

November 2019 Regular Meeting

The regular meeting of the Board for November 2019 took place in the Saskota Room at the Good Spirit Education Complex on Thursday, November 14, 2019. In attendance at this month's meeting were Bob Simpson, Chairperson, Jaime Johnson, Vice Chair, Trustees Jade Anderson, Chris Balyski, Gilda Dokuchie, Gord Gendur, Shannon Leson, Jan Morrison, Lois Smandych, Florence Stachura, 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

Audited Financial Statement for 2018-19

CFO, Keith Gervais, presented the 2018-19 Audited Financial Statement to the Board of Education, thus achieving the following Quality Indicators:

- 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.

The audit was completed by Gary Kreklewich of Miller Moar Grodecki Kreklewich & Chorney. The opinion of the audit indicated the financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the Good Spirit School Division No. 204 as at August 31, 2019 and the results of its operations, changes in net financial assets and its cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with Canadian public sector accounting standards. Gervais indicated that all reports were filed in accordance with the timeline set forth by the Ministry of Education.

To view the accountability report in its entirety, visit gssd.ca > Board > Board Meetings > 2019 11 14 Regular Board Meeting > [Accountability Report Audited Financial Statements](#).

Board Development

Truth and Reconciliation

Deputy Director, Donna Kriger, presented a Board Development report on Truth and Reconciliation. Kriger identified that the 2019-20 school year is the second year that GSSD has placed Truth and Reconciliation on its Strategic Plan as an area of focus. Kriger shared that GSSD has committed to increasing cultural competencies throughout our school division by implementing division-wide processes and professional learning that will grow the collective understanding about Indigenous identity, histories, worldview and systemic barriers. GSSD has also committed to enriching existing partnerships and establishing new partnerships to enhance educational opportunities for GSSDs Indigenous students.

Numerous opportunities have been provided for GSSD employees to access professional development in Truth and Reconciliation and to date approximately 500 employees have participated in the Truth and Reconciliation Commission training facilitated by Diane and Bonnie Musqua as well as the Kairos Blanket Exercise. To advance Truth and

Reconciliation among students, GSSD has invested resources to hire a Cultural Advocate, Indigenous Community Workers, Indigenous Student Achievement Coaches as well as Elders and Knowledge Keepers to assist in supporting students and their families with the trauma associated with residential schools.

To read more on the board development topic, visit gssd.ca > Board > Board Meetings > 2019 11 14 Regular Board Meeting > [Board Development Truth and Reconciliation](#).

Advocacy Session

Teachers from Norquay School (K-12), Columbia School (PreK-8) and Esterhazy High School (6-12) joined the Board of Education for lunch and an Advocacy Session during the November 14th board meeting. In advance of the meeting, Quintin Robertson hosted sessions at each of the three schools to engage in conversation revolving around the GSSD Service Commitments of: Receive & Act on Feedback, Exceed Expectations, Single Point of Contact, Power of “Yes!”, Express Empathy, Caring & Friendly Attitude and Take Time to Listen.

During the Board session, discussion focused on:

- What can the **Division** celebrate within this area?
- What improvements could the **Division** make within this area?
- What can the **school community** celebrate within this area?
- What improvements could the **school community** make within this area?



Teachers from each of the three schools, referenced appreciation on behalf of the school staff they represented, for the opportunity to engage in meaningful conversation with both the Director and the Board. The session reaffirmed the positive relationship which exists between the Board of Education, Senior Administration and school staff.

New Business

2018-19 Annual Report

CEO/Director, Quintin Robertson, shared that administrative staff work with Ministry officials to complete an annual report according to Ministry requirements. Robertson identified that senior administration prepared the background information to highlight the achievements of the Division.

The approved report will be submitted to the Ministry for presentation in the legislature. Robertson indicated that once approved at the provincial level, the report will be posted on the GSSD website. Robertson credited Heather Morris, Assistant to the Director, on the excellent work she has done in organizing and preparing the report for its final submission to the Ministry.

