



**THE BOARD OF EDUCATION OF THE
SOUTH EAST CORNERSTONE
SCHOOL DIVISION NO. 209**

**Board of Education
Chairperson**

Report to the Electors

January 21, 2010

Board of Education

Carol Flynn (Chairperson)

Pam Currie (Vice-Chair)

Janet Foord

Daryl Harrison

Kevin Keating

Harold Laich

Audrey Trombley

Bruce Wagner

Len Williams

Bryan Wilson



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STRATEGIC PLAN OF THE BOARD

1. Preamble to the Strategic Plan

The South East Cornerstone Board of Education has established a three year strategic plan as a major component of its leadership vision. It is intended that this plan will provide a flexible blueprint to direct the activities of the Board. The school division is in the last year of its original plan. New priorities will be identified and will be included in next year's report to the electors.

2. Vision Statement

Our vision is success and achievement for every student in every school.

3. Mission Statement

Our mission is to provide passionate committed leadership to ensure success for all.

4. Guiding Principles

Success in the South East Cornerstone School Division No. 209 is achieved by acting upon our commitment to the following principles:

Development of the Whole Person

We value education that includes physical, emotional, social, academic and spiritual development.

Celebration of Success

We value a culture of celebration and the acknowledgement of success.

Working Together for Success

We value productive teamwork.

Participation

We value participation and support of all individuals and groups in our community.

Responsibility

We value accountability for all individuals and groups in our division.

Effective Leadership

We value creative and facilitative leadership.

Growth and Innovation

We value continuous improvement of teaching and learning and the use of innovative practice.

All Students will Learn

We value personal growth and development for all students.

Success for All

We value a positive environment that enables each person to achieve his/her potential.

Commitment to Be Your Best

We value passionate commitment and good character.

5. Board Goals to Achieve the Vision/Mission

1. The school division has established structures for effective governance.
2. The owners of the school division understand and support the goals of the education system.

6. System Goals to Achieve the Vision/Mission

1. Our students have access to equitable opportunities for learning.
2. Our division and its schools effectively use information to measure, monitor and report continuous improvement.
3. Our staff is productive and successful.



Governance Report

January 21, 2010

Governance Activity, December, 2008 to December 2009

REPORT TO SCHOOL COMMUNITY COUNCILS

School Community Council Engagement

Board members are in the process of meeting with all their School Community Councils. This is an important linkage in achieving board goals.

Delegations and Special Presentations

(Special presentations and delegations may attend the regular monthly meeting of the Board of Education)

- Lynn Little – One of Canada's Outstanding Principals
- Dr. Keith Walker – Governance Health Check & CEO Performance Review
- Ogema School Community Council
- Queen Elizabeth School Community Council (at the school)
- Gary Ferner – School bus stop arms
- Larry Ursu – Transportation Update
- Town of Lampman – Property
- Nathan Bromm – South East Cornerstone Teachers' Association President
- Donna Steeves – Student Services Report
- Warren Betker – Assessment for Learning Report
- Lynn Little – Superintendent of Learning Supports Report
- Bruce Adams – Superintendent of Education School Improvement Report
- Velda Weatherald – Superintendent of Education School Improvement Report
- Kelly Hilkewich – Superintendent of Education School Improvement Report

Monitoring and Reporting Items

(Monitoring reports are required by the Board's Governance Policies and Strategic Plan)

Several monitoring reports have been received throughout the course of this school year. The Board monitors the ends statements (goals) of the strategic plan as well as the limitations on operations (board policy).

January, 2010

- Board Policy 3.2 – Relationships – Limitations on Operations - The Director of Education shall not treat or tolerate the treatment of students, parents, staff and community members to be in contravention of the Board's Guiding Principles Policy.
- Board Policy 3.6 – Communications with the Board

March, 2010

- Board Policy 3.4 – Finances
- Board Policy 3.5 – Assets
- Board Goal #2
- Continuous Improvement Framework Report

June, 2010

- System Goal #3 – Our Staff are productive and successful.

August, 2010

- Board Governance Health Check and CEO Review Report

September, 2010

- System Goal #2 – Our division and its schools effectively use information to measure, monitor and report continuous improvement.
- Board Policy 3.3 – The Director shall not fail to offer programs which support and enhance the education of students.

October, 2010

- System Goal #1 – Our students have access to equitable opportunities for learning.
- Board Policy 3.3. – The Director shall not fail to offer programs which support and enhance the education of students.

