

April 2020 Regular Meeting

The regular meeting of the Board for April 2020 took place via Zoom on Thursday, April 2, 2020. In attendance at this month's meeting were Bob Simpson, Chairperson, Jaime Johnson, Vice Chairperson, Trustees Jade Anderson, Chris Balyski, Gilda Dokuchie, Gord Gendur, Jaime Johnson, 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.



Board Chair, Bob Simpson would have started the meeting with a “thank you” to the Senior Leaders of Good Spirit School Division for the development of an excellent [Supplemental Learning Plan](#) for GSSD staff and students. Simpson, expressed the Board’s pride and appreciation for the way which GSSD has handled the unprecedented situation caused by COVID-19.

Accountability Report

CFO, Keith Gervais, presented the Board of Education with an Accountability Report on the Preventative Maintenance Renewal (PMR) plan for GSSD for the next three years, thus satisfying the following Quality Indicators within the Director’s Evaluation:

- QI 1.2 - Regular actions are taken to ensure busses and facilities are safe and healthy.
- QI 3.6 - Reviews expenditures to ensure continuous improvement in terms of value for money.
- QI 8.1 – Ensures Divisional compliance with all Ministry of Education and Board mandates (timelines and quality).
- QI 8.2 - Facility project budgets and construction schedules are followed, or timely variance reports are provided to the Board.

Gervais highlighted the projects which were included in the plan:

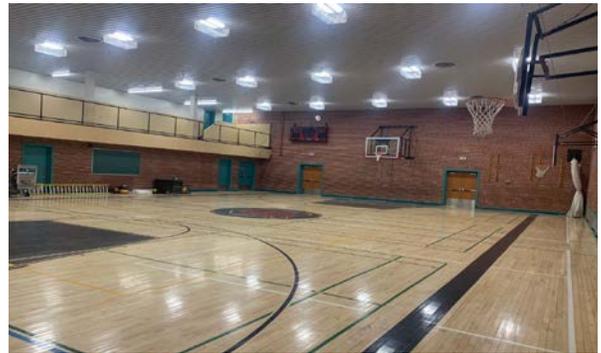
- Architectural – roofs, building envelope, life safety, interior structure, accessibility
- Mechanical - HVAC, plumbing, fire suppression
- Electrical – lighting upgrades, specialty items such as power doors, primary and secondary electrical systems
- Site – retaining walls, drainage
- Environmental - asbestos
- Studies – feasibility, accessibility, grade configuration

Gervais shared that GSSD received \$1,906,713 in PMR funding for the 2020-21 budget year in the recent provincial budget announcement. In accordance with GSSD’s strategic plan, priority will be given to improving student learning environments and ensuring that schools are safe and healthy.

Highlights from some of the current year's (2019-20) PMR funding was used to fund the projects shown below:



Yorkton Regional Roof Project



Dr. Brass Gymnasium Project



Esterhazy High School Bathroom Renovation - 200 Wing

You may view the entire report by visiting gssd.ca > Board > 2020 04 02 Regular Board Meeting > [Accountability Report – Facilities PMR Plan](#).

Board Development

Online Principal, Thad Swidzinski, and Deputy Director, Donna Kriger, presented information regarding Distributed Learning (GSSD Online Learning) to the Board of Education. Swidzinski and Kriger highlighted that Distributed Learning (DL) courses are available free of charge to all students currently enrolled in GSSD schools who might have timetabling conflicts, who attend a school which does not offer a particular elective, those who may be experiencing mental health issues, as well as home-based students. GSSD currently offers 37 different courses including all courses required for a 24 credit graduation status.

In 2019-20, GSSD would have launched Hockey Officiating 20L, a new elective course which featured Zoom sessions with NHL and WHL players, trainers and officials. Students from across the division were enrolled and the feedback for the course was outstanding. GSSD is working with the Saskatchewan Hockey Association to bring this course to other students across the province.

During the 2019-20 school year, teachers began developing middle years Math and ELA courses. With a keen focus on instructional design and curricular alignment, these courses will serve as an effective template for future development in middle years courses. GSSD will be focusing its efforts on ensuring that Math, ELA, and Science courses are available for both staff and students at the middle years level. This will create efficiencies within the Division as most of the demand

for purchasing courses outside GSSD comes from parents of middle years students who are unable to attend school in a face to face format.

