



Good Spirit School Division No. 204

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~ MEDIA RELEASE ~

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GOOD SPIRIT SCHOOL DIVISION BOARD APPROVES BUDGET

The Good Spirit School Division Board of Education passed the 2015/2016 budget at its regularly scheduled meeting on Wednesday, June 17, 2015. This year's budget includes anticipated revenues and expenditures in excess of \$80 million.

"Our priority is to allocate resources to maintain current operations with a special focus on our motto of Students Come First," states Lois Smandych, Board Chair. "We are beginning year four of our five-year strategic plan and, with the introduction of the Education Sector Strategic Plan and our need to align goals within both frameworks, it is extremely important to ensure targeted investments reflect these goals."

"Transparency always plays a key role in discussions and included numerous meetings with both senior administration as well as board members before determining the finalized budget," maintains Sherry Todosichuk, Superintendent of Business Administration. "Administration has taken the board directive that the budget include a defined focus on aligning resources so that areas such as staffing, supports for learning, and health and safety are targeted to ensure dollars meet identified needs."

Highlights of the 2015/2016 budget include the following:

- Continued investment in literacy with expansion of resources available beyond the primary levels;
- Appointment of an additional Superintendent of Education to meet the needs of our growing student population with a special focus on student services supports to improve outcomes for all students;
- The revamping of the Human Resources Department with the appointment of a Superintendent of Human Resources as well as the addition of an executive assistant to ensure we are achieving efficiencies and adherence in terms of operational procedures;
- The appointment of a Distributed Learning Coordinator (former Digital Learning Coach) to oversee the implementation of a new model of course delivery, as well as the creation of some new courses like Financial Literacy, to ensure a variety of learning opportunities for students throughout the division;
- The addition of a transportation assistant to work in the development of route maps, orientation and overseeing of bus driver needs and assist to ensure efficiencies in the very busy transportation department;
- Preventative Maintenance and Renewal (PMR) funding allocated by the Ministry to address facilities needs;
- Continuation of our bus fleet renewal plan (purchase of 10 buses per year); and,
- The addition of vice-principals at Churchbridge Public and P.J. Gillen Schools as a result of increased enrolments over the past few years.

“The Government of Saskatchewan’s Vision 2020 continues to play an important part in budgeting,” asserts Dwayne Reeve, Director of Education. “With key targets as part of the Saskatchewan Growth Plan including reducing the difference in graduation rates between Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal students by 50 per cent by 2020 as well as leading the country in Grade 12 graduation rates by 2020, we need to make key investments now to make these goals a reality. We have seen tremendous work being done in these areas and more in our division and we need to ensure that funds are dedicated in important areas such as literacy and absence management to continue to see improved learning outcomes for our students.”

For further information, contact Dwayne Reeve, Director of Education at 306-786-5500.

The Good Spirit School Division strives to provide safe, caring, welcoming schools for children. Our primary objective is to foster a respectful learning environment to achieve student success and well-being in each of our 29 public schools throughout East-Central Saskatchewan. Our values of belonging, respect, responsibility, learning and nurturing ensures “Students Come First”. Visit us at www.gssd.ca; contact 306-786-5500 or 1-866-390-0773.

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