



# The School Trustee

## Looking Back on the 2009 Fall Annual General Assembly

Saskatchewan's boards of education gathered in Saskatoon from November 30 to December 1 to discuss issues of importance to publicly-funded education.

Under the banner of this year's Convention theme, "Building Our Learning Community", members of the province's 29 public and separate boards and the Conseil scolaire fransaskois participated in the Annual General Meeting of the Association, voted on resolutions, listened to presenters and took part in the SSBA's Showcase displays.

Representatives of several boards of education shared their success in enhancing student achievement. Leslie Anderson, the keynote speaker, talked about the many choices we have as parents, board members and community leaders in her presentation entitled, "Keys To Success".

Sandi Urban-Hall (Prairie Valley SD) was elected as President of the Association and Janet Foord (South East Cornerstone SD) was acclaimed as SSBA Vice-President.



### INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Let's Fight for Our Children	2	2009 Resolutions	10
Executive Director Shares		Special Thanks to Our 2009 Fall Annual	
Highlights of 2008-09	3	General Assembly Sponsors	12
Sandi Urban-Hall Speaks to Delegates	4	Mediation Table Update	13
SSBA 2009-10 Executive Members	5	'Saskatchewan's Got Talent'	13
Minister of Education Addresses		AEDP Northern Signings	14
Fall Assembly	6	Pilot Project Initiated to Get	
2009 Awards	7	Children <i>in motion</i>	15
Fall Assembly Candidats	8-9	Calendar Update	16

## Let's Fight for Our Children

President Roy Challis began his address by reminding delegates that in spite of a change in education funding, school board trustees are still *elected* and *accountable* for every dollar spent within school divisions.

“And the tie that binds us to the Minister of Education is precisely this elected accountability. The Minister is responsible and accountable to the electorate of this province for publicly-funded education. Elected school board members are directly accountable to the electorate for the education provided in their divisions.”

Challis went on to share statistics which he said prove that “not only are school boards holding their own when it comes to rates of election and gender representation, we are in fact exceeding the municipal standard [see Local Government overview].”

And while Challis sees the Minister as an important ally in securing adequate funding for school divisions, he stated that “The problem is, I can’t say with any degree of confidence that [the Education Minister’s] Cabinet and Caucus colleagues feel the same way. Minister Krawetz does not make decisions about education funding in isolation. The reality is that there is a bevy of competing interests when it comes to spending government dollars – and that pool of resources as you know has been dramatically impacted this past year.”

In the face of this financial downturn the Government must

find the political will to provide the resources necessary to ensure adequate funding, Challis said. “And that may mean going to the property tax base, just as boards have had to do in the past. The Government has taken on the authority to set education tax mill rates – now it is their responsibility to do just that... Saskatchewan’s quality of education cannot rise and fall with the latest round of commodity prices.”

Challis then informed delegates that the Minister of Education himself has said that it is his job to lobby his colleague, the Minister of Finance, to ensure there are adequate dollars for boards of education.

“So, what ammo can we give to our Minister to support him in helping his Cabinet and Caucus colleagues understand that education funding *must* be adequate, predictable and sustainable?... We need to convince every single Cabinet Minister and every single MLA that the children of this province need and deserve the quality education that only sufficient funding can provide. In the end it all comes down to the collective actions of school boards at the local level and the SSBA at the provincial level. ***This must be a joint effort.***”

“So let’s fight –and support our allies as they fight – for the funding needed to educate the children and youth of this province. Let’s fight for the province’s future. Because that’s exactly what these young people are – our future.”

### *Local Government Overview*

Total Number of Municipalities =  
**795**

Total Number  
of School Divisions =  
**29**

Total Municipal  
Elected Officials =  
**3,671**

(Female = **578** or **15%**  
Male = **3,093** or **85%**)

Total School Board Members =  
**259**

(Female = **104** or **41%**  
Male = **152** or **59%**)

Total Mayor/Reeves =  
Female = **78** or **10%**  
Male = **717** or **90%**

Cities – F = **15%**; M = **85%**

Urban – F = **14%**; M = **86%**

Rural – F = **1.4%**; M = **98.6%**

Northern – F = **25%**; M = **75%**

Total School Board Chairs =  
Female = **11** or **38%**  
Male = **18** or **62%**

Acclamations vs. Elections =

Cities – A = **11%**; E = **89%**

Urban Municipalities –  
A = **54%**; E = **46%**

Urban School Boards –  
A = **32%**; E = **68%**

Northern Municipalities –  
A = **16%**; E = **84%**

Northern School Boards –  
A = **5%**; E = **95%**

Rural Municipalities –  
A = **86%**; E = **14%**

Rural School Boards –  
A = **70%**; E = **30%**

## Executive Director Shares Highlights of 2008-09

In his Fall Assembly remarks Executive Director Ernie Cychmistruk referred delegates to the SSBA Annual Report for details on progress made regarding the Association's three top priority goals, identified by the membership as SSBA Services, Membership Engagement and Advocacy.

