

# FROM THE BOARD

Highlights of the GSSD Board of Education Monthly Meeting

March 2018

## March 2018 Regular Meeting

The regular monthly meeting of the Board for March 2018 took place in the Fairview Education Center Board room on Thursday, March 15, 2018. In attendance at this month's meeting were Lois Smandych (Chairperson) and Bob Simpson (Vice-Chairperson), Trustees Jade Anderson, Jaime Johnson, Shannon Leson, Chris Balyski, Gilda Dokuchie, Steve Variyan, Jan Morrison, Florence Stachura, Senior Executive Assistant Heather Morris, Director of Education Quintin Robertson, Chief Financial Officer Keith Gervais, and Deputy Director of Education Donna Kriger. Board Member Gord Gendur was absent.

The meeting was called to order at 10 am, by Board Chair Lois Smandych. Meeting norms were reviewed and the [minutes](#) from the February 1, 2018 Board meeting were approved as shared.



## Closed Session Discussions

The Board spent the morning with closed session/in-camera discussions regarding updates to their Governance Budget, as well as a detailed Human Resources report, which was shared by CFO Gervais, and CEO/Director Robertson. Preliminary budget considerations for the upcoming 2018-19 school year were also included in the closed session. Student discipline reports, updates on existing community partnerships, discussion regarding AP 990, Public Section updates and a Transportation Committee Report rounded out the closed session discussion.

## **Student Incident of Concern Report**

Director/CEO Robertson 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 of Education passed a motion to accept the report as presented.

## **High School Boundary Review**

After discussion regarding the High School boundaries existing in the Calder/MacNutt area of the school division, the Board of Education voted against a motion proposing a boundary review be conducted. Currently, students in the area attend either Langenburg Central School or the Yorkton Regional High School for grades 9-12.

## **Yorkton Regional High School: Canadian Student Leadership 2020**

The Board of Education had a proposal presented regarding the Canadian Student Leadership Conference which will be hosted by the Yorkton Regional High School during the fall of 2020. The conference will see approximately 1,000 students from across Canada visit the Good Spirit School Division as delegates representing their schools and communities. The Yorkton Regional High School hosted the original conference in 1985; the 2020 conference will be the third time that the it will be hosted by the YRHS.

The Board of Education is excited that the conference is coming “back home” to where the very first Canadian Student Leadership Conference was held. The Good Spirit School Division’s motto of “Students Come First” represents our commitment to the youth of our division, province, and country. The GSSD mission states, we are invested in “building strong foundations to create bright futures” and hosting the 2020 CSLC would allow the Good Spirit School Division increased opportunity to do so, not only for our own students but those around the country.

## **Board of Education Advocacy Session**

The Board of Education hosted members from DPEA, CUPE 5123, and CUPE 4784 for an advocacy session during the lunch hour of their regular meeting. The meeting allowed representatives from each union group to discuss challenges their members faced as well as to highlight the celebrations that exist in their working relationship with Good Spirit.

The advocacy session was respectful, collaborative and productive. Members of the Board of Education, as well as Director/CEO Robertson, committed to making improvements for employees based on the feedback they received.



DPEA Union President - Darcy Almasi, CUPE 5123 Union VP - Marlene Palanuik & Wayne McInnes – Union Treasurer, CUPE 4784 Union President - Karla Sastaunik & Mark Federuik – Union VP engaged in conversation with Board of Education members during the March 15, 2018 Board Meeting held at Fairview Education Center in Yorkton.

## **New Business**

### **Esterhazy High School International Field Trip**

The GSSD Board of Education approved the application submitted by the Esterhazy High School Band to attend the International Peace Gardens in June. Attendance at the Peace Gardens will give band students the opportunity to attend clinics hosted by Symphony musicians. The students will also experience band sessions with guest conductors, attend theory classes, have the opportunity to engage in African drumming sessions as well as meet fellow musicians from across the United States.

### **Approval of the 2018-19 School Calendar**

The 2018-19 draft school year calendar, which was developed in collaboration with Christ the Teacher Catholic School Division, was presented to the Board of Education by Director/CEO Quintin Robertson. Robertson shared that the GSSD calendar survey closed on February 22, 2018. Five hundred and seventy-five responses were received, and the feedback suggested that many respondents would prefer a “traditional” Easter Break. As result, GSSD has incorporated the feedback received and constructed a third calendar which the Board of Education approved. The resulting calendar will be presented to the Ministry of Education for approval. Upon approval, the 2018-19 calendar will be shared with schools and the public.

This satisfies Quality Indicator 8.1 of the Director/CEO evaluation, which identifies that Divisional compliance with all Ministry of Education and Board mandates (timelines and quality) is adhered to.

## **The Unified Student Data System**

The Good Spirit School Division Board of Education agreed to support of the implementation of the provincial Unified Student Data System (USIS). The Board approved submitting a letter to the Ministry of Education acknowledging their support of:

- the project and adoption of a new system in our organization;
- providing project communication to senior management and appropriate staff;
- providing visible and active support for the project;
- building a coalition of sponsorship through all levels of management;
- allocating skilled resources to the project as needed; and,
- advising the project team on critical business and stakeholder issues.

## **Naming of the Yorkton Regional High School Foyer**

The Board approved the purchase of a plaque or signage to name/dedicate the foyer of the Yorkton Regional High School foyer in honour of Barry Sharpe. Barry taught in Yorkton during the years of 1966 – 1996. He spent 29 of his 30 years at the Yorkton Regional High School. During his tenure there, Barry dedicated his career to impacting the lives of students through organizing school activities that were engaging and which ultimately connected students to their school. During his career and since his retirement, Barry, has been recognized locally, provincially and nationally for the contribution he has made in connecting students to their school.

