



News Release – May 8, 2006

On May 4, 2006 the Board of Education for the Good Spirit School Division completed their January to August 2006 budget and at that time approved an average increase of 7.41% on the mill rates levied by the predecessor boards. This results in mill rates as follows: Melville Deer Park – 18.3, Eastland Lakes and Potashville – 19.3 and York - 21 across the division. This includes the additional .6 mills levied on the prior York School Division to address the recent capital improvements at the Yorkton Regional High School. These mill rates will be in effect for the 2006 calendar year which determines tax revenue for this budget and the first four months of the new fiscal year budget, September 1, 2006 to August 31, 2007. The budget planning for the next fiscal year is currently underway.

According to the 2006 revised assessment, one mill would equate to approximately \$1.56 million dollars. Impacting the calculation of revenue from property tax is the expansion of the separate school division boundaries around the cities of Melville and Yorkton. This decrease in assessment base negatively impacts the burden on the balance of the ratepayers supporting the public education system when there is not a corresponding decrease in students.

The Government of Saskatchewan budget provided the Good Spirit School Division with grant funding for the fiscal year of March 31, 2006- April 30, 2007 of \$17.7 million. In comparison, grants that the former divisions received for the 2005-2006 fiscal year totaled approximately \$19.08 million dollars. This reduction of 7.23% in grant equates to a loss of grant revenue of \$1.38 million dollars and is due to a drop of 254 of students.

Currently, provincial grant funding for education accounts for 36.4% of the Good Spirit School Division's total revenue, with the remaining 63.6% of the required funding to our 29 schools raised from other sources, primarily from our local property taxes.

It is important to note that provincial funding to school divisions is allocated on a per student basis, which translates directly to a drop in available monies when there is a drop in enrollment. There is no question that the declining enrolment has and will continue to have a direct impact on the Good Spirit School Division. The projected enrolment for the 2006 – 2007 school year shows a decline of approximately 205 students, which translates to a further decline in grant resources.

The Board of the Good Spirit School Division takes seriously their responsibility to provide education to the children and youth in our division. At the same time, the board has a responsibility to all stakeholders including, our staff, our communities and direct responsibility to our rate payers. In making any decision, the Board has the difficult task of trying to balance the needs of providing education for our students and at the same time the needs of other stakeholders. This budget is a result of the expenditures committed during the planning for the 2005-2006 school year. With the majority of expenditures already committed along with a unique circumstance of changing the fiscal year, it left little room for adjustments.

There are significant challenges facing the Good Spirit School Division Board as they prepare the 2006 - 2007 budget. In addition to funding factors, there are a number of pressures on the expenditures side of the equation. Based on the Provincial Collective Agreement there will be an increase in teacher salaries which will have an impact on the overall budget. The provincial government has identified the additional expectations for school divisions in implementing

School Community Councils and the Sask. Learning Continuous Improvement Framework. Both initiatives will require funding from the Good Spirit School Division. The substantial increases in natural gas, electricity and fuel costs and the general inflation of goods and services continue to create pressures for all consumers.

Restructuring has necessitated a review of all areas in the new school division including administration, transportation, maintenance and technology. The results will determine necessary adjustments to be implemented across the new division beginning with 2006-2007 budget. Future ongoing upgrades and maintenance in the delivery of services will need to be addressed.

When establishing a budget and human resource plan for 2006-2007, a number of difficult decisions will need to be made. Ideally, the Board would prefer to deliver a budget and a staffing plan that would include no tax increases and no reduction to staffing levels. Unfortunately, in today's economic realities we are unable to do that. The enrollment declines necessitate reductions in the number of teaching positions in Good Spirit schools. For the most part, retirements, attrition or re-assignment will accommodate the reductions being contemplated.

The Good Spirit School Division Board of Education is optimistic that by working together with our staff, our communities and our rate payers we can meet the challenges and continue to support the level of education in a system where "students come first."

For more information contact Dwayne Reeve, Director of Education at 786-5500.



News Release – May 8, 2006

The Board of Education for the Good Spirit School Division No. 204 announced today that there will be a deficit for the 2005 year for the York School Division No. 36. The deficit is \$1,765,371 and is attributable primarily to capital improvements to the Yorkton Regional High School. Provincial grants are often available to fund capital improvements, but will not be available in this case because the improvements are ineligible pursuant to existing provincial regulation. Former members of the York School Division Board of Education have assured the Good Spirit Board of Education they were not aware that the capital expenditures were not eligible for funding.

