

October 29, 2019

Dear School Community Council Chair:

As the Legislative Secretary for the Ministry of Education, I have been given the exciting opportunity this fall to meet with you, the parents of our province's students and the most invested stakeholders in our education system.

As members of your school's school community council (SCC), you are providing important leadership in engaging families in their children's education experience. The Government of Saskatchewan very much values the hard work you put in to ensure students in your school are receiving an excellent education which is aimed at ensuring everyone achieves their full potential.

As a parent with children who have graduated from Saskatchewan's Kindergarten to Grade 12 school system, I have worked with my school community council and parents within my community to help support the teachers and staff in my children's schools. I too share your passion for education and like you, I firmly believe that we as parents play a very large role in the education and success of our children as they move through our school system.

The underlying principle of your decision to serve on your school community council likely aligns with the mandate of SCCs. This includes working with parents and community members to share responsibility for the success and well-being of all children and youth, and to encourage parent, community and youth engagement in school planning and improvement.

The Honourable Gordon S. Wyant, Q.C., Minister of Education, has asked me to travel around the province and meet with representatives from SCCs. We will have a conversation around the excellent work you are doing in your schools and the opportunities that may exist. We know you work very closely with your school administration, which involves your school divisions and boards, and the ministry is committed to working collaboratively with all of you to explore opportunities for SCCs and all parents and/or caregivers to engage in their children's learning.

In order to facilitate conversations with parents from all 771 schools across the province, we have attached a schedule that provides an opportunity for SCCs from every division to meet with me. Nicole Philp, a parent in Saskatchewan's school system, will accompany me to these meetings to assist in both providing her parent perspective and helping to facilitate the discussions.

Ideally we would like to have at least two parents representing every SCC at your school division's meeting, which would allow us to hear from every school in the province.

Please regard this as an invitation for any and all parent representatives from your SCC to attend this meeting. As the format of these meetings will be the same throughout the province, you are more than welcome to attend another school division's meeting if the location and time are better suited to your schedule. Alternatively, if your SCC is not able to send a representative in-person to attend any of the meetings, we encourage you to submit your SCC's thoughts in regards to the attached discussion guide by email to Nicole Philp, at nicole.philp@gov.sk.ca. In addition to SCC parents, if other parents would like to attend the meeting, please pass the details onto them as we welcome their attendance.

I truly look forward to meeting with you having a conversation that will lead to positive change in education for the youth of our province.

Sincerely, Sennis

Terry Dennis

Legislative Secretary to the Minister of Education

MLA for Canora-Pelly

Attachment

cc: Principal