Quarterly Financial Reports for the periods ending:

- February 28, 2009
- May 31, 2009
- August 31, 2009
- November 30, 2009

Principle and Policy Items

(Policy formation or revision items and development of principles and guidelines for direction of the CEO)

Delegations

In September the Board approved the following guidelines for delegations:

1. Delegations wishing to appear before the Board are required to give notice, in writing, to the Chairperson at least ten full days before the meeting at which they are to be heard. The Chair has the authority to waive the time requirement.
2. Delegations are required to state the nature of the subject that they intend to bring before the Board. In the notice the names of the presenters must be identified.
3. The Board reserves the right to invite delegations to appear before the Board.

Amendment to Governance Policy

In November Policy Type: Limitations on Operations, Policy Title: 3.4 Finances was amended by the Board to remove the words, "Expend more funds than will be received in the fiscal year." and replaced with "Expend more funds than the annual budget approved by the Board."

Strategic Direction Items

(Board action items flowing from the Board's strategic plan)

- Continuous Improvement Framework
The ultimate goal of the Continuous Improvement Framework is to strengthen teaching and learning for improved student outcomes. This now is being used as a means for reporting in the Annual Meeting of Electors.
- Auditor Appointment
In March the Board accepted the recommendation of the Audit Committee to appoint Virtus Group as auditors for the school division for a five year period commencing with fiscal year ending August 31, 2009.
- Audit Committee
The South East Cornerstone School Division Audit Committee was established to assist the Board of Education in fulfilling its governance and oversight responsibilities by enhancing and strengthening the Board's role in the external audit function. The audit committee will lead the external audit and act as a conduit between the Auditor and the Board. The committee is comprised of three board members, Pam Currie, Janet Foord and Audrey Trombley as well as Gisele Bourgeois (Accountant) and William Holliday (Solicitor).
- School Review Decisions
In April the Board made a decision to discontinue grades 10-12 at Lyndale School in Oungre effective July 1, 2009. In October the Board made a decision not to put any schools under review this calendar year.
- Common Collective Agreement for Teachers
In May, the school division achieved its first common collective agreement between the teachers and the Board of Education of South East Cornerstone School Division. Local teacher agreements deal with working conditions such as professional development, pay periods, bursaries, provisions for leave, and recognition for teachers providing noon hour supervision and extracurricular opportunities to students.
- Comprehensive School Agreements Signed
On May 14, 2009 the boards of education of the Holy Family and South East Cornerstone School Divisions signed partnership agreements for the governance and management of the Comprehensive Schools in Estevan and Weyburn. These agreements were necessitated by the provincially mandated school board amalgamation in 2006.

- Division Team Meeting
As a means of allowing the field to influence the system, a Division Team has been developed. This team will meet throughout the year to discuss challenges and to develop recommendations for improvement. The focus for this year has been identified as communications.
- Employee Recognition Nights
The Board of Education hosted Employee Recognition Nights for the third year. The year's events took place during the month of June in Estevan, Redvers and Weyburn.

The Board provided service awards for employees reaching 5 year increments in continuous employment and honoured this year's retirees and superannuates. Leo Carteri of the South East Cornerstone Teachers' Association was in attendance to recognize superannuating teachers.

The school is one of the largest employers in the region employing approximately 1,400 permanent, part-time, temporary and substitute/casual employees.

- Oxbow and Weyburn Facilities

Oxbow K-12 School (5,881 sq.m.)

The Oxbow School replaces the existing elementary and high school. The new facility serves the K-12 population and also replaces the Glen McGuire Facility which provided a school program for special needs students.

The construction commenced in mid April 2009 and is scheduled to be completed August 10, 2010, at a projected cost of \$18.4 million. The community has committed to funding additional space in the gymnasium (45 sq.m.) and a Multi-Purpose Room (250 sq.m).

The School's amenities consist of a central Commons Area surrounded by the Resource Centre, Gymnasium, Administration offices and two computer labs. Elementary and High School functions are separated by the Commons and permit classroom wing expansions. The project design is targeted LEED Silver (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design), which is a new directive from the Ministry of Learning.

Weyburn Comprehensive School - Renewal Project

The Weyburn Comprehensive School is in the planning phase to renew the existing facility and reconfigure area to accommodate educational programming for Grades 7 – 12. In addition, space is being designed for the South East Cornerstone School Division partnerships, which include the City of Weyburn, Sunrise Infant Toddler Care Centre Inc., Weyburn Performing Arts Society and Southeast Regional College. This facility will also include the administrative office of the South East Cornerstone School Division.