The Good Spirit School Division No. 204 became responsible for the affairs of the York School Division on January 1, 2006, because of the restructuring of School Divisions across the province.

Dwayne Reeve, the Director of Education for the Good Spirit School Division, says that the following steps have been taken to deal with this situation:

The Board of Education has levied an additional .6 mills, as part of the 2006 mill rate, on the geographic area served by the former York School Division to begin the process of addressing the deficit that resulted from the project. The Board of Education is committed to ensuring that the cost of the project is borne primarily by the taxpayers of the former York School Division and;

The Board of Education has also retained legal counsel to investigate, and advise the Good Spirit Board on all options available to the Board. The Board expects to receive legal advice in approximately one month, at which time it will decide if any further action is warranted. It would be premature for the Board to comment further on available options until it receives advice from its counsel.

You may contact Dwayne Reeve at 786-5500 for further information.



News Release – June 13, 2006

On June 6, 2006 the Board of Education for the Good Spirit School Division # 204 met with a representative from the Legal Services Department of the Saskatchewan School Boards Association to discuss the project initiated by the former York School Division that saw capital improvements made to the Yorkton Regional High School during 2005. The Good Spirit Board of Education was informed in March of 2006 that Provincial grants would not be available for this project because the improvements were ineligible pursuant to existing provincial regulation.

After meeting with legal counsel, the Board of Education has decided to pursue the possibility of an independent, external audit of the project completed at the Yorkton Regional High School in 2005. Details regarding the independent audit will be presented to the Good Spirit Board of Education at their July meeting. The decision to pursue the external audit of the project will be considered once the Board has received the details gathered by administration.

For more information contact Dwayne Reeve, Director of Education at 786-5500.



News Release – September 27, 2006

The Board of Education of the Good Spirit School Division is pleased to announce that nineteen Grade 12 students within our division have qualified for the Saskatchewan Learning 2006 General Proficiency Awards. Saskatchewan Learning determines the number of recipients by division based on total province-wide enrolments.

We are very proud to announce the following students as recipients of the \$400.00 scholarship: Maelee Cymbalisky from Canora; Jenna DesOrmeaux, Sean Gorecki, Devin Huyghebaert, Kate Landine, Katelyn Leidl, Callista Szachury and Kevin Tam from Esterhazy; Kristen Belous from Hyas; Deidre Handzuik from Kamsack; Christopher VanCaesele from Langenburg; Tyrel Thorpe from Spy Hill; Jared Anuik, Chris Baran, Cole Kirkham, Lauren McVey, Whitney Skinner, Daniel Thompson and Alana Zuzak from Yorkton.

In the 2006-2007 academic year, the Good Spirit School Division Board of Education will be sponsoring a \$400.00 scholarship at each of our twelve high schools to be awarded to the student with the top academic average.

For more information contact Dwayne Reeve, Director of Education at 786-5500.



**Press Release - Thursday, December 21, 2006**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**The Board of Education for the Good Spirit School  
Division Announces Service Delivery Review**

The Good Spirit School Division's Board of Education has announced plans for a service delivery review. The review is designed to provide the Board of Education with essential public and staff input that will be used to inform the Board of Education as they develop a long term service delivery plan. The service delivery review will begin with a series of three meetings that will be held across the school division in late January and early February. The meetings are planned as follows:

Monday, January 22, 2007 – 7:00 PM Melville Comprehensive School

Tuesday, January 30, 2007 – 7:00 PM Preeceville School

Wednesday, February 7, 2007 – 7:00 PM Langenburg High School

Each of the meetings will see members of the public and staff members working in small discussion groups to provide the Board of Education with their views on the delivery of service in the Good Spirit School Division. Each discussion group will be facilitated by a member of the Board of Education. Once the initial feedback is received, it will be summarized and made available to the public and staff members for consideration and further input. The information will then be used to develop a service delivery plan that will be released in November of 2007.

For further information, contact Dwayne Reeve, Director of Education at 786-4750.



**Press Release - Thursday, December 21, 2006**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

### **Yorkton Regional High School Special Audit**

The Good Spirit School Division's Board of Education has received Stage 1 findings of the Yorkton Regional High School Special Audit review recently performed by Grant Thornton LLP. The firm has recommended further compilation of documentation on the project be forwarded for Stage 2 review.

