


## Appendix "B"

### PROVINCIAL EDUCATION ENGAGEMENT SESSION

#### *Shaping the Future of Education: A Shared Vision*

#### FEEDBACK FORM

Lloydminster Catholic School Division 

The **objective** of the Provincial Education Engagement Sessions is to:

- seek input from participants on what is important to consider for students' education in the next five to ten years as the education sector partners work together to co-construct a framework for a future provincial education plan.

Please respond to the following four questions by identifying three to five thoughts/ideas you see as important for students in the next five to ten years.

1. What knowledge, skills and abilities do students need to be prepared for their future life and learning? Why are these important?

- Mathematics
- Computer Skills
- Foreign Language

With development in technology more and more job occupations require these skills therefore putting emphasis on them will enable students success in the future.

Money management, debt management, tax preparation, investments – these are basic skills that all adults need to ensure a comfortable living and ability to retire. Knowing how to get a credit rating, how to secure a mortgage, paying a cell phone bill monthly are all things that young adults need to know how to do

- Students need to be able to deal with mistakes/failure and to learn from their mistakes and turn their failures into successes.
- Students need to be able to communicate verbally using correct grammar.
- Students need to be able to seek out correct supports to ensure they have success in learning.
- Outcomes are clearly stated and students can be actively involved in their learning.
- We have a holistic approach to understanding students and their needs.
- Cell phones are only allowed at teacher discretion.

- *Technology*
- *General life skills*
- *Social skills*
- *Stewardship to have and build community*

*Need to instill work ethic*

- Financial Literacy – I work in the industry and it is alarming at the amount of people who don't know how to balance a chequebook or create a simple budget (██████████ Credit Union allows our Emerging Leaders to visit area schools to provide basic Financial Literacy training).
- Time management – In my experience, the kids who don't succeed in post-secondary is often due to mismanaged time.
- Resume Building – Obviously there is not a lot of experience to put on a resume for a high school student, but it is valuable to capture their volunteerism. From a hiring perspective, that is what I look for as it stands out. (PS – ██████████ does a FANTASTIC job with the Stewardship Hours program)
- Critical Thinking Skills – I feel this is important for being prepared for life. They often say that “common sense” can't be taught, but critical thinking skills can be learned.

Great written and oral communication is still a high priority in any job

All aspects of computer skills in all applications/programs not just e-mail, and word program there are so many more that are used regularly

Customer/co-worker relationships: more than a good listener, critical thinker, no gossip, approachable, self-esteem, team building exercises, participation

Inclusion for all people regardless of disabilities and race, age and sex: equal opportunities

- Understanding, acceptance, and respect for differences among people (race, ability, religion, etc.) not only in the primary grades or on a special occasion such as “anti-bullying day” but as a way of life.
- Problem solving skills (especially socially)
- Communication and language skills
- Social skills
- Empathy
- Patience and a willingness to search for and find value in every person
- Self-confidence and self-worth
- Strategies to maintain positive mental health

- Organizational skills
- Responsibility and accountability
- Strong literacy and math skills
- In the senior grades: a greater focus on application of math to life skills - such as budgeting, taxes, mortgages, loans, interest, etc.
- Dangers of technology, internet and social media and respectful limits for use in our daily lives
- Stewardship and importance of building community and desire therefore
- Worth ethic

Our world is becoming increasingly diverse with so many different individuals and diverse needs. We, as a society, are dealing with serious issues such as school shootings, bomb threats, hate crimes, terrorism, bullying and suicide just to name a few.

Children and adolescents' mental health issues such as anxiety and depression seem to be steadily increasing while their ability to cope and problem solve seems to be decreasing.

Children and adolescents are receiving less and less quality time talking and relating to other people including parents, teachers, educational assistants, and peers. This is due to a number of factors including: busy life styles and work schedules; an abundance of electronics and screen time; fewer children going out to play and interact with neighborhood children; large class sizes and more demanding and diverse needs of individuals within classrooms; not enough actual teachers, educational assistants, and support staff available to properly meet all student needs; and generally, an over-all more distracted, "stressed-out" society.