Ernie also pointed to a few of the highlights over the past year:

- “The year began with the President’s Academy at which Mel Gill asked the question, ‘Is Your Board Getting the Results You Want? Governing for Results.’”
- “This was followed by the creation of the Association’s three Working Advisory Groups. These groups of trustees and administrators were established to engage the membership in the advocacy efforts of the Association. The Groups focused on Education Funding, Facilities Funding and Student Learning.
- “The recommendations of these Groups contributed to the Position Statements being debated and voted on at this



*Ernie Cychmistruk  
SSBA Executive Director*

- Assembly.
- “In March, the Government of Saskatchewan announced an additional \$259 million for the “Children’s Infrastructure” - an advocacy approach adopted by your Association around facilities funding. Ministry officials acknowledged that this approach, which was quickly picked up by the media, impacted the decision to provide the \$259 million in capital funding to school divisions - more funding in one year than in the last 7 years combined.
- “A few weeks later, the Provincial Budget was released. With this budget, the prov-

ince assumed the authority for setting property tax rates for residential, commercial and agricultural properties in Saskatchewan. The task of developing a new model for funding education in Saskatchewan became a reality.

- “At the Spring Assembly trustees had the opportunity to share their views regarding how this new world should unfold and to voice their opinions and put their questions directly to the Minister of Education.
- “At the Spring Members’ Council we heard about the ‘lessons learned’ by school boards in Alberta who underwent a similar funding change in the mid 1990’s. President Heather Welwood and Executive Director David Anderson’s message was clear: ‘Boards must return to their roots, to serve as the voice of the public in publicly funded education.’”
- “This past year, in response

---

*Continued on Page 11...*



*Mel Gill (standing) presented at the President’s Academy in February 2009.*



*Roy Challis and Education Minister Ken Krawetz in March 2009.*



*Alberta School Boards Association Executive Director David Anderson and President Heather Welwood.*

## Sandi Urban-Hall Speaks to Delegates

Sandi Urban-Hall was elected President of the Saskatchewan School Boards Association at the Fall General Assembly. Following are excerpts from her speech to Convention delegates:



*Sandi Urban-Hall  
SSBA President*

- “With the March 2009 announcement of funding and taxation changes, trustees have tried to remain positive yet are very concerned about how they will continue to provide opportunities to students and meet the unique needs of their communities. We flagged our concerns about the sustainability of the government’s funding decisions. We asked what happens when the price of potash falls. We weren’t given an answer. Potash prices have fallen. We still don’t have an answer.
- “We were promised that elected Boards will continue to make education decisions. We need to make sure that promise is kept. We are seeing a slow creep of government staff affecting or questioning the day-to-day operations of our divisions

with their inquiries and dare I say demands of our staff. Not only are we seeing this from our Ministry but from the Ministry of Finance as well. Yes we offered to help define the funding policies; yes we offered our staff as a resource to assist; but this does not give the Ministry cart-blanc permission to call upon our staff; nor is it appropriate for Ministries to be asking staff what cuts would have to be made if there was less grant allocation. That is a question to ask the decision makers – the Board of Education.

- “Trustees have been told that we are ‘Education Partners’ with the Ministry. By

legislation there are two partners in the governance of education in this province. That is the Government of Saskatchewan and elected Boards of Education. Not LEADS, not SASBO, not the STF, not CUPE. Don’t misunderstand me – the input and learnings of the education sector groups is invaluable. We require it. But when the rubber hits the road, there are two groups accountable to the people of Saskatchewan – the Ministry and Boards of Education. We need to be treated like the governing partner we are.

- “I think we can become overwhelmed ... we have been dealing with change (amalgamations, CIF, finance, capital issues) and haven’t steered the discussion to learning first. All of these other issues support learning. And if we can demonstrate how they are supporting learning or hindering learning, we can have an impact on those issues as well.”



