

December 2018 Regular Meeting

The regular monthly meeting of the Board for December 2018 took place in the Fairview Education Center Board Room on Thursday, December 20, 2018. In attendance at this month's meeting were Lois Smandych, Chairperson, Bob Simpson, Vice-Chairperson, Trustees Jade Anderson, Chris Balyski, Jaime Johnson, Shannon Leson, Florence Stachura, Steve Variyan, Assistant to the Director, Heather Morris, Director of Education, Quintin Robertson, Chief Financial Officer, Keith Gervais and Deputy Director of Education, Donna Kriger. Members absent: Gilda Dokuchie, Jan Morrison, Gord Gendur



Accountability Reports

Student Learning & Well-being

Director/CEO, Quintin Robertson, shared Good Spirit School Division data related to the Early Years Evaluation (EYE-TA) which is an assessment administered with all Kindergarten students each fall. The 2018 fall assessment shows that the domain measuring cognitive skills requires attention to position GSSD to meet its target in student "Readiness to Learn" upon exiting Kindergarten. Robertson discussed the correlation between exiting Kindergarten ready to learn and reading at grade level in the primary grades.

Robertson also highlighted Ministry of Education data which suggests that GSSD has 84.7% or 388 students within the June 2019 Grad Cohort on track to graduate. This is 3.6% higher than the graduation rate expected provincially and it represents an increase of 6% from the same time last year. A significant improvement shared by Robertson was data indicating that 51.9% of GSSD First Nations Métis (FNM)

students remain on track to graduate with an additional 1.8% still able to catch up on credits, making a three-year graduation possible. This is 4.2% higher than the provincial average and is 19.8% higher than what was reported during the same interval last year.

Robertson highlighted attendance data from across GSSD suggesting that the vast majority of students in Kindergarten to Grade 8 attend school 90% or more of the time. Though attendance in grades 9-12 is slightly lower, GSSD students attend more regularly than the provincial average.

Lastly, Robertson discussed data related to the GSSD goal to reduce the number of students reporting high levels of anxiety. The data was promising as it indicates that for the first time in three years, fewer students in GSSD are reporting high levels of anxiety. Students also reported increased awareness of supports they could access within both their schools and communities.

The Student Learning and Well-being Accountability Report has been posted in the Board of Education Meeting Materials section on the GSSD website. Click [here](#) to review.

New Business

Naming of Consolidated Division Building

The Board of Education passed a motion resulting in the newly acquired GSSD facility on Highway 9 north, to be named, the “Good Spirit Education Complex”. Likewise, the Board of Education passed a motion to name the Professional Development/Meeting room within the complex, the “Anna Ingham Room” in honour of the work done in the area of Literacy by the late Anna Ingham. Lastly, the Board of Education passed a motion to name the Board Room within the new complex the “Saskota Room” recognizing that Highway 9, where the facility is located, is known as the Saskota Flyway. The word “Saskota” also means, friend or ally which appropriately describes the relationship the Good Spirit wishes to maintain with the various stakeholders within the borders of our school division.

Director’s Report

Board Development – Understanding SOS-Q

Donna Kriger, Deputy Director of Education, shared information with the Board of Education regarding the Student Orientation Survey Questionnaire (SOS-Q). Kriger indicated that the survey is a scientifically validated tool developed in the Rocky View School Division. The survey is a tool used by GSSD to improve high school completion by assessing students’ attitudes toward school at key points in a student’s school experience. Kriger shared that the 2018-19 school year is the second year in which GSSD has administered the survey within its schools.

Kriger explained that there are six (6) domains studied within the survey which include: Safe and Caring Schools, Self Confidence, Extra-curricular Activities, Utility of School, Internal Resilience, and External Resilience. Kriger indicated that the survey studies how students’ attitudes and feelings about school can affect their motivation to do well in school. Kriger informed the Board, the survey instrument allows for early identification of students at risk – academically, socially and emotionally is critical to their future in school and beyond, by identifying systemic changes within a school that are quick wins and will benefit all students. She went on to discuss how the instrument addresses the barriers within GSSD schools, which have an impact on student engagement and therefore allowing the Division to achieve the Education Sector Strategic Plan (ESSP) target of improving student engagement by 2020.

The [Understanding the SOS-Q](#) document has been posted in the Board of Education Meeting Materials section on the GSSD website.

