

# The School Trustee

## Collegiate Renewal: Engaging All Learners

*Each 2011 Premier's Board of Education Award for Innovation and Excellence in Education submission will be profiled throughout 2012 in The School Trustee to highlight the great work being done by school boards in the province to improve student achievement.*

Change is constant – particularly in publicly-funded education – yet change rarely happens overnight.

That is why creating and committing to a focused vision is crucial to the success of any program seeking to improve the organizational culture.

This is what Saskatoon Public Schools has achieved with its *Collegiate Renewal* strategic priority.

The *Collegiate Renewal* program was the recipient of the 2011 Premier's Award.

"This is not the flavour of the month where after four years we've



*The grand opening of the Saskatoon Trades and Skills Centre in October 2010 provides one example of the work being done to achieve the Collegiate Renewal priority at Saskatoon Public Schools.*

reached its potential," said Board Chair Ray Morrison. "This a journey that I see as a generational change to make this priority part of the culture in the way we operate this school division."

Introduced in 2007, *Collegiate Renewal* is a multifaceted approach to improve student achievement, engage all learners and include the community's voice.

Initially, the division hired John Abbott, director of the *21<sup>st</sup> Century Learning Initiative in Britain*, to lead educators and school community members, including students and parents, through a workshop "to move learning in a way that was truly authentic," said Superintendent of Schools John Dewar.

Continued on Page 9...

### INSIDE THIS ISSUE

|   |   |   |    |
|---|---|---|----|
| School Year and Instructional Time Update | 2 | School Board Elections Package                      | 5  |
| Executive Establishes LINC WAG            | 2 | Aboriginal Student Entrepreneurship                 | 6  |
| AGM Resolutions Update                    | 3 | Professionally Speaking                             | 6  |
| Members' Council                          | 4 | Teacher Induction and Professional Learning Program | 7  |
| Infrastructure Capital Planning Committee | 5 | Sask. Youth Health Survey                           | 8  |
| Provincial Bargaining Information Meeting | 5 | Know Your Neighbour                                 | 10 |
|   |   | Calendar of Events                                  | 12 |
|   |   | Spring General Assembly                             | 12 |

# School Year and Instructional Time Update

Discussions are ongoing regarding amendments to *The Education Act, 1995*. The provincial government is looking at Regulations intended to support the new fixed school year (to begin the day after Labour Day and end June 30).

The SSBA and LEADS have formally submitted their position regarding the desire to legislate a minimum of 950 hours of instruction for Saskatchewan students within the new school year time frame. The STF and SASBO have also been asked to present their positions in writing to the Minister.

The education sector organizations will then meet to further discuss changes to the



*SSBA Vice-President Janet Foord (left) chats with co-chairs of the Instructional Time Committee John McAuliffe, Greater Saskatoon Catholic Schools, and Kevin Waugh, Saskatoon Public Board of Education.*

school year and possible effects on professional development, the school day, instructional time and other issues that might arise.

After a first draft of the

Regulations is prepared, consultation will take place at the school division level (the SSBA is proposing that each division's calendar committee be used as the vehicle through which consultation should take place). Following this process, a second draft of the Regulations will be prepared with a view to having the amended legislation passed during the month of May.

The SSBA is pressing to have the least number of restrictions in the

Regulations so that boards of education will have the flexibility required to ensure a minimum of 950 hours of instruction provided to all students.

## Executive Establishes LINC WAG

At their January 26-27 meeting the SSBA Provincial Executive voted in favour of establishing a Local Implementation and Negotiations Committee (LINC) Working Advisory Group (WAG) charged with gathering information, hearing opinions and engaging boards in dialogue related to local teacher agreements.

In 2011, the Ministry of Education undertook a study on locally determined teacher benefits (LDTB). Valerie J. Lusk Consulting developed a report for the Ministry based on information provided by school divisions regarding their local benefit costs for the 2010-2011



*LINC WAG Chair Connie Bailey (left) and Vice-Chair Glen Gantfoer.*

school year.

