



FROM THE BOARD

Highlights of the GSSD Board of Education Monthly Meeting February 2018

February 2018 Regular Meeting

The regular monthly meeting of the Board for February 2018 took place in the Fairview Education Center board room on Thursday, February 1, 2018. In attendance at this month's meeting were Lois Smandych (Chairperson) and Bob Simpson (Vice-Chairperson), Trustees, Jade Anderson, Jaime Johnson, Shannon Leson, Chris Balyski, Gilda Dokuchie, Gord Gendur, Senior Executive Assistant, Heather Morris, Director of Education, Quintin Robertson, Chief Financial Officer, Keith Gervais, and Deputy Director of Education, Donna Kriger. Board Members absent were: Steve Variyan, Jan Morrison, Florence Stachura

The meeting was called to order at 10:00am, by Board Chair, Lois Smandych. Minutes from the December 21, 2017 Board Meeting were approved as shared.



Good Spirit School Division Restricted Reserves

The Board passed a motion to use the restricted accumulated surplus fund for various minor renovations in schools across the school division, as well as for the purchase of seven new buses, camera units for all route buses and GPS units for buses which do not presently contain that technology. Each of the areas targeted by the restricted reserve dollars reduce risk to the Board.

The Board acknowledged through their motion that the Director of Education has fully met the expectations for the following Quality Indicators:

QI 1.1 Facilitate environments where students feel safe, and have high levels of intellectual engagement.

QI 1.2 Regular actions are taken to ensure buses and facilities are safe and healthy.

QI 6.2 The Director keeps the Board informed of division operations.

Calder School

Upon the Board of Education's direction, Director/CEO Robertson has engaged in conversation with the local Trustee and Calder School Community Council regarding the possible implications of a voluntary grade discontinuance at Calder School. During the December 21, 2017 Board Meeting, a delegation from the Calder School SCC appeared before the Board to pose questions regarding the feasibility of a SCC directed (voluntary) grade discontinuance for grades seven and eight beginning in the 2018/19 school year.

The Board of Education made the determination that further consultation needed to continue between the Calder Community and the Good Spirit School Division ensuring that all pertinent issues be explored prior to making a final decision.

The Director demonstrated evidence of meeting the following Quality Indicators related to his annual evaluation:

QI. 2.2 The Director conducts an analysis of student success and ensures development of action plans to address concerns.

QI 3.6 The Director reviews expenditures to ensure continuous improvement in terms of value for money.

QI 5.2 The Director demonstrates a knowledge of and respect for the role of the Board in policy process.

QI 6.3 The Director provides the Board with balanced, sufficient, concise information and clear recommendations for action items in agendas.

Non-School Facility Audit Tender

The Board of Education passed a motion to award PMGM Architecture to conduct a non-school facilities audit within the Good Spirit School Division. A detailed report was supplied to the Board indicating the companies who submitted a tender as well as the rubric used to award the contract. It was highlighted that PMGM Architecture has extensive experience within the school division as well as throughout the province.

Yorkton Regional High School: Canadian Student Leadership 2020

The Board of Education had a proposal presented regarding the Canadian Student Leadership Conference with will be hosted by the Yorkton Regional High School during the fall of 2020. The Board deferred making a decision on the proposal, asking that additional information be supplied to them during the March 15, 2018 Board Meeting.

Application for Major Capital Funding – YRHS

Each year, the Infrastructure Branch of the Ministry of Education requires school divisions to make an application for funding for all major capital projects exceeding \$1 million. These applications, must be approved by the Board of Education and are to be submitted to the Ministry of Education by March 16, 2018.

The Yorkton Regional High School requires significant upgrades including asbestos removal, air quality/mechanical upgrades, roof replacements and building code upgrades. The Good Spirit School Division has been submitting requests for funding for this building over the past twelve years. Prior to this, the former school division had been making requests for funding since approximately 2002. The upgrades required are substantial and costs are estimated to be \$23 million.

Director's Report

Director/CEO, Quintin Robertson led the Board of Education through a development session on the Education Act. Director/CEO Robertson shared that The Act and Regulations are the overarching documents that provide direction and are law. The development session identified highlights that affect them directly in the operation of the Good Spirit School Division. Within the Education Act, Director/CEO Robertson reviewed the Powers of the Minister, Settlement of Disputes and the Role of the Provincial Auditor.

