

SSBL Newsletter

Volume 18 • June 2017

President's Message



The end of the school year is here, and I can appreciate that we are all ready for a well-deserved break; but what a year it has been! Within the last ten months, our province has targeted more changes in education than we have seen in decades. We have been kept on our toes with news of possible amalgamations, changes to the Education Act, and the creation of the P3 schools, just to name a few. At the end of the day, it all comes down to budget; and for many of us, the budget cuts are having huge ramifications for our school communities, and what business is going to look like in our buildings next year.

Throughout this journey of 'transformational change', the SSBL has been working to be the voice of administrators. Two meetings were held to allow administrators from around our province, to bring their concerns and questions to the STF table. Even though the attendance was poor, the SSBL still feels that opportunities to have one-to-one dialogue with our STF President and the Executive Director can only work to foster a better understanding, and would like to expand on this platform next year.

We have also just completed a two year journey in actualizing the 2017 CAP Conference in May, 2017 in Saskatoon. There was a very committed group of administrators that focused on creating a first rate conference, with keynote speakers including Anthony Muhammad, George Couros, Annie Battiste, Cathy Mills and Lori Kindrachuk. (More information about the 2017 CAP conference can be found in this newsletter.) Our affiliation with the CAP organization is extremely important to us. Not only does the affiliation support giving us a national voice, but the CAP work around research is really relevant to our current working conditions and issues that administrators face. As part of your SSBL membership, ten dollars is sent to CAP. The CAP journal, mailed directly to all members as well as supplied to all schools, is a wealth of great articles and information linking practices and changes occurring in education across Canada.

Wishing you the best of the summer holidays! We look forward to working with you in the 2017-2018 school year!!

Carol Sarich
Principal, St. Luke School
SSBL President
Western Vice-President CAP

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*Effective leadership in every school –
a driving force in education*



SASKATCHEWAN
SCHOOL BASED
LEADERS



SSBL Executive Meeting

Annual General Meeting Agenda | Thursday, May 25, 2017 | 8:00-9:00am

Meeting convened: 8:05am

- Welcome, from Carol Sarich, SSBL President

In attendance: (17)

Garth Anderson (HZSD), Sharon Champ (SPSD), Curtis Chandler (NLS), Jackie Doecker (GSCS), Carol Engel (GSCS), Jennifer Hingley (SPSD), Dean Lucyk (RCSD), Sherry McLean (GSCS), Jackie Peat (RCSD), Tammy Riel (NESD), Carol Sarich (GSCS), Randy Schmaltz (STF), Tricia Shynkaruk (RCSD), Wanda Spooner (GSCS), Guy Werbicki (GSCS)

(2 others, no contact info)

Approval of the Minutes of the 2016 SSBL AGM

- Motion to approve the Minutes of the 2016 SSBL AGM as distributed:
 - Jackie Peat
 - Seconded: Wanda Spooner.

President's Message Carol Sarich

- Welcome.
- CAP is an opportunity to network.
- The SSBL has had a busy year. We try to provide a forum for effective communication.
- This year we hosted: 2 executive meetings, 3 conference calls, 2

informational meetings with Patrick Maze and guests (Saskatoon & Regina).

- 1 newsletter, another coming end of June.
- CAP 2017 conference
- The SSBL works with other organizations such as SELU (Principals' Short Course).
- Student leadership award – presented later this morning.
- Thank you to the executive – introductions/acknowledgement of executive.
- Our province is in this period of “transformational change.”
- Increasing workload of administrators
- Please consider taking a more active role in the SSBL; we are looking for new ideas and fresh perspectives. We are stronger as a group. SSBL is here to support our administrators in our schools.

Greetings from Randy Schmaltz, STF Executive Director

- Thank you for the opportunity to be here. I have an affinity for the SSBL and used to sit on the executive 21 years ago.
- Many of the same issues from 20 years ago.

- Increasing complexity of the role of administrators.
- Amalgamation discussions.
- Tightened administrator release time.
- For about a decade, SSBA(L) membership was much larger and much better attended.
- Importance of school administrators and leadership in schools! – It is recognized!
- It is unfortunate that we recognize the need to support administrators, yet there are still challenges.
- A national conference draws only a few hundred; the executive only garners a dozen or so active members. Thanks to the dedicated members that are ensuring the SSBL continues.
- Forward vision for public education in our province.
- Schools are and should be the heart of the community.
- Schools and staffs should have the agency to chart their own course; these are the people who understand the fabric of the community and recognize the resources needed within the community.
- Three areas of supports needed for success – presented to the government, including Professional Development, supports for administrators, as well as curriculum.