Through the WAG, the Executive wishes to ascertain the integrity of the information and conclusions provided in the report, and where there are differences in LDTB, to

determine why such differences exist.

The WAG will be chaired by SSBA Executive member Connie Bailey (Southern Constituency) and vice-chaired by Executive member Glen Gantfoer (Catholic Constituency). Four additional trustees will be appointed to the WAG, and LEADS and SASBO will be asked to appoint two members to support the work of the WAG. SSBA staff support will be provided by Jim McLellan, Geraldine Knudsen and Lionel Diederichs.

The WAG will report to the SSBA Executive in June.

# AGM Resolutions Update

After the December 2011 Annual General Meeting, the resolutions passed by the SSBA delegates were forwarded to the Minister of Education for her review and response. The Association received the Minister's responses on January 13. Her responses can be found on the SSBA website at

[www.saskschoolboards.ca](http://www.saskschoolboards.ca) under "About Us/Resolutions".

The Executive discussed the Minister's responses at their January 26-27 meeting. After this discussion, President Sandi Urban-Hall sent a letter to the Hon. Donna Harpauer, Minister which read as follows:

"...Ten resolutions were forwarded to you for your consideration. Two of the resolutions submitted to you received positive response. One was the resolution dealing with the SSBA's support for the Canadian Centre on Substance Abuse's *Portfolio of Canadian Standards for Youth Substance Abuse Prevention* as the standard for prevention programs. The other was the resolution recommending a partnership between the SSBA and the Ministry of Education to develop an initiative to support the transition of high school students into journeyman, technical programming and 21<sup>st</sup> century career options. We request that you ask your Ministry officials to meet with us before March 15 to move forward on this issue.

"With respect, Madame Minister, I must also say that with regard to



*Minister of Education Donna Harpauer*

many of the remaining resolutions, our Executive was of the view that the responses simply reiterated current Ministry policy and practice rather than looking at the *change* to current policy and practice called for in the resolutions.

"For example, in keeping with the Premier's growth agenda for Saskatchewan, several resolutions related to school capital ask for changes to better reflect the growth in many areas of the province. Policy regarding relocatable classrooms that may have served us well in a time of declining enrolments needs to be reviewed and renewed to reflect the 2012 reality. The SSBA will bring these concerns to the Ministry of Education's Infrastructure Capital Planning Committee.

"As well, it is our expectation that the issues raised in the resolutions dealing with the school year/school vacation days, will be dealt with as

part of the current School Year Consultation process involving the education sector partners.

"As noted in another resolution, student assessment and evaluation is an area that requires review as we work in shared leadership to address the issue of student achievement. The Premier and school boards have expressed their mutual commitment to improving student achievement in this province. This is a critical piece of the province's growth agenda and again, we would ask you to please instruct your officials to meet with us to further discuss student assessment and evaluation.

"Finally, I draw your attention to the fact that changes in policy and practice have implications, oftentimes financial in nature. Whether these changes emanate from the Ministry, or, whether they result from action taken on SSBA resolutions, we would welcome the opportunity to discuss with you and your officials how we might in a shared leadership fashion better anticipate the implications of these changes and plan accordingly. Please advise regarding the dates you have open during the month of February to discuss these matters.

"Thank you for your attention to these matters. I look forward to hearing from you."

The SSBA membership will be kept posted on developments regarding the AGM resolutions as they occur.

# Members' Council

Board chairs, trustees and directors of education met in Regina on February 9-10 for Members' Council. President Sandi Urban-Hall spoke to delegates about student achievement, hours of instruction and local teacher bargaining. Vice-President Janet Foord talked about the new education funding model and the work of the Ministry's Infrastructure Capital Planning Committee. Executive Director Darren McKee led group discussions concerning SSBA Mission and Vision, Capital Funding and Entrepreneurship.

Lisa Bartusek of the National School Boards Association led participants through a full-day session on the eight characteristics of school boards that make a difference in student achievement.



