

May 2021 Regular Meeting

The regular meeting of the Board for May 2021 took place via Zoom on Thursday, May 6, 2021. Trustees who were in attendance included: Chairperson Bob Simpson, Vice Chairperson Jaime Johnson, Trustees Jade Anderson, Chris Balyski, Gord Gendur, Shannon Leson, Jan Morrison, Lois Smandych, Nicole Pohl and Steve Variyan. Division office staff in attendance included Director of Education/CEO Quintin Robertson, Chief Financial Officer Keith Gervais, Deputy Director of Education Donna Kriger, and Assistant to the Director Heather Morris.

Accountability Report

Technology Report

Shawn Kostiuk, Network Coordinator for GSSD updated the Board of Education regarding the focus areas within the Technology Department for the 2020-21 school year. The three areas highlighted by Kostiuk related to the Five-Year Technology refresh, the Pandemic response and finally the Operational projects which were initiated during the year.

Kostiuk reported that the Five-Year Technology refresh saw 500 staff laptops, over 1,000 student Chromebooks and an additional 100 Desktop computers and monitors deployed through the school division. In addition to the work associated with the device refresh, Kostiuk also highlighted the Firewall upgrade across the division as well as the upgrade to switches and access points.

The Pandemic has placed unusual pressure on the GSSD Tech team to deploy Chromebooks and hotspots to families who were required to pivot to remote learning due to COVID-19 outbreaks. Kostiuk acknowledged the tremendous efforts of his team to provide support to staff, students, and their families during challenging times.

Kostiuk concluded his report with an update related to the work done to onboard MySchoolSask (MSS), the provincial student information system and Edsby, a platform used as a gradebook and communication tool. Kostiuk acknowledged the many hours dedicated to this work by numerous individuals within the Good Spirit School Division. The Board heard of the many hours associated with the training, production of job aids, and integration necessary to ensure the new platforms can “talk” with existing platforms that are used throughout the school division. The Technology Department was also able to partner with the GSSD Facilities team in projects related to the completion of the Good Spirit Education Complex phase II, school Voice Over IP (VOIP) phone systems and tackling cyber security to reduce risk of privacy breaches within the division.

At the conclusion of Kostiuk’s presentation, the Board of Education expressed their appreciation for the service commitment and work ethic demonstrated by the technology department.

To read the Accountability Report, visit gssd.ca > [Board](#) > [Board Meetings](#) > 2021 05 06 > [Accountability Report – Technology](#).

Board Development

Understanding the Indigenous Student Success Coordinator Role and Direct Reports

The Board of Education had the pleasure of having Jess Armstrong, GSSD’s Student Success Coordinator share the work she has been involved in during the 2020-21 school year. Armstrong came to GSSD from the Living Sky School Division and has been a great asset to the Good Spirit School Division.

The Board heard the vast array of project work that Armstrong has led since joining GSSD. The Invitational Shared Services Initiative (ISSI) which is a collaborative plan that focuses on student attendance, engagement, culture and providing additional supports to First Nations students from Cote and Keeseekoose is work that Armstrong leads. The Ministry driven project has \$150,000 designated to support the work. In addition to this, Armstrong also works with Kamsack Comprehensive Institute (KCI) and Victoria School in Kamsack in an Educational Partnership Plan that focusses on Treaty Education Outcomes as well as outcomes connected to engagement, student attendance and culturally inclusive education.



Armstrong shared the work she has collaborated on with the Early Learning Coach, Christine Danyluk with respect to building a library of Indigenous resources. Likewise, Armstrong has also organized and facilitated Indigenous Story Telling, