

March 2019 Regular Meeting

The regular monthly meeting of the Board for March 2019 took place in the Fairview Education Center Board Room on Thursday, March 14, 2019. In attendance at this month's meeting were Lois Smandych, Chairperson, Bob Simpson, Vice-Chairperson, Trustees Jade Anderson, Chris Balyski, Gilda Dokuchie, Gord Gendur, Jaime Johnson, Shannon Leson, Jan Morrison, Florence Stachura, Steve Variyan, Assistant to the Director, Heather Morris, Director of Education/CEO, Quintin Robertson, Chief Financial Officer, Keith Gervais and Deputy Director of Education, Donna Kriger.



Accountability Report

Following Their Voices

Superintendent of Education, Mark Forsythe, presented information regarding the Following Their Voices initiative at the Kamsack Comprehensive Institute (KCI). Superintendent Forsythe shared First Nation Métis (FNM) student data related to Graduation Rates, Achievement, Attendance, Sense of Belonging, and Intellectual Engagement. Forsythe highlighted the hard work of the staff at KCI regarding the use of discursive strategies. This work has resulted in FNMI students at KCI reporting a 9% increase in Intellectual Engagement over 1 year and a 21% increase over the past 2 years. The Sense of Belonging among FNM students has also increased 3% from the previous year and a 14% increase over the past 2 years.

Forsythe highlighted that the school goals at KCI focus on:

- Relationships;
- Interactions and engagement; and,
- Well-managed learning environments (best practices in the classroom).

It is evident that the staff at KCI have been extremely successful at achieving these goals. The Board of Education was complimentary and appreciative of the commitment demonstrated by the entire KCI staff and the work of Mark Forsythe.

The Following Their Voices Accountability Report has been posted to the Board section of the website. To view the report in its entirety, click [here](#).



Board Advocacy Session



CUPE 4784 President Karla Sastaunik, DPEA President Dave Cheveldae and Representative Lariene Thompson participated in an Advocacy Session with the Board of Education to discuss those things that are working and what needs to be done differently.

New Business

Approve 2019-20 School Year Calendar

Quintin Robertson shared that a calendar committee comprised of representatives from Good Spirit School Division, Good Spirit Teachers' Association, Christ the Teacher Catholic Schools, and Christ the Teacher Teachers' Association developed one calendar option for the 2019-20 school year. An online survey was established to give stakeholders an opportunity to provide feedback. There was an 85% approval rate for the calendar and therefore the proposed 2019-20 calendar was approved by the Board of Education.

Atrieve Software Conversion

Keith Gervais shared information with the Board regarding *Atrieve*, a software suite that has the capability to improve many of the internal processes impacting Human Resources, Payroll and Accounting functions. The software will also streamline and simplify many of the processes used by the schools within the division. The Board of Education passed a motion to approve the purchase and use of the new *Atrieve* software.

Yorkdale Central School School Community Council Loan Application

The Board of Education passed a motion to approve the School Community Council (SCC) loan application for the Yorkdale Central School Playground Project. The Board acknowledged the fundraising efforts which have already gone into this project and commended the SCC for the excellent job they have done in support of this project.

Director's Report

Board Development – Understanding the Role of the Indigenous Student Achievement Coach

Donna Kriger shared the roles and responsibilities of the Indigenous Student Achievement Coaches, a newly created position at the Yorkton Regional High School (YRHS) and KCI. Kriger shared that the primary intent behind the position was to respond to the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's Call to Action as well as to increase graduation rates by supporting First Nations Métis high school students through a sense of belonging and connection to their school. Kriger celebrated the work accomplished, through the Indigenous Cultural Rooms in each school.



Kriger shared that Relationships and Mentoring, Transitions, Culture, Career Counselling, Academics and Parental Engagement are the areas targeted through the work of the Indigenous Student Achievement Coach in each school. Kriger also celebrated Barbara Pelletier of the Yorkton Regional High School and Rayne Townsend of the Kamsack Comprehensive Institute, indicating that both individuals have worked closely with Graduation Coaches, Jessica Kyle of the YRHS and Wendy Shabatoski of KCI in achieving the performance indicators and desired outcomes of the program.