*Lisa Bartusek, National School Boards Association, led Members' Council through a professional development workshop on the eight characteristics of effective school boards.*



# Infrastructure Capital Planning Committee

The first meeting of the Ministry of Education's *Infrastructure Capital Planning Committee* was held on January 24. This stakeholder committee is charged with providing advice and support to the Ministry regarding proposed enhancements to capital funding/planning policies and guidelines. Janet Foord and SSBA staff member Dave Jackson represent the Association on this committee.

At the first meeting, the Ministry indicated their intention to transform portions of the Block

Capital Budget into "Preventative Maintenance and Renewal" funding designed to be allocated on an annual basis to each school division based on a percentage of total replacement value. This is in keeping with the recommendations of the SSBA's Facilities Funding Working Advisory Group which called for an allocation of 2 percent of current replacement value to school divisions for the purpose of ongoing infrastructure renewal.

The Ministry is also proposing to transform the current paper-based

capital request system into a web-based project request system using the existing FAME architecture.

The Ministry is exploring options for a province-wide performance contracting initiative whereby energy savings would be realized through strategic capital upgrades. These energy savings would then be used to finance the growing deferred maintenance liability.

The Committee will meet next on March 17.



## Provincial Bargaining Information Meeting

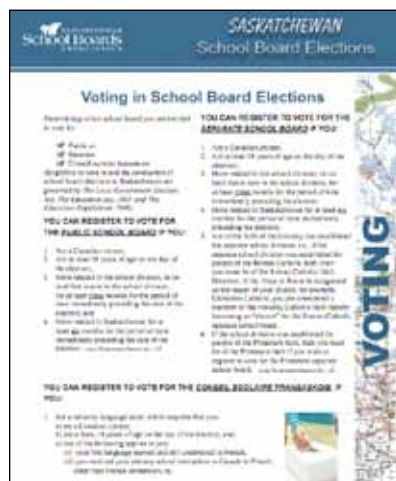
On February 9, the Saskatchewan School Boards Association and Saskatchewan Teachers' Federation jointly sponsored an information meeting regarding the 2010-2013 Provincial Collective Bargaining Agreement.

Participants included the STF Executive and staff, Local Association Presidents and Bargaining Team Chairs, SSBA Executive and staff, Board Chairs, Vice-Chairs, Directors of Education and members of the Provincial Collective Bargaining Committees.

The purpose of the meeting was to develop common understandings between and among the parties to the Provincial Agreement. The day included the presentation of information about the Agreement and Interpretive Bulletin and an opportunity for interactive discussion among the participants.



*Approximately 105 SSBA and STF representatives discussed the Provincial Collective Bargaining Agreement.*



## School Board Elections Package

In January, representatives of the SSBA, Ministry of Education, Ministry of Municipal Affairs, Public Section, Catholic Section and SASBO came together to review and revise the Association's School Board Elections information package for voters and candidates.

The intent is to have all organizations sharing the same information with the public and potential candidates.

School board elections will be held on October 24, 2012. The revised package can be found on the SSBA website at [www.saskschoolboards.ca](http://www.saskschoolboards.ca) under "Communications/Elections".



## Aboriginal Student Entrepreneurship

The *Martin Aboriginal Education Initiative* (MAEI) is doing great work with two of our province's schools – Oskayak High School in Saskatoon and Scott Collegiate in Regina – but will other schools in the province follow? And how can school boards help?

These are the types of discussions that the SSBA and MAEI will continue to engage in.

At the Canadian Ministers of Education, Canada (CMEC) Aboriginal Educators' Forum this past December in Winnipeg, the MAEI, led by former Prime Minister Paul Martin, approached various partners in the education sector to work together to positively impact the outcomes for Aboriginal students across Canada.

Partners within the CSBA also connected with the MAEI which will lead to more detailed conversations in the future.

The MAEI “was established in 2008 in order to initiate a variety

of educational projects designed to provide Aboriginal Canadians with the opportunities they need to succeed,” according to the website at [maei-ieam.ca](http://maei-ieam.ca).

Examples of programs include Grade 11 and 12 Aboriginal Youth Entrepreneurship courses, a mentorship program developed with the Canadian Institute of Chartered Accountants, and a Scotiabank partnership started in Edmonton and Winnipeg.

