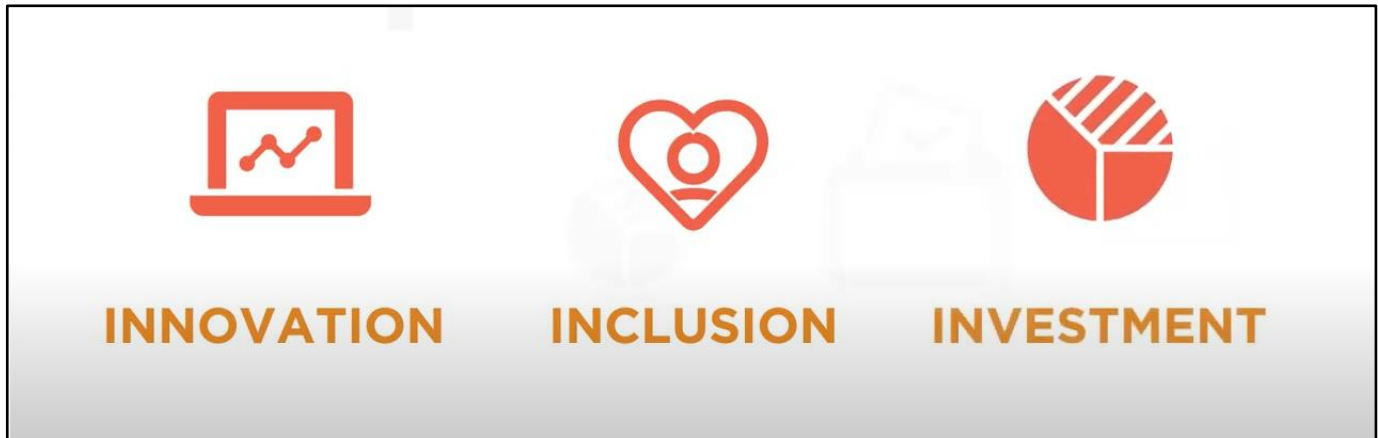


SSBA Reacts to 2021-22 Budget Announcement



The Saskatchewan School Boards Association is recognizing the critical funding provided to the education system during the COVID-19 response, while also emphasizing the need for predictability and sustainability as the pandemic continues to cause uncertainty and challenges for school divisions.

“The operating increase announced in the province’s 2021-22 budget will ensure the collective bargaining agreement with teachers is fully funded next year,” said Dr. Shawn Davidson, SSBA president. “Other inflationary costs are not covered in the increase and therefore school divisions may have difficult decisions to make.”

School boards are appreciative of the dollars that have been allocated over the past year to address urgent and emergent matters related to the pandemic, Davidson said. The focus on health and safety of students, staff and communities continues to be at the forefront during these challenging times and will be ongoing as the effects of the pandemic on school systems continue to be realized, he said.

“As we start to plan for what future years are going to look like, the overall message that we hear from school boards is around the importance of predictable and sustainable funding,” Davidson added. “As we move forward, post-

pandemic, we really need to have a deeper conversation about how education is funded.”

As school divisions learn about today’s budget announcement in their local contexts, more will be understood about the anticipated effects, which might vary among regions, he noted.

The SSBA also recognizes the increase to mental-health spending announced in today’s budget that includes youth-focused initiatives.

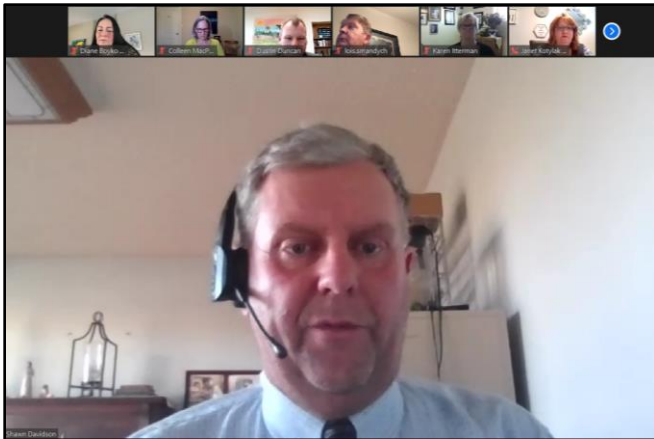
Mental health has been identified as a significant factor affecting student success and well-being. School boards applaud inter-ministerial collaboration on this important issue.

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Working Advisory Group Chair Ken Kosolofski*



*2021 Spring Assembly
Virtual attendees on Zoom*

President's Address to Spring General Assembly

SHAWN DAVIDSON SSBA PRESIDENT

(adapted from the address delivered Apr. 15, 2021, at the SSBA's virtual Spring Assembly.)



I want to start off by acknowledging my fellow Executive members for their great dedication and the work they undertake on behalf of all of our member boards: Vice-President Jaimie Smith-Windsor, Catholic Constituency, Jerome Niezgoda, Central Constituency Christine Gradin, Indigenous Constituency Kimberly Greyeyes, Northern Constituency Nathan Favel, Southern Constituency Janet Kotylak and Urban Constituency Donna Banks.

