

During his tenure at the SECPD, Bryan was a member of the following committees and inspired the following changes:

- **Communication plan developed for board**
 - As part of a Division Team, Bryan assisted in the development of a communication plan which highlighted three strategies for the Board in its attempt to effectively communicate with its stakeholders. To fulfil those strategies, Bryan and the team implemented action plans and success indicators. This plan has been instrumental in assisting with Board priorities and continues to be a framework for growth and development.
- **Comprehensive School Governance Authority (2011-2012 school year)**
- **Website Committee**
 - During the 2009-2011 school years, the Board of Education revisited its website presence through the creation of a new Divisional website. As part of the team, Bryan was instrumental in the interface that the Division currently utilizes and the development of the communication and information infrastructure of the Division.
- **Weyburn Facilities Committee**
 - Bryan currently serves on this committee that deals with renewal and refurbishing projects in Weyburn.
- **School Division Logo**

As part of his mandate to promote and emphasize public education, Bryan lobbied for the Board of Education to revise its usage name, to reflect the thrust that he and his team at the SSBA tirelessly implemented. Thus, the South East Cornerstone School Division is now reflected as the South East Cornerstone Public School Division.

For Bryan Wilson, service did not stop at the Board level; his yearning and zeal to contribute to education locally and provincially, led him to become engaged in public education and consequently advocate on its behalf. As school Board Trustee for the past eight years, Bryan has also been committed to the Public and Catholic Sections, as well as the Multi-Type Library Board in the province.



Secretary/Treasurer- Executive of Public Caucus

As Secretary/Treasurer for the Executive of the Public Caucus, Bryan served for a period of six years and subsequently as Chair for four years. His demonstration of outstanding service at the local and provincial levels was evident in the mediation with the Catholic Section. His mandate to promote, advocate and defend public education, led his team to explore all options in support of the Ministry's initiative to develop a mediated agreement. Those deliberations and collaborations led to a mutually beneficial working relationship with the Catholic section. As an executive of the Public Caucus, Bryan also sought to enhance the awareness of stakeholders and membership, clearly delineating the role and value of Public Education. It was from these conversations that the Branding Initiative was born and a new era for the SSBA. Working tirelessly to bring the status of Section to the group within the SSBA, Bryan ensured improved communication with all member groups; with the support of the SSBA Executive, the "Section Status" was accomplished.

Section News

The purpose of this site is to ensure trustees and other interested individuals are kept informed about news and developments arising from the two Sections of the Saskatchewan School Boards Association: the Public Boards Section and the Catholic Section.

The Catholic Section of the SSBA was established in 1951 when the members of the then Catholic Association voted unanimously to join with the Saskatchewan School Trustees Association. An important provision for the amalgamation was that the new Section have direct access to the Government of Saskatchewan and to the Ministry of Education on matters of exclusive concern to the Section.

The "Public Boards Caucus" was approved in 2006 and on March 27, 2009 the membership of the SSBA voted 85.87% in favour of establishing a "Public Section". Public school boards share the distinctive position in public education of being required to provide educational services to all children regardless of religion or language. The requirement to be inclusive of all children presents challenges and issues for those boards that differ from separate school boards or the Conseil scolaire fransaskois.

According to Bylaw No. 8 of the Saskatchewan School Boards Association, the purpose of a Section is to:

1. Provide a forum for members of the Section to network and discuss issues unique to or of exclusive concern to the Section;
2. Liaise with the Executive on those issues; and
3. Advocate on those issues to government in a manner that is not inconsistent with the Association's Bylaws and the approved terms of reference of the Section.

PUBLIC AND CATHOLIC SECTION MEDIATION MEETINGS

In order to resolve past differences between the Public Section and Catholic Section and to encourage greater understanding among public and Catholic boards of education, the Hon. Ken Kravetz, Minister of Education, established a mediation table for the Catholic Section and Public Caucus in the summer of 2008. Staff members from the Ministry of Justice Dispute Resolution Office were assigned to facilitate the discussions. To support this initiative, the Minister of Education will pay all expenses associated with the mediation. Following is a summary of the outcomes of the mediation meetings which have been held to date:

Above (L-R) Public Section Chair Bryan Wilson, Catholic Section Past President Mike St. Amant and SSBA President Roy Challis sign the Protocol Agreement which outlines the process regarding the formation of Roman Catholic Separate School Divisions, December 2009.

