

Engagements Emphasize Connections for Education

Saskatchewan’s school boards are sharing that they consistently heard about the importance of Connections for education during local public engagements conducted earlier this year.

The report from boards to the Minister of Education highlights the need to enhance and expand Connections for education in three categories of main findings: Connections Among People and Relationships; Connections Between Systems and Structures; and, Connections to the Future and Navigating Technology.

“Taken together, our analysis of the themes can be summed up in one word: Connections,” said SSBA President Dr. Shawn Davidson. “This thread runs through the many ideas about the education system in the province that were identified and explored by thousands of people who engaged with this process.”

The findings resulted from more than 300 engagements school boards conducted across the province, involving more than 10,500 people. Many engagements took place in-person, while some



divisions also used surveys and other tools to consult with students, families, communities and other stakeholders. In total, more than 36,500 comments were received.

“Our sincere thanks to all of the many diverse voices from across this province who engaged with this process,” said Davidson. “As a partner involved in co-constructing a vision and a plan for education in the province beyond 2020, this is our input into this process on behalf of the local voices we represent.”

In addition to the engagements, a review of documents related to education that have been produced in recent decades found there are

ongoing similarities and consistency with the Connections findings.

“The challenge is to identify the barriers that impede the sector from successfully attending to these themes,” Davidson said. “The opportunity is to learn from previous attempts and develop and adapt strategies that will focus us in ways to successfully address the necessary Connections.”

In their report, school boards also present recommendations aligned with the Connections findings.

The full report is available online: <https://saskschoolboards.ca/wp-content/uploads/Vision-Engagement-Report.pdf>

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Provincial Students’ Day	2	Walk to Breakfast	3
Orange Shirt Day	2	Association Activity	4

Spotlight on Safety for Provincial Students' Day

The Saskatchewan School Boards Association (SSBA) highlighted student safety as young people across the province prepared to begin a new year of learning.

Sept. 3 was officially proclaimed as "Provincial Students' Day" to help ensure safety is the primary consideration for students, families and communities, and especially for motorists who will be driving in and around school zones.

"The annual proclamation of Provincial Students' Day helps to remind drivers that children and youth are back in school and that extra care for their safety is important," said Dr. Shawn Davidson, president of the SSBA.

The Government of Saskatchewan proclaims the day each year at the SSBA's request to reinforce the message of care and concern for students.

"This is an exciting time of year for the more than 190,000 students who are going back to school," Deputy Premier and Education Minister Gordon Wyant said. "There is a lot of activity in school zones and the safety of our students and staff is of utmost importance."

Provincial Students' Day was first proclaimed in 2010, in response to a resolution passed by the province's trustees at the SSBA 2009 AGM.

Residential Schools the Focus of Orange Shirt Day



The Assembly of First Nations and the Office of the Treaty Commissioner, in partnership with the SSBA, arranged for two schools in Saskatchewan to receive shirts and host events for Orange Shirt Day this year. Pictured is Swift Current Comprehensive High School in Chinook School Division. The other was Victoria School in Good Spirit School Division.

The Saskatchewan School Boards Association (SSBA) encouraged residents of the province to participate in "Orange Shirt Day" by wearing orange and reflecting on residential schools.

"This annually proclaimed day is an opportunity for all of us to take time to think about residential schools and grow in our understanding of this history," said Dr. Shawn Davidson, SSBA president.

Orange Shirt Day is officially proclaimed on Sept. 30 each year and is part of a larger movement in

the country to provide opportunity for First Nations, governments, schools and communities to unite in a spirit of reconciliation and hope for generations of children to come.

"Learning about our shared history by recognizing the truths about the past and advocating for understanding is vital," Deputy Premier and Education Minister Gordon Wyant said. "Everyone has a role to play in reconciliation and Orange Shirt Day provides an opportunity for our province to recognize the history and impact of

residential schools as we continue on the path to healing."

The Orange Shirt Day movement is a legacy of the St. Joseph Mission residential school commemoration event held in Williams Lake, B.C., in 2013. It grew out of the account of a young girl having her new orange shirt taken away on her first day of school at the mission.

Orange Shirt Day was first proclaimed in Saskatchewan in 2016, in response to a resolution passed by the province's trustees at the SSBA Spring General Assembly.

Walk to Breakfast Celebrates 2019 Mosaic Challenge Winners



The 2019 Walk to Breakfast event took place at Arcola Community School in Regina.

Efforts of Saskatchewan schools to improve student nutrition and create healthier environments were celebrated in September with the Mosaic Extreme School Makeover Challenge's Walk to Breakfast.

Since 2006, The Mosaic Company and the Saskatchewan School Boards Association have hosted the Challenge to encourage grassroots initiatives. Ten schools each received \$10,000 earlier this year as winners of the 2019 Challenge. Among the winners was Regina Public School Division's Arcola Community School, host of this year's Walk to Breakfast event.

"We look forward to the Walk to Breakfast event each year and are excited to be at Arcola School and hear about their Makeover Challenge winning project," said Sarah Fedorchuk, Vice-President, Public Affairs and Government Relations at The Mosaic Company. "This event is a great way to kick off

a new school year and another set of projects focused on making nutrition a daily part of student lives. We wish the 10 winning schools the best of luck this fall!"

Arcola Community School's winning project highlights include providing nutrition and life skills training, developing cookbooks to share at home and hosting family engagement days.

"Helping students learn about life-long nutrition and life skills is a lesson that helps them, their families and potentially, future generations," said Katherine Gagne, Chair, Regina Board of Education. "We are grateful to Mosaic and the SSBA in making this ambitious good health project possible."

Other winning schools this year are part of the Good Spirit, Living Sky, Northern Lights, Northwest, Regina Catholic, Saskatoon Catholic, Saskatoon Public and South East Cornerstone school divisions.

"Healthy and nutritious food plays such an important part in the overall success and well-being of students," Regina Pasqua MLA Muhammad Fiaz said on behalf of the Minister of Education, Gordon Wyant. "I would like to commend Arcola Community School and all the other recipients for their innovative ideas and commitment to making nutrition an important part of students' everyday lives."

A record of more than 80 schools submitted projects to compete in 2019's Challenge for a total of \$100,000 in prizes, generously provided by Mosaic.

"We are very grateful to The Mosaic Company for the ongoing support in ensuring the health and nutrition needs of Saskatchewan students are met," said Dr. Shawn Davidson, SSBA President. "Congratulations to Arcola Community School and the other Mosaic Challenge recipients."





"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:

Aleana Young

Catholic Constituency:

Jerome Niezgod

Central Constituency:

Jaimie Smith-Windsor

Conseil scolaire fransaskois Constituency:

Martin Prince

Indigenous Constituency:

Joe Daigneault

Northern Constituency:

Pending Election

Southern Constituency:

Janet Kotylak

Urban Public Constituency:

Donna Banks

Executive Director:

Darren McKee

Communications and Policy Support:

Jill Welke

Corporate Services:

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 2019:

Local Government Week

Provincial – Nov. 11-17

SSBA Fall General Assembly

Regina – Nov. 17-19

<https://saskschoolboards.ca/events/>

Association Activity



SSBA President Dr. Shawn Davidson was part of a presentation during the Canadian School Boards Association Annual Congress in July.



SSBA President Dr. Shawn Davidson spoke with news media in Saskatoon in September regarding the issue of vaping.



Deputy Premier and Minister of Education Gordon Wyant met with trustees during Board Chairs Council in September near Regina.