

June 2019 Regular Meeting

The regular meeting of the Board for June 2019 took place in the Fairview Education Center Board Room on Thursday, June 20, 2019. In attendance at this month's meeting were Lois Smandych, Chairperson, Trustees Jade Anderson, Chris Balyski, Gilda Dokuchie, Gord Gendur, Jaime Johnson, 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

Student Well-being

Donna Kriger, Deputy Director of Education, presented information to the Board regarding student wellness and student intellectual engagement. Kriger highlighted data obtained through the OurSchool student survey which is administered annually across the province. Kriger celebrated that Good Spirit has achieved the 2020 target of reducing the number of students reporting high levels of anxiety by 5%. The most significant improvements were seen among First Nations Métis (FNM) students in grades four through twelve. Kriger highlighted the work done at the Kamsack Comprehensive Institute and the Yorkton Regional High School through the Indigenous Student Centers. Kriger attributed the reduction in FNM student anxiety to the excellent work of the Indigenous Student Achievement Coaches, Graduation Coaches and Administrators.

Kriger also presented a report on student intellectual engagement. The data shared indicated a marginal decrease in student engagement during the 2018-19 school year. Strategies targeting the goal of improving student engagement by 5% by June 2020, were shared with the Board. Kriger identified that GSSD would continue to support FNM students, alternate classrooms, land-based learning, opportunity to enrol in additional locally developed courses, continuation of Student Senates, and continued professional development on inquiry and best practices with instructional strategies to assist with student engagement.

Student Learning

Superintendent of Education, Lisa Wotherspoon, presented the Board with information pertaining to Reading results within Good Spirit School Division schools. In her report, Wotherspoon highlighted that 80% of GSSD students in Grades 1 to 6 are reading at or above grade level. This represents an increase of 10% from the fall where 70% of Grade 1 to 6 students were reading at or above grade level. The Board of Education was also informed that GSSD has reached the Provincial Education Sector Strategic Plan (ESSP) 2020 target of 80% of students reading at or above grade level. Since fall of 2014, GSSD has seen a 20% increase in students reading at or above grade level. In addition to the division data, Superintendent Wotherspoon highlighted the achievement obtained at Dr. Brass School in Yorkton. Eighty three percent of Dr. Brass students in grades 1-3 are reading at or above grade level which represents a 35% increase over the past three years.

Wotherspoon also shared the progress made across the division in the area of writing. GSSD has seen a 6% increase in writing results over the past year. Fifteen schools across Good Spirit have participated in the Story Ninja Program offered by author Sigmund Brouwer. Six schools have participated in anthology projects with over 250 student stories published. Wotherspoon unpacked the various supports, which teachers throughout the division have received during the 2018-19

school year, in the area of writing. Support will continue during 2019-20 as GSSD works to achieve the 2020 ESSP goal of 80% of students writing at or above grade level.

Wotherspoon ended her presentation with information related to the provincial target of 80% of students achieving at or above grade level in math. Wotherspoon highlighted the key strategies being used to improve math outcomes in Good Spirit. She also shared the strategies which will be utilized during the 2019-20 school year in support of teachers and student learning in math.

Director/CEO Robertson discussed Early Learning (Prekindergarten and Kindergarten) across the division, highlighting the excellent work of Christine Danyluk, Early Learning Coach for the Good Spirit School Division. Robertson praised the collaborative efforts of Danyluk, the Literacy Coaches, Speech Pathologists and Regional KidsFirst in supporting early learners. Robertson shared the importance of family engagement and indicated how engagement is a key strategy for GSSD in working with all families but particularly those who have children entering formal education.

The accountability reports are available at www.gssd.ca > Board top tab > [Board Meetings](#) > 2019 06 20 Regular Board Meeting.

Board Advocacy Session



The Board of Education was pleased to host the Honorable Gordon Wyant, Deputy Premier and Minister of Education, Terry Dennis, Local MLA for Canora-Pelly, and Greg Ottenbreit, Local MLA for Yorkton and Minister of Rural and Remote Health during the June 20, 2019 Board Meeting.

