

School Boards Congratulate Saskatchewan Party Government

The Saskatchewan School Boards Association congratulated Premier Brad Wall and the Saskatchewan Party on forming another majority government in April's election.

"During the Sask. Party's first two terms in government, we built a relationship around priorities for education in our province, including through the first-ever Education Sector Strategic Plan," SSBA President Connie Bailey said. "We know the government shares with elected school boards both a commitment and a responsibility to students, families and communities in Saskatchewan. We look forward to continue working with the government to support achievement for all of our children."

Bailey also congratulated all newly elected or re-elected MLAs who won in their constituencies on Monday and thanked all who put their names forward on the ballots. She recognized in particular the successful candidates for both parties with backgrounds of service as elected school board trustees.

"Trustees in this province are locally elected to bring the voice of



SSBA Executive Director Darren McKee, Deputy Minister Julie MacRae, SSBA Vice-President Ronna Pethick, Minister Don Morgan and SSBA President Connie Bailey meet during Spring General Assembly in April

the public to public education," said Bailey. "We are thankful for all who volunteer to serve students, families and communities in Saskatchewan. We know that trustees who have been chosen to serve now at the provincial level will do so in the

same spirit of deep commitment."

Regarding priorities for working with the government going forward, Bailey noted she looks forward to results of a review of the education funding formula that began in 2015.

Continued on Page 2 →

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Provincial Election	2	Executive Meetings	6
Pin Recipients	2	Association Activity	7
President's Address	3	Calendar Update	8
Assembly Presenters	5	Services Contacts	8

School Boards Congratulate Government (continued)

→ The SSBA continues to be supportive of that work and hopeful it will reflect principles identified by its members as important.

“Education is crucial to ensuring the next generation are the critical thinkers, the innovators, the leaders, the entrepreneurs, the employers, the workers and more,” Bailey said.

“We share leadership with partners in the education sector and

the relationship between our organization of elected trustees and the provincial government always has been, and will continue to be, a very important one.”

Bailey said school boards have always worked hard to find efficiencies and will continue forward in the spirit of fiscal responsibility, while ensuring the needs of students, families and

communities are met.

“Even when times are tough, we must continue to champion the crucial importance of education in ensuring our society’s members have the skills and abilities they need to contribute to the economy,” Bailey continued.

“We must champion our education system as one of hope and looking toward the future.”

Professional Director Certification Program



The picture above includes some of the latest group of participants in the Professional Director Certification Program, which was recognized at Spring General Assembly in April. Those receiving a pin this year, in alphabetical order, are: **Donna Banks; Joann Blazieko; Helene Chenard; Cathy Cornet; Jane Ekong; Jim Hack; Kevin Keating; Jennifer Lemky; Wil Lengyel; Leslie Lewis; Colleen MacPherson; Angie Rogalski; David Thompson; Dwayne Todas; Patricia Zaryski.**

The world-class, university level education program is designed specifically for school board members to support excellence in governance. A partnership involving the Ministry of Education, the Johnson-Shoyama Graduate School of Public Policy and Brown Governance Inc. has enabled trustees to learn from this valuable program in recent years.

Visit the [**SSBA website**](#) to learn more about the Professional Director Certification Program.

President's Address to Spring General Assembly

CONNIE BAILEY SSBA PRESIDENT

(excerpted from address delivered Apr. 14, 2016, at the DoubleTree Hotel in Regina.)



Good evening and welcome to our Spring General Assembly.

Thanks to all of you for being here tonight and for your commitment and leadership in supporting achievement for all students in our province.

As you know, the SSBA, as a democratic and voluntary organization, ensures advocacy, leadership and support for member boards of education by speaking as the voice of public education, offering opportunities for trustee development and providing information and services.

With 28 unique and autonomous boards of education this can sometimes be a challenge – but that is where our structures, bylaws, governance and processes serve us well. Through resolutions, our Vision 2025 strategic plan, alignment with ESSP and multiple forums for input and direction, we are able to land on some shared priorities – and it is these I want to focus on.

One of the objectives of the SSBA is to promote the work and importance of locally elected school boards. We can be proud of the fact that our organization, along with our partners in education in Saskatchewan, continues to demonstrate that, through partnership and collaboration, we can provide the best possible educational opportunities and

outcomes for all students.

