



FROM THE BOARD

Highlights of the GSSD Board of Education Monthly Meeting

March 2017

March 2017 Regular Meeting

The regular monthly meeting of the Board for March 2017 took place in the Fairview Education Center boardroom on Thursday, March 16, 2017. In attendance at this month's meeting were Lois Smandych (Chairperson) and Bob Simpson (Vice-Chairperson), Trustees, Jan Morrison, Jade Anderson, Chris Balyski, Gord Gendur, Gilda Dokuchie, Jaime Johnson, Florence Stachura, Director of Education(CEO)/Quintin Robertson, Deputy Director of Corporate Services/Sherry Todosichuk, Deputy of Education/Donna Kriger. Trustees absent were: Steve Variyan and Shannon Leson.

2017-18 School Calendar Review

Director of Education/CEO, Quintin Robertson shared the calendar development process with the Board of Education. Quintin Robertson highlighted how its development is a collaborative process by which both the Good Spirit School Division and Christ the Teacher School Division engage in. Quintin indicated that Good Spirit believes it is important to consult stakeholders during this process, and as such, a survey outlining the two calendar options was shared with schools, staff, parents and the public. Though there was overwhelming support of Option 1, it was highlighted that those who completed the survey were not overly satisfied with the options. In response, a third option was developed which was the overwhelming favourite. Ensuing changes were made to the Christmas break and to the long weekends resulting from Professional Development days.

Director of Education/CEO, Quintin Robertson explained how the school year and school day must comply with provincial legislation and regulations, as well as any directives from the Ministry of Education regarding the number of school days and instructional hours required. Submission of the calendar to the Ministry must occur on or before May 1st.

Highlights of the 2017 – 2018 School Calendar included:

- A total of 197 days are included within the 2017 – 2018 school year, with 185 being instructional days. Each school day consists of 310 instructional minutes, totalling 1016 hours.

- School start up in August will include 4 non-instructional days, with opening day for students being Sept 5th, 2017 as mandated by Legislation. A total of 12 non-instructional days are included within the calendar year balancing semester Semester I and II with 93 instructional and 92 instructional days respectively.
- Preservation of the February Break (Feb.19th, 2018 – Feb.23rd, 2018)
- Christmas Break (Dec.22nd, 2017 – Jan.3rd, 2018)
- Easter Break – Mar.30th, 2018 – April 6th, 2018)

The Board of Education passed a motion to accept the School Calendar as presented based on it meeting the requirements of the Ministry of Education and Administrative Procedure 130.

Dr. Brass School Presentation

Four Grade 8 students from Dr. Brass together with Mr. Jason Gordon, Principal and Ms. Julie Parisloff, teacher joined the Board of Education for a light lunch followed by a presentation highlighting the academic programming and extra-curricular opportunities available for students at their school. The students spoke passionately regarding the importance of school culture and student-teacher relationships. They highlighted the impact that both the professional and support staff have on the lives of students at Dr. Brass. The presentation was emotionally charged and reinforced to Trustees that the motto of “Students Come First” is alive and well at Dr. Brass School.



Facility Highlights From Across GSSD

Teresa Korol, Assistant Superintendent of Business Administration took the Board of Education through a virtual walkthrough of various schools located within the Good Spirit School Division during the March meeting. In the past, the Board of Education would carry out tours of the school facilities located across the Division to familiarize new Trustees with its schools. In an attempt to be fiscally responsible, the Board of Education made a decision to be prudent with their resources and carry out virtual visits instead.

The schools highlighted during the March Board Meeting were:

Calder School – located 57 km East of Yorkton

Calder School is our smallest building. Built in 1960 it is a four classroom school without a gym.

The current enrolment of this K-8 school is 25 and the utilization rate is 41%. Calder School has received a significant number of upgrades. In the last eight years it has had a complete roof replacement, a new boiler system, and the addition of a staff washroom and staff room. Upon entering this building, it is evident it is a very pleasant learning environment.

Nicole Piercy is the Principal of Calder School.



Canora Junior Elementary School – located 47 km North of Yorkton

Canora Junior Elementary School uses every inch of their space including the hallways. CJES is a Pre K-4 school and has an enrollment of 195 not including the Pre-K students. The 16 Pre-K students are located in the former division office building across town. Even with the Pre-K students in another building this school is over utilized with a gross utilization rate of 128%.

In 2012 the division was fortunate enough to receive funding for 3 portables. These portables allowed the school to expand into more classrooms and to provide for break out spaces for one on one work with students. The addition of 3 classrooms has made a significant impact on the school. A new kitchen has recently been added, allowing the school to provide students breakfast and snacks as well as access to a cooking program.