Within the Education Regulations and School Division Administration Regulations section, Robertson highlighted the Disqualification of Board Members, Removal of a Board Member, and the regulations surrounding the Organizational Meeting and Annual Meeting, Collective Bargaining, Qualifications of a Director, Capital Expenditures, School Review and Scholarships.

School Community Council Delegates

The Board of Education reviewed the applications from members of the Good Spirit School Division SCCs to determine those who will represent GSSD at both the National Rural Congress held in Saskatoon as well as the Saskatchewan School Community Council Conference held in North Battleford.

Review of Proposed 2018-19 School Calendars

Director/CEO Robertson shared the proposed school calendars for the 2018-19 school year. Robertson unpacked the differences in the calendar and identified that based on the feedback collected through an online survey, it may result in a third option which shared highlights from the two options provided.

Transportation Department Performance Report

Director/CEO Robertson shared a Transportation Report with the Board of Education, highlighting statistical information regarding bus routes across the division. Robertson shared that, a total of 2383 rural students were transported daily while 365 urban students were provided transportation. There are six urban routes within the division and 98 rural routes across Good Spirit with all routes having permanent drivers.

Robertson also reviewed the bus cancellations occurring to date across the division, highlighting the recent inclement weather, which resulted in cancellations of all routes within the division.

Financial Report

Keith Gervais, CFO for the Good Spirit School Division, shared an updated financial report for the Board of Education. Gervais highlighted that GSSD is on track to maintain a balanced budget for the 2017-18 school year.

Student Incident of Concern Report

The Director/CEO Robertson presented the student suspensions from across the Good Spirit School Division. The report highlighted the severity of the incidents and the follow up actions related to the events. Robertson also shared a year over year summary and analysis with the Board. The Board of Education passed a motion to accept the report as presented.

Upcoming Professional Development

February 15, 2018	Literacy Lead Teacher PD Day
February 27 & 28, 2018	Mental Health First Aid
February 28th, 2018	SPDU Workshop – Supporting EAL Teachers
March 9, 2018	SPDU Workshop – Rich Literacy Practices in Primary
March 22, 2018	Non-Violent Crisis Intervention Spring Training – Refresher for those requiring spring certification.

Century Field Bleacher Project

Director/CEO Robertson shared that the bleachers located at Century Field are original construction and have several deficiencies. The wooden seats were removed approximately four years ago as the wood was too rotten to refurbish and since that time the cement stands have been used without proper seating. Bleachers from the old Mosaic Stadium became available through auction and the YRHS successfully secured adequate seating for the Century Field. The purchase of the bleachers through auction saved the school and division a substantial amount of money. Forged partnerships between the Good

Spirit School Division, Logan Stevens, EMW, The City of Yorkton, and local football families, will result in a significant improvement to Century Field.

Football Field Project at the Esterhazy High School

Director/CEO Robertson highlighted that the Esterhazy High School (EHS) and Community of Esterhazy have been working tirelessly over the past number of years to build a football program for their students. Their efforts have resulted in a program that has been very successful and has had a positive impact on many students' lives.

Robertson identified that the field and track are in need of significant enhancement. The Esterhazy High School and the community of Esterhazy have expressed a desire to see the area receive some improvements. The community members have worked to provide upgrades to the football field including the installation of lights and an announcer booth. The track and field are in a low-lying area and are subject to flooding. Volunteers from the area are often working hard to drain water from the field and track in advance of an event.

Director/CEO Robertson identified that EHS has requested that GSSD Facilities work with them on a project to refurbish the track and football field at their school. They have proposed that the project would be funded through grants, donations and fundraising similar to other playground improvements that are spearheaded by local SCCs. To date, Robertson shared that Mosaic and Richardson Pioneer have each contributed \$50,000 to assist with the project.

Submissions & Feedback

To submit photos or stories regarding the Board of Education or an individual Trustee in your school community, please contact the Good Spirit School Division at Heather.Morris@gssd.ca Thanks for reading!

Next Board Meeting Scheduled for March 15, 2018

Location: Fairview Education Board Room

Contact Us

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