As a result, children have decreased social skills; feelings of lowered self-worth and are experiencing more mental health issues such as extreme stress, anxiety, and depression. Many have trouble feeling empathy for others; and have a difficult time accepting accountability for their actions. All of these things directly impact how well a person will cope as an adult and as a productive member of society. Also, students who experience successful inclusion and diversity within schools become more equipped problem solvers and develop greater empathy for others. Thus, allowing them to become more inclusive adults who are able to create more diverse and accepting communities.

- Money management skills, even from a young age.

Younger grades can learn to identify money, use basic math to add or subtract money. Learn about saving vs spending.

Older grades can learn about basic banking and more in-depth saving vs spending.

- Telling time on a regular clock vs digital. Again could involve math.

- Older elementary grades need to learn appropriate interpersonal skills. How to be part of an adult conversation, how to enter/exit a conversation.
- Telephone skills
- Being effective verbal and written communicators
  - important to know how to interact with others in appropriate ways
- Appropriate and effective studying methods that ready students for high school and postsecondary success.
- How to cope with stress and anxiety
- How to budget money, balance a bank account, be responsible with spending and saving.
- Computer literacy that changes with the rapid technological changes.
- Are we preparing students for post-secondary schools in other provinces?
- Who vetts the Novels in High school - some are very dark and very strong points - is there a balance in lighter awesome literature?
- Financial literacy - how to balance a checkbook, bank account - money management
- Focus on Reading, Writing and Math - focus to not lose our printing and handwriting skills
- When you enter highschool - constructive planning for your postsecondary - make a 4 year plan and time put into what is available
- Every should know how to tie their own shoes
- keyboarding - they do not get the basics of how to effectively keyboard
- Problem solving skills
- Children don't take responsibility due to parents bailing out their children - children do not take responsibility
- Social emotional coaching -
- Old school etiquette - manners, kindness, respect, common sense (consequence, understanding entitlement)
- Address students with special needs - integration of these students into society - balance of needs in the classroom for all students
- Parental supports - help parents help their children
- Citizenship - understanding society, how the government works - political awareness - when the students are near voting age
- Digital citizenship - understanding how to be citizen online
- Wellness and life balance
- Communication and communication etiquette skills – my husband is a manager who does a lot of hiring of young, university educated people and students; however their formal communication skills are consistently weak and they do not understand the importance of formal and professional writing skills or E-mail and texting etiquette. It would be beneficial for them to gain a better understanding of each, where it is appropriate to use each method and how to articulate what they want to say and communicate clearly.

- Public Speaking – Again in the working world, the ability to articulate and clearly present your ideas in front of people is key for success, promotion and growth. With the constant expansion of technology and the change of communication methods this ability appears to be significantly decreasing.
- Conflict Resolution and the ability to have hard conversations to work towards solutions – I get that bullying is wrong and needs to be addressed; however kids also need to learn how to manage conflict, handle rejection and get over it.
- Mental Health Issues/Coping Skills
- I'm not sure if these issues are becoming more prevalent or are just more recognizable due to greater awareness; however they need to be addressed on a larger scale. Every kid/person has to deal with issues throughout their life and if the schools can start early and help educate in these areas it could greatly help reduce the stigma around mental health.
  - Examples:
    - Stress and Anxiety management
    - Body Image
    - Things that make you different/Unique – It's okay to be different (In my opinion LGBTQ is part of this but shouldn't be set apart – every difference doesn't need its own group)
- During my professional working life I have had opportunities to participate in several personal development seminars (Personality profiling, crucial conversations course etc...). There are tons of amazing resources and speakers out there. I understand budget is always a problem; however sometimes an outside source other than regular teacher may be able to drive a point home in less time.
- Basic Life skills that will help kids survive as adults
  - Money management & Budgeting
  - Tax preparation
  - Home Economics (Used to be mandatory – Not sure if it still is)
  - Industrial Arts (Used to be mandatory – Not sure if it still is)
  - First Aid/CPR
- Give kids an introduction to various sports at an earlier age (Even allow parents to coach so it's not an additional burden on teachers but allow the use of school facilities). As a parent it feels like I have to register my kids in an expensive and overly competitive after school program in order for my kids to have a hope of playing sports. If I choose not to register them or cannot afford to they are so far behind by the time they get to the age where they can participate at school that they either won't have the confidence to play with the other kids with more developed skills, or unless they are a completely natural athlete they won't make the team.

