

November 2017 Regular Meeting

The regular monthly meeting of the Board for November 2017 took place in the Fairview Education Centre Board Room on Thursday, November 23, 2017. In attendance at this month's meeting were Lois Smandych, Chairperson, Bob Simpson, Vice-Chairperson, Trustees, Jade Anderson, Gord Gendur, Gilda Dokuchie, Jaime Johnson, Florence Stachura, Jan Morrison, Shannon Leson, Steve Variyan, Chris Balyski, Senior Executive Assistant, Heather Morris, Director of Education, Quintin Robertson, Deputy Director of Corporate Services, Sherry Todosichuk, Chief Financial Officer, Keith Gervais, Deputy Director of Education, Donna Kriger.

The meeting was called to order at 10 am, by Board Chair, Lois Smandych. Minutes from the October 5, 2017 Board Meeting were approved as presented.



Photo:
Stuart Wilson, GSTA President, attended the GSSD Board of Education Meeting as part of the Advocacy between the Board and the Good Spirit Teachers Association

Transportation Accountability Report

Sherry Todosichuk, Deputy Director of Corporate Services, shared information regarding internal processes, targeted within the Transportation Department during the past school year. Target areas have been focussed on safety, driver evaluations, fleet health and compliance as well as routing. Strategies employed to achieve improvement in these key target areas were shared with the Board of Education as well as the future strategies for continued improvement in the Transportation Department. The Board of Education passed a motion to accept the

Accountability Report as presented satisfying the Quality Indicators for the Director of Education's annual evaluation:

- QI 1.2 Regular actions are taken to ensure busses and facilities are safe and healthy.
- QI 8.1 Ensures Divisional compliance with all Ministry of Education and Board mandates.

Audited Financial Statement

Deputy Director of Corporate Services, Sherry Todosichuk reviewed the Audited Financial Statement for the 2016-17 year. Deputy Director Todosichuk highlighted the following items from the Audit report:

1. There were no internal control issues.
2. Application of appropriate accounting principles were carried out.
3. There were no unusual transactions observed.
4. The accounting estimates used, were considered reasonable.
5. There were no disagreements with Management discovered.
6. There were no difficulties encountered during the audit process.

Sherry walked the Board of Education through the details of the Audited Financial Statement in the various accounts. A question and answer opportunity was provided to the Board to ensure they had sufficient understanding of the Financial Statement at presented.

The Board made a motion to accept the accountability report on the *August 31, 2017 Audited Financial Statements* as presented. This satisfied the Quality Indicators found within the Director of Education's annual evaluation:

- QI 3.1 Generally accepted accounting practices are being followed.
- QI 3.2 Adequate internal financial controls exist and are being followed.
- QI 3.3 All collective agreements and contracts are being administered and interpreted so staff and contracted personnel are being paid appropriately and appropriate deductions are being made.
- QI 3.5 Board is informed annually about incurred liabilities and immediately regarding pending litigation.

Highlighted Celebrations

Board Chair, Lois Smandych recognized the many years of dedicated service that Deputy Director of Corporate Services, Sherry Todosichuk, has provide the Good Spirit School Division and former Boards associated with Good Spirit. After serving as the Superintendent of Business Administration and most recently, the Deputy Director of Corporate Services, Sherry will be joining Prairie Spirit School Division in January 2018 as a Controller. The Board extended a sincere "thank you" to Sherry for her many years of dedication and service. Best wishes for continued success Sherry! The Good Spirit School Division is most appreciative of your excellent work.

Photo:
Sherry Todosichuk, Deputy Director of Corporate Services, was celebrated for her many years of dedicated service



Board Advocacy with the Good Spirit Teacher's Association (GSTA)

Good Spirit Teacher's Association (GSTA) President Stuart Wilson, Past President Valerie Gendreau, LINC Chair Ron Lutz, Secretary & Constitution, Nominations, Resolution and Elections (CNRE) Patti-Jo Donovan and Social Chair Christa Schmelinsky joined the Board of Education for a light lunch. Following lunch, members of the GSTA shared the voice of teachers regarding what is currently working within the school division, what is challenging for teachers and suggestions for the future. The conversation was engaging, respectful and collaborative. The Board of Education appreciates the positive working relationship, which exists between itself and members of the GSTA. The Board is committed to maintaining and building upon this relationship in the future.



Photo:
Board Advocacy session with the Good Spirit
Teacher's Association

Old Business

Board Policy 18 – Community Partnerships

Deputy Director of Corporate Services, Sherry Todosichuk reviews the highlights of Board Policy 18. The Board passed a motion to add Policy 18 to the existing Board Policies.

New Business

2016-17 Annual Report

Director/CEO Quintin Robertson, shared the process involved by which administrative staff work with Ministry officials to complete the Annual Report each year, according to Ministry requirements. For the 2016-17 Annual Report, senior administration prepared the background information to be included to highlight the achievements of the Good Spirit School Division over the past school year.