- Unfortunately, the government looked more to boards rather than administrators and schools.
- We are optimists and believe in our value. We are also realists.
- Challenge of declining membership in all PGNs; several are leaning toward extinction. – PGNs are being re-imagined.
- Exploring partnerships with SELU and the College of Education and the SSBL to build purposeful relevant links between Saskatchewan leaders.
- Education Sector Plans provides challenges and opportunities.
- We need to be creative and find opportunities or build them.
- Need to trust each other and build relationships.
- Need to support each other.
- Recognize the role of administrators as leaders in our schools.
- Best wishes for a successful conference.
- We need to get the word out to share the SSBL information and connections.
- We work in partnership with our teachers. That is not the way it is in all provinces. Need to maintain our connection within the STF.
- The STF needs to do a better job of working with in-school administrators; they do a good job working with teachers in the schools, but administrators feel like we are on the outside.
- Many provinces have a distinct, active group for administrators (ie. Manitoba).
- The gap begins right at the beginning of becoming a new administrator. “Sink or swim” – go through the list of calling your colleagues – perhaps a mentorship program?
- Elephants in the room – if we become active in these types of organizations, will it compromise our ability to move up the ladder? Will being an advocate of schools and leaders, will that come at the cost of something else?
- Apathy? – or is the role so demanding that people have nothing left in the tank? – Get through the day and do not have the ability to do more.
- Should this rest with the STF? SSBL? How can we connect with our new administrators?
- Heard the message of culture. We need to work in that area.
- Communication – social media – need to get on those networks.
- We tried the one-day workshops. – Divisions are like their own little islands and provide their administrators with in-house PD and do not release us to go elsewhere.
- STF newsletters – perhaps have an “administrators’ section.”
- SSBL to get funds to release Carol to come to some of the school division administrator meetings or conventions
- Perhaps the SSBL comes to administrators rather than the administrators coming to the SSBL.
- Communication. – Need to get the message out.
- Administrators have a lack of connectedness (especially rural, remote locations)
- SSBL – impression that it just serves the urban centres
- Meetings – live broadcast so others can be present but without traveling?
- Executive – can be urban and rural – expenses for meetings are paid
- How do we, and how can we, communicate with administrators throughout the province?
- Twitter account – it is there – perhaps begin chats with conversational topics around the role of the SSBL.
- Clearly highlight the CAP 2017 in the STF bulletin. – New to the bulletin – Administrator’s section. Check out our hashtag – twitter – coming to you and your administrators’ associations. – Would this be seen as preferential treatment over other PGNs? – It would be challenging to turn the Bulletin into a newsletter for all PGNs.
- STF – looking at a more digital strategy for communication
- STF is experiencing some of the same challenges (13000 teachers, yet do not have all members ‘preferred’ emails).
- As administrators, we are distinct in our schools, we are a different PGN. In the Education Act we are a distinct entity with specific roles and responsibilities.

Directions for the SSBL

- Where do we see this PGN going?
- How can we support administrators in Saskatchewan?
- Newsletter: Is it valued? Are people receiving it? Is the format sufficient?
- How can we support you?
- We have a website. Mission statement and our focus are there.
- Each year we try to get an email list for Saskatchewan administrators.
- How do you find out about the SSBL? How can you find out about us?
- We are on the STF website under PGNs.
- Membership cost = \$35.00. \$10.00 of that goes toward CAP and your national voice.
- Part of CAP. Receive the CAP journals. Participate in research opportunities.
- Education is a provincial matter. Every province is very different. – This conference is providing an opportunity to network and see some of those differences.
- It is time for new growth and new ideas.
- New people in the room? Is this new to you or are you aware of the SSBL? – totally new

Question & Answer

- How do we get our administrators knowledgeable about our role and that we are here?
- Not only is our PGN different, but our roles as administrators have changed. We are more of a supervisor than an administrator.
- We have a small, weak voice. Yet there are so many of us in the province that are members of the STF. It is our responsibility to be visible.
- The STF has tried to come out to admin groups; out of 28 school divisions, only two accepted the invitation for the STF to come speak.
- Need to continue the work. – Working with university partnerships.
- Communication.
- Need to increase accessibility.
- The conversation today is the same conversation we had back in the 90s.

