



Government
of
Saskatchewan

Minister of Education

Legislative Building
Regina, Canada S4S 0B3

FEB 08 2024

Jaimie Smith-Windsor, President
Saskatchewan School Boards Association
jsmith-windsor@saskschoolboards.ca

Dear Jaimie Smith-Windsor:

Thank you for your email and attached letter regarding resolutions passed at the recent Saskatchewan School Boards Association (SSBA) Annual General Meeting and Fall Assembly. I am pleased to respond to the resolutions adopted by the SSBA membership.

AGM-23-05 BE IT RESOLVED that Saskatchewan School Boards Association request that the Minister of Education commit to improving early learning outcomes in Saskatchewan by allocating sufficient resources to fund universal full time Kindergarten across Saskatchewan schools.

- On June 1, 2023, the Government of Saskatchewan announced an additional \$40 million for Saskatchewan's 27 school divisions to support enrolment growth and the complexity of today's classrooms. With this announcement, operating funding has grown to \$2.08 billion for the 2023-24 school year, an increase of \$89.4 million or 4.5 per cent over the 2022-23 school year.
- Included in operating funding is approximately \$21.8 million which continues to support 316 Prekindergarten programs across the province, serving approximately 5,000 three and four-year-old children and their families.
- Boards of education make decisions about how best to deploy resources in their school divisions and some boards of education have implemented full day Kindergarten. Province-wide implementation would require consideration of a number of factors beyond funding, such as the availability of school space appropriate for Kindergarten programming, the availability of additional Kindergarten teachers and other staff, and transportation. Funding and decisions related to expanding programming are considered through the ministry's annual budget process and announced in the spring each year.

AGM-23-06 BE IT RESOLVED that the Saskatchewan School Board Association advocate provincially and nationally with the Canadian School Boards Association for the development of a healthy, universal, cost-shared school food program funded by the federal and provincial governments in consultation with all school boards.

- The Government of Saskatchewan appreciates the role that access to nutrition plays in supporting learning and engagement in school. For more than 30 years, the Child Nutrition Program has provided funding to Saskatchewan school divisions and community-based organizations.
- In 2023-24, \$2.6 million is committed to the Child Nutrition Program. As in previous years, the total program funding has been fully allocated, and efforts are made to reach as many students as possible.

AGM-23-09 BE IT RESOLVED that the Saskatchewan School Boards Association advocate to the Government of Saskatchewan prior to November 30, 2023, to keep in force Safe Access to Schools sections 369.2 to 369.5 of The Education Act, 1995.

- Sections 369.2 to 369.5 of *The Education Act, 1995*, were enacted during the COVID-19 pandemic to address concerns of protests at our schools and are no longer required. If the SSBA has specific concerns to bring forward about protests at our schools, the ministry would certainly consider these concerns and determine appropriate solutions.

Thank you for taking the time to write.

Sincerely,



Jeremy Cockrill
Minister of Education

cc: Clint Repski, Deputy Minister of Education