

March 2020 Regular Meeting

The regular meeting of the Board for March 2020 took place in the Saskota Room at the Good Spirit Education Complex on Thursday, March 12, 2020. In attendance at this month's meeting were Bob Simpson, Chairperson, Trustees Jade Anderson, Chris Balyski, Gord Gendur, Jan Morrison, Lois Smandych, Steve Variyan, and 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.

Delegation to the Board

The Board of Education heard two delegations during the March 12th meeting. In accordance with [Policy 7](#) contained with the [Board Policy Handbook](#), the Board will make provision for a delegation to make a presentation at a Board meeting in the interest of improving the education provided in Division schools.

Accountability Report

Donna Kriger, Deputy Director presented the Transportation Accountability Report to the Board of Education. The report highlighted the ambitious June 2020 targets to be achieved by the Transportation Department. Kriger spoke to the work which has been accomplished with respect to Administrative Procedure review and revisions, transportation handbooks, and current communication strategies. Her report also highlighted a number of efficiencies currently implemented and those which will be implemented for the fall of 2020-21, resulting in financial savings and improved student safety. Kriger ended her report by highlighting the progress currently being made within the department as well as the excellent work of the mechanics in both Melville and Yorkton, the central transportation team and all bus drivers. Deputy Director, Kriger, shared that the GSSD Transportation Department is dedicated to building strong relationships between families and drivers, drivers and schools and providing a customer service attitude in their work.

The Board of Education passed a motion to accept the Accountability Report as presented. As a result, the following Quality Indicators were achieved as they pertain to the Director of Education's evaluation.

- QI 1.2 Regular actions are taken to ensure busses and facilities are safe and healthy.
- QI 4.1 Quality recruitment, orientation, staff development, disciplinary, evaluation and supervisor processes are developed and effectively implemented.
- QI 6.2 The Director keeps the Board informed about Division operations.

High School Indigenous Student Senate

The Board of Education invited students from the Kamsack Comprehensive Institute as well as from the Yorkton Regional High School to speak to them about the impact which the Student Centers in their schools have had on them as well as to share their overall high school experience within GSSD. The students also discussed how the GSSD values of belonging, respect, responsibility, learning, nurturing and perseverance are exemplified within the student centers. They discussed the importance of seeing evidence of their culture and history in GSSD schools along with the need to have Elders, Graduation Coaches, Student Achievement Coaches and Indigenous Community Workers/Liaisons to support them.



Board Development

Director/CEO, Quintin Robertson led the Board of Education development which related to partnerships that involve the Good Spirit School Division. Robertson highlighted GSSD's involvement within the Invitational Shared Services Initiative (ISSI) which includes the Good Spirit School Division, Cote First Nation, Keeseekoose First Nation, and Yorkton Tribal Council (YTC). Each of these organizations have partnered to support students through academics, cultural events, and providing social and emotional support for students while breaking down racial barriers. Director/CEO, Robertson shared that "The three communities in this partnership truly believe that as a team they can promote cultural awareness and develop strategies to engage the learning of their First Nation students thus improving outcomes for First Nation students in our communities."

Within the report, Robertson discussed the multiple evaluation strategies which are implemented to determine the impact that ISSI is having in each community. Likewise, Robertson discussed the multiple resources which have been implemented as a result of this partnership. The most significant success of the partnership can be seen in the 2018-19 graduation rates which saw the highest First Nation Métis graduation rate in a decade.

In addition to the ISSI partnership, Robertson also highlighted partnerships which exist between GSSD and Big Brothers/Big Sisters, Christ the Teacher Catholic School Division, Community Daycares, Parkland Early Childhood Intervention Program, Parkland College, Parkland Regional Library, Sasktel, Transitioning Youth to Employment, Violent Threat Risk Assessment Community Protocol, the town of Langenburg, Yorkton Minor Football as well as numerous shared use agreements within many communities of GSSD.