Kruger would have shared her appreciation for the work of Swidzinski and all DL teachers across GSSD. She indicated that during this time when teachers are being asked to offer “supplemental learning” to all students across the division using an online format, the DL courses offer high school teachers a quality resource to draw from.

The full board development report is available at gssd.ca > Board > 2020 04 02 Regular Board Meeting > [Board Development - Distributed Learning](#).

Old Business

Policy 10 Policy Making

Director/CEO, Quintin Robertson, updated the Board regarding changes made to Policy 10 as a result of the directive given during the March 12, 2020 Board Meeting. This fulfills the following Quality Indicators (QI) as set forth within the Director/CEO evaluation:

QI 5.1 – The Director ensures policy is adhered to as per Policy 10 Section 3 implementation.

QI 5.2 – The Director demonstrates a knowledge of and respect for the role of the Board in policy processes.

QI 5.4 – The Director ensures administrative procedures are in compliance with the intent of Board Policy and are kept current.

New Business

Amended Annual Work Plan

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, it was determined that it was not feasible to host advocacy sessions scheduled for the remainder of the operational year. As a result, the following revisions were made to the Board of Education Annual Work Plan:

- Replace the Financial Accountability Report topic with Facilities
- The following advocacy sessions would be removed:
 - High School Student Group in April
 - Middle Years Student Group in May
 - Parkland College in June
 - Graduation during the months of May and June
 - Retirement Banquet and Bus Garage BBQs in June

Churchbridge Public School Canadian Heritage Tour

The Board of Education passed a motion to support the cancellation of the Churchbridge Public School trip to Montreal, Quebec City, Ottawa and Toronto scheduled for April 10, 2020 to April 17, 2020.

Director’s Report

Financial Update

CFO Gervais provided the Board with a financial update for the 2019-20 operational year. Gervais indicated that he expected the Good Spirit School Division to see some savings in the budget due to COVID-19. It is expected that the greatest savings would come as a result of decreased transportation fuel costs, cancelled professional development opportunities, and substitute teacher pay.

Transportation Report

Donna Kriger, Deputy Director of Education, provided the Board with a Transportation update covering January to March. Kriger discussed the number of route cancellations over this timeframe, as well as the challenges associated with finding spare bus drivers in certain areas across the division.

Kriger also shared the sadness being felt across the school division for the passing of a GSSD bus driver in the Kamsack area. Adam will be remembered for being a man of integrity, someone who loved the students on his route, and for literally “going the extra mile” in all aspects of his work. Adam will be missed by many and the GSSD family is reminded to keep his family in their thoughts and prayers.

Education Continuity Plan

Robertson informed the Board that as of March 15, 2020 the GSSD Continuity Team declared the COVID-19 Pandemic as a crisis. A crisis is defined within the GSSD Education Continuity Plan (ECP) as a situation or event that, in the extreme, appears to overwhelm or has the potential to overwhelm existing resources. The declaration enacted the ECP to call a Mobilization Meeting to organize GSSDs response to the identified crisis.

Education Continuity Plan (ECP) Objectives:

Education continuity management includes the processes, procedures, decisions and activities to ensure that Good Spirit School Division No. 204 can continue to function throughout disruptive events such as an emergency, a disaster or a crisis. The ECP program includes an ongoing process of risk assessment and management. Through the ECP, GSSD is particularly committed to having the capability to ensure:

- Staff and student safety and well-being;
- That we can continue our essential critical activities in the event of a disruption;
- That we have sufficient capacity to sustain our essential critical activities; and,
- That we can demonstrate and constantly improve our education continuity capability.

Robertson shared that the Education Continuity Plan (ECP) is designed to provide a coordinated and practiced response to enhance all efforts in controlling the impacts of disruptions and continue to conduct essential critical activities. The plan also details the processes and principles for dealing with key issues, such as employee and student support, key supplier agreements, as well as internal and external communications.

Upcoming Important Dates

April 9	Education Continuity Plan Meeting, 5-5:30 pm
April 10	Good Friday
April 13	Easter Monday
April 14-17	Easter Break
April 22	Administrative Professionals Day
April 23	Education Continuity Plan Meeting, 5-5:30
May	Early Childhood Education Month
May 14	Regular Board Meeting, 10 am–5 pm
May 18	Victoria Day
May 25	Board Chair Council Teleconference, 8:30-9:30 am
May 28	Special Board Meeting, 1-5 pm

Upcoming Board Meetings:

May 14, 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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#204

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Visit us online at
www.gssd.ca

*Building Strong Foundations to
Create Bright Futures*