



**Good Spirit School Division No. 204**

63 King Street East

Yorkton, SK S3N 0T7

Phn 306.786.5500 ~ Toll Free 1.866.390.0773 ~ Fax 306.783.0355

Website: [www.gssd.ca](http://www.gssd.ca) or E-mail: [feedback@mail.gssd.ca](mailto:feedback@mail.gssd.ca)

~ MEDIA RELEASE ~

**June 28, 2016**

**GOOD SPIRIT SCHOOL DIVISION BOARD APPROVES BUDGET**

The Good Spirit School Division Board of Education passed the 2016/2017 budget at its special meeting on Monday, June 27, 2016. This year's budget includes anticipated revenues of \$77,304,906, expenditures of \$76,310,060 and long term debt repayments of \$1,545,703 which will result in a cash operating deficit of \$550,857.

"The preparation of the budget was a challenge given the late budget day announcement on June 1<sup>st</sup> along with the news of a 2% or \$1.9 million reduction of operating grant from the Ministry of Education for 2016-2017," stated Lois Smandych, Board Chair. "While we were able to manage most of the reduction required, the resulting budget is a small planned deficit."

"The goal for our budget planning this year was to move toward staffing equity across our 29 schools. Early in January a formula for allocating our professional staff was developed with a target of a division ratio of 14.5 pupils for each teacher," explained Quintin Robertson, Acting Director of Education. "This is still low in comparison to the province according to conversations I've had with my colleagues and verified by the Ministry, however we wanted to achieve the reductions through attrition and without redundancy and loss of permanent teaching contracts."

Highlights of the 2016/2017 budget include the following:

- Administration of the Board elections in October 2016 and governance training for new board members
- A 3.37% reduction to Administration budget including a wage freeze to salary grids for the Director, Deputy Directors, Superintendents and Managers and rollback of professional development allocations for these positions
- Increase in the pupil to teacher ratio (PTR) by 0.79 to a PTR of 14.46 which saw a reduction of 20.92 full time equivalent teachers across the 29 schools. This results in less than one additional student in a classroom on average
- Reduction of 7 positions such as education assistants and specialized program support roles
- 2% reduction to school based budgets
- A 2.38% reduction to Facilities budget including a reduction to minor renovations which is offset by the 24% increase in Preventative Maintenance and Renewal restricted funding from the Ministry
- Reduction of 2 bus routes due to declining students in rural areas

"Overall, even though funding was reduced significantly, the planned budget was able to honour the 1.9% increase commitment from the Provincial Collective Bargaining agreement for teachers at an estimated cost of \$947,000. Our senior leadership team

has continued to allocate resources on programming and support initiative to achieve the targets set out in the Government of Saskatchewan’s Vision 2020,” indicated Robertson.

For further information, contact Quintin Robertson, Acting 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](http://www.gssd.ca); contact 306-786-5500 or 1-866-390-0773.

- 30 -

Contact Information:  
Email: [info@gssd.ca](mailto:info@gssd.ca)