

The jurisdiction's Board of Trustees takes very seriously its stewardship role in representing Parkland students and communities. The Board's approach to governance, in support of its commitment to excellence in learning and teaching, is to cultivate an environment which promotes open dialogue and participation. The Board's primary responsibilities involve Trustees setting directions, allocating resources, and monitoring and reporting student and organizational progress and achievements.

Welcome Back Breakfast

The Board of Trustees hosted Parkland School Division's Annual Welcome Back Breakfast for over 600 staff members on August 27th. The breakfast kicked off the 2009-2010 school year, giving Trustees and senior administration a chance to greet many staff members returning from summer vacation and to pay special thanks to those who worked feverishly over the summer to ensure that all schools and services were ready for students! Following opening remarks, the Divisional PD Day was complete with an engaging session on *Critical Thinking* by Garfield Gini-Newman. As Parkland's new AISI (Alberta Incentive for School Improvement) focus – *Critical Thinking* will be getting lots of attention from staff and students over the next couple of years. To think critically is to engage in deliberations with the intention of making a judgement based on appropriate criteria. To view a video clip, [Critical Thinking as an Effective Way of Teaching Social Studies](#). Roland Case, CEO of the Critical Thinking Consortium(TC2), equates "critical thinking" with "criterial thinking."

Strengthening Relationships with School Councils and Parents

The Board of Trustees believes strongly in engaging parents and community. Trustees have maintained their commitment to attend School Council Meetings and have met individually with School Council Chairs to discuss current activities and ways to support the Councils. Parkland School Division promotes the further development of the Council of School Councils and looks forward to COSC as a vehicle for engaging School Councils and parents. By attending meetings such as Canadian Parents for French, by being present at home-school-community activities and by encouraging feedback through email and telephone, the Trustees are confident that they are hearing from their constituents.

Working With and For the Community

Throughout Parkland School Division Trustees continue to be actively involved in work that promotes progress and alignment for the future. Trustees are most proud of their accomplishment in reviewing and streamlining Parkland School Division's policies and administrative procedures. Check on-line to familiarize yourself with the nineteen policies that currently govern the work of the Division. In June the Board of Trustees received the Keephills viability study and have responded to a presentation done by Keephills School Council. The Board is delighted to have a childcare space operational at Parkland Village School this fall as this was an expressed concern for several local families.

At the most recent Board Meeting ...

It is the desire of the Board to give parents/public a greater voice in the development of the Division's priorities and long range plans. Final details are being developed to engage the public in a more meaningful opportunity to influence the work of the School Division. Invitations have been sent to 125 community members to attend the Fall Stakeholder Meeting in October.

Upcoming Meetings: Open to the public

06 Oct. 2009 - Regular Board Meeting (7 pm)
13 Oct. 2009 - Education Committee (9 am)
(Greystone Centennial Middle School)
20 Oct. 2009 - Student Advisory Committee (9 am)
03 Nov. 2009 - Regular Board Meeting (7 pm)