The Board of Education passed a motion to approve the 2016-17 Annual Report, thus satisfying the Quality Indicators found within the Director/CEO annual evaluation:

- QI 9.1 Represents the Division in a positive, professional manner.
- QI 9.3 Ensures information regarding Board initiatives and priorities are disseminated to inform the electorate.
- QI 8.1 Ensures Divisional compliance with all Ministry of Education and Board mandates (timelines and quality).

Audited Financial Statement

The Board of Education received and passed a motion to approve the Audited Financial Statement for the year ending August 31, 2017 and the Management Letter presented. This is in accordance with Board Policy 2 regarding the Role of the Board. Director/CEO Robertson identified that the audit firm of Miller Moar Grodecki Krekewich & Chorney completed the audit for the 2016-17 financial statements. Upon receipt of the final audited financial statements, the documents will be available in the Board Resource Centre and the school division website.



Change of Signatory

According to Board Policy 2 - Role of the Board, the signing authority was the responsibility of the Board Chair or Vice Chair and the Deputy Director of Corporate Services or the Accounting Manager. With the resignation of Sherry Todosichuk, Deputy Director of Corporate Services, a decision was made to change the title of the position from Deputy Director of Corporate Services to Chief Financial Officer and therefore the signatory approval needed to be changed. The Board therefore passed a motion to make a change to the title of the position and to make the Chief Financial Officer a signatory of the Board.

YRHS Theatre Technician Agreement

Technical Services for the Anne Portnuff Theatre at the Yorkton Regional High School were tendered during the period of October 2016 to October 2017 to MAD Tech Services. Due to the success of the services and the ability of this service to meet the needs of the community, the Board passed a motion to extend the contract at the YRHS to MAD Tech Services until June 2018.

Emergent Funding For the Yorkton Regional High School

The Board of Education approved a motion to submit an application to the Ministry of Education for emergent funding from the Infrastructure Branch for asbestos abatement in classrooms within the A-Wing of the Yorkton Regional High School. Small amounts of acoustical spray containing asbestos, found on the ceiling in the A-Wing classrooms has fallen resulting from student disturbance. The classroom is currently not in use and to prevent any exposure to staff and students the material will be removed. In accordance with Ministry of Education Emergent Funding Policy Guidelines, divisions may apply to the Ministry for emergent funding. If funding is approved, the Ministry will provide 100% of the project costs associated with the abatement.

Langenburg Community Fitness Center Agreement

The Board of Education passed a motion to approve the long-term agreement with the Town of Langenburg for community use of the fitness center at the Langenburg Central School. The fundraising endeavor of the Langenburg community allowed a partnership to be developed, resulting in a joint use space included within the school enabling the public access to the facility during non-school hours.

Anne Portnuff Theatre Revitalization

The Board of Education made a motion to approve the application to the Canadian Cultural Spaces Fund for a grant for the Anne Portnuff Theatre Revitalization Project. A local fundraising campaign has been very successful, resulting in the acquisition of funds to replace the seating within the Anne Portnuff Theatre. If the grant application is approved, it will allow the curtains and theatre lights to be replaced as well.

Highlights from the Director's Report

Board Development (Understanding Financial Statements and Auditor's Report)

As part of the Board developing their learning and capacity within their role, Deputy Director of Corporate Services, Sherry Todosichuk engaged members in learning related to Financial Statements. The information highlighted for learning involved:

1. Management Responsibility for Financial Statements
2. Auditors' Report
3. Statement of Financial Position
4. Statement of Operations and Accumulated Surplus from Operations
5. Statement of Changes in Net Financial Assets and Statement of Cash Flows
6. Schedule A: Supplementary Details of Revenue
7. Schedule B: Supplementary Details of Expenses
8. Schedule C: Supplementary Details of Tangible Capital Assets
9. Other Schedules
10. Notes to Financial Statements

Upon conclusion of the development session, the Board passed a motion that Director/CEO Robertson provided evidence regarding the following Quality Indicators for his annual evaluation:

- QI 6.2 The Director keeps the Board informed about Division operations.
- QI 6.3 The Director provides the Board with balance, sufficient, concise information and clear recommendations for actions items in agendas.
- QI 6.6 The Director ensures high quality management services are provided to the Board.

Student Incident of Concern

Director/CEO Robertson reviewed the student suspensions from across the school division. Board members were made aware that in all suspensions, the situation and investigation were conducted within the guidelines identified in the *Education Act, 1995* with parental follow up. Robertson, shared that the division pays particular attention to the trends within schools and across the school division.

Important Dates

The meeting concluded with Director/CEO Robertson highlighting upcoming important dates.

November 28 & 29, December 1

CUPE Bargaining

November 29

North Cluster School Community Council
Regional Symposium, Sturgis Composite School
Library at 7 pm

December 21

Regular Board Meeting

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 December 21, 2017

Location: Fairview Education Board Room

Contact Us

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