A *Promising Practices in Aboriginal Education* website has also been developed as a resource to exchange successful classroom practices and research at [maei-ppw.ca](http://maei-ppw.ca). For example, there are professionally developed teaching strategies designed to help bring Aboriginal perspectives into the classroom for elementary and secondary schools.

The organization has also partnered with like-minded organizations **Free the Children** and **Ashoka Changemakers**.



## Professionally Speaking

*Providing professionally relevant information to school division administrators*

*The service departments of the SSBA are producing a biweekly eNewsletter for school division trustees and administrators titled Professionally Speaking. The purpose of this eNewsletter is to share professionally relevant content that is found on various professional organizations' websites and blogs. It will also include issues of importance in the provincial education landscape.*

*Topics will include student achievement, legal issues, human resource trends, employee benefit advice, and insurance and risk management. It is anticipated that each edition will include something for everyone in the administration of school success.*

# Teacher Induction and Professional Learning Program

Premier's Award submission

Commitment to the guiding principles of strategic leadership has driven an innovative program to improve teacher development and student achievement.

Clearly aligning operational and instructional services with regular monitoring has proven successful with the *Teacher Induction and Professional Learning Program* at Lloydminster Catholic School Division.

“From a board perspective, to see the results that we have achieved allows us to fully support this program,” said Board Chair Paula Scott. “We have continued to base our strategy on our guiding principles of focus, alignment and monitoring.”

In 2008, the board set clear targets for improved student achievement which resulted in buy-in at all levels of the organization.

“We started to see where our teachers were really enjoying professional development,” said Superintendent of Instruction Aubrey Patterson. “Our job was to provide structures and ways for teachers to learn from each other.”

The result has been a multifaceted approach to improve teacher learning to positively affect student achievement.

“We needed to create the internal structures that will continue to grow and evolve this program,” said Director of Education Doug Robertson. “There is not one piece;



## Values of Lloydminster Catholic School Division

- **Catholic Faith:** Catholic faith permeates all aspects of our students' education.
- **Academics:** We strive for academic excellence for all students.
- **Communication:** Open communication with our students, staff and our faith community characterizes our interactions.
- **Family/Community:** Students, parents and staff work together as a team.
- **Honesty:** Integrity and honesty guide our conduct.
- **Leadership:** Strong leadership is characterized by innovation and excellence and promoted through continuous learning.
- **Love/Respect:** We foster love and promote respect for human dignity and life.

there are a number of pieces.”

One of those pieces has been an emphasis on technology to “stay ahead of the change curve,” said Patterson.

Each teacher in the division is provided a laptop; installation of SMART Boards in classrooms ensures teachers are trained to use the tools at their disposal.

These efforts have not gone unnoticed as in the past four years, three teachers have been recognized as innovative teachers through Microsoft's *Partners in Learning* program which recognizes teachers “for their work integrating technology into the classroom to prepare students for tomorrow's workforce and for a lifetime of learning,” according to the website.

Teachers in the division have also been asked to perform product-

testing for technology companies, and some of have been invited to Finland, Vietnam, USA and the United Kingdom, to name a few locations, to accept awards and participate in training programs.

One of the division's schools, Holy Rosary High School, was recently designated as a SMART Showcase Elite School for its use of SMART Technologies in the classroom. Many divisions, large and small, have contacted Lloydminster Catholic School Division for advice about its technology initiatives, which is quite a testament for a school division with approximately 1,900 students.

Another piece has been the professional teacher journal which each teacher receives that outlines learning targets and goals aligned

Continued on Page 8...

## Sask. Youth Health Survey

Spearheaded by the Saskatchewan Cancer Agency, stakeholders who recognize the importance of student health and wellness have been asked to collaborate to promote healthy lifestyles and chronic disease prevention.