### ATTENTION TRUSTEES

*A “can’t miss” opportunity presented by the SSBA:*

#### “SCHOOL FOR TRUSTEES”

*New and experienced trustees are invited to this unique networking opportunity that will allow you to learn and socialize with your peers, and discuss current issues and trends in Saskatchewan’s publicly-funded education system.*

*January 28-30, 2010 at the Sheraton Cavalier Hotel, Saskatoon*

*Visit [www.saskschoolboards.ca](http://www.saskschoolboards.ca) for details*



## SSBA 2009-10 Executive Members



**Sandi Urban-Hall**  
President



**Janet Foord**  
Vice-President



**Glen Gantefer**  
Catholic Constituency



**Duane Favel**  
Aboriginal Constituency



**Élizabéth Perreault**  
Conseil scolaire francsaskois  
Constituency



**Larry Pavloff**  
Central Constituency



**Dan Danielson**  
Urban Public Constituency



**Connie Bailey**  
Southern Constituency



**Joe Daigneault**  
Northern Constituency

## Minister of Education Addresses Fall Assembly

In his address to SSBA Assembly delegates, Deputy Premier and Minister of Education Ken Krawetz stressed the strong relationship that exists between his Ministry, the SSBA and the boards of education it represents.

“We value the role boards of education play and the existing governance model as part of our system of education in Saskatchewan”, he said. “You can all be proud of the important work you do in promoting a high-quality education for students across the province. Your work supports the development of engaged Saskatchewan citizens who are connected to their families, their schools, their communities and their province...”

“Boards of education are locally elected government bodies. We see this fact as vitally important to ensure that boards of education best represent the needs of their school divisions. We count on you, the board, to take on the responsibility of negotiating both LINC agreements with educators and local contracts with your education support workers.”

The Minister welcomed the returning and new board members adding, “From my experience as a member and then Chair of the Canora Board of Education, I know that it takes a special kind of person to step up and take on a leadership role such as school trustee... Not only are you an advocate for education, acting as a liaison between your community and your school division, you are now part of a governing body – a collective



*Ken Krawetz, Minister of Education, spoke to and answered questions from delegates at the Fall Assembly.*

voice. You are an elected member of the board...you are now part of a collective. In the public eye, you present a unified whole.”

Delegates were encouraged by the Minister to work closely with their School Community Councils. “In this time of transition it’s important that we all work together to determine a new future for education in Saskatchewan. It’s through engaging School Community Councils that we make sure parents and communities have a seat at the table.”

The Minister also spoke of the development of a new education funding model for Saskatchewan. “While the province is responsible for creating the new funding model, a promise was made to listen to the perspectives of education partners throughout the process. We are very pleased that the Saskatchewan School Boards Association is providing leadership

through participation on the Advisory Committee.

“As you know, this committee was created to support the development, integration and implementation of the new funding system. The Advisory Committee is a mechanism for the provincial education associations, on behalf of their members, to bring forward issues and concerns as we develop and implement the new funding model. In addition, the Association is participating on the subcommittees tasked with bringing recommendations and options to the Advisory Committee for discussion and consideration.”

Minister Krawetz told delegates that, “Our efforts to develop a new education funding model represent a unique challenge. The direction we take and the choices we make will resonate in the education system for many years to come. Our challenge is to create a funding model that can appropriately respond to changing conditions beyond our control.”

The Minister also touched on recent capital projects in several school divisions, the increase in student enrolment provincially, the province’s commitment to strengthening partnerships between First Nations and non-First Nations people, progress made on the issue of childcare and the work of the Provincial Panel on Student Achievement which will be bringing recommendations to the Minister in the New Year.



## 2009 Awards

### Premier's Award

The Premier's Board of Education Award for Innovation and Excellence was presented to the Northern Lights School Division.

This year's winning program was the "Career Transitions Program". The overall goal of this program is to help identify training and employment potential and opportunities and initiate connections with schools and students.

The award was presented by the SSBA in conjunction with the sponsor, Xerox Corporation, with the support of the Office of the Premier.



*Darren Prentice, Xerox, and Minister of Education Ken Krawetz present the Premier's Award to Northern Lights SD.*

### Award of Distinction

Alice Risling was this year's winner of the SSBA's Award of Distinction. The award honours a school board member who has demonstrated outstanding service to public education in Saskatchewan.

