

December 2017 Regular Meeting

The regular monthly meeting of the Board for December 2017 took place in the Fairview Education Center Board Room on Thursday, December 21, 2017. In attendance at this month's meeting were Lois Smandych, Chairperson, Bob Simpson, Vice-Chairperson, Trustees Jade Anderson, Jaime Johnson, Florence Stachura, Jan Morrison, Shannon Leson, Chris Balyski, Senior Executive Assistant, Heather Morris, Director of Education, Quintin Robertson, Chief Financial Officer, Keith Gervais, and Deputy Director of Education, Donna Kriger.

The meeting was called to order at 10:00am, by Board Chair, Lois Smandych. Minutes from the November 23, 2017 Board meeting were approved as presented.



Yorkton Regional High School Presentation

Administrators, teachers, and student leaders from the Yorkton Regional High School presented information regarding the 2020 Canadian Student Leadership Conference which will be held in Yorkton during September of 2020. This will be the third time the conference finds its home at the Yorkton Regional High School which makes the conference theme "From the Roots Up" very appropriate.

The student leaders exemplified the enthusiasm and leadership that the conference was founded on. The students shared an engaging video presentation that captured their vision for hosting this outstanding event. Students from across the Good Spirit School Division will be invited to share in the experience, which will undoubtedly have a positive impact on their "home" school.



Board Advocacy Session with Cote First Nation

It was the privilege of The Board of Education to host members from the Cote First Nation for lunch and open dialogue. Chief George Cote, Principal Jonas Cote, Board Member Ted Cote, and Education Advisor Norinne Cote shared their vision for education both on and off the reserve. Chief George articulated his passion for the future of families and students who belong to the Cote First Nation. He shared his desire to deepen the relationship with the Good Spirit School Division and to see children on the Cote Reserve be successful in their future. Chief George expressed his appreciation for the invitation to have dialogue with the Board of Education.



Norinne shared the challenges that First Nations people face and spoke to her desire to continue an open dialogue with the Board of Education. Jonas spoke to the work which has been done in the Chief Gabriel School regarding the Sector Plan Goals. He also spoke to the Invitational Shared Services Initiative with Good Spirit and expressed a sincere desire to develop stronger relationships between staff and students on and off the reserve.

Accountability Report

Director/CEO Quintin Robertson led the Board of Education through an [Accountability Report](#) highlighting Student Learning and Welfare across the Good Spirit School Division. Robertson highlighted the division targets which have been set for the 2017-18 school year across the Division.

Targets:

GSSD exists to provide the highest level of student learning & well-being. All students will experience learning environments rich in the opportunities and experiences necessary to promote intellectual, emotional and spiritual growth.

By June 2020, at least 85% of GSSD students will be at grade level in reading.

By June 2020, at least 80% of GSSD students will be at grade level in writing.

By June 2020, at least 80% of GSSD students will be at grade level in math.

By June 2020, at least 90% of students exiting Kindergarten in GSSD will be ready for learning.

By June 2020, GSSD will reduce the number of students reporting anxiety by 10%.

By June 2020, GSSD will reduce the number of students reporting depression by 10%.

Robertson shared data regarding each of the target areas. He highlighted the growth made in literacy and shared that GSSD is poised to exceed the results recognized in the past school year. Director/CEO Robertson emphasized the “laser focus” being placed on literacy instruction and delivery in classrooms across the division. Reference was also made to Early Learning across the division and the fall results achieved in the EYE-TA (Early Years Evaluation).

Results for Writing Outcomes (Compose and Create) and Number Strand Outcomes were shared from Term I Outcome Based reporting. Student attendance trends were reviewed and reference was made to the many factors that might affect students' attendance such as, health and well-being, interest and desire, commitment and discipline.

Robertson identified the “key strategies” being employed to reach each of the targets listed above. The Board of Education was given opportunity to ask for clarification regarding the data presented.

As a result of the Accountability Report, the Board of Education passed a motion identifying that the Director/CEO has provided sufficient evidence related to meeting the following Quality Indicators within the Director’s annual evaluation:

QI 1.4 - Utilizes performance metrics for the purpose of monitoring and evaluating operational performance relative to student wellness.

QI 7.2 - Achieves the key results identified in the Strategic Plan.

QI 7.3 - Reports at least annually on results achieved.