Robertson shared the [2019-20 GSSD Budget Report](#). Robertson shared the commitments of the Board of Education to be:

- Advocacy;
- Principled Decision Making;
- Expenditure Review;
- School Staffing;
- Minimizing Impact on Students;
- Maximizing the Impact on First Nations Students; and
- Maximizing the Impact of the ESSP.

In discussion with the Honorable Members of the Legislature, Robertson highlighted the impact of the spring budget on staffing across the division. Robertson shared that staffing allocations attempted to support each of the Board's commitments. Robertson discussed the impact of the spring budget on classroom teachers and supports, emphasizing that due to reduced grant dollars, GSSD was forced to reduce staffing.

| 2019-20 Budget Fast Facts | |
|------------------------------|---|
| Projected Enrolments | |
| ✓ | 5,759.25 PreK to Grade 12 student full-time equivalents (FTEs) plus 59 home-based students for 5,818.25 FTEs (a decrease of 167.5 students over September 30, 2018) |
| ✓ | GSSD student numbers have decreased by 1.75% over the last five years. |
| Revenues | Expenses |
| ✓ 76.2M | ✓ 79.6M |
| FTEs | |
| ✓ Administration | 19.55 |
| ✓ School-based instructional | 394.1 |
| ✓ School based support | 234.24 |
| ✓ Facilities | 60.88 |
| ✓ Transportation | 114.67 |
| ✓ External Services | 3.38 |
| ✓ | GSSD teacher numbers have decreased by 9.5 FTE in 2019-20 through attrition |
| ✓ | GSSD teacher numbers have decreased by 11% over the last five years |
| ✓ | GSSD PTR has increased to 15.6 |
| ✓ | Overall reduction in GSSD staffing for 2019-20 is 18 FTE |

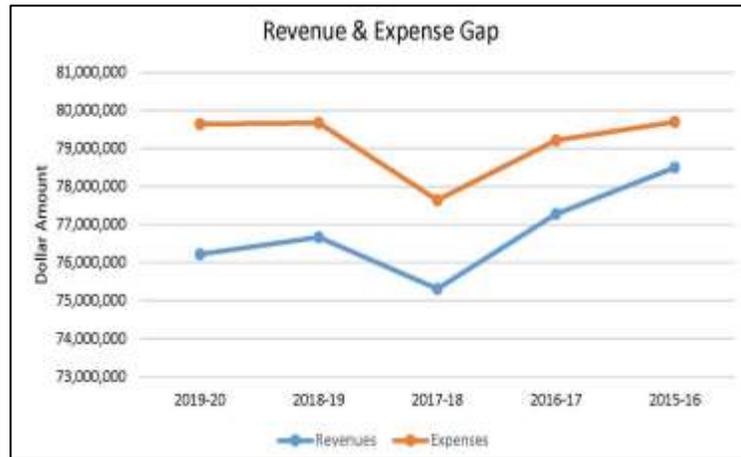
The 2019-20 Budget Report is posted on the GSSD website.



www.gssd.ca > [Media Room](#) > Reports > 2018-19 > [2019-20 Budget Report](#)

Robertson highlighted the fact that with expenses rising and revenues dropping, it was creating significant challenges in meeting the needs of the school division. Robertson proposed suggestions that needed to be considered in the funding formula. He suggested that consideration be made for:

- funding annual teacher increment costs;
- adjustments to rural transportation formulas; and,
- rising infrastructure repairs.



Robertson lobbied the officials for Major Capital Funding for the Yorkton Regional High School (YRHS), indicating that Preventative Maintenance and Renewal (PMR) funding is currently used to make necessary structural upgrades. As a result, fewer funds are available for upgrades required in other GSSD schools. Robertson suggested it would take 26 years for GSSD to complete the necessary projects at the YRHS if PMR dollars continue to be the only funds available to make the required structural upgrades.