Risling, a current trustee and Life Member of the SSBA, has provided 15 years of outstanding service on her board. She has served as Deputy Chair for three years and has worked on a number of committees over the years. In addition, Alice has been a nine-year member of the Greater Saskatoon Catholic Schools Foundation board and also serves on the Bosco Homes Board.



*Alice Risling accepts the Award of Distinction from President Roy Challis.*

### Life Memberships

Keith Koberinski, Light of Christ RCSSD, and Frank Durocher, Northern Lights SD, received Life Memberships at this year's Assembly.



*Larry Ahenakew accepts an SSBA Life Membership on behalf of Frank Durocher.*



*President Roy Challis presents an SSBA Life Membership to Keith Koberinski, Light of Christ RCSSD.*

# Photo Gallery of the 2009



*Newly-elected President Sandi Urban-Hall delivering her election speech to delegates.*



*Board members share some thoughts during Fall General Assembly breaks.*



*Leslie Anderson delivers the keynote address to Assembly delegates.*



*Prairie Valley science students showcase their award winning science project "Sc-Air Crow".*

# Fall Annual General Assembly



*E-Journalism students from Leask and Hague interviewed delegates, including new board members.*



*Board members Alice Risling and Gerald Kleisinger ham it up for the camera.*



*Chinook School Division presents their program "Balanced Literacy Dashboards for Learning".*



*Delegates and showcase participants share some conversation at Tuesday's Showcase.*

## 2009 Resolutions

A number of resolutions were passed at the 2009 Fall Assembly, including five position statements. Following is a summary of the resolutions.

### Position Statements

- **A-1** – *Position Statement on “Local Governance of Education”* – The position statement was intended to better reflect the current environment and passed with a 98 percent majority.
- **B-6** – *Position Statement on “Student Achievement”* – The SSBA didn’t previously have a position statement regarding student achievement. This position was largely developed from the work of the Student Learning Working Advisory Group (WAG) and passed with a 90 percent majority.
- **D-6** – *Position Statement on “Education Finance”* – An updated position statement was appropriate due to recent changes in education finance and the importance of sufficient funding to achieve educational outcomes. This position statement was developed from the work of the Education Finance WAG and passed with a 97 percent majority.
- **D-7** – *Position Statement on “Facilities Funding”* – The Association did not previously have a position statement regarding facilities funding. This statement was developed from the work of the Facilities Funding WAG



*The membership in attendance at the 2009 Fall Assembly voted on 20 resolutions, including five position statements.*

and passed with a 98 percent majority.

- **H-1** – *Position Statement on “Teacher Education and Certification”* – The updated position responds to changes arising from the Saskatchewan Board of Teacher Education and Certification and the Canadian Agreement on Internal Trade. This motion passed with a 99 percent majority.

### Carried Resolutions

- **2010 Budget** – *The portion of the Association’s operating budget paid by membership fees of \$2,202,182* – Resolution was carried with an 82 percent majority.
- **B-1** – *Undertake a study to define equity in public education; report how Saskatchewan school boards address equity; and, determine how other provinces are addressing equity* – Resolution was carried with a 66 percent majority.
- **B-2** – *Lobby the Saskatch-*

*ewan government to include a community service component as part of the requirements for Grade 12 graduation* – Resolution was carried with a 53 percent majority.

- **B-4** – *Lobby the Saskatchewan government to amend clause 166(1)(b) of The Education Act, 1995 to allow boards of education to set their own five-day “spring vacation”* – Resolution was carried with a 76 percent majority.
- **D-1** – *Undertake a public lobby campaign aimed at educating stakeholders, property tax payers and the general public with respect to the need for and benefits of adequate funding for K-12 education* – Resolution was carried with a 92 percent majority.
- **D-2** – *Lobby the federal government to ensure more timely payment of federal*

**Continued on Page 11...**

## 2009 Resolutions

### Continued from Page 10...

tuition dollars to school boards payable with respect to children resident on First Nations who attend an off-reserve school – This resolution was carried with a 68 percent majority.

- **D-3** – Lobby the Saskatchewan government to provide all school boards with an exemption from the payment of the provincial sales tax – Resolution was carried with a 97 percent majority.
- **D-4** – Establish an official position that recognizes the disparity in the costs of delivering equitable education opportunities between rural and urban centres – Resolution was carried with a 66 percent majority.
- **D-5** – Advocate to government agencies, such as Health, Justice, Social Services, Education, etc.,

in which decisions to cut services handicap the delivery of educational services by downloading these costs to school boards onto what is now a fixed budget – Resolution was carried with an 89 percent majority.