-

Elections – tabled to the September 22 meeting

- President –
- Vice President –
- Secretary –
- Treasurer –
- Members at Large –
- Three people put their names forward as Members at Large:
 - Jennifer Hingley – Saskatoon Public
 - Tammy Riel – NESD
 - Curtis Chandler - NLSD

Next meeting

September 22, 2017 @ St. Luke School,
Saskatoon 7:00pm

Committee reports

President:

- Other than the welcome address above; table until September meeting.

Treasurer:

- The SSBL operates at a deficit each year.
- Small grant from STF
- To sustain our SSBL; a national conference is hosted every 7-8 years, plus small, one-day sessions; these bring in some revenue.
- Each conference gets smaller
- Right now we are sustainable.
- The STF is reviewing the notion of having no membership fees for PGNs.
- This year, we sit with a \$900 deficit; this AGM will add to that. Likely will wrap the year at a \$3000.00 deficit
- Bank account = \$17000 approximately
- Plus seed money coming back from CAP (\$20,000),
- As well as some revenue from CAP2017

Newsletter:

- tabled to September 22 meeting

CAP:

- tabled to September 22 meeting

Concluding comments (Guy Werbicki)

- We all share in the role and responsibility. The more hands and feet at the table, the more we share and communicate.
- We want to passionately advocate.
- We want to work with the STF and work with our fellow administrators to be a voice.
- Thank you.

Adjournment 9:07am





Thriving Youth, Thriving Communities

Saskatchewan Alliance for Youth and Community Well-being (SAYCW)

SAYCW is a partnership of health, education and other community stakeholders dedicated to improving the health and well-being of the Saskatchewan population. SAYCW seeks to support schools and communities to **learn** more about the health and well-being of their youth, and helps schools and communities **connect** with stakeholders and resources, so that together, they can **act** on opportunities to improve youth health and well-being. In 2015, SAYCW conducted a provincial youth health survey that captured valuable information about the current health and well-being of youth in grades 7 to 12. The survey was completed by 9,230 students from 116 schools across 18 school divisions and authorities. SAYCW disseminated four levels of survey reports including school-specific reports for participating schools, school divisions, health regions, and a public provincial-level report. SAYCW supports

schools and communities in turning this knowledge of youth health and well-being into health promoting actions and offers an opportunity for schools to apply for SAYCW Healthy Schools and Communities Grants.

SAYCW is recruiting schools for participation in the second cycle of the Youth Health Survey in 2018-19. Participating schools will receive survey reports speaking directly about their students. This information will guide evidence-based programming, policies, education, awareness and evaluation. As in the first survey cycle, SAYCW will support schools and communities to take action at the local level based on their survey results. Through repeated survey cycles, schools and communities can monitor the health status and behaviors of youth, and can evaluate the effectiveness of programs and policies.

We would like to hear from you with any questions you might have or if you would like to participate in SAYCW.

For more information, contact:

Adel Panahi,
Community Action Coordinator
Phone: 306-966-1048
Email: adel.panahi@usask.ca

Or visit our website:
www.saycw.com

How to Get Involved

The work of SAYCW is led by a Steering Committee made up of representatives from various sectors and backgrounds. SAYCW achieves its mandate through the work of staff members who are guided and supported by the following Working Groups and Committees made up of people with relevant expertise or perspectives on the work being done:

- Survey Development and Implementation Working Group
- Data Analysis Working Group
- Data Access Review Committee
- Knowledge to Action Working Group
- Healthy Schools and Communities Grant Working Group
- SAYCW Grants Review Committee

SAYCW also facilitates collaboration between participating schools and Community Action Teams that consist of youth health stakeholders from the local community or across the province. We are always open to expanding our Steering Committee, Working Groups, and Community Action Teams to include new voices, experiences, and perspectives.

53rd Annual Saskatchewan Principals' Short Course July 4-7th, 2017

Ethical. Instructional. Distributed. Transformational.