## **CEO/Director of Education Evaluation**

The Board of Education passed a motion to make changes to Board Policy 12 Appendix A which would see the CEO evaluation occur bi-annually versus annually as stated in the current policy. This will allow the Director/CEO to concentrate on his efforts on Board and Division priorities. The change also allows the Board of Education to utilize the Regular Board meeting in August for strategic planning and goal setting.

## **Director's Report**

### **School Division Funding 101**

CFO Gervais and CEO/Director Robertson led the Board of Education through a Board Development session focussing on [Provincial versus Federal Funding](#). The information allowed Board members to build their understanding regarding such things as Tuition Costs, the Provincial Funding Formula, Governance Budgets, Facility Budgets, Complementary Services, Transportation Funding, Debt Repayment and how School Consolidation impacts the funding formula.

## Facilities Update

Board Policy 2 identifies that the Board of Education has a responsibility to not only approve budgets but to ensure that the resources are allocated in a manner that allows the School Division to achieve desired results. Likewise, the Board has the responsibility to approve the Preventative Maintenance and Renewal plan for the division. To assist in their decision-making, the Board frequently requests facility reports that highlight the work completed and work still needing to be done in each of the schools within the division.

During the March 15, 2018 Board meeting, Teresa Korol, Assistant Superintendent of Business Administration, chose to highlight the following work:

### Grayson School

Teresa Korol highlighted the facility upgrades, which have occurred over the 2017-18 school year, in Grayson School, a K-9 facility. Korol indicated that the work has resulted in space being re-purposed for a home economics lab, Professional Service Provider office and student break out space for one-on-one work.



### Victoria School

Victoria School is a Pre-Kindergarten to Grade 4 facility with the current year September 30 enrolment at 235 students. The utilization rate for this school is 98%. Victoria School has a very active PreK program with two full classrooms. During the summer of 2014, Victoria School received a renovation to accommodate a number of program changes. The renovations included the relocation and upgrades to the PreK classrooms and a new office layout.





A wheelchair accessible bathroom and a therapy room for individual work with students were created.

To view the full Facilities Presentation, click [here](#).

## Upcoming Professional Development

<b>March 22, 2018</b>	Non-Violent Crisis Intervention Spring Training – Refresher for those requiring spring certification.
<b>April 18, 2018</b>	Gender & Sexual Diversity – focusing on best practice around establishing GSAs in schools, unpacking curricular connections and sharing professional resources.
<b>April 27, 2018</b>	SPDU Workshop: Supporting EAL Teachers
<b>May 28, 2018</b>	Grades 2, 5 & 8 Early Math Adopter Teacher Meeting

## FEC Organizational Review

Director/CEO Robertson shared that Fairview Education Center (FEC) is currently undergoing an organizational review assessing the efficiency of our current organizational structure with the Good Spirit School Division. The review will provide several scenarios that would be cost neutral and ultimately resulting in improved service as it aligns to the Divisions Strategic Plan.

Robertson shared that the results of the review would be brought to the Board Executive for consultation later in the spring of this year. Robertson communicated that the potential re-structuring of the organization chart would allow GSSD to maximize their efforts towards the Division and Provinces focus areas. Robertson believes this restructuring will eliminate inefficiencies and misalignment of human capital within central office.

## Financial Report

Keith Gervais, CFO for the Good Spirit School Division, shared an updated financial report for the Board of Education. Gervais highlighted that GSSD is on track to maintain a balanced budget for the 2017-18 school year.

## School Community Council Training & Development

Director/CEO Robertson shared that the GSSD Senior Administrative Team will be conducting centralized training in Yorkton for interested SCC Chairs around specific areas of function as identified in the SCC Health Check.

Topics in the training and development session will include:

- Reporting to the public regarding SCC achievement, initiatives, and accomplishments
- Curriculum development, including locally developed options
- Provincial Budget formula and decentralized funds
- Community usage agreements
- Training around the Draft Gender & Sexual Diversity and the Draft Administrative Procedure
  - GSSD Values (Belonging, Respect, Responsibility, Learning, Nurturing and Perseverance)
  - Draft AP (Gender and Sexual Diversity)
  - Presentation (Kyla Christiansen/James McNinch)
  - GSD within the context of the curriculum
  - Deepening the Discussion: Gender and Sexual Diversity (Ministry of Education Resource)

### Upcoming Important Dates:

<b>March 16-17</b>	Saskatchewan School Community Council Conference, North Battleford
<b>March 25-27</b>	Rural Congress, Saskatoon, SK
<b>March 30 – April 6</b>	Easter Break
<b>April 12</b>	Board Chairs Council Meeting, 8:30–11:30 am, Radisson Hotel, Saskatoon, SK
<b>April 12-13</b>	Spring Assembly, Radisson Hotel, Saskatoon, SK
<b>April 18</b>	Centralized SCC Symposium
<b>May 9 -11</b>	Employee Benefits Plan Seminar, DoubleTree Hilton, Regina, SK
<b>June 13</b>	Superannuation Banquet

#### 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](mailto:Heather.Morris@gssd.ca) Thanks for reading!

Next Board Meeting Scheduled for April 19, 2018

Location: Fairview Education Board Room

#### Contact Us

##### Good Spirit School Division #204

Fairview Education Center  
63 King Street East  
Yorkton, Saskatchewan  
S3N 0T7

Phone: (306) 786-5500  
Visit us online at  
[www.gssd.ca](http://www.gssd.ca)