## 2. What gets in the way of student success and well-being?

- Socio-economic status

Stress with regards what they will do when they graduate. Mental health seems to be a huge issue in high schools. The pressures on students with regards to grades, peers, sexual identity, drugs/alcohol, can be overwhelming if there are not supports in the home and schools

- Social media seems to be a huge distraction.
- Technology (incorrect use of cell phones) students need to learn to use their devices to enhance learning and not simply a means to seek out social media venues.
- Students need to adopt a mindset of discovery and investigation instead of the mindset that they are owed something and somebody else should provide that information or that something.
- Lack of home support and family finances hinder student learning.
- *Social struggles, healthy diet, regular exercise, too much gaming*

*Need to ensure students are prepared for the dynamics of University and employment and are taught how to study and take initiative.*

- Economics
- Lack of support at home
- Substance abuse (both in the home life or the student)

Not enough variety of classes for students to choose from which could be due to lack of space, time, teacher availability, popularity. (ie: earth sciences like geology, geography)

Not enough room in individual classes so students are getting second or third choice elective which may have absolutely nothing to do with what they need to prepare them for further education, future job placement.

- Students do not get enough personal attention, and individualized instruction to meet their varying needs. The teachers and educational assistants that work with students on a daily basis need better training and consistent personnel support available to them to effectively address behavior challenges, mental health issues, and a range of learning styles and ability levels.
- Schools are becoming more diverse. Most classrooms consist of a multitude of needs including but not limited to: students with language barriers and cultural differences; students with a huge range of disabilities or varying abilities; students with mental health issues; students with behavioral challenges; and students with economic challenges and social and emotional challenges. Teachers and educational assistants are required to address these barriers to learning that children and adolescents are dealing with before

academic learning can even begin. Diversity in the classroom is actually a great thing for our children and society as a whole. Learning how to accept and appreciate differences and to develop empathy for what others might be experiencing is enhanced by being immersed in diversity *in a productive and healthy environment.*

- The old classroom structure is not able to successfully meet the needs of many of the students. The old classroom model of one teacher for every 25 to 30 students and maybe (if the teacher and students are fortunate, there might be an educational assistant to help a child with a designated diagnosis of some type). In reality there are more, students that require some type of additional support now days than those that require none. Many students that require support are undiagnosed and will remain that way for several years and possibly forever. If money is not spent decreasing classroom size and providing more actual people available to students on a daily basis to give the students the individual support, attention, and time, they require to become productive members of society; then a lot more money will be needed later on to address criminal justice issues, mental health issues and social issues. A proactive approach is needed.
- Students also need to be properly prepared for the dynamics of University and employment. They need to be taught how to study and take initiative in their daily lives.
- Electronics and technology are changing the ways of our daily lives. However, excessive use is decreasing social skills, creating behavioral issues, health issues and contributing to obesity and lack of interpersonal skills.
- Our school system spends a great deal of time teaching the children about bullying and kindness but very little on “sticking up for yourself” and being assertive. Kindness is necessary in life, but not to the expense of a child becoming a doormat to the more “assertive” children. Our children need to employ kindness in their daily lives, however, not to the point that they compromise their own self-worth and self-esteem. “You can’t pour from an empty glass.”
- Social media
- Parents “Helicopter” and “Lawn Mower” parenting styles
- When the student isn’t effectively being challenged in the classroom
- Not letting students make mistakes and learn from them
  - i.e.) rewriting exams to get a better mark
- Home life that does not support regular attendance
- Vacations
- Sleep - lack of sleep
- Vision issues - need for vision therapy
- Cost of screening and therapies, processes structures, to address some issues for students before they come to school or in early years (speech therapy, vision therapy, occupational therapy, etc)
- Teaching parents to get their children checked - eyes, ears, check ups, dentist

- Not having school nurses
- Should be Limitations on electronic devices during school hours - monitored use
- Money – obvious but real
- Class sizes (It is practically impossible for anyone, no matter how good the teacher is, to handle 30-35 kids in a classroom especially if there are any kids with special needs). Do we have enough Teacher Aids to support the teachers?
- Children that are well behaved and do well in daily school/work appear to slip through the cracks and are not given many opportunities for further additional development (Squeaky wheel gets the grease so to speak). What about taking those students and teaching them/inspiring them to help the students who are struggling or give them special projects that take them above and beyond core learning. Perhaps even have a special teacher/resource to organize, supervise these things.
- Peer pressure – not sure how to overcome this but cooperation and communication between teachers and parents is crucial.