It is my privilege to serve as president of an Association that represents separate, public, francophone, Aboriginal, urban and rural leadership within education. And while this can present challenges at times, when I travel as part of the CSBA national work – I can tell you that what Saskatchewan has continues to be a model that others wish to emulate.

This is a big year in Saskatchewan – with the provincial election just behind us and municipal and school boards to come this fall. These elections are excellent opportunities for the SSBA and all of us to remind our communities, those running and elected to office and the broader public of the important role of boards of education.

The SSBA is using every opportunity to highlight that locally elected school boards have a vital role in serving Saskatchewan's publicly-funded education system and that the longest lasting and most fundamental responsibility of schools boards has been to bring the voice of the public to publicly-funded education.

We also highlight that collectively, the women and men who are locally elected to serve on Saskatchewan's boards of education are committed to serving children, youth, parents and communities.

Another objective is to advocate for funding that adheres to the principles identified by members.

With the current economic situation our province faces, it is critical, now more than ever, to emphasize the importance of education, and the work we do on

behalf of students, communities and for the betterment of society and this province. You might say that education, though probably not recognized as such, is the most critical economic driver.

While school boards have always found savings and efficiencies, I believe there is a renewed spirit of cooperation in finding efficiencies throughout our sector and making sure we are meeting the needs of our students while being mindful of fiscal responsibility. But only focusing on efficiencies is not going to address the challenges of growth and the changing student needs across this province.

Education funding, as we highlight in our principles, is about the bigger, long-term picture.

Education is crucial to ensuring the next generation are the critical thinkers, the innovators, the leaders, the entrepreneurs, the employers and the workers.

We, in many ways and across many fronts, work closely together with the provincial government to ensure our students have the resources and supports they need to succeed. It is imperative, and incumbent upon us, to make sure

Continued on Page 4 →



President Bailey addresses delegates at Spring Assembly

President's Address to Spring General Assembly (continued)

→ we are collaborating with the government in partnership, and to make sure views of locally elected school boards are reflected in government decision-making and vice versa.

So, even when times are tough, we must continue to champion the crucial importance of education in ensuring our society's members have the skills and abilities they need to contribute to the economy.

But more importantly, we must champion our education system as a system of hope, as a system of change and a system of the future.

We know that a review of the funding model for education is underway in our province.

We continue to be supportive of that work and hopeful that it will result in a system for funding education that meets the principles you as our members have identified as critical for education funding throughout Saskatchewan.

Another important objective for our organization is supporting key initiatives focused on First Nations and Métis education and improved student achievement in our province. This year our plan includes support for the transition of the Aboriginal Youth Employment Program in Saskatchewan to an organization or school division best suited for the program delivery.

We will also continue to profile and incorporate First Nations and Métis education information and success in SSBA activities and communications materials.

This year a priority focus, one that it shared with all levels of government and organizations across this country, is how we can



Members listen to President Bailey's address during Spring General Assembly

act on recommendations of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission. One of the recommendations focuses on curriculum and the SSBA is currently in the process of commissioning the development of a FNME/Residential Schools Position Paper to guide our actions and response.

The SSBA also continues to support the Education Sector Strategic Plan, which was agreed upon in 2014 by boards and the Ministry of Education. One of the priorities of this plan includes improving engagement and outcomes for First Nations and Métis students in our province.

Our organization does a lot of supporting. Just how our Association provides support is highlighted in another important objective and that is to increase awareness of the services and value provided by SSBA.

We know from our research that the services the SSBA provides to its members are well-used and appreciated. Success for each of our province's 28 boards is in part achieved through the support and services provided to members.

As an Association, we are able to collectively achieve cost savings and unified and consistent approaches where it makes sense. This is now as important as ever to keep in mind as we demonstrate how boards across the province always seek to find efficiencies – particularly during this time of fiscal restraint.

The SSBA will continue to look for ways and opportunities to enhance our ability to bring our members together, understand the issues we face individually and collectively, share information and best practices and ensure we can speak with a united voice. Thank you.