- **E-1** – Establish a position statement that articulates that the responsibility and authority to determine the appropriate level of staffing for school divisions is vested with the board of education, and to have Article 9 removed from the provincial collective agreement with teachers – Resolution was carried with a 94 percent majority.
- **L-1** – To delete Policies for Education B, F, I, J and K – Resolution was carried with a 98 percent majority.
- **N-1** – Lobby the Saskatchewan government to declare the first Tuesday following

Labour Day each year as “Provincial Students Day in Saskatchewan” – Resolution was carried with a 74 percent majority.

- **N-2** – Lobby Indian and Northern Affairs Canada and the Ministry of Education to develop joint protocols applicable to school boards and First Nations to jointly fund and operate a school in certain circumstances. – Resolution was carried with an 84 percent majority.

### Defeated Resolutions

- **B-3** – Lobby the Saskatchewan government to conduct exit surveys of all Grade 12 students five years after graduation – This resolution was defeated at 49 percent.
- **B-5** – Adopt a single evaluation system for 30-level courses – This resolution was defeated at 36 percent.

## Highlights from the Executive Director

### Continued from Page 3...

to the membership’s wish to engage in some form of regional dialogues, the SSBA introduced 6 Regional Meetings held in various locations throughout the province. These meetings were rated very positively by the membership.

- “A variety of SSBA workshops and networking forums were also held in 2009, including those dealing with

Facilities and Risk Management and School Community Councils.

- “2009 also saw the beginning of preparation for provincial teacher bargaining. Your representatives on the Provincial Bargaining Committee are trustees Ronna Pethick, Janet Foord, Barbara Young and Sandi Urban-Hall.
- “A Board Development Advisory committee chaired by Keith Koberinski was also established this year to bring the ‘trustee’ perspective to

planning Association events and activities. Other trustees serving on this committee are Krista Michelson, Shirley Allan, Ron Boechler and Carol Flynn.

- “Finally, the Aboriginal Employment Development Program saw a number of boards choosing to sign Partnership Agreements including Prairie Valley, Holy Trinity, Regina Catholic, Ile-a-la-Crosse, Creighton and Northern Lights school divisions.”

## Special Thanks to Our 2009 Fall Annual General Assembly Sponsors

### Gold Sponsor (\$4,000)

**MARSH**



MARSH MERCER KROLL  
GUY CARPENTER OLIVER WYMAN

Marsh Canada

**TRAVELERS** 

St. Paul Fire & Marine Insurance Company

Travelers Canada

### Bronze Sponsor (\$2,000)



Source Office Furnishings

### Level Three Sponsors (\$1,000 each)

**SaskTel** 

SaskTel

 **SUNCORP VALUATIONS**  
Our Business is Value.

Suncorp Valuations

### Level Two Sponsors (\$500 each)



Bus Sales of Saskatoon

maplewood  
computing ltd.

Maplewood Computing Ltd.



Centaur Products Ltd.



Financial Consumer Agency of Canada

**STEC**

Saskatchewan Tourism Education Council

## Mediation Table



*(L-R) Public Section Chair Bryan Wilson, Catholic Section Past President Mike St. Amand and SSBA President Roy Challis sign the Protocol Agreement which outlines the process regarding the formation of Roman Catholic Separate School Divisions, December 2009.*

## 'Saskatchewan's Got Talent'



**Lexie Tytlandsvik**

A Grade 8 student at Radville Regional High School, Lexie has already had quite a successful career.

Lexie began her career at the age of 7, opening for Brad Johner. Since then she has performed at various festivals across Saskatchewan, including main stage at Craven Country Jamboree.

She is a member of the Saskatchewan Country Music Association and the Canadian Country Music Association.

For more information about Lexie visit her website at [www.lexiet.com](http://www.lexiet.com).



**Brooke Nickel**

A Grade 10 student at Winston High School in Watrous, Brooke is highly regarded as a creative and talented artist.

She has performed at various community functions, Christmas parties and Telemiracle.

She stated that when it comes to music and life in general she likes to be "different," and is a very down to earth individual.

Brooke plays guitar live (as pictured) even though she has been playing the instrument for less than one year.

There is no doubt that her career as a musician has just begun.



**Brad Frehlich**

A first-year engineering student at the University of Saskatchewan, Brad graduated from McClurg High School in Wilkie in 2009.