Rod Steciuk is the Principal of CJES.



Dr. Brass Elementary School – located within the City of Yorkton

Dr. Brass Elementary School is one of four elementary schools located within the city of Yorkton. It was built in 1950 and was formerly known as Yorkton Collegiate.

The current enrolment of this PreK- 8 school is 193 students. While the utilization rate for this school is only 53% the number is not truly reflective, as this school has a full basement that is currently not useable student space. The classroom utilization rate is 105%.

The school staff and community are very proud of the gymnasium housed within their school. It is among the best that can be found within the Yorkton area for Grades PK – 8. It boasts a balcony for viewing sports and multi-use functions and for that reason it is often sought after by community users.

Jason Gordon is the Principal of Dr. Brass and Ron Gillis is the Vice-Principal.



Melville Comprehensive School – located within the City of Melville

Melville Comprehensive School was built in 1969 and was the last Comprehensive School built in the province. It currently has an enrolment of 348 students Grade 7-12 and a utilization rate of 41%. This does not take into consideration the area occupied by the Parkland College, which has its main administration office and some classroom space in the school.

The Melville Comprehensive is a very well maintained building and is in immaculate condition. It has a fine compliment of Practical and Applied Arts shops within the facility, including automotive, welding, cosmetology, and construction. A roofing project was just completed during the summer of 2016. The original gymnasium bleachers are slated to be replaced in 2017 as well as an upgrade to the HVAC system is also planned for the summer of 2017.

Brandon Needham is the Principal of MCS and Darren Wandy is the Vice-Principal.



P.J. Gillen School – located within Esterhazy (90 km South of Yorkton)

PJ Gillen was built in the 1960's and is a K-5 school with an enrollment of 267. The current utilization of this school is 95%.

PJ Gillen School has had significant renovations over the past three years. In 2015 the emergency funding was made available to upgrade the heating system. At the same time the school and community worked diligently to generate additional funds. Mosaic provided a \$300,000 grant to enhance the school and additional PMR funding was made available to complete the renovations.

Over the last two years the school has had an upgraded heating system, renovated library and gymnasium, renovated washrooms, new classroom lighting, new windows, new hallway paint, new administration offices and lockers installed.

Kelsey Shields in the Principal of P.J. Gillen and Wanita Lippai is the Vice-Principal.



Preeceville School – located 100 km North of Yorkton

Preeceville School was built in five phases from 1963 until 1984. The current enrolment is 286 and the utilization rate is 94%.

Preeceville School has had extensive renovations over the past eight years. In the fall of 2010 the heating system in a portion of the school was turned off and the duct work sealed. An electric heating system was installed in school until the Ministry approved funding in 2011 for a heating and ventilation replacement and necessary upgrades to the classrooms and hallway, including new ceilings and lighting.

Other renovation projects at Preeceville School include the replacement of two roof sections, complete upgrades to the senior washrooms, an accessibility project to accommodate a wheelchair student, and renovations to the gym including new change-rooms, refinishing of walls, removal of its acoustical sprayed finish, and installation of a hardwood gym floor.



Quarterly Financial Report

The Board heard from Sherry Todosichuk, Deputy Director of Corporate Services regarding a quarterly report and financial summary. The report highlighted that the 2016 – 2017 budget was on track and on target to meet budget expectations. The budget reporting was introduced with a commentary as well as a financial spreadsheet which made it easier to understand the fiscal picture of the Good Spirit School Division. In addition to the budget reporting, Sherry also provided a comprehensive explanation of the Education Tax and distribution of Ministry grants.

The process of Budget Forecasting was also explained to the Board of Education with Sherry highlighting how team effort and transparency among members of the Administrative Council enabled the potential for reallocating resources for current emergent needs within the School Division.

Lean Event on Transportation and Out of Attendance Area Requests

Director of Education/CEO, Quintin Robertson and Deputy Director of Corporate Services, Sherry Todosichuk shared information regarding a LEAN event which they lead, targeting the process involved with Out of Attendance Area Requests affecting the schools within the cities of Yorkton and Melville. Florence Stachura, a Good Spirit Trustee, participated in the event with two school administrators, an SCC member, and a Superintendent of Education. The team identified issues occurring throughout the process and problem solved solutions to resolve them. This resulted in a reduction of unnecessary steps thus streamlining the process from beginning to end.

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 April 13, 2017

Location: Fairview Education Board Room

Contact Us

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