



**SUN WEST
SCHOOL DIVISION**

Success for all



Sun West Youth Consultation Group

Eighteen students who meet with the Board of Education. Each represents one school in the Sun West School Division with a grade 10-12 component.

SUN WEST SCHOOL DIVISION 2007 ANNUAL REPORT

The Second Annual Meeting of the Ratepayers of the
Sun West School Division
7:30 pm, Monday April 28, 2008
Rosetown Central High School Theatre

Youth Consultation Group

In April and May 2007, the Board of Education met with a group of students representing all Sun West schools with a grade 10-12 component. Prior to meeting with the Board, the group surveyed several hundred students to gauge their views on a range of educational issues, which were then developed into recommendations. The Board accepted a number of these suggestions including placing suggestion boxes in Sun West schools and developing a teaching effectiveness survey to provide teachers with feedback from students. The group will meet with the Board again in 2008.

Athletic Commissioner Appointed

In 2006-07, the position of Sun West Athletic Commissioner was created as part of the Board of Education's commitment to support athletic activities. The Athletic Commissioner is a one-year term position at 0.2 full-time equivalent and started in the 2007-08 school year. The position's responsibilities include providing leadership in athletics, scheduling and registrations for playoffs, as well as coaches' meetings, mentoring new coaches and updating resources. Sun West provides funds for extracurricular activities through each school's decentralized budget according to a formula that includes both a base allotment per school, a per student grant, and a designated numbers of days for substitute teachers.

2006-07 Graduation Rates

Ministry of Education statistics indicate that 87% of Sun West grade 12 students finished the 2006-07 school year with sufficient credits to graduate. The Ministry of Education requires students to accumulate 24 credits between grades 10 and 12 in order to receive their grade 12 standing.

**Career Development and Work Exploration**

Each school in Sun West is served by a Career Work Exploration/Career Counselor teacher. Each of the four larger schools has a teacher assigned to it, while five staff members work as itinerant teachers in the fourteen smaller schools. Each teacher's major focus is on Career Counselling/ Career Work Exploration, which is a departure from past years where one teacher in every school had this responsibility. This new approach represents an increased emphasis on career development and transition to post-secondary education for Sun West students.

Distance Education

Sun West obtained sixteen SMART Boards in 2007. While SMART Boards have a number of classroom applications it is their ability to provide distance education that led to Sun West's decision to obtain at least one SMART Board for all sixteen of its schools with a high school component. Using SMART Boards, two or more classrooms can be linked through the Internet. Teachers and students in different schools can hear each other and the information written on a SMART Board is transmitted to a connected SMART Board in another school. Using this tool, it is feasible for small numbers of students in one school to join a larger class in another school, or for a number of smaller classes to be taught together, thus increasing program options available to rural students.

Division Office Renovations

Renovations to the Sun West Division Office in Rosetown started in March 2007 and were completed in February 2008. The renovations were completed on budget and will streamline and improve the delivery of the School Division's services.

The Sun West Reading Initiative

Reading is an essential life skill that assists student learning in all subjects. Sun West's goal is that all students will read at their grade level, or above, or at the level determined by their personal program plan or student support plan, by June 2009. Space does not permit a description of each school's many reading activities but the following includes one highlight from every school:

Beechy Colony School

Students participate in Literature Circles, where students read books and each student has specific assignments such as a vocabulary search.

Beechy School

Reading minutes are tracked on a huge "Minutes to Millions" thermometer. The goal is to reach one million minutes of reading by June 30, 2009.

Big Rose Colony School

During the ten weeks before Christmas Big Rose received Saturday newspapers and students used these for newspaper reading activities.

Biggar Central School 2000

The school hosts annual Author's Showcases where well-known writers, such as Eric Wilson, visit the school and encourage reading and writing.

Clear Spring Colony School

"Book Buddies" is a twice-weekly program that features students reading to in pairs with partners rotating each week.

Cleland School, Rosetown Colony

Students are rewarded with a party for every 100 books they read. These parties include fresh-baked cookies, milk and celebrity guest readers.

