

BOARD HIGHLIGHTS

Board of Trustees Meeting

September 22, 2026

Organizational Meeting

The Prairie Land Public School Division trustees assembled on Tuesday, September 22 for the Board annual organizational meeting. Trustees accepted specific roles and responsibilities for the upcoming school year as follows:

- a. H. Smith was elected Board Chair, and M. Tkach elected Vice-chair.
- b. Negotiating Committee – S. MacPherson, M. Tkach & C. Warwick
- c. Discipline Committee – S. Battle, H. Smith & S. Walker
- d. Executive Committee – S. MacPherson, H. Smith, & M. Tkach
- e. Scholarship Committee – D. Kurek, S. Walker & C. Warwick
- f. Teacher Board Advisory Committee (TBAC) – M. Tkach & S. Walker
- g. Health & Wellness Committee – S. Battle & H. Smith (Alternate)
- h. Indigenous Committee – D. Kurek & H. Smith (Alternate)
- i. Audit Committee – S. MacPherson, S. Walker & C. Warwick
- j. Alberta School Boards Association Zone 5 representative – S. MacPherson/M. Tkach (Alternate)
- k. Public School Boards Council representative – M. Tkach/C. Warwick (Alternate)
- l. Teachers Employer Bargaining Association (TEBA) – M. Tkach
- m. Rural Caucus Committee – D. Kurek/S. Battle (Alternate)

Board meetings will be held on either the third or fourth Tuesday of each month at 10:00 a.m. at Prairie Land central office. The 2026-2027 Board meeting schedule can be seen at <https://plrd.ab.ca/governance/meeting-dates-and-minutes/>.

Advocacy and Action Meeting

Prairie Land's monthly Advocacy and Action Meetings give Trustees dedicated time to step away from the formal business of a Regular Board Meeting and focus more deeply on the work of governance. These sessions provide space to explore advocacy priorities, review policy, consider emerging issues, support Trustee learning and look ahead to matters that may require future Board direction. Beginning this year, Advocacy and Action Meetings will be held as closed working sessions, allowing Trustees to engage in thoughtful discussion before items are brought forward for formal consideration. Any decisions requiring Board action will continue to be made in public at a Regular Board Meeting.

Facilities and Infrastructure

Prairie Land's Facilities Department continues to manage a significant and geographically diverse portfolio, with six full-time employees responsible for the maintenance and operation of 46 buildings and assets spread from Calgary to Altario. This year has included a number of important upgrades across the division. At Berry Creek Community School, major work included replacement of a 32-year-old section of flat roof, added insulation to improve energy efficiency, masonry repairs and the replacement of the school's remaining original heat pumps. The team also supported the new aquaponics system at Youngstown School, renovated the Life Skills Lab at J.C. Charyk, completed landscaping and deficiency work at Morrin School and the Hub, continued the Altario Cabin project and installed new heating and cooling systems at Veteran School. Looking ahead, planning is

underway for both a re-roofing project and required foundation repairs at Consort School, with the roofing work currently targeted for completion in summer 2027.

Expanding Opportunities Across Prairie Land

Prairie Land continues to broaden the range of learning opportunities available to students, with several new programs and partnerships taking shape this fall. The Prairie Land Renegades Rodeo Academy is now underway, giving students the opportunity to pursue their interest in rodeo while remaining connected to their academic program. The Board extends a sincere thank you to Greg and Shelley Johnson and Anchor J Ranches for their generous partnership and support in bringing this opportunity to life. The Academy will host a Rodeo Triathlon on November 4 at 2:30 p.m. at the Anchor J Arena, providing an opportunity for students to showcase their skills and for the community to see the program in action.

New opportunities are also emerging in several Prairie Land schools. Morrin School has launched its Hockey School, while Delia School is offering optional Christian faith-based programming for students in Grades 1–12. The Neutral Hills Wranglers have also been approved to travel to Arizona from October 15–19 for tournament play, giving student-athletes an opportunity to compete beyond Alberta and represent their school and Prairie Land in a new setting.

Prairie Land Collegiate continues to grow as a vehicle for hands-on and career-connected learning across the division. A particularly exciting addition this year is a new mobile growing trailer designed and built specifically for Prairie Land by ZipGrow Technologies. The prototype is a one-of-a-kind unit in Canada and will rotate through Prairie Land schools for two months at a time, allowing students to explore hydroponic growing systems, drip technology and modern approaches to food production. ZipGrow's educational systems are designed to give students direct experience with hydroponic growing from seedling through harvest, making the trailer a natural fit with Prairie Land's expanding agricultural and environmental programming. These programs reflect Prairie Land's continuing effort to create meaningful pathways around the interests of students and the strengths of the communities we serve.

For additional information please contact: Cam McKeage, Superintendent of Schools, Prairie Land Public School Division 403.854.4481