Spring General Assembly Presenters



*Financial Literacy – Eric Dillon,
CEO, Conexus Credit Union*



*Pin Presentation – Julie MacRae,
Deputy Minister of Education*



*Greetings – Hon. Don Morgan,
Minister of Education*



*Reconciliation Essay Reading –
Christopher Sanford-Beck*



*Governance PD – Valerie Watson
and Royce Bereti, Deloitte*



*Benefits for Trustees Update –
Jeff McNaughton, SSBA*



Delegates listen to presentations during Spring General Assembly

Executive Meeting Highlights

Mar. 17 & 18, 2016



Delegation: Public Section



Delegation: CUPE

The Provincial Executive of the SSBA met in Regina on March 17 and 18.

The Executive approved a decision item about expense reporting and passed a motion on the Teacher Time Report Committee.

The Executive participated in a wall walk and discussed the agenda for the upcoming Board Chairs' Council, monthly financial update, the Board Development Committee's Report, Communications Report and the Executive Director's and President's Reports.

Apr. 13, 2016



Delegation: SASBO



Delegation: LEADS

The Provincial Executive of the SSBA met in Regina on April 13.

The Executive approved decision items regarding the development of an Enterprise Risk Management Working Advisory Group and awarding of the 2016 SSBA Compensation Review contract.

The Executive also participated in a wall walk, discussed building upgrades and the agenda for the upcoming Board Chairs' Council and Spring General Assembly.

The minutes of Executive meetings are posted on the SSBA [website](#) after they have been approved.

Association Activity



LAFOIP ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING

The LAFOIP Advisory Committee met in Regina on March 16. A highlight was a presentation from Saskatchewan Information and Privacy Commissioner Ronald J. Kruzeniski (pictured above with members of the committee.)



PROFESSIONAL DIRECTOR CERTIFICATION

Some of the members of the most recent cohort of the world-class, university-level Professional Director Certification Program pose during a day of learning about excellence in governance in Regina in April.



LEGAL SERVICES SEMINARS – DUTY TO ACCOMMODATE

The SSBA Legal Services team held two workshops in April on the subject of Duty to Accommodate. The Regina workshop was April 20 and the Saskatoon workshop was April 22. A highlight during each seminar was a presentation by Judge David Arnot, Chief Commissioner of the Saskatchewan Human Rights Commission (pictured above at left; at right, seminar participants learn from SSBA Legal Services staff during a presentation.)



COMMUNICATIONS PLANNING

The SSBA Communications department met with school board association communicators from across the country in April to provide support for Canadian School Boards Association strategic communications planning.



"The mission of the SSBA is to provide leadership, coordination and services to member boards of education to support student achievement."

President:

Connie Bailey

Vice-President:

Ronna Pethick

Aboriginal Constituency:

Vernon J. Linklater

Catholic Constituency:

Jerome Niezgoda

Central Constituency:

Larry Pavloff

Conseil scolaire fransaskois Constituency:

Élizabeth Perreault

Northern Constituency:

Joe Daigneault

Southern Constituency:

Janet Kotylak

Urban Public Constituency:

Donna Banks

Executive Director:

Darren McKee

Communications Services:

Jill Welke

**Corporate Services and
Enterprise Risk Management:**

Catherine Vu

**Employee Benefits
and Insurance Plans:**

Jeff McNaughton

First Nations and Métis Education:

Jamie Lerat

**School Board Development,
Strategic Human Resources
and Legal Services:**

Ted Amendt

Saskatchewan School Boards Association
400-2222 13th Ave., Regina, Sask., S4P 3M7
Phone: 306-569-0750
Fax: 306-352-9633
Email: admin@saskschoolboards.ca

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

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

Calendar Update

Upcoming Events in 2016:

Employee Benefits Plan Seminar

May 4-5, Moose Jaw (Temple Gardens)

Trustee Academy

May 25-27, Cypress Hills (The Resort at Cypress Hills)

National Trustee Gathering on Aboriginal Education & CSBA Congress

July 6-9, Winnipeg (Delta Hotel)

For more information, see the SSBA website under Events.

Services Contacts

To ensure you are served in the most efficient, effective manner, below is an updated grouping of the names and faces of the main contacts for each service area. Full staff lists and management team contact info are online.



Darren McKee
*Executive
Director*
Extension 140



Jill Welke
*Communications
Services*
Extension 142



Catherine Vu
*Corporate Services
& Risk Management*
Extension 112



Jeff McNaughton
*Employee Benefits &
Insurance Plans*
Extension 129



Jamie Lerat
*First Nations and
Métis Education*
Extension 119



Ted Amendt
*Board Development,
Strategic HR & Legal*
Extension 141