D'Arcy School

During Education Week local authors, Mathew Epp and Katrina Ham were guest readers at the school.



Davidson Elementary School

Travelling literacy bags go home with students who read the items in the bags with their parents and create joint entries in traveling book journals.

Davidson High School

Staff have focused on developing student reading skills in the five areas identified in the Sun West Reading Strategies Handbook.

Dinsmore Colony School

Every other day students participate in Buddy Reading where younger students are partnered with older students.

Dinsmore Composite School

For every 100 books that grades 3-4 students read, 100 books are donated to disadvantaged schools, as part of a "Classrooms Care" project.

Eaton School

Plans are being made for a read-a-thon as well as awarding miles for each book read and tracking the miles on a huge map.

Eatonia Colony School

Three times a week older students read to younger students and on alternate days younger students read to their older peers.

Elizabeth School

Through the "Books for Babies" program, young mothers are presented with a book and a note that encourages families to read together.

Elrose Composite School

To recognize National Literacy Day, students participate in "Buddy Read," where partners read to each other, followed by a celebratory pizza lunch.

Eston Composite School

Two-three reading nights a year feature "Reader's Theatre," book draws, read-a-longs, book swapping and more to highlight that reading is for everyone.

Glidden Colony School

Students are learning to read with more understanding through Code for Comprehension, Textbook Tour and other reading strategy tools.

Goldenview Colony School

Donna Hoogeveen with the Family Reading Connection joins the students for reading every six weeks.

Harris-Tessier Central School

Each time a student reads a book he/she writes about it on the scale of a huge dragon. As more books are read the dragon grows and is starting to take over the school!

Kenaston School

Students are focused on learning reading strategies and will master five by the end of the school year.

Kindersley Composite School

Each time a student signs a book out of the library he/she is entered in a draw for a mini-book light.

Kyle Colony School

Students participate in Book chats, Buddy Reading and Drop Everything and Read (DEAR).

Kyle Composite School

Partnering with Lucky Lake, a paperback book exchange was held to celebrate Family Literacy Day.

Landis School

"Race to Read" awards students points for their reading and the points can be used towards prizes.

Loreburn Central School

Parent and student interest has been generated by author visits, read-a-thons, and a book fair.

Lucky Lake School

Partnering with Kyle, a paperback book exchange was held to celebrate Family Literacy Day.

Milden Central School

Teachers are using the book *Strategies to Improve Vocabulary* to improve student reading.

Milden Colony School

Students from all grades gather daily at 11:30 am to read and discuss books.

North West Central School

Students are provided with incentives to read and they track their reading in personal reading logs.

Outlook Elementary School

Classes are partnered with seniors at a local Seniors' home. Each month different classes visit the home and read to their new buddies.

Outlook High School

Teacher Professional Learning Teams meet twice a month to share experiences concerning the implementation of reading strategies.



Prairieland School, Sovereign Colony

Local actor, Grant Martens, provided an exciting and dramatic reading of several books.

Rosetown Central High School

The local SCC provides gift certificates to major book stores. Students are entered into a draw for the certificates based on how much they read.

Rossville School

Connections with the community are built by having parent readers visit the school.

Smiley Colony School

Students participate in story re-telling activities where they read and then explain the story to other students.

Springfield Colony School

The Sun West Reading Strategies Handbook and Running Records reading assessment are being used.

Springwater Colony School

Students were part of the Sun West Guided Reading Pilot and received special guided reading materials.

Valley Centre Colony School

Students participate in a designated reading time called Drop Everything and Read (DEAR).

Walter Aseltine School

Donna Hoogeveen with the Family Reading Connection joins K-2 students three times a year for a story time lunch with parents.

Westberry School

Thousands of books have been re-used through three book-trade evenings that include "Reading Corner" and prize give-a-ways.

Westcliffe Composite School

The staff is determining the grade level of all resource books in the library and will be putting classroom sets of high-interest books in their home rooms.