3. What is working well now in Saskatchewan's school system that prepares students for their future?

- Catholic school structure with teachers and teachers aid when needed. Teacher provide great support for the students.
- Smaller class sizes
- Incorporating catholic values into the school system along with the inclusiveness

I was so happy to see the Boys to Gentlemen day at [REDACTED]. My son was leery to go and ended up saying it was a fantastic day. I think the mentoring by bringing in members of the community is amazing. Letting these young men know that they can talk to people other than their parents is great, showing them that just a bit of time can make a huge impact on lives of others.

I also think having older students being involved in junior coaching on teams and clubs is a great way to have the younger students able to get to know some of the older students. It also shows the older students what an impact they can have on the students just a couple of years younger. I have seen this in action with regards to teams that both my sons play on and it is a great thing.

- Well rounded courses
- Ensuring prerequisite courses for college/university

*High school courses that can count towards credit for college/university/apprenticeships*

- I appreciate teachers who grade tough while still caring



- I love that there is a requirement for Volunteerism
- Sports Teams/Band/Group work help build a student's ability to collaborate

Keeping up with technology and offering STEM classes and activities

Having teachers and resources available before, during and after school

- Classrooms are becoming more diverse which allows students to be educated in a rich environment and learn how to work alongside many types of people. Children are learning about others with challenges such as autism, downs syndrome, physical challenges, and many other needs. This helps create acceptance and tolerance as our children grown and mature into productive adults in society.
- We are beginning to incorporate various supports such as sensory rooms that can be beneficial to many individuals.
- There are many dedicated teachers, and educational assistants who are up for the challenge and strive every day to help all of the students within their classrooms. They give hours and hours of additional time outside of their work day to try to meet the needs of the children in their care. The educators want the skills, they want to learn and grow, and they want to be inclusive to all students.
- High school is focusing on prerequisites required for post-secondary education and in some instances count for credit in future education endeavors.
- Nutrition information has been fantastic, more correlation between nutrition and movement would be great.
- Emphasis on reading and math literacy
- Amazing band programming
- Having the option to send our children to a Catholic faith-based school, regardless of us being Catholic or not.
- Grade 7 students being given chromebooks to use and take home continuing thru high school
- French Immersion in Kindergarten
- Full day Kindergarten
- Discussion around .5 day every day for Kindergarten
- K+ in Lloydminster works!
- Bussing students to and from school
- Small class sizes work - giving more time per child
- I honestly don't know enough to comment on the entire school system but some things our school does well that I have seen are:
  - Good incorporation of faith in school – Whether people believe in God or not many of our societal morals are founded on and based on religious teaching. By allowing faith in schools it gives teachers another tool to reinforce morals and

parents another way to reinforce their child's faith. It really is a win/win for everyone.

- o I am happy to see my kids doing weekly spelling tests, handwriting etc... Although these things may be viewed as unnecessary by some they are really teaching kids to pay attention to detail which is critical in long term success.

4. What needs to change in Saskatchewan's school system to better prepare students for their future?

- Schools should introduce mandatory second language for students to learn from as early as grade one.
- School provided lunch program and healthy eating initiatives for all student to teach the from early years basics of healthy eating.
- Schools should introduce school uniforms as a way of eliminating fashion competition between students.

This is a tough question. In my opinion, students need to be shown that they can have more input in their lives. I strongly believe that independence and responsibility for actions is key. There is a HUGE difference in the needs of students at elementary schools but the same rules apply to the kindergarten kids as they do to the grade 7's. I have no idea how to implement those kinds of changes in schools but I do think it would help our young adults have an easier transition to high school.

- Students need to develop the skills necessary to deal with success and failure.
- More process based learning – how the answer is achieved vs the answer being the final result.
- *Ensure technology is up to date and teaching technology that is used in today's workplaces.*

Assist students in making viable choices for post-secondary education and understand where the labour market is and earnings potential. I've witnessed young people make choices and then realize they can't get a job in the field they initially decided to pursue – or must move to the US or a major Canadian center (Toronto, Vancouver, etc) to obtain employment in that field, or realize the limited earnings potential

- I am completely pleased with the SK School System. [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED] LCSD has shown us excellence.
- There needs to be more communication between the schools and parents when the students are in higher grades to show them a path to future education and job availability.

