



Achieving a Fairer Balance UPDATE #5

December 2010



Advisory Committee Members Review Full Model

At the recent Advisory Committee meeting held on November 24th, members rolled up their sleeves and dug in – in more ways than one.

Committee members discuss new funding distribution model during November meeting

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Please email suggestions, submissions, or comments to tasha.lupanko@gov.sk.ca

The day was spent reviewing all components of the new funding distribution model, sharing feedback and perspectives and also sharing a little holiday celebration of the work-to-date by enjoying a traditional Christmas lunch.

“With the holiday season upon us, we find ourselves reflecting on the past year and especially on those who have helped to shape our work in such a significant way. We value our relationship with each of you and truly look forward to working with you in the year to come.”

Deputy Minister of Education, Audrey Roadhouse, at the November Advisory Committee meeting

While the volume of information shared for review was slightly daunting, the meeting was structured in such a way as to provide time after each component presentation for education stakeholder members to discuss, ask questions, document their perspectives and share their feedback with the group.

As with all advice shared within the context of the Advisory Committee, the perspectives gathered from the November meeting will be reviewed for consideration by the ministry. These unique perspectives contribute significantly in helping to inform the outcome of the new education funding distribution model.

Following the meeting, an executive summary of the full funding model was also provided to the Advisory Committee members and they were encouraged to share this information with their own members.

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Saskatchewan School Boards Association President Sandi Urban-Hall spoke at the meeting and shared the SSBA's leadership, stewardship and relationship practices within the context of a joint review of the costs of overall governance.



SSBA President Sandi Urban-Hall speaking at November Advisory Committee meeting

“Saskatchewan boards of education have effectively demonstrated accountability. As the government shifts its vision and focus, it is important to clarify expectations and measures of success.”

SSBA President, Sandi Urban-Hall at November Advisory Committee meeting

Urban-Hall said the SSBA is pleased with the opportunity to work with the ministry to explore and further define the costs for effective school board governance in Saskatchewan.

Committee Members Encouraged to Share Information

One of the key pieces provided to Advisory Committee members following the November meeting was an executive summary of the funding distribution model.

The ministry, being mindful that members need relevant information to share with their associations on the progress of the model, provided the document to all committee members on November 26th. The seven page summary document includes information on the model methodology, framework, assumptions and considerations as well as the

agreed upon Guiding Principles and how the model respects those principles.

As an example, the Guiding Principle of “Stability” states that “the ministry and boards of education will make decisions that endeavour to provide the flexibility to deal with periods of economic stability, growth and decline.” The distribution formulas within each component of the model provide predictability and scalability which will allow boards of education to budget and plan for the future.

Committee members have been encouraged to share the information in the executive summary with their association constituents as a way of clearly explaining the rationale and structure behind the new model.

Helen Horsman Retiring – New Assistant Deputy Minister Appointed

After serving in education for over forty one years, Assistant Deputy Minister of Education Dr. Helen Horsman announced her retirement at the recent Advisory Committee meeting. Dr. Horsman will officially retire in January 2011.

Cheryl Senecal has been appointed as the new Assistant Deputy Minister and began her new role on December 6th. Cheryl comes to the education ministry from the Ministry of Social Services where she served as Assistant Deputy Minister of Policy.



Cheryl Senecal has been appointed as the new Assistant Deputy Minister of Education.



Assistant Deputy Minister Helen Horsman and Saskatchewan Teachers' Federation President Steven Allan muse about retirement at November's Advisory Committee meeting.

PreK-12 Framework Moves Forward with Consultations

In the June issue of *Update*, we talked about how the PreK-12 Strategic Framework subcommittee was developing a stakeholder engagement process. The subcommittee was recently given the green light to move ahead and begin gathering some focused feedback on the long-term vision for education in Saskatchewan.

The first phase of the consultation on the PreK-12 Strategic Framework will gather information from key stakeholders in education, such as youth, parents and the public, who are not represented on the subcommittee. Input from these stakeholders will provide additional perspectives to inform the development of the purpose, principles, strategic directions and strategies for the framework. This research will take place from December 2010 - February 2011.

The provincial education partner organizations and other stakeholder groups will have the opportunity to provide feedback once the draft Framework is developed. That consultation process is expected to take place later in 2011.

Funding Model – Next Steps

With the March 2011 deadline just a few short months ahead, work is in high gear; some of the next steps include:

- Ministry staff are hard at work preparing the necessary information to take the draft distribution model forward to government decision makers.
- The Advisory Committee continues to review the shared perspectives on the model which were provided at the November meeting. Ministry staff are reviewing each suggestion individually and those which can be implemented will be.
- Work continues on the PreK-12 Strategic Framework with stakeholder consultations planned for December through February of 2011.
- The Accountability, Evaluation and Reporting subcommittee continues to review the 4th pillar of the Continuous Improvement Framework (CIF) “system accountability and governance”.

This piece of work is being approached on the basis of what accountability enhancements are required to the Continuous Improvement Framework to support the new relationship between school boards and government.



Important Upcoming Dates:

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| January 19, 2011 | Advisory Committee Meeting |
| February 16, 2011 | Advisory Committee Meeting |
| March 23, 2011 | Budget Day |