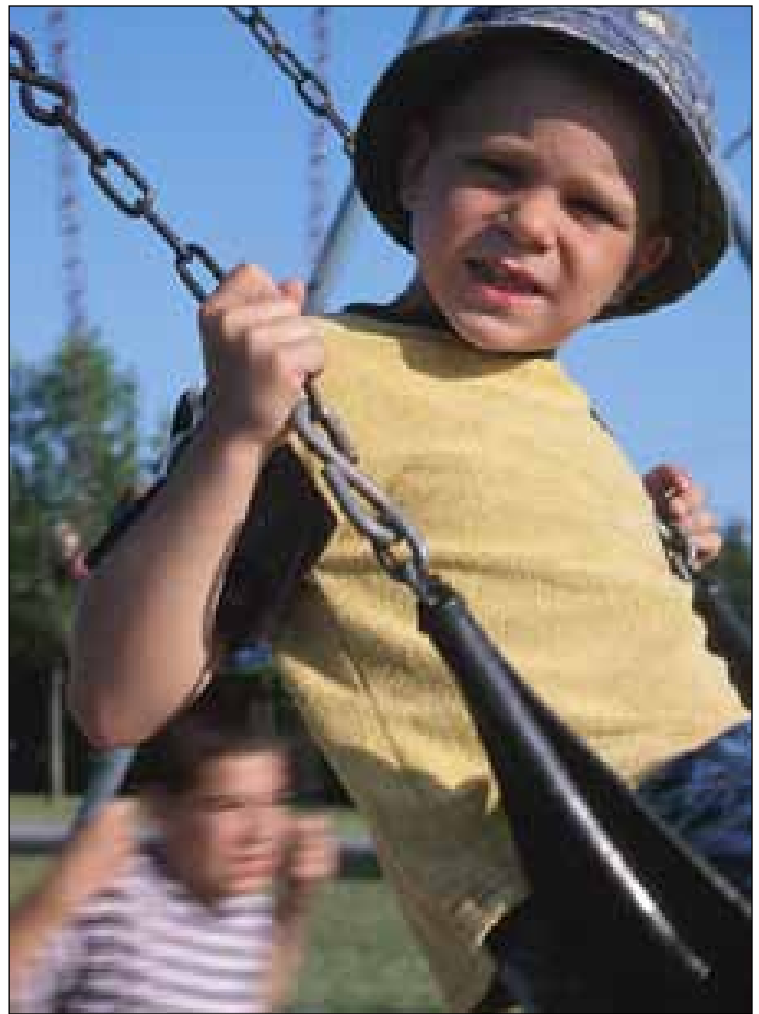
The initial discussions hope to inspire interest at a variety of levels to conduct a children's health survey to generate valuable data.

The purpose of the survey is to gather local data to reflect Saskatchewan's communities and to understand the health risks facing students in the province.

The data gathered could help determine potential provincial and national partnerships to support healthy children and youth lifestyles.

Without action to promote disease prevention and healthy lifestyles, the healthcare system could become overburdened and unsustainable.

According to the **Active Healthy Kids Canada** report card, 93 percent of children and youth are failing to meet the standard of 60 minutes of moderate-to-vigorous physical activity per day.



## 'Teachers Are Blown Away In a Good Way'

Continued from Page 7...

with school division priorities.

"Teachers have responded in an amazing fashion," said Patterson. "They're amazed by the amount there is to learn and how supportive teachers and other staff have been."

Once the program was developed, the administrators gathered all the material and recognized that there was opportunity to provide an approximately 100-page document to teachers to support their learning goals.

The learning journal has also improved dialogue between school-based administrators and teachers,

Patterson explained. School-based administrators have indicated the learning journal has allowed everyone to work from the same game plan with the same goals and priorities to focus on.

"Both new and experienced

---

*"We need to listen to the teachers and continue to evolve the program to meet theirs and students' needs."*

---

teachers have responded very positively," said Patterson. "Teachers are blown away in a good way."

The program is also able to tie into the faith-based learning objectives of the division. "We have the same targets on the faith side to permeate our courses with faith," stated Patterson. "And within the learning journal we have a faith mentorship program."

It is important to note, however, that this program has yet to reach its full potential.

"Right now, we need to realize that we are in the early stages of implementation," explained Robertson. "We need to listen to the teachers and continue to evolve the program to meet theirs and students' needs."



