

Sask. school boards spend \$93 million on governance and administration



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The Regina Catholic School Board. *TROY FLEECE / REGINA LEADER-POST*

Since last spring, the provincial government has mulled aloud about changes to education governance, including the possibility of amalgamating school boards.

In the fall, policy analyst Dan Perrins wrote a report suggesting four different options for reforming education administration, and in January a panel of six education experts heard feedback from hundreds of people across the province.

The results of that process are expected with Wednesday's provincial budget.

Because Education Minister Don Morgan has suggested amalgamation as a way of cost savings, we've taken a closer look at divisions' spending, according to their 2015-16 annual reports.

Saskatchewan's 28 school divisions spent more than \$93 million on administration and governance last school year.

Each division has a director of education (chief executive officer) and a chief financial officer (who is sometimes called a supervisor or superintendent in charge of finances).

The average director of education salary was \$206,027; the highest was in Good Spirit School Division, where the director's wage was \$338,136.

The average CFO salary was \$155,614.

If one big school board is the new norm, that could mean almost \$10 million in savings in the two salaries of those positions alone.

School boards' expenses were more than \$5 million, including travel, professional development and remuneration. Their annual salaries range from \$300 in Englefeld to \$42,682 in Northern Lights.

Some things to note:

Our assessment of employees does not include teachers, principals or vice-principals, because, as Morgan said Thursday, teachers are "the ones that are doing the front-line work and those are the ones that should get our support."

However, our total does include some staff who work directly with students — including educational assistants, speech pathologists and bus drivers. Even if school boards amalgamate, it would be pretty difficult to cut them all.

The student populations are kindergarten through Grade 12.

Overall

Publicly funded schools in Saskatchewan: 753

Student population: 176,301

Spending on governance: \$12,331,886

Spending on administration: \$80,894,267

Average governance + administration spending, divided by student population: \$528.79

Director-of-education salaries: \$5,562,740 (excluding Englefeld)

CFO salaries: \$4,201,575 (excluding Englefeld)

Employees (excluding teachers, principals and vice-principals): 9,689.39

Trustees: 252

School board expenses: \$5,040,262

Average spending per trustee: \$20,001.04

Chinook School Division

Serving: 5,835 students in 62 Swift Current-and-area schools.

Governance: \$500,162

Administration: \$3,803,647

Average G+A spending/student: \$737.59

Director of education salary: \$237,100

CFO salary: \$168,100

Employees: 510.2

Trustees: 10

Board expenses: \$207,053

Christ The Teacher Roman Catholic School Division

Serving: 1,703 students in nine schools in Yorkton, Melville and Theodore.

Governance: \$209,001

Administration: \$1,222,546

Average G+A spending/student: \$840.60

Director of education salary: \$175,755

CFO salary: \$129,441

Employees: 84.7

Trustees: 10

Board expenses: \$125,396

Conseil des écoles fransaskoises

Serving: 1,603 students in 14 Francophone schools across the province, including two each in Regina and Saskatoon.

Governance: \$344,850

Administration: \$2,144,544

Average G+A spending/student: \$1,552.96

Director of education salary: \$178,433

CFO salary: \$179,157

Employees: 153.65

Trustees: Nine

Board expenses: \$197,306

Creighton School Division

Serving: 438 students in the Creighton and Denare Beach area. The division has one school.

Governance: \$135,454

Administration: \$ 446,164

Average G+A spending/student: \$1,327.89

Director of education salary: \$155,738

CFO salary: \$87,767

Employees: 31.7

Trustees: Five

Board expenses: \$60,008

Englefeld Protestant Separate School Division

Serving: 101 students in Englefeld and the immediate surrounding area. Another one-school division.

Governance: \$29,721

Administration: \$79,462

Average G+A spending/student: \$1,081.02

Director of education/CFO salary: \$65,000 is paid to Horizon School Division for administrative services from Horizon's director of education and chief financial officer.

Employees: 22

Trustees: Five

Board expenses: \$4,734

Good Spirit School Division

Serving: 6,117 students in 29 schools in 18 east-central communities, including Yorkton.

Governance: \$582,781

Administration: \$2,873,499

Average G+A spending/student: \$565.03

Director of education salary: \$338,136

CFO salary: \$159,113

Employees: 384.7

Trustees: 11

Board expenses: \$192,627

Holy Family Roman Catholic School Division

Serving: 1,261 students in five schools in the Weyburn/Estevan area.