New Business

Approve 2019-20 Budget

In preparation of the 2019-20 budget approval, Robertson reviewed Policy 2 Role of the Board – 8 Fiscal Accountability and Administrative Procedure 500 – Annual Division Budget. Robertson reminded the Board, that Pursuant to Section 278 of *The Education Act, 1995*, the Board shall prepare a statement of program objectives and estimates of revenue and expenditures required for the purposes of the school division. Robertson indicated that the central administrative team, to the best of their knowledge, has estimated the revenues and expenditures for the September 1, 2019 to August 31, 2020 fiscal year. The Board of Education passed a motion to approve the 2019-20 budget and thus Robertson fulfilled Quality Indicator 7.1 related to his Roles and Responsibilities requiring that, “The budget and priorities are developed according to a timeline which ensures the Board’s ability to provide direction and revise priorities.”

Director’s Report

Board Development – Understanding the Educational Partners

Robertson shared information with the Board of Education regarding some of the key Educational Partners of the Good Spirit School Division. Robertson began with the *League of Educational Administrators, Directors and Superintendents (LEADS)*. He identified that LEADS is a professional association of Educational Administrators who work at the school division level. LEADS members for GSSD are: Quintin Robertson, Donna Kriger, Alisa Leidl, Lisa Wotherspoon, Mark Forsythe, and Jason Trost.

Robertson also highlighted the work of The Ministry of Education, the provincial department responsible for K-12 education. The current Minister of Education is the Honourable Gord Wyant with Rob Currie serving as the Deputy Minister of Education.

The Saskatchewan Association of School Business Officials (SASBO) is another partner in education which includes, secretary-treasurers and certain administrators employed by school divisions. SASBO is the professional association of *School Business Officials in Saskatchewan*. More than 150 SASBO members serve the education sector in a variety of business and support roles including finance, human resources/payroll, facilities, transportation, procurement, technology, communications, and chief financial officers in 28 school divisions across Saskatchewan are required to be

members of SASBO. Within GSSD, the following employees are members of SASBO: Keith Gervais, Teresa Korol, Darryl James, Shawn Kostiuik, Heather Morris, Laurie-Anne Rusnak, and Raquel Spilchuk.

Robertson concluded the Board Development by referencing the Saskatchewan Professional Teachers Regulatory Board (SPTRB), identifying the independent organization, which has been charged with the responsibility of regulating the teaching profession in Saskatchewan. Robertson reminded the Board of Education, that the SPTRB serves the public interest by ensuring registered teachers meet professional standards for certification, conduct and competence.

To view the Board Development document in its entirety, visit www.gssd.ca > Board top tab > 2019 06 20 Regular Board Meeting > [Board Development – Understanding the Educational Partners](#).

Financial Report

CFO, Keith Gervais presented the Financial Report updating the Board of Education regarding the most recent Financial Statement for the Good Spirit School Division. Gervais reported that the school division is on track for a balanced budget in the 2018-19 school year.

Upcoming Important Dates

| | |
|----------------|--|
| 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 |
| September 30 | Deadline for Submissions for the 2019 Premier’s Board of Education Award for Innovation and Excellence and the 2019 Award of Distinction |
| October 3 | Deadline for Bylaw Amendments (for the AGM) 4:30 pm |
| October 18 | Deadline for Resolutions (for the AGM) 4:30 pm |
| November 17-19 | Fall General Assembly and AGM, DoubleTree by Hilton, Regina, SK |
| April 7-8 | Spring Assembly, Delta Hotels Downtown (formerly Radisson), Saskatoon, SK |

Upcoming Board Meetings:

August 28, 2019 – Special Board Meeting

August 29, 2019 - Regular Meeting

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

Good Spirit School Division
#204

Phone: (306)786-5500

Visit us online at
www.gssd.ca