Not all parents are aware of entrance requirements work for post-secondary education and potential scholarships.

- Students need to learn better study skills earlier, there are a lot of working parents that can't help with homework and monitor student progress. Realize teachers do a lot of work already but even a simple pamphlet or handout that show and tell how a student should be studying will maybe improve grades
- There should be one teacher and one educational assistant in EVERY CLASSROOM from at least grades kindergarten to grade three. Ideally all grades would have both a teacher and an educational assistant available to all students within the classroom to help all of the students meet their individual needs. Every student would have the opportunity to have support to work on individual goals based on what their individual needs are. This does not mean taking educational assistant support from students with designated diagnoses. This support would be in addition to supports available to specific students because these students require their own assistant for various reasons. Currently, many of these supports are pulled from students who are supposed to be benefiting from them in order to meet the growing number of needs present within the entire class. The personal support is not adequate to meet the needs of the students.
- Class sizes need to be small.
- Teachers and educational assistants need to be well trained and have class sizes and personnel support that is set up to effectively educate students with multiple types of diversity. The teachers and educational assistants are working with the students all day every day and because of the increasing needs of the students that are part of their classroom, educators are required to take on the roles of parents, councilors, social workers, behavior specialists, English language educators, as well as proficient special educators who are well trained in strategies and instruction methods that allow the diverse educational needs of all of the students to be met.
- Diversity in the classroom is not an exception it is the norm. It is not helpful to have a behavior specialist or a mental health specialist employed but only available to students two days a week for an hour. The students require the supports when they require the supports so the individuals working with the students daily are the ones who need the skills to address issues appropriately when they happen. Teachers are not required to take special education classes at University unless they choose to. The reality is that classrooms are so diverse that every teacher is required to be a special education teacher and in-depth training in this area should be mandatory.
- Technology taught in school needs to be appropriate and should be that that will be used in future endeavors and the workplace. Children need to understand respectful limits to technology use and need to still have strong basic literacy, math and research skills– not just relying on a computer or device,

- Cut-off date for kindergarten and pre-K needs to be revisited. Many children are not mature enough to begin school and school at such an early age and pre-K and kindergarten has become childcare services. Childcare costs are very high which makes the option for pre-K and early kindergarten appealing to parents/guardians. The child is also put at a significant disadvantage socially and mentally when they are not ready for school.
- More arts education, art studios within elementary schools. More in depth education about art mediums and techniques.
- It would be nice to see the swimming lesson portion of physical education offered to more grades again.
- More focus on inquiry and curiosity and rigor
- More classroom based support in Educational assistant
- Teachers wanting things to enhance the ethos and culture of their classroom must pay for these things out of budget - Bureaucracy - around money (the little things that teachers may want to buy it is too much hassle to get reimbursed)
- Certain services needs to be essential services that are subsidized - Cost of screening and therapies, processes structures, to address some issues for students before they come to school or in early years (speech therapy, vision therapy, occupational therapy, etc)
- Enrichment and programming for students who do not fit the mold - actual authentic enrichment
- Flexible classrooms not measured by grade but by outcome to work towards mastery
- Continue to grow future educators - and supports for teachers
- Focus on basic facts and teach the basic math - not just use the technology
- Need to give teachers time to prep for classes and recognize the workload in their teaching day
- Highschool accountability for lack of work ethic - if they did not do the work, they do not get the credit because post secondary expects things done and does not give second chances
- I will say up front that I may not be educated enough in terms of exactly what is occurring in schools at this moment; however I will state an opinion on this based on what I've seen not only in school but everywhere:
  - Kids need to fail, to experience rejection and to understand that things are not always "fair". These are lessons I would sooner my kids learn when it comes to small things (Failing a test lost privileges etc...) so that when the big things of life hit they have developed skills to handle it. If my child is not behaving or being disrespectful I want to know about it so that I can work with the teacher by reinforcing consequences and dealing with it. Kids need to understand there are

consequences for their actions and parents and teachers need to work together to make that happen.