# 'We Meet With Students to Get Their Perspective'

Continued from Page 1...

Following the process, the board decided this initiative was a worthwhile direction on which to move forward.

To ensure the sustainability of *Collegiate Renewal* and the board's priority of *Literacy for Life*, the budget clearly identifies funding for these two priorities.

"Another way to build sustainability is that we meet with students to get their perspective," Morrison emphasized. "And when you hear high school students talking about co-created curriculum and rubrics then you know it is sinking in."

Engaging in meaningful and relevant conversations with students, parents and community stakeholders is crucial to understand what is deemed valuable.

"We also work very closely with the school administrators and teachers to understand that this is part of their learning journey as well," said *Collegiate Renewal* Facilitator Fay Elke. "We're continually looking at how we can improve teacher practice and how we can be responsive to student needs so that we are engaging our students in their learning to achieve success."

As a result of this priority, a number of innovative programs have been established in each of the division's collegiates.

From the **International Baccalaureate Diploma Program** at Bedford Road Collegiate to the **Collective**



## Profile of Saskatoon Public Schools' Collegiate Students

- Approximately 8,100 students in 10 collegiates
- 1,488 students graduated last year, with 142 of these being self-declared First Nations, Inuit or Métis students
- 226 students are in French Immersion programming
- 1,107 students have a first language other than English, 515 students received English as an additional support
- 1,337 students have self-declared as First Nations, Inuit or Métis
- 367 students are recognized with intellectual, developmental or physical disabilities who require intensive supports

**Voice** integrated program for Grade 9 students at Aden Bowman Collegiate to the **Trades and Skills Centre** in partnership with SIAST at Mount Royal Collegiate, there are numerous programs that assist in developing responsible and caring citizens.

There has also been an infusion of technology in the schools as a result of this initiative, and the board has committed to a long-term plan to refresh technology every three or four years, said Morrison.

"We don't deploy technology for the sake of deploying technology, it's only deployed for a learning purpose," stated Morrison. "There are pieces built into our budgeting plan to make sure the tools are in place to deliver effective teaching."

A controversial decision, explained Morrison, was to open up the division's firewall to allow access to social media and other sites that, if used properly, can encourage learning and teach students

responsible practices online.

This "transformational change" is not complete, however, but positive results are apparent, particularly in transitions from Grade 8 to Grade 9, where many students get lost in the shuffle, and in overall student achievement.

Retention rates have increased 2.25 percent, which translates to an average of almost 200 more students per year compared to years preceding *Collegiate Renewal*, and there has been increased achievement by students in English Language Arts and Mathematics.

Response from students, parents, teachers and other community members has also been positive. As one resource teacher stated, "I see students being offered more choices that better reflect their learning styles, and teachers willing to do things differently to support the diversity of learning styles in their classrooms."

# Know Your Neighbour

## Conseil des écoles fransaskoises

In December, the Conseil scolaire fransaskois (CSF) met with the House of Commons Standing Committee on Official Languages in Ottawa.

The CSF presented a detailed explanation of the negative consequences associated with chronic underfunding for education in French.

The news release is posted on the CÉF website at [cefsk.ca](http://cefsk.ca).

## Holy Trinity

Check out the division's activities for Family Literacy Day at [htcsd.ca](http://htcsd.ca).



Source: [www.htcsd.ca](http://www.htcsd.ca)

## Horizon

At Punnichy High School, 16 students received their certificates in the Construction Worker Preparation program from the **Sask. Indian Institute of Technology**. Check out more on the *Horizon News Network* at [hzsd.ca](http://hzsd.ca).



Source: [www.hzsd.ca](http://www.hzsd.ca)

## Northwest

High school students from Meadow Lake will be applying their learning to assist with **Sask. Summer Games** being hosted in Meadow Lake. Visit [nwsd.ca](http://nwsd.ca) for more info.

## Prairie South

Check out [prairiesouth.ca](http://prairiesouth.ca) to find out more about the First Nations Symposium in Assiniboia.



Source: [www.prairiesouth.ca](http://www.prairiesouth.ca)

## Good Spirit

The division is currently engaging with the community to help set the strategic direction.