Jan 24-25, Mar 10-11 and Mar 30-April 1
Nov 1-2, 2010
Sept 7-8, 2010

The Public Caucus would now be referred to as Public Section. When asked about such an accomplishment, a humble Bryan was quick to point out the dedicated and accomplished colleagues with which he worked; a true indication that team cohesiveness is important to organizational success. ***"I worked with some very dedicated and accomplished colleagues. Whatever success the Public Section accomplished was a result of a cooperative effort within the Executive and also by working in concert with the wishes of the membership."***

Chair- Multi-Type Library Board

Bryan served two terms on the Multi-Type Library Board (MLB) from 2007 to 2012. As Chair of the MLB during his second term from 2009-2012, he represented the SSBA on the MLB to discuss and promote cooperation among public, post-secondary education, school and special libraries for the development of a multi-type library system in Saskatchewan.



During his leadership at the MLB, he chaired not only the regular board meeting, but also the multi-type annual general meetings. Under Bryan's outstanding leadership, all participating libraries collaborated to set up directions for the multi-type programs such as the Multi-Type Database Licensing Program.

Bryan's understanding about library contributions to local communities grew as he served on the Board. He understood and appreciated the importance of a well-stocked school library to student achievement; thus he fully supported the research paper commissioned by the SSBA- *School Libraries in Saskatchewan: An Advisory for School Boards* and assisted in the promotion of school libraries to his colleagues. This excellent research report regarding guidelines for boards of education for school libraries earned his team "**The Art Forgay Award**"; presented by the Saskatchewan School Libraries Association to the SSBA. His role at the provincial level demonstrates outstanding service and a commitment to public education and advocacy on its behalf.

As a leader, Bryan explores opportunities that foster positivity and commitment and that continually contribute to Board effectiveness, positive change and commitment to achievement for students. Bryan's actions contribute to board effectiveness as he exemplified the following traits:

- **Advocacy-** Through community involvement, Bryan has been an advocate for the mission and vision of the Division. Whether it is through motivational and character development sessions for students or through volunteer opportunities, Bryan represents the Division and its stakeholders on a number of community initiatives. As Board Member of the Weyburn Triple C Center (Community, Culture and Convention), Bryan's involvement in the fundraising initiatives speaks volumes of his belief in creating opportunities not only for divisional growth, but community development as well. The Triple 'C' Center supports the multipurpose facility at the Divisions Weyburn Comprehensive School. Community involvement is imperative to the SECPD, as they are one of our valued stakeholders.

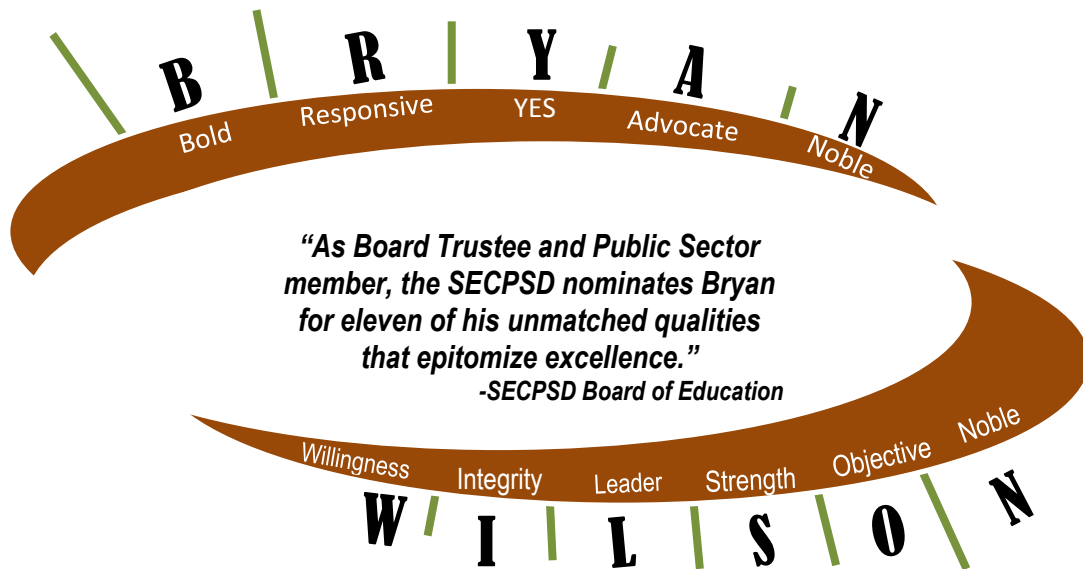
“We are the Cornerstone and we have to advocate for our students, if that means just meeting with local MLA’s, then that is what we do.” Additionally, his ideas and suggestions are always expressed with utmost respect and courtesy and he is always willing to express his beliefs with a level of integrity and moral principle.