Old Business

Policy 8 Committees of the Board

The Board of Education reviewed and made slight revisions to update [Policy 8](#) which references Committees to the Board. In its attempts to govern the system in an effective and efficient manner, the Board may establish Committees to assist with its work. Committees may be standing or ad hoc in nature. Members of the committees are appointed at the annual organizational meeting and in doing give consideration to the Board members level of experience and knowledge in the area of the committee work. Committee Chairs are selected by the members.

New Business

2020-21 School Year Calendar

Director/CEO, Robertson presented the draft [2020-21 School Year Calendar](#) to the Board of Education for its approval. Robertson shared that a survey regarding the calendar was made available via the GSSD website and the calendar brought forth for approval was the resounding favorite according to those who completed the online survey. The Board approved calendar has been submitted to the Ministry of Education for approval.

Yorkton Regional High School Community Council Loan Application

The Board of Education voted unanimously to approve the Yorkton Regional High School SCC Loan Application for the purchase of a new 15 passenger van.

Director's Report

2020 Elections

Director/CEO Robertson reminded the Board of the upcoming November 9, 2020 elections. Robertson informed Board members that the Saskatchewan School Boards Association would be hosting an elections workshop in May 2020 with the Chief Financial Officer and Returning Officer in attendance. Updated election materials will be provided to the current Board members along with discussions of amendments to the Elections Act that have been made since the last election in 2016.

Financial Update

Chief Financial Officer, Keith Gervais presented the Board of Education with an updated financial report for the 2019-20 year. Gervais discussed the upcoming Provincial Budget and shared the importance of seeing increases to the Operating Grant that GSSD obtains from the Ministry of Education.

Facilities Update – Major Capital Application

Robertson informed the Board of Education that a Major Capital Application had been submitted by GSSD for both the Yorkton Regional High School (YRHS) and Esterhazy High School. Robertson discussed the necessity of receiving a Major Capital Grant particularly for the YRHS which has been among the top ten schools for a prolonged period of time but has never been moved to the top of the list. Robertson indicated that without Major Capital Funding, GSSD would be forced to use Preventative Maintenance Renewal funding to address the situation at the YRHS which would negatively impact other schools around the division.

Sturgis Bus Garage / Wash Bay

Robertson informed the Board of renovations which will occur at the Sturgis Bus Garage. The plan will see a wash bay established for buses in the North Cluster, eliminating their need to be washing buses on the street or at the Good Spirit Education Complex. Robertson shared that a recovery bus was already put in place at the former Sturgis Bus Garage and that in all likelihood, this might be expanded to include at least one more.

MySchoolSask Wave 2 Implementation

Assistant to the Director, Heather Morris provided an update on the implementation progress and schedule of MySchoolSask (MSS), the new student information system adopted by the Ministry of Education. It was shared that Michelle Morley, Jhonnette Derkatch, Kishan Malaviya, Mili Patel have joined with Morris to advance the process of implementation across the school division. Morris along with Michelle Morley have spent countless hours preparing “job aides” and communication documents to be shared with school staff when the “go live” date of August 10, 2020 arrives. Administrators, Administrative Assistants, Teachers, Career/Guidance Counsellors, and Professional Service Providers will receive face-to-face training in the “live” environment prior to the first 2020-21 instructional day.

Upcoming Important Dates

March 14 & 15	SCC Conference, North Battleford
March 16	Board Chairs Council Teleconference, 8:30–9:30 am
March 29-30	National Congress on Rural Education – TCU Place, Saskatoon, SK
April 2	Regular Board Meeting, 10 am–5 pm
April 7	Board Chairs Council Meeting, Delta Saskatoon, 8:30-11:30 am
April 7-8	Spring Assembly, Delta Hotels Downtown (formerly Radisson), Saskatoon, SK
April 10	Good Friday
April 13	Easter Monday
April 14-17	Easter Break
April 22	Administrative Professionals Day
May	Early Childhood Education Month
May 14	Regular Board Meeting, 10 am–5 pm
May 18	Victoria Day

Upcoming Board Meetings:

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](#)

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

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Create Bright Futures*