New Business

Board Policy 2 Appendix A Amendments

The Board of Education passed a motion to amend the [Annual Work Plan](#) of the Board to include the Transportation Report on a quarterly basis. The Board also passed a motion that the Director/CEO has provided sufficient evidence related to meeting the following Quality Indicators within the Director’s annual evaluation.

QI 9.1 - Represents the Division in a positive, professional manner.

QI 8.1 - Ensures Divisional compliance with all Ministry of Education and Board mandates (timelines and quality).

Sturgis Floor Replacement

As part of the next phase of renovations for the Sturgis Composite School the Board of Education passed a motion to award the contract for flooring to Carpet One Flooring. The Board also passed a motion that the Director/CEO has provided sufficient evidence related to meeting the following Quality Indicators within the Director’s annual evaluation.

QI 1.1 – Facilitate environments where students feel safe, and have high levels of intellectual engagement.

QI 3.6 – Reviews expenditures to ensure continuous improvement in terms of value for money.

Director’s Report

Board Development – Understanding Comprehensive School Community Health

Deputy Director of Education, Donna Kriger, led the Board through a series of facts related to Comprehensive School Community Health (CSCH). The Good Spirit School Division has employed this holistic approach to meet the following goals:

- promote health and wellness among staff and students
- intervene to assist children and youth in vulnerable circumstances and;
- to provide equitable opportunities that address disparities and contribute to the success of Children and youth.

Within GSSD, CSCH has targeted: student mental health, physical fitness, nutrition, addictions, school environment (outdoor classrooms), First Nation Métis education, and Gender and Sexual Diversity, student engagement, and staff professional development in these areas.

Important Dates

January 27, 2018	Family Literacy Day
February 1, 2018	Regular Board Meeting

Service Recognition Awards

Director/CEO Robertson highlighted the staff across the Good Spirit School Division who will be receiving service recognition awards throughout January and February 2018. There are 95 individuals in total being recognized for 10 years, 15 years, 20 years, 25 years, 30 years and 35 years of service. Good Spirit is most appreciative of the dedication and service these individuals have provided over the years. In addition to the service recognition awards, Good Spirit will also be recognizing “Sea Star” winners in a variety of our schools. These individuals have been nominated by colleagues/community/students for going “above and beyond” in their current role. This year, fourteen individuals from ten different schools will receive this honour in the categories of high levels of achievement, making a marked difference in their school, and dedicated service.

Updated Financial Report

Chief Financial Officer (CFO), Keith Gervais, presented the Board with an updated financial report. The report had no anomalies and indicated that the School Division is on track for the 2017-18 budget.

Student Incident of Concern Report

The Director/CEO presented the student suspensions from across the Good Spirit School Division. The report highlighted the severity of the incidents and the follow up actions related to the events.

The Board passed a motion that the Director/CEO has provided sufficient evidence related to meeting the following Quality Indicators within the Director’s annual evaluation.

QI 1.3 - Provides an analysis of incident reports related to student conduct (suspensions, expulsions, division threat assessments).

QI 1.4 - Utilizes performance metrics for the purpose of monitoring and evaluating operational performance relative to student wellness.

Upcoming Professional Development

January 25, 2018	English as an Additional Language (EAL) Work Day
January 31, 2018	Saskatchewan Professional Development Unit (SPDU) Workshop – Connecting Curriculum to Play-Based Projects in Kindergarten
January 31, 2018	When Readers Struggle – Strategies and resources for Literacy Intervention
January 31, 2018	Academic Behavioural Support for Learners
February 28, 2018	SPDU Workshop – Supporting EAL Teachers
March 22, 2018	Non-Violent Crisis Intervention Spring Training – Refresher for those requiring spring certification

Facilities Update

Director/CEO, Quintin Robertson, reviewed the Portable Project at Columbia School in Yorkton. The project was awarded in July 2017 with an expected completion date of December. The project came in well under budget and allowed the division to accommodate the alternate price requests to meet additional needs with the school design. The company, which was awarded the project, advised GSSD at the last site meeting that the schedule has been pushed back until March 2018 due to a variety of circumstances. While the project is delayed, it was noted that the contractor does have a history of providing GSSD with quality workmanship. In addition, the opportunity to build on site portables instead of pre-fabricated units allows the division to customize the spaces to meet the needs of the school. There is confidence that the end result will be a better product for years to come.



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 February 1, 2018

Location: Fairview Education Board Room

Contact Us

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