The major goal of the Short Course is to provide an intensive opportunity for participants to deepen their knowledge of theory, practice, and reflection, contributing to their skills as teachers and school leaders. The activities of the course will enable participants to:

- examine the role of the principal through the lens of instructional leadership;
- extend knowledge regarding the practices of establishing a vision, influencing school culture, and stimulating the learning environment, while at the same time managing, modeling, and monitoring activities within the school;
- learn about new developments and initiatives in education;
- share experiences, insights and concerns with other practitioners, and;
- gather as a cohort to develop a support network.



Registration Fee:

Registration Fee: **\$595.00**

Registration Fee and Four Nights' Accommodation at the Travelodge Hotel: **\$1,140.00**

Fees Include: Breakfasts, lunches, and an evening social

Registration form available at www.selu.usask.ca



"Excellent information on what new admin needs to know."

"It was a very worthwhile experience - I wish I had done it sooner. I am excited to use the knowledge that I gained this fall in my school and become a much stronger leader."



"It was a fantastic experience. This was my first time attending but it will not be my last."



"Amazing course!"



UNIVERSITY OF SASKATCHEWAN

College of Education

USASK.CA/EDUCATION



SELU

Saskatchewan Educational Leadership Unit

Presented by: The Department of Educational Administration, University of Saskatchewan

Conducted by: Saskatchewan Educational Leadership Unit (SELU)



2017 CAP Conference – Wrap Up

After two years of planning, CAP Conference 2017 was held in Saskatoon from May 23-26. The Sheraton and the Bessborough were the hosting venues. There were approximately 315 delegates in attendance, with 205 of those delegates coming from Saskatchewan. The theme of the conference was Growing Together, Cultivating Change. Important significance was given to acknowledging the focus on being present on Treaty 6 land and the land of the Métis.

A pre-conference day was organized for delegates who chose to take part. Delegates had a choice of four types of programming to explore through school visits:

- First Nation and Métis programming visited St. Mary's Wellness and Education Centre and the Westmount Community School,
- Mental Health programming visited the Youth Day programs through YRC and the iGen program at Sherbrooke Community Center,
- Innovative High School programming visited E.D. Feehan High School and Aden Bowman Collegiate, and
- Fine Arts and Inquiry programming visited St. Anne School and George Vanier Catholic Fine Arts School.

The conference officially began with a flag ceremony on Wednesday, May 24th, including a parade of the Canadian,

Treaty and provincial Flags. Also as part of the opening ceremonies, St. Michael's Choir and fiddlers sang the Treaty 6 Song and the Vincent Massey School Drummers performed. Welcome addresses were given by Honourable Don Morgan, Minister of Education; Patrick Maze, President of the STF; Vincent Mamer, President of the STA; and Maxine Gellar, President of the Canadian Association of Principals.

Keynote speakers focused on prevailing themes of the conference including leadership in challenging times, focusing on improving First Nations and Métis Achievement and Outcomes in Schools, utilizing Technology as well as cultivating and embracing the changing face of education in our Canadian Schools. Keynote speakers included Anthony Muhammad, George Couros, Annie Battiste, Cathy Mills and Lori Kindrachuk. In addition, there were 20 break-out sessions offered providing a small group opportunity for networking and dialogue around key leadership issues.

Special social events were planned to highlight the city of Saskatoon and the hospitality of both the Sheraton and the Bessborough hotels. A special wine and cheese was held at the Bessborough the evening of Tuesday, May 23; a walking tour of the downtown of Saskatoon was planned for the evening of Wednesday, May 24th; and finally the banquet and dance occurred on Thursday, May 25th at the Sheraton.



A special thank you goes out to the CAP 2017 organizing committee including: Jacqueline Castilloux, Jill Clapson, Robyn Flaman, Lisa Domolsai, Ron Georget, Gisele Jean-Bundgaard, Duane Johnson, Dave Knight, Shelly Lord, Leanne McGettigan, Sherry McLean, Jennifer Miller, Janet Simpson, Lee Shewchuk, Brandon Stroh, Connie Tenaski, Ted View, Guy Werbicki, Ian Wilson, Scott Burant (STF Liaison); Co-Chairs: Patrick Mooney, Wanda Spooner and Carol Sarich

A venture like this conference could not have happened without the support of the Greater Saskatoon Catholic School Division and the Saskatoon Public School Division.

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