

## MEDIA RELEASE

August 23, 2023

### Good Spirit School Division Elects Board Chair and Vice-Chair

The Board of Education of the Good Spirit School Division held their Organizational Meeting during the Regular Board Meeting on Thursday, August 17, 2023. At the meeting, the Board elected the chair and vice-chair as well as various subcommittee members for the upcoming year. Details have been posted on the website indicating all committee member representation.

Mrs. Jaime Johnson was elected as chairperson with Mrs. Nicole Pohl being elected to the position of vice-chairperson. Jaime and Nicole are joined by nine returning board members.

The Board of Education is comprised of:

- Jaime Johnson (Subdivision #1 – Kamsack/Norquay and area);
- Christopher Balyski (Subdivision #2 - Preeceville/Sturgis and area);
- Shannon Leson (Subdivision #3 - Canora/Invermay and area);
- Nicole Pohl (Subdivision #4 – Springside/Yorkdale Rural and area);
- Lois Smandych (Subdivision #5 - Churchbridge/Langenburg/Saltcoats and area)
- Bob Simpson (Subdivision #6 – Grayson/Melville and area);
- Jade Anderson (Subdivision #7 - Esterhazy/Stockholm and area);
- Gilda Dokuchie (Subdivision #8 - Key First Nation Reserve No. 65); and,
- Gordon Gendur, Jan Morrison, and Steve Variyan (Yorkton-At-Large).

Regularly scheduled meetings will be held at the Good Spirit Education Complex in the RM of Orkney or via video conference at 10 am as per the following schedule:

- October 12, 2023
- November 16, 2023
- December 14, 2023
- January 25, 2024
- February 29, 2024
- March 28, 2024
- April 25, 2024
- May 23, 2024 (Special Meeting)
- June 13, 2024
- August 15, 2024



Back row: Shannon Leson, Bob Simpson, Gord Gendur, Jan Morrison, Jaime Johnson, Steve Variyan  
Front row: Nicole Pohl, Gilda Dokuchie, Jade Anderson, Lois Smandych  
Missing: Christopher Balyski

## Board Approves the Division Foundational Statements and Strategic Plan

As the new school year begins, Good Spirit School Division launches its 2023-24 Foundational Statements and Strategic Plan.

“Strategic planning allows us to focus our time and resources on goals which ultimately improve student & staff learning and well-being.”, Director of Education Quintin Robertson said.

In a dynamic display of collaboration and foresight, the Board of Education convened for a Strategic Planning Retreat in June 2023. The purpose behind this intensive session was to refine the foundational elements of Good Spirit School Division, namely its Motto, Vision, Mission, and Values. Through a concerted team effort, the following components emerged, having been affirmed and approved:

### **Motto - Students Come First**

- “Student Come First”, a testament to our unwavering commitment to student needs. GSSD ensures a sustainable, equitable, and inclusive environment across the division.

### **Vision - Learning Without Limits...Achievement for All**

- GSSD will cultivate growth opportunities and empower students and staff to realize their potential.

### **Mission - Building Strong Foundations to Create Bright Futures**

- GSSD builds strong foundations to create bright futures by fostering a positive environment that encourages achievement and well-being for students and staff.

### **Values - Belonging, Diversity, Learning, Perseverance, Responsibility**

By honouring and embracing GSSD’s organizational values in our work and relationships, we collectively strive to achieve our vision.

- **Belonging:** We ensure all students, families, and staff feel valued, included, and respected.
- **Diversity:** We celebrate the unique contributions each student, family, and staff member brings to our division.
- **Learning:** We pursue innovative and relevant educational opportunities for students and staff.
- **Perseverance:** We nurture an environment that supports learning and builds confidence.
- **Responsibility:** We strive for excellence while upholding the Foundational Statements of GSSD.

The Aspirational Statements & Goals specified in the Good Spirit School Division Strategic Plan are organized within the four pillars of Comprehensive School Community Health (CSCH) and align with the Provincial Education Plan. CSCH is an internationally recognized framework for supporting improvements in students' educational outcomes while addressing school health in a planned, integrated, and holistic way.

### **The GSSD Aspirational Statements include:**

- High Quality Teaching and Learning
- Healthy, Sustainable Physical and Social Environments
- Engagement of All Students, Families, and Communities
- Effective Policy and Procedures

## High Quality Teaching and Learning Priority Areas

- Improving student outcomes
- Implementing the "Inspiring Success" Policy
- Developing GSSD leaders
- Ensuring consistent practices across GSSD schools
- Delivering high-quality teaching and learning resources
- Providing equal access to technology

## Healthy, Sustainable Physical and Social Environments Priority Areas

- Enhancing mental health and well-being for students and staff
- Offering safe and inviting facilities
- Promoting equity, diversity, and inclusion

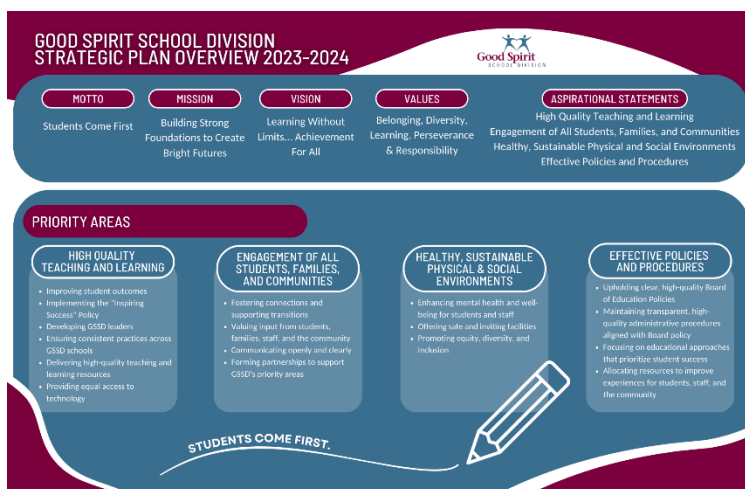
## Engagement of All Students, Families, and Communities Priority Areas

- Fostering connections and supporting transitions
- Valuing input from students, families, staff, and the community
- Communicating openly and clearly
- Forming partnerships to support GSSD's priority areas

## Effective Policy and Procedures Priority Areas

- Upholding clear, high-quality Board of Education Policies
- Maintaining transparent, high-quality administrative procedures aligned with Board policy
- Focusing on educational approaches that prioritize student success
- Allocating resources to improve experiences for students, staff, and the community

To achieve the goals specified in GSSD's Strategic Plan, staff complete an annual work plan related to their focus area. Work plans are continually updated and monitored throughout the school year.



For more information, you may review [Board Policy 1 Foundational Statements](#) and the [Strategic Plan Overview](#) on the Division website.

For further information, please contact Quintin Robertson, Director of Education, at 306-786-4750.