From 2006-07 audited financial statement for September 1, 2006 to August 31, 2007 fiscal year

Revenue	Budget	Actual
Property Taxation	41,186,513	31,814,042
Grants	4,525,549	15,960,244
Tuition & Related Fees	0	19,047
External Services	83,500	66,852
Other	51,930	271,769
Total	45,847,492	48,131,954

Expenses		
Governance	415,936	359,992
Administration	1,563,598	1,745,397
Instruction	32,563,935	33,689,070
Plant	5,196,876	5,141,119
Transportation	5,421,543	5,261,332
Tuition & Related Fees	61,000	53,239
External Services	70,000	57,481
Interest & Bank Charges	394,845	261,127
Total	45,687,733	46,568,758

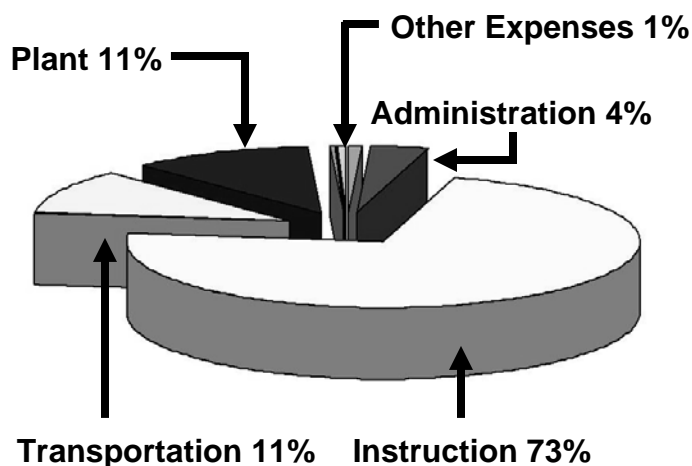
Excess or Deficiency (Prior to Capital Adjustments)	159,759	1,563,196
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Long Term Capital Debt Issued	0	0
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Long term Capital Debt Repaid	-561,117	-725,807
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Surplus (Deficit)	401,358	837,389
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Explanation of Expenses



Instruction: Salaries and benefits for teachers, educational assistants and principals; textbooks, educational technology, extracurricular funding and libraries.

Transportation: Salaries and benefits for drivers and mechanics, vehicle maintenance, fuel and new vehicle purchases.

Plant: Salaries and benefits for caretakers, heating, maintenance, repairs and improvements to division property.

Administration: Salaries and benefits of Division Office staff, heating, maintenance, repairs and improvements to Division Office.

Governance: (less than 1%) Board of Education meetings, elections, fees, collective bargaining costs, School Community Council expenses.



Message from the Chair of the Board of Education

On behalf of the Board of Education, I want to thank all the individuals and groups who contribute so much to the education of the young people in the Sun West School Division. This includes our hard working staff as well as parent and community volunteers and especially members of the School Community Councils.

Ross Derdall



Message from the Director of Education

The School Division has focused on team development in the areas of school improvement and student success. School teams focus on setting goals to achieve increased reading competency.

Schools and School Community Councils develop plans to achieve the goal of improving student success in reading. The division staff provides TEAM (Together Everyone Achieves More) support in all areas.

Janet Casswell-Beckmann

Members of the Board of Education



Front (l-r) Ruth Griffith (Kindersley), Margaret Irwin (Sub-division 1), Karen Itterman (Sub-division 3), Gayle MacDonald (Kindersley)
Back (l-r) Ross Derdall (Sub-division 7–Outlook)), Scott Sander (Sub-division 5), Barb Cowell (Sub-division 8 - Rosetown), Norm McIntyre (Sub-division 4), Lorne Ulven (Sub-division 6), Bill Mescall (Sub-division 2)



The Board of Education wishes to acknowledge and thank Peggy Holton for her contribution to Education. Peggy resigned from the Board in 2007 after serving on the Sun West Board of Education and the former Kindersley School Division Board for seven years.

