

Public School Division Chair Sees Progress at SSBA

November 26, 2019 Regular (Public) Meeting of the
South East Cornerstone Public School Division (SECPSD) Board of Education



Submitted by Norm Park, Contracted Reporter for SECPSD

The chairwoman of the South East Cornerstone Public School Division recently attended the annual meeting of the Saskatchewan School Boards Association (SSBA) and returned to the home front with renewed optimism on several fronts. Audrey Trombley, a veteran school board member, who has recently been elected to a sixth consecutive term as chairwoman for the Cornerstone board, said she found this year's discussions at the SSBA to be forward thinking in tone and action.

"These were good discussions, dealing with funding. There had been a lot of inequalities before when school divisions were on their own, dealing with local property taxes. Now we're looking into such things as executive structures, voting procedures and fees. We talked about how we want to go about addressing these issues and the options included hiring an outside agency or to do it ourselves through an advisory committee, a working advisory group (WAG)." The members present voted in favour of keeping the project in house, by going with the WAG option.

Trombley said enrolment decisions, and caps placed on the province's four largest school divisions were matters of discussion on the floor as were liability insurance and legal issues. "We saw where smaller school systems are inclined to use the central legal services more often than our larger city systems," she said. Trombley went on to say that advocacy for more funding will continue since this is an identifiable subject that needs addressing on a regular basis. "We need sustainable, reliable funding in the future."

The Cornerstone chairwoman said there were further discussions dealing with the current Ministry of Education's focus on class size and class composition. This is a topic that had been dealt with at Cornerstone over the past year as information had been gathered regarding class sizes in all schools and within various subject areas.

"Our education vision is still based on community meetings and we're building a base for the new vision statement that will take us beyond 2020.

On the topic of funding at both provincial and regional levels, Trombley said all indicators point toward a status quo situation.

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