- ***Leadership and Governance-*** During the amalgamation period (2006) and the ensuing years, Bryan was dedicated to promoting public education in Saskatchewan and ensuring that students, regardless of background, religious or social orientation, were given the same opportunities for public education. He was instrumental in changing the usage name of the SECSD, by the addition of the word ‘public’, thus improving public governance for the Division; a testament of his dedication and leadership. ***“Bryan’s leadership and commitment during the transition from caucus to the public section of the SSBA was valuable in bringing a better understanding to boards of the importance of the public education system to which they provide governance leadership. He believes in ‘publicly funded education’”***- Bert de Gooijer, Prairie Valley School Board.
- ***Commitment-*** Engagement with key stakeholders was another initiative that Bryan was passionate about. His commitment to ensuring that the various publics were duly informed led to the development of “Conversations with the Board”; an opportunity that provided open, frank communication in a non-threatening environment in an attempt to improve employee morale and stakeholder support.
- ***Ethics-*** Bryan is always conscious of individual input and beliefs and displays integrity and mutual respect during his conversations. During library meetings at the MLB for example, Bryan facilitated seminars, making sure everyone had the opportunity to voice their issues or desires, reminding partners of the principles of collaboration and achieving mutual benefits through participation.

Over the past six years, Bryan Wilson’s service to the Board, community and the SSBA have helped shape the importance of public education in the province, through a strong work ethic, professional and continuous development and team cohesiveness; he continues to form educational relationships that promote student achievement.

A Deserving Candidate

Bryan is most deserving of this award because he is a visionary; for without vision, leadership is meaningless. He has been instrumental in shaping the environment and culture of the school division since amalgamation and has represented not only the SECPD, but South East Saskatchewan as well on a number of provincial boards. His humility, sense of humour and unwavering, selfless dedication epitomize excellence and engenders in his colleagues a sense of optimism, pride and a determination to achieve at the highest level.



"Bryan's **boldness** and **bravery** in sensitive areas for the Division have earned him the admiration of his peers and colleagues. It takes a true leader to step forward in times when courageous endurance is imperative."

-Carol Flynn, Board Chair

"Listening to and accepting feedback and suggestions are traits of a real leader. A chain is as strong as its weakest link- Bryan appreciates, respects and understands that. For me that is being **responsive**."

-Marc Casavant, Director of Education

"'YES' is an indication of great satisfaction, approval. This word of positivity however isn't what we want to hear, when we aren't succeeding. We need someone to tell us when things aren't working, because when people don't say 'no' at these times, then we end up off track, costing us time and money. The goal is that ultimate sweet exclamation YES!!!, when we have succeeded in our objective. Bryan knows when and how to do that"

-Harold Laich, Board Member

"In his capacity as Chair of the Public Section, Bryan has always been a strong **advocate** of public education in the province. I have appreciated his leadership, vision, and his wonderful sense of humour."

-Ronna Pethick, Board Member North West Division

"We greatly appreciate Bryan's dedication and **nobility** to the multi-type library system in Saskatchewan and his hard work as the Board Chair. He capably represented the SSBA at the Board table to encourage the continued fostering of cooperation among library sectors and other information providers throughout the province."

-Jack Ma, Manager, Multi-Library Development

"Bryan's **willingness** and readiness to accept responsibility creates a level of enthusiasm within the Board."

-Janet Foord- City of Estevan/ SSBA Vice President

"Bryan Wilson is a man of great **integrity**. He holds high values and speaks his mind. You are sure where he is coming from when he speaks about an issue. Bryan's passion for education, and especially his work on Public Education through the Public Section, has been invaluable."

-Barbara Young- Chair, Regina School Board

"Bryan Wilson served as Chair of the Public Section for 3 years. His **leadership**, commitment and passion for public education earned him the respect and gratitude of all his public trustee colleagues."

-Larry Huber, Executive Director- Public Section

"Bryan's **strength of character** is evident in his perseverance, poise and level of energy. These I believe are attributes of an effective leader."

-Len Williams- City of Weyburn

"Bryan is a person of honesty. He has a genuine ability to understand and respect a point of view different than his own. Trusteeship in the SECPD, in the City of Weyburn and in Saskatchewan have benefitted greatly from his **objectivity** and involvement in education."

-Ernie Cychmistruk, Former SSBA Executive Director

The South East Cornerstone Public School Division salutes Bryan for his commitment to education both locally and provincially and wishes for him continued success and achievement.