To view the full Board Development report, click [here](#).

Board Books

Heather Morris highlighted the work of Programmer/Analyst Kishan Malaviya in creating a new format of Board books, which would replace the current system, Diligent. This new format comes at a significant savings to the Board of Education, allowing them to reallocate funding to other areas of priority within Governance while still maintaining the same level of efficiency.

Embargoed Pre-Budget Presentation Invitation

Quintin Robertson, Keith Gervais and Lois Smandych will be representing GSSD at the Provincial Budget announcement on Wednesday, March 20, 2019 in Regina. During this time, Donna Harpauer, Minister of Finance will hand down the budget for the 2019-20 fiscal year. Based on the budget announcement, GSSD will determine how the Education funding will impact the Strategic Plan and Priorities moving into the 2019-20 school year.

Education Summit 2020

The Ministry of Education is asking school divisions across the province to engage their partners in engagement sessions, which will allow their partners to share feedback related to:

- What knowledge, skills and abilities students need, to be prepared for their future life and learning?
- What gets in the way of student success and well-being?
- What is working well now in Saskatchewan's school system that prepares students for their future?
- What needs to change in Saskatchewan's school system to better prepare students for the future?

GSSD will be hosting engagement sessions with School Community Councils at various locations within the division, through the month of April to obtain feedback related to these questions.

Early Learning Intensive Support Pilot

Good Spirit School Division, has been notified by Deputy Premier and Education Minister Gordon Wyant, that the division will be receiving two spaces as part of the [Early Learning Intensive Support Pilot](#) (ELIS) expansion. ELIS allows additional children to attend existing Prekindergarten programs. These spaces provide children with intensive needs access to the program outside of the typical Prekindergarten selection criteria, meaning these children do not meet the vulnerability criteria required to access the 16 Prekindergarten spaces. Additional supports are put into place to ensure the needs of all students are being met. Columbia School in Yorkton has been selected as the Good Spirit School Division pilot site.

Upcoming Important Dates

March 16 & 17	2 nd Annual Saskatchewan SCC Conference, North Battleford
March 31-April 2	National Congress on Rural Education in Canada – Saskatoon, SK.
April 11	Board Chairs Council Meeting
April 11-12	Spring General Assembly, Saskatoon
April 16	Regular Board Meeting, 10 am – 5 pm
May	Early Childhood Education Month
May 16	Regular Board Meeting, 10 am – 5 pm
May 22	Senator Pamela Wallin presentation to the Esterhazy High School Grade 7 & 8 classes
May 30	Special Board Meeting, 1 -5 pm
June 6-7	Public Section General Meeting and PD – Travelodge Hotel, Regina
June 10	North Cluster Regional SCC Symposium, Preeceville School, 7 pm
June 11	GSSD Show Case Track Meet, Century Field, Yorkton, 10 am – 3 pm
June 12	Alternate date for the GSSD Show Case Track Meet
June 13	South Cluster Regional SCC Symposium, Esterhazy High School, 7 pm
June 17	Central Cluster Regional SCC Symposium, Columbia School, 7 pm
June 20	Regular Board Meeting
June 20	Retirement Banquet, Gallagher Centre
August 28	Board & CEO/Director Evaluation, 9 am – 4 pm
August 28	Special Board Meeting, 4-4:30 pm
August 29	Regular Board Meeting, 10 am – 5 pm

Next Board Meeting: April 16, 2019, 10 am – 5
Location: Fairview Education Board Room

Submissions & Feedback

To submit photos or stories regarding the Board of Education or an individual Trustee in your school community, please contact Heather.Morris@gssd.ca.

Contact Us

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Visit us online at
www.gssd.ca