Highlights from his music career include a top-six finish at the Youth Talent Search at the Saskatoon Exhibition in 2008. He also had a Christmas album produced last year.

A talented guitar player and singer, Brad also knows how to move a crowd. He sent the audience abuzz when he sat Roy Challis down and sang a rendition of "Crazy Little Thing Called Love" to him at the 2009 Fall Assembly.

## AEDP Northern Signings

The Saskatchewan School Boards Association (SSBA) was proud to announce the signing of Aboriginal Employment Development Program (AEDP) Partnership Agreements by the three northern boards of education on Oct. 15 in Prince Albert.

Representatives of the Ile-a-la Crosse, Creighton and Northern Lights school boards each signed an agreement with the Hon. Bill Hutchinson, Minister of First Nations and Métis Relations.

The SSBA has partnered with the Ministry of Education and the Ministry of First Nations and Métis Relations to initiate the Aboriginal Employment Development Program within public education; each school board that signs an agreement commits to a Representative Workforce Strategy.

The Representative Workforce Strategy emphasizes that applicants be hired based upon skills and merit, helps to dispel myths and misconceptions about Aboriginal people, and does not support quotas nor designate positions for Aboriginal applicants.

Creighton School Division board member and Peter Ballantyne Cree Nation representative Bernadette Hillier said an increase in Aboriginal representation in the education sector workforce will help to promote Aboriginal participation where it will help the most – in northern Saskatchewan.

“This partnership will serve to enhance the education and economic relations with Aboriginal people,” expressed Hillier.

Ile-a-la Crosse School Board



(L-R) Duane Favel, Chair, Ile-a-la Crosse SD, Bill Hutchinson, Minister of First Nations and Métis Relations, Bernadette Hillier, former Creighton SD board member, Frank Durocher, former Chair, Northern Lights SD, and Roy Challis.

Chair Duane Favel said further educational and employment opportunities for northern Saskatchewan’s Aboriginal children and youth is a continued focus.

“This signing, for us, recognizes our accomplishments and marks our continued commitment to improving the employment of Aboriginal people within our school division,” asserted Favel.

Frank Durocher, Chair of the Northern Lights School Division Board of Education, said their school division has been active and is proud of their recruitment and retention of Aboriginal employees but said more advances can still be made.

“This agreement further establishes the mutual agreement of all parties to ensure Aboriginal people are given the opportunity for employment in a dignified and respectful manner,” said Durocher.

SSBA President Roy Challis, who witnessed the signings, said these three additional signings have increased the number of school divisions participating in the Aboriginal Employment Development Program to 12 out of a possible 29 school divisions since the SSBA committed to the AEDP in 2007.

“I commend the boards of education of Ile-a-la Crosse, Creighton and Northern Lights for choosing to take the action to ensure a better future for Saskatchewan’s students and communities,” Challis stated. “There is no question we need more First Nations and Métis people working in our schools whether they be teachers, carpenters, mechanics, clerical staff, accountants, administrators, or facilities and maintenance personnel. School divisions offer a wealth of employment opportunities.”

## Pilot Project Initiated to Get Children *in motion*

As reported in the June 2009 edition of *The School Trustee*, children and youth in our province are simply not active enough. This is one reason why children and youth in Moose Jaw and the surrounding area are getting *in motion*.

A pilot project spearheaded by *Saskatchewan in motion*, along with its partners Prairie South SD, Holy Trinity RCSSD, Five Hills Health Region and the Public Health Agency of Canada is underway to improve the health of our future – Saskatchewan’s children and youth – by including 30 minutes per day of physical activity within schools.

“Everyone knows how important it is for children to re-engage in active lifestyles,” said Geri Hall, Superintendent of Learning for Holy Trinity RCSSD. “And when you think about it, 30 minutes is definitely doable.”

With funding provided by *in motion* as well as the Public Health Agency of Canada – which granted \$50,000 – resources were available to hire Chantelle Rouault to oversee the development and implementation of the pilot project.

Currently six schools (four from Prairie South and two from Holy Trinity) are taking part in the project.

“The idea is to facilitate the work through these schools, have them engage in a pilot project, and then gather feedback and other data, so that when we want to roll this out to all our schools we will have a working example,” said Ryan Boughen, Superintendent



*An assortment of toys were set out to showcase some safe alternatives for classroom activities at the ‘in motion’ pilot project meeting in October.*

of School Services for Prairie South SD.

