

Brief Notes And Commentaries From The South East Cornerstone Public School Division Open Business Session On September 16

September 16, 2020 Regular (Public) Meeting of the South East Cornerstone Public School Division (SECPSD) Board of Education



Submitted by Norm Park, Contracted Reporter for SECPSD

Trustee Elwood White, representing the Pangman, Ogema, Yellow Grass, Gladmar areas on the division's western flank, said during an open round table discussion that appreciation needed to be extended to the administration and staff members for the difficult and extensive work they have undertaken because of the COVID-19 demands, that has enabled the students to "get back into classrooms."

That appreciative tone was echoed by Harold Laich, the Subdivision 2 (Wawota region) who noted that "extra pressure has been put on all staff members, especially the newcomers. Our senior leadership team has done an exceptional job ever since word came out in March. I have never been one to be effusive in praise, since I believe professionals are paid to do their jobs, so they just have to get on to doing it, but in this case, they've gone above and beyond and need to be recognized."

Board chairwoman Audrey Trombley, said she felt it was a good decision to delay the start date for school re-openings by one week, giving the start-up teams more time to deal with the last minute guidelines coming at them in late August.

"They handled the extra challenges very well," she said.

Weyburn board member, Brandon Tichkowsky added that students he knew shifted from not being very confident to being well assured that things were going to go well, thanks to staff members "who have made it easier for them."

There has been no loss of teachers on the roll call due to COVID-19 pressures or anxiety levels, said Lynn Little, director of education and Keith Keating, deputy director, while providing board members with their monthly personnel report.

Keating noted that some teachers shifted over to the online schooling sector and they may have lost one or two bus drivers for that reason, but he figured they more likely dropped out due to a desire to retire, rather than through anxiety.

The Lord's Prayer has again been approved for use as an opening element for three schools in the SECPSD. Gladmar Regional School, MacLeod Elementary School in Moosomin and Carievale School have all been granted permission to recite and/or hear the prayer during the opening of certain school activities or assemblies.

The protocols dealing with the raising and lowering of the Canadian and other flags on school properties gained some traction in the division's board room. Overall, it was acknowledged that the procedures regarding height of flags, position on the flagstaffs etc., were being adhered to according to general protocols.

The SECPSD board of directors will be meeting on October 7 for a strategic planning session and then meet again on October 14 for an in-camera session in the morning followed by a general open business session in the afternoon.

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