Governance: \$144,012

Administration: \$1,042,849

Average G+A spending/student: \$941.21

Director of education salary: \$195,840

CFO salary: \$131,522

Employees: 57.5

Trustees: 10

Board expenses: \$52,967

Holy Trinity Roman Catholic School Division

Serving: 2,059 students in nine schools — seven in Moose Jaw, one in Shaunavon and one in Swift Current.

Governance: \$207,398

Administration: \$1,441,354

Average G+A spending/student: \$800.75

Director of education salary: \$200,348

CFO salary: \$141,650

Employees: 110.4

Trustees: Eight

Board expenses: \$97,182

Horizon School Division

Serving: 6,324 students in 41 schools in central communities, including Watrous and Foam Lake.

Governance: \$844,154

Administration: \$4,201,965

Average G+A spending/student: \$797.93

Director of education salary: \$206,097

CFO salary: \$147,540

Employees: 390.2

Trustees: 14

Board expenses: \$392,609

Ile A La Crosse School Division

Serving: 379 students in the North; its two schools are located in Ile-a-la-Crosse.

Governance: \$206,912

Administration: \$648,117

Average G+A spending/student: \$2,256.01

Director of education salary: \$173,396

CFO salary: \$119,986

Employees: 28.7

Trustees: Seven

Board expenses: \$67,416

Light of Christ Catholic Schools

Serving: 1,955 students in seven schools in North Battleford and surrounding communities, including Unity and Spiritwood.

Governance: \$217,034

Administration: \$1,412,229

Average G+A spending/student: \$833.38

Director of education salary: \$196,186

CFO salary: \$164,569

Employees: 80.8

Trustees: Seven

Board expenses: \$77,737

Living Sky School Division

Serving: 5,543 students in 29 schools in 18 west-central Saskatchewan communities, including North Battleford.

Governance: \$526,233

Administration: \$2,716,903

Average G+A spending/student: \$585.09

Director of education salary: \$198,986

CFO salary: \$171,035

Employees: 452

Trustees: 10

Board expenses: \$154,969

Lloydminster Catholic School Division

Serving: 2,589 students in six Lloydminster schools.

Governance: \$207,389

Administration: \$1,512,478

Average G+A spending/student: \$664.30

Director of education salary: \$230,825

CFO salary: \$156,574

Employees: 132.7

Trustees: Seven

Board expenses: \$85,249

Lloydminster Public School Division

Serving: 4,063 students in 10 Lloydminster schools.

Governance: \$250,726

Administration: \$2,195,212

Average G+A spending/student: \$602

Director of education salary: \$198,948

CFO salary: \$130,508

Employees: 204.4

Trustees: Seven

Board expenses: \$68,888

North East School Division

Serving: 4,807 students in 22 northeastern schools, in communities such as Carrot River, Hudson Bay and Tisdale.

Governance: \$395,685

Administration: \$2,524,352

Average G+A spending/student: \$607.46

Director of education salary: \$210,152

CFO salary: \$146,904

Employees: 322.4

Trustees: 10

Board expenses: \$124,112

Northern Lights School Division

Serving: 4,206 students in 20 schools in northern communities, including La Loche, Uranium City, Cumberland House and Bear Creek.

Governance: \$638,846

Administration: \$3,148,440

Average G+A spending/student: \$900.45

Director of education salary: \$212,885

CFO salary: \$151,871

Employees: 302.8

Trustees: Nine

Board expenses: \$432,271

Northwest School Division

Serving: 4,716 students in 24 schools in northwest communities, including Meadow Lake, Glaslyn and Goodsoil.

Governance: \$389,661

Administration: \$2,783,988

Average G+A spending/student: \$672.95

Director of education salary: \$192,425

CFO salary: \$158,324

Employees: 364

Trustees: 11

Board expenses: \$143,353

Prairie South School Division

Serving: 6,619 students in 40 schools in Moose Jaw and the surrounding rural area, including Gravelbourg, Coronach and Avonlea.