The trick to all of this is to incorporate physical activity into the classroom, and to make it not only beneficial for students’ health but to make it safe. The goal is to ensure all children engage in 30 minutes of physical activity at school.

The project is not about giving schools an ultimatum and focusing on a rigid activity schedule; rather, it’s about giving schools the freedom and flexibility to choose how to utilize children’s time at school for the purpose of activity.

Rouault explained that some schools are using students as the activity leaders. “St. Michael School and Empire Community School (both located in Moose Jaw) have Student Leadership Groups where students in Grades 7 and 8 are introduced to activities that they can teach to younger grades,” said Rouault.

Children in various schools have been introduced to activity bins which contain different items that children can use safely and

efficiently.

The hope for all partners involved is to initiate dialogue towards governance policy that will require children to receive 30 minutes of activity at school – outside of physical education or gym classes.

“The timing for this project is perfect – it’s almost like serendipity. The Premier has given his 10 initiatives that he is encouraging the Education Minister to pursue and one of them is to work with all school boards to have 30 minutes of moderate to vigorous daily physical activity in schools across the province,” said Hall.

In June the SSBA Executive passed a motion, “That the Executive Director develop a communication strategy around the impending release by *Saskatchewan in motion* (September 2009) and that the Saskatchewan School Boards Association lends its support to the *in motion* program.” An *E-News* was sent to the SSBA membership in November outlining this initiative.

*The Mission of the Saskatchewan School Boards Association is to serve boards of education as the voice for publicly-funded education.*

**President:** Sandi Urban-Hall

**Vice-President:** Janet Foord

**Northern Constituency:** Joe Daigneault

**Aboriginal Constituency:** Duane Favel

**Conseil scolaire fransaskois Constituency:**  
Élizabeth Perreault

**Urban Public Constituency:**  
Dan Danielson

**Catholic Constituency:**  
Glen Gantefoer

**Central Constituency:** Larry Pavloff

**Southern Constituency:** Connie Bailey

**Executive Director:**  
Ernie Cychmistruk

**School Board Development Services:**  
Barry Bashutski, Director

**Legal and Employee Relations Services:**  
Bonnie Ozirny, Director &  
General Counsel

**Communications Services:**  
Leslie Anderson, Director

**Insurance and Employee Benefits:**  
Dave Jackson, Director

*The School Trustee is published approximately five times per year (September - June).*

Saskatchewan School Boards Association  
400-2222 13th Avenue  
Regina, Sask.  
S4P 3M7

Phone: (306) 569-0750

Fax: (306) 352-9633

Email: [admin@saskschoolboards.ca](mailto:admin@saskschoolboards.ca)

**If you would prefer to receive *The School Trustee* by email, rather than by hardcopy, please contact the Association at the email address above.**

## Calendar Update

### MARK YOUR CALENDAR!



#### AUDIO CONFERENCES

##### **LOCAL TEACHER AGREEMENTS - ISSUES, IMPLICATIONS, LANGUAGE**

February 5, 2010

10:30 - noon

#### WORKSHOPS / SEMINARS

##### **SCHOOL FOR TRUSTEES**

January 28-30, 2010

Sheraton Cavalier Hotel, Saskatoon

##### **MEMBERS' COUNCIL**

February 25-26, 2010

Travelodge Hotel, Regina

*More information about these events can be found at [www.saskschoolboards.ca](http://www.saskschoolboards.ca) under "Events".*

### Fall Assembly 2009 Evaluations

Following is the summary of the evaluation forms which were completed and returned by Assembly participants.

#### RATE THE CONTENT

	Poor	Fair	Good	Very Good	Excellent
1. Monday Banquet Entertainment: Saskatchewan's Got Talent	-	7	12	13	16
2. Tuesday Keynote: Leslie Anderson 'Keys to Success'	-	-	3	11	35
3. The Annual Report on Association Operations and Priorities	-	10	21	14	3
4. Showcase Presentation	3	7	21	10	3

#### RATE THE OVERALL EVENT COORDINATION

	Poor	Fair	Good	Very Good	Excellent
1. Processes for Bylaws and Resolutions	3	9	27	8	3
2. Use of Time and Pace of Activities	14	20	10	4	2
3. Event Location (Radisson Hotel)	4	6	14	16	10
4. Audiovisual	2	8	22	12	4
5. Meals	4	7	20	13	6
6. Parking	2	7	17	11	11