There was also a Program Development Report presented to the board in December.

Check out *What's Happening in GSSD...* on the website at [gssd.ca](http://gssd.ca).

## Christ the Teacher

Check out the **division's promotional video**. Or visit the website to find the video at [christtheteacher.ca](http://christtheteacher.ca).

### Living Sky

Each school in the division has a video explaining what makes them unique at [lskysd.ca](http://lskysd.ca).

### Lloydminster Catholic

Stay connected! The division has launched *LCSD TV* on its website at [lcsd.ca](http://lcsd.ca). They're also sharing the videos they post on Twitter [@LloydCatholic](https://twitter.com/LloydCatholic).

### Prairie Valley

To focus on higher literacy and achievement, the division held the Drop Everything and Read Challenge in January. Learn more at [pvsd.ca](http://pvsd.ca).



Source: [www.lcsd.com](http://www.lcsd.com)



Source: [www.pvsd.ca](http://www.pvsd.ca)

### South East Cornerstone

If you haven't had a chance yet, check out the new website at [cornerstonesd.ca](http://cornerstonesd.ca).

### Saskatoon Public

The *2011-2012 Continuous Improvement Report* for the division can be found on its website at [spsd.sk.ca](http://spsd.sk.ca).



Source: [www.twitter.com](http://www.twitter.com)

### Greater Saskatoon Catholic

Find out about the division's centennial celebrations at [scs.sk.ca](http://scs.sk.ca), including a 1911-style picnic in the park.

### Sun West

On Twitter? The Sun West Distance Learning Centre (DLC) is [@SunWestDLC](https://twitter.com/SunWestDLC). Based in Kenaston, the DLC delivers 36 courses online. For more information visit [sunwestsd.ca](http://sunwestsd.ca).

*“To serve and provide leadership as the voice for elected boards of education, who are the accountable stewards of publicly funded education in Saskatchewan.”*

**President:** Sandi Urban-Hall

**Vice-President:** Janet Foord

**Northern Constituency:** Joe Daigneault

**Aboriginal Constituency:** Duane Favel

**Conseil scolaire fransaskois Constituency:**  
Élizabeth Perreault

**Urban Public Constituency:**  
Dan Danielson

**Catholic Constituency:**  
Glen Gantefoer

**Central Constituency:**  
Eldon Van Den Bossche

**Southern Constituency:** Connie Bailey  
**Executive Director:**  
Darren McKee

**School Board Development Services:**  
Lionel Diederichs, Director

**Legal and Employee Relations Services:**  
Bonnie Ozirny, Director &  
General Counsel

**Communications Services:**  
Leslie Anderson, Director

**Insurance and Risk Management:**  
Dave Jackson, Director

**Employee Benefits Plan:**  
Jeff McNaughton, Director

*The School Trustee* is published approximately five times per year (September - June).

Saskatchewan School Boards Association  
400-2222 13th Avenue  
Regina, Sask.  
S4P 3M7

Phone: (306) 569-0750

Fax: (306) 352-9633

Email: [admin@saskschoolboards.ca](mailto:admin@saskschoolboards.ca)

If you would prefer to receive *The School Trustee* by email, rather than by hardcopy, please contact the Association at the email address above.

## Calendar Update



### **MARK YOUR CALENDAR!**

#### **EVENTS**

#### **SPARKING A VIRTUAL CONVERSATION ABOUT RESIDENTIAL SCHOOLS WEBINAR**

February 29, 2012

March 28, 2012

#### **SPRING GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

April 19-20, 2012

#### **EMPLOYEE BENEFITS PLAN ADMINISTRATION SEMINAR**

May 3-4, 2012

## Spring General Assembly

The Spring General Assembly on April 19-20 will focus on the great work being done in school divisions in pursuit of student achievement.

Professional development sessions for trustees will build on the work done at Members' Council that focused on the eight characteristics of effective schools.

The keynote presenter will speak to board members about the need to remain relevant in an ever-changing world and to beware of future trends that will affect how boards do their work.