Phase I is planned to begin July 2010 with a project completion date estimated for December 2012. The scope of the project is extremely complex, as it consists of removing hazardous materials, renovating existing space, decommissioning space and new construction, all while the facility is occupied.

The SECSO is working diligently with the Ministry of Education, FDH Architects and all stakeholders to formulate a design that will serve the community well into the future.

- School Board Elections, October 2009
Election results were as follows:

Re-elected:

- Subdivision 1 – Carol Flynn
- Subdivision 3 – Daryl Harrison
- Subdivision 5 – Audrey Trombley
- Subdivision 6 – Bruce Wagner
- City of Estevan – Pam Currie
- City of Estevan – Janet Foord
- City of Weyburn – Len Williams
- City of Weyburn – Bryan Wilson

Newly Elected:

- Subdivision 2 – Harold Laich
- Subdivision 4 – Kevin Keating

Mr. Laich replaces Shelley Slykhuis and Mr. Keating replaces Garry Hammett, both of whom served on the Board since the creation of the new school division. We would like to thank Ms Slykhuis and Mr. Hammett for their years of service and dedication to public education. In addition, we would like to welcome Mr. Laich and Mr. Keating to their new roles as members of the Board of Education.

- Organizational Meeting of the Board
The South East Cornerstone Board of Education held its fifth annual organizational meeting on Thursday, November 19, 2009. Carol Flynn, from Maryfield, who represents subdivision 1 (Rocanville, Wapella, Moosomin) was acclaimed as Chairperson of the Board. Pam Currie who represents the City of Estevan was acclaimed as the Vice-Chairperson of the Board. Both Ms. Flynn and Ms. Currie have served on the Board since the creation of the new school division.
- Continuous Agenda of the Board
The Board adopted a continuous agenda for the 2009-2010 school year. The Board met with the President of the South East Cornerstone Teachers' Association and with the SECTA Executive. Board members plan to meet School Community Councils and the entire Board hopes to meet with Members of the Legislative Assembly. The Board will also be hosting employee recognition events to recognize service awards and retirement or superannuation of employees.

The Board's monthly agendas are posted on the division website at least two days prior to the monthly meeting which occurs on the third Thursday of each month. Minutes are posted as well. Board business meetings are open to the public and media at 1:00 p.m. The Board's continuous agenda, which outlines the year's activity of the Board can be viewed on the school division website.

- Data Day
The division hosted Data Day on December 10, 2009 for over one hundred people which included staff from the division office, in school administrators, teachers and the board. Based on the data shared, three new priorities will be selected. These priorities will guide the strategic plan.
- Governance Policies Review
In December 2009, January and February 2010, the board is reviewing its governance policies for the purpose of developing a new strategic governance plan.
- Electors' Meetings
The annual meeting of electors was held at the Division Office in Weyburn at 7:00 p.m. on December 18, 2008 at which the Public Accounts including Financial Statements for the period September 1, 2007 to August 31, 2008 were presented.
- South East Cornerstone Teachers' Association and Board Partnership
The Board passed a resolution to partner with SECTA to share the costs of 40% release time to Nathan Bromm, President, in the 2009-2010 school year. The release time will allow the president to work on communication, professional and work life matters of teachers and be the liaison with the Director of Education on matters related to the operation and administrative procedures of the school division.

This will be the fourth year that the Board has partnered with the South East Cornerstone Teachers' Association to provide support through release time to the President.

Operational Plan and Financial Budget

(This document is important in communicating school division activity, annual planning and budget priorities and the financial position of the school division.)

On budget day, March 17, 2009, the Ministry of Education indicated that mill rates would be set provincially and would no longer be part of the role of boards. The new legislation puts boards in the position of total reliance on levels of funding set by the Ministry and the government.

In August, the Board approved a Budget proposal with sources of financing totaling \$112,642,788, expenditures and debt payments totaling \$114,007,276 and a deficit of \$1,364,488.

The complete documents may be viewed on the school division website. The budget document provides a descriptor of school division activity and operations.

For further information contact: Marc Casavant, Director of Education at (306) 848-0080 or Chairperson Carol Flynn at 646-2002. All of the above referred to documents may be viewed on the school division website at www.cornerstonesd.ca