



Board Meeting Digest

Monday, Sept. 28, 2009 Regular Meeting of the Board

DELEGATIONS AND SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS

Murray Guy, president of Integrated Designs, a company located at Innovation Place, made a presentation to the board regarding sustainable building practices. He provided a brief overview of the LEEDs (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) certification. Buildings built to this standard use resources more efficiently and often provide healthier work environments.

Mr. Guy also gave a brief description of projects he is currently working on, which include a building at the University of Winnipeg, a research lab in Churchill, MB and a private Catholic school – St. Johns-Ravenscourt – also in Winnipeg.

DISCUSSION/DECISION

Attendance at Saskatchewan School Boards Association Members' Council Meeting October 22 and 23, 2009.

This meeting is attended by the Board Chair, the Director of Education and one other trustee. Trustee Tom Fortosky volunteered to attend and trustees voted to approve.

Mission Statement Approval

Board Chair Diane Boyko briefly outlined the work that has been done in the division to align its vision, beliefs and values. During the 2008-2009 school year, consultation was done surrounding the division's new mission statement. The new statement is:

Greater Saskatoon Catholic Schools: a welcoming community where we nurture faith, encourage excellence in learning and inspire students to serve others, making the world a better place.

***We love because he first loved us.
- 1 John 4:19***

Trustees voted to approve the mission statement.

Premier's Board of Education Award for Innovation and Excellence in Education

This award is presented annually at the Saskatchewan School Boards Association Fall General Assembly. Greater Saskatoon Catholic Schools won the award in 2008 for the St. Mary Wellness and Education Centre.

The award, which comes with a \$3,000 prize, recognizes board of education involvement in the improvement of learning opportunities for Saskatchewan children and youth. The Board considered four programs as potential nominees:

1. Understanding Catholic Education booklets
2. Intensive French
3. Gabriel Dumont Institute – agreement between GDI, CUPE 2268 and division to deliver training.
4. Distance Education/Cyber School – pivotal role in delivering new model of distance education in Saskatchewan.

The Board chose to nominate Distance Education/Cyber School. Supt. Brendan Bitz will lead preparation of the nomination.

Saskatchewan School Boards Association Award of Distinction

This award is presented annually to a current or former school board member who has demonstrated outstanding service and made a significant contribution to enhance education.

Trustees voted to nominate Trustee Alice Risling for this award.

Continuous Improvement Framework – 2009-2010 Plan

Supt. Greg Chatlain and Assistant Supt. Cindy Coffin presented the division's plan for the upcoming school year to trustees.

The Continuous Improvement Framework is a planning process that was implemented about four years ago by the provincial government. Its intent was to strengthen accountability and transparency, and align goals between schools, the division and the ministry.

Each school division must set goals in several key areas specified by the province (shown below in black). Each division may also add its own local priorities (GSCS priorities are shown below in green).

Local Priority

Catholic Education

Higher Literacy and Achievement

Language Arts

Mathematics

Equitable Opportunities for all students

First Nations and Métis Education

Smooth transitions into and through the system

Early Learning and Childcare

Career Life Planning

Strong system-wide accountability and governance

Trustees were told that schools are currently finalizing their Learning Improvement Plans, which identify priorities at each school.