Prairie Fire Letter of Support

Director/CEO Robertson and the Board of Education discussed the recent decision by the Saskatchewan Hockey Association to disband the Melville Prairie Fire AAA Midget Girls hockey team from the current AAA Girls Midget Hockey League. The Board of Education voiced their support for the team and directed Director Robertson to advocate on the teams behalf. The Good Spirit School Division recognizes the implications this decision could have on the Melville Comprehensive School, including programming associated with Hockey Skills 10L, 20L, and 30L.

Important Dates

January 27	Family Literacy Day
January 27	International Holocaust Remembrance day
February 2019	Aboriginal Story Telling Month
February 2019	Inclusive Education Month
February 7	Board Chairs Council Teleconference, 1:30–4 pm
February 10-16	Teacher/Staff Appreciation Week
February 26	North Cluster Regional SCC Symposium, Kamsack Comprehensive Institute, 7 pm
February 27	Red Cross Pink Day
February 27	Central Cluster Regional SCC Symposium, Yorkdale Central School, 7 pm
February 28	South Cluster Regional SCC Symposium, Davison School, 7 pm
April 11	Board Chairs Council Meeting
April 11-12	Spring General Assembly, Saskatoon
May	Early Childhood Education Month

Financial Report

CFO, Keith Gervais, updated the Board of Education regarding the most recent Financial Statement for the Good Spirit School Division. Gervais reported that the school division is on track for a balanced budget in the 2018-19 school year.

Student Incident Report

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. The Board of Education passed a motion to accept the report as presented.

Indigenous Services Canada

Director/CEO Robertson shared information with the Board of Education regarding the Yorkton Tribal Council inviting interested stakeholders to participate in the creation of a formal partnership under the guidelines of the Education Partnerships Program (EPP). Robertson indicated that the proposed partnership would access funding from Indigenous Services Canada (\$200,000 per partnership) in order to develop programs and activities that would be designed to improve student outcomes, improve programs and services, and respond to the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's Calls to Action, with respect to education. This opportunity may support the co-development of an indigenized curriculum, improved educational programs, the sharing of educational pedagogy and best practices, language and cultural programs. The partnership would support improvement of student educational outcomes and supports for First Nations students who attend First Nations and provincial schools. GSSD and the Yorkton Tribal Council have proposed a partnership, which would work to improve student outcomes, programs and services for the future of education within the community of Kamsack.

Bus Stop Arm Usage in School Zones

In a previous meeting, the Board had requested information on the use of stop arms inside of school bus loading areas in front of GSSD schools. Director/CEO Robertson shared the following key points during the December 20th meeting:

- Each municipality will have a bylaw indicating if the school bus stop arm may be used in the school zone.
- School buses must abide by the bylaw within the community and RCMP will enforce the bylaw.
- Most communities do not require the use of stop arms within the school bus loading zone.
- If the stop arm is required to be deployed it requires all traffic to stop and avoid passing the buses until they are loaded and the stop arm is deactivated.

Gender Neutral Washrooms in GSSD Facilities

As part of GSSD's initiative to provide safe and inclusive environments, it has been decided that each GSSD school must have a single stall gender-neutral washroom available for students and staff. As a result, the following steps have been taken toward this end:

- Gender-neutral signage for GSSD schools, has been selected and purchased for installation by Operations Manager, Teresa Korol.
- Every school has designated location for a gender-neutral washroom.
- The GSSD Facilities staff under the direction of Korol, has committed to install the new washroom signage by the end of January, 2019.
- This work has initiated in response to student feedback regarding "feeling safe" at school.

Provincial Collective Bargaining

Robertson shared that on November 27, 2018, GSSD Administrative Staff, Good Spirit Teachers' Association (GSTA) Representatives, and Board Chair L. Smandych participated in an information session outlining operational implications of the Provincial Collective Bargaining Agreement (PCBA) for teachers.

Director/CEO Robertson identified the following items as key discussion points during the discussion:

- Professional Teachers Registration Fees
- Assigned Teacher Time
- Assigned teacher time not involving direction instruction
- Time spent on teacher professional responsibilities
- Teacher supervision – before and after school
- Calendar development
- Grievance procedure
- Teacher transfers

GSSD Organization Chart

Robertson reviewed the finalized GSSD Organizational Chart based on the organizational review carried out in the spring of 2018. Robertson highlighted role responsibilities, title changes, and staffing considerations moving into 2019.

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 January 31, 2019

Location: Fairview Education Board Room

Contact Us

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