The Board approved the second stage of the Yorkton Regional High School Special Audit at its' regular Board meeting held on Thursday, December 14<sup>th</sup>, 2006.

Administration has forwarded additional findings to Grant Thornton LLP and will await the second stage report. It is hoped the report will be received in time for Board consideration at its' next regularly scheduled meeting on Thursday, January 11, 2007.

For further information, contact Dwayne Reeve, Director of Education at 786-4750.

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE - January 23, 2007**

**School Divisions Seek Input on 2007-2008 School Calendar**

The area Public and Catholic School Divisions are inviting public, staff and student input on the setting of the 2007-2008 school calendar. Over the course of the last few months, representatives from the tourism industry have approached the school divisions to consider starting the school year after the Labor Day weekend. As a result, the school divisions have developed two drafts for the proposed school year. The drafts can be viewed on the Good Spirit School Division's website at [www.gssd.ca](http://www.gssd.ca).

The two drafts are substantially different in that the draft with an August start date for both staff and students also incorporates a week long break in February. The other draft would see students return after the long weekend in September and the traditional February break would be removed from the calendar.

If you are interested in expressing your views on the school calendar for the 2007-2008 school year, please express them in writing, prior to February 9, 2007 to one of the following:

Mr. Brian Boechler  
Director of Education  
Christ the Teacher Catholic School Division  
45A Palliser Way  
Yorkton, SK S3N 4R5

Mr. Dwayne Reeve  
Director of Education  
Good Spirit School Division  
63 King Street East  
Yorkton, SK S3N 0T7

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE - May 1, 2007**

## **Good Spirit School Division Establishes Mill Rate**

The Board of Education for the Good Spirit School Division established a 2007 uniform mill rate of 21.95 mills at a special meeting on April 30, 2007. The uniform mill rate will be levied across the division with the exception of the former York School Division who will be levied an additional .20 mills to cover the capital costs associated with the 2005 renovation of the Yorkton Regional High School.

The establishment of the mill rate impacts the revenue received for the remainder of the 2006-2007 budget year for the Good Spirit School Division and establishes budgetary limitations for the 2007-2008 budget year. The Board of Education has directed administration to continue to cut proposed budget expenditures to ensure the identified mill rate results in a balanced budget for 2007-2008. Factors impacting the expenditures include wage adjustments to reflect the current labor market trends in the province and to achieve wage and salary equity across the school division. The proposed budget also includes a professional staff reduction of 11.67 full time equivalent teaching positions across the Good Spirit School Division. Total expenditures forecast for 2007-2008 are planned to reach the \$54,300,000 which is \$4,700,000 dollars less than the 2005 actual expenditures of the school divisions that combined to form the Good Spirit School Division.

The provincial government's inability to appropriately address the funding of education in the province has contributed to a loss of over \$4,000,000 in grant revenue compared to the combined grant totals received prior to amalgamation. The impact of the 2005 reassessment of property values also negatively impacted on the ability of the Good Spirit School Division to access provincial education grant dollars. Given the per student grant recognition utilized in the funding formula, a projected enrollment decline of 150 students added to the decline in grant revenue.

The Good Spirit School Division will be holding a post budget consultation on Thursday, May 17<sup>th</sup>, 2007 beginning at 7:30 PM in Yorkdale Central School located at 273 Gladstone Avenue South in Yorkton.

For further information, please contact Mr. Dwayne Reeve, Director of Education at 786-5500.



**MEDIA RELEASE  
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
Monday, May 14, 2007**

### **Yorkton Regional High School Special Audit**

The Board of Education of the Good Spirit School Division has decided not to take any legal action at the present time with respect to the construction project at the Yorkton Regional High School.

The Board engaged legal representation and the services of a forensic accountant to assist with the investigation of the project and the process that approved the contract.

The Board has also instituted new processes to ensure that contracts are approved in a fair and transparent manner.

“We have done our due diligence on this matter,” said Dwayne Reeve, Director of Education for the Good Spirit School Division. “We have taken steps to rectify our approval process, and we are ready to put this situation behind us and focus on the delivery of education across our division.”

For further information, contact Dwayne Reeve, Director of Education at 786-4750.

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