Also a special thanks to the many trustees who sit on committees representing your provincial association. I sent an email out a couple of weeks ago with a call for interest in committee work – so let me know if you have an area of expertise that would be a good fit or just an interest.

This year continues to follow the path of 2020 – proving to be a year unlike any other. I sincerely thank all of you for continued focus on good governance, the safety of students and staff, and ensuring that learning opportunities continue in some form or another, despite the challenges we face with the pandemic.

A huge part of the response and focus in education has truly been a

collaborative effort – we have stayed connected as a sector – and as boards we have stayed connected at the local level to ensure the various circumstances and challenges across the province are considered in the decision-making.

As you know, the provincial budget was delivered last week – we recognized the critical funding provided to the education system during the COVID-19 response, while also emphasizing the need for predictability and sustainability as the pandemic continues to cause uncertainty and challenges for school divisions going forward.

The operating increase in the province's 2021-22 budget will ensure the collective bargaining agreement with teachers is fully funded next year, but other inflationary costs are not covered and therefore we know boards may have difficult decisions to make.

We will have an opportunity to learn more and further discuss in our constituency break-out rooms tomorrow and as school divisions share their local contexts.

We also recognized the increase to mental-health spending announced in the budget that includes youth-focused initiatives.

Mental health has been identified as a significant factor affecting student success and well-being. School boards look forward to the opportunity this creates for more inter-ministerial collaboration on this important issue.

As we start to plan for what future years are going to look like, predictability and sustainability is key. Post-pandemic, we really need to have a deeper conversation about how education is funded.

In addition to the pandemic response and planning – the work and services at the SSBA have continued without disruption. I want to take this opportunity to thank Darren McKee for his leadership and also to our member boards for your continued engagement and use of the SSBA services – we have heard some great feedback about the value of the services and flexibility provided when working with boards.

At the local level, I commend boards and school divisions for the continued tireless efforts and decisions you are making for education. As your President, along with my Executive colleagues, we will continue to advocate and advance the priorities identified by membership through resolutions, feedback and the strategic input of Board Chairs Council.

Applications will soon be open for the Premier's Award, the Award of Distinction and SSBA Scholarships; watch for forthcoming emails with details on those.

To wrap up, thanks for joining us today virtually – and thank you to all of you for the important work you do for the benefit of all of the students in Saskatchewan.



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

President:

Dr. Shawn Davidson

Vice-President:

Jaimie Smith-Windsor

Catholic Constituency:

Jerome Niezgoda

Central Constituency:

Christine Gradin

Conseil scolaire francosaskois Constituency:

Élizabeth Perreault

Indigenous Constituency:

Kimberly Greyeyes

Northern Constituency:

Nathan Favel

Southern Constituency:

Janet Kotylak

Urban Public Constituency:

Donna Banks

Executive Director:

Darren McKee

Communications and

Policy Support:

Jill Welke

Corporate Services:

Georgia Hanwell

Employee Benefits and

Insurance Plans:

Jeff McNaughton

Board Development, Strategic HR,

Legal, and FNME Services:

Ted Amendt, PhD

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.

SSBA Open Letter on Manitoba School Boards

The Saskatchewan School Boards Association believes the Government of Manitoba's decision to eliminate elected school boards and centralize decision-making will negatively affect the education system by removing local voice and accountability, particularly in rural and remote communities in the province.

In Saskatchewan, local school boards have proven to work collaboratively in the sector to effectively serve students, staff, families and communities. Across Canada, school boards represent diverse voices that are important to be heard; in Saskatchewan, approximately 58% of board members identify as female and 14% identify as being of Indigenous ancestry.

The SSBA joins with our national and provincial counterparts in calling for the Manitoba government to reconsider the changes proposed. We believe education belongs to community and maintaining local voice through elected boards is key to future improvement and ensuring every student has the opportunity to succeed regardless of their locale or circumstances.

Awards and Scholarships

SSBA AWARDS

Information regarding the 2021 *Premier's Board of Education Award for Innovation and Excellence* and the 2021 *Award of Distinction* is now available. Please visit the [SSBA website](#) and follow the relevant links to access the Nomination Guide and Scoring Rubric for the Premier's Award and the Nomination Criteria and Procedures for the Award of Distinction. The deadline for submissions is Sept. 30.

SSBA SCHOLARSHIPS

Each year, the Saskatchewan School Boards Association awards two \$2,500 scholarships to graduating Saskatchewan high school students going into post-secondary study:

- *Degree Program Scholarship: \$2,500*
- *Technical/Trade Program Scholarship: \$2,500*

Scholarship recipients are selected on the basis of demonstrated good character, community leadership, financial need, and a 500-word essay. The application deadline is Aug. 31 each year. To access the application form and view the rubric that is being used to score the scholarships, please visit the [SSBA website](#).