Century Field Signage

The Board of Education passed a motion to place signage on the Spotter’s Booth at Century Field to acknowledge Triple A Directional Drilling who donated their services to assist in providing power to both the score clock and spotter’s booth located at Century Field. The Board acknowledged that the service provided was valued at approximately \$30,000 and brings a significant enhancement to the field. Through signage, GSSD continues to recognize businesses and individuals who have invested in their facilities and/or projects which benefit students and the community.

General Insurance Plan

Gervais shared information with the Board of Education regarding the General Insurance Plan. Gervais indicated that the General Insurance Plan (GIP) Design Team, has been working towards the distribution of excess capital funds in the pools. After member engagement and input, the GIP have approved the recommendation to provide a distribution of

the current excess capital from the SSBA GIP. Gervais shared that the distribution is based on an actuarial analysis to ensure that sufficient funds remain in the insurance pools and will not impact the Plan's ability to pay claims.

The Good Spirit School Division's Board of Education passed a motion to apply its \$52,602.33 rebate to insurance premiums for the following year.

Central Office Closure

The Board of Education passed a motion to close the Good Spirit Education Complex during December 27, 30, and 31, 2019.

Director's Report

Utilizing GSSD Communiques with SCCs

Director/CEO, Quintin Robertson led the Board of Education through a discussion regarding the role of School Community Councils (SCC). Robertson highlighted that:

- SCCs should have a community profile that describes the economic, social and health conditions of their community as well as identifies the community's needs and aspirations related to children and youth learning and well-being.
- SCCs are to take part in the development of School Improvement Plans by working with the principal and staff to assess the needs of the school, identify goals, create an action plan with supports, submit the plan to the Board for approval and evaluate its effectiveness throughout the school year.
- SCCs can offer the Board of Education advice that falls into three broad categories:
 - Division-wide governing policy, operational procedure, and decisions including the school division's strategic plan, budget, and other specific initiatives;
 - Educational programming delivery and on religious observances and language of instruction within the school; and,
 - The formation, structure, and operations of the SCC.
- The central purpose of SCCs is to encourage and support the involvement of parents and community as partners to improve student learning and well-being.
- SCCs are an important part of school division governance and a critical connecting link between the school and community.
- SCCs are responsible for their own growth and improvement.

Upcoming Important Dates

November 17-19	Fall General Assembly and AGM, DoubleTree by Hilton, Regina, SK
November 19	Board Chairs Council Meeting, DoubleTree by Hilton, Regina, 11:30 am–4 pm
November 29	Board of Education 2018-19 Annual Reports due
December 9	Board Chairs Council Teleconference, 8:30–9:30 am
December 19	Regular Board Meeting, 10 am–5 pm
December 23–January 3	Christmas Break
January 9	School Community Council Symposium, Supper at 6 pm, Meeting at 6:45 pm.
January 13	Board Chairs Council Teleconference, 8:30–9:30 am
January 27	Family Literacy Day
January 27	International Holocaust Remembrance Day
January 30	Regular Board Meeting, 10 am–5 pm
January 31	ECDAA Winter Meeting, 1–4 pm
February	Aboriginal Story Telling Month
February 6	Board Chair Council Meeting, Regina (TBC), 1:40-4 pm

February 7	Trustee Academy, Regina
February 9-15	Teacher/Staff Appreciation
February 10	Trustee Academy, Saskatoon
February 17	Family Day
February 18-21	Winter Break
February 27	Red Cross Pink Day

For more information related to the Board of Education, visit our website at gssd.ca > [Board](#)

Upcoming Board Meetings:
 December 19, 2019, January 30, 2020, March 12, 2020, April 2, 2020, June 18, 2020, August 27, 2020

Location: Good Spirit Education Complex, Saskota Room

To review Board Policy 7 Board Operations, visit gssd.ca > Board > Policy Handbook > [Board Operations](#)

Contact Us
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 Phone: (306)786-5500
 Visit us online at www.gssd.ca

*Building Strong Foundations to
 Create Bright Futures*

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.