Governance: \$499,815

Administration: \$2,883,836

Average G+A spending/student: \$511.20

Director of education salary: \$186,884

CFO salary: \$163,687

Employees: 507.8

Trustees: 10

Board expenses: \$216,242

Prairie Spirit School Division

Serving: 10,759 in 45 schools in Saskatoon-area communities like Warman, Martensville and Clavet.

Governance: \$660,579

Administration: \$ 3,595,074

Average G+A spending/student: \$395.54

Director of education salary: \$209,250

CFO salary: \$104,097

Employees: 643.1

Trustees: 11

Board expenses: \$208,142

Prairie Valley School Division

Serving: 8,159 students in 39 schools in 32 southeast communities, including Wolseley, Fort Qu'Appelle and Pense.

Governance: \$654,583

Administration: \$4,402,784

Average G+A spending/student: \$619.85

Director of education salary: \$215,217

CFO salary: \$182,970

Employees: 596.14

Trustees: 11

Board expenses: \$307,331

Prince Albert Catholic School Division

Serving: 3,065 students in eight Prince Albert schools.

Governance: \$218,171

Administration: \$1,823,291

Average G+A spending/student: \$666.06

Director of education salary: \$202,480

CFO salary: \$151,391

Employees: 125.1

Trustees: Seven

Board expenses: \$81,460

Regina Catholic School Division

Serving: 10,839 students in 30 Regina schools.

Governance: \$683,799

Administration: \$4,061,710

Average G+A spending/student: \$437.82

Director of education salary: \$207,496

CFO salary: \$183,744

Employees: 339.8

Trustees: Seven

Board expenses: \$206,709

Regina Public Schools

Serving: 21,691 students in 53 Regina schools.

Governance: \$552,970

Administration: \$6,579,209

Average G+A spending/student: \$328.81

Director of education salary: \$216,777

CFO salary: \$221,475

Employees: 753.3

Trustees: Seven

Board expenses: \$187,656

Saskatchewan Rivers School Division

Serving: 8,564 students in 32 schools in Prince Albert and area.

Governance: \$631,778

Administration: \$4,089,849

Average G+A spending/student: \$551.33

Director of education salary: \$205,081

CFO salary: \$170,747

Employees: 569.1

Trustees: 10

Board expenses: \$319,684

Saskatoon Public Schools

Serving: 23,370 students in 57 Saskatoon schools.

Governance: \$887,883

Administration: \$6,372,234

Average G+A spending/student: \$310.66

Director of education salary: \$210,794

CFO salary: \$192,324

Employees: 965.4

Trustees: 10

Board expenses: \$302,390

South East Cornerstone School Division

Serving: 8,052 students in 39 schools in 27 southeast communities, including Rocanville, Estevan and Carievale.

Governance: \$579,798

Administration: \$3,390,099

Average G+A spending/student: \$493.03

Director of education salary: \$186,250

CFO salary: \$160,664

Employees: 543.4

Trustees: 10

Board expenses: \$260,417

St. Paul's Roman Catholic School Division (a.k.a. Greater Saskatoon Catholic Schools)

Serving: 16,462 students in 45 schools across Saskatoon.

Governance: \$736,060

Administration: \$6,533,121

Average G+A spending/student: \$441.57

Director of education salary: \$196,234

CFO salary: \$163,200

Employees: 668

Trustees: 10

Board expenses: \$287,677

Sun West School Division

Serving: 5,022 students in 40 schools in west and central Saskatchewan, including Kindersley, Biggar and Davidson.

Governance: \$396,431

Administration: \$2,965,311

Average G+A spending/student: \$669.40

Director of education salary: \$225,027

CFO salary: \$163,215

Employees: 345.4

Trustees: Nine

Board expenses: \$178,677

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Regina Flyers



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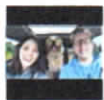
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Christopher John · Regina, Saskatchewan

Interesting. May not be the best place for thoughts; especially on st Patys day. That said everything costs money to administer and run. School divisions in essence are multi million dollar entities.. many running in the hundreds of millions of dollars in terms of budget. It is silly to think that you could have one director and a handful of administrators run the province. If that's the case you wouldn't need more than 5 MLA's!

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Michelle Goulet · Table Games Floor Supervisor at Casino Regina

That's how the health system will be run. Remember

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Wendy Ward

... And the province. in essence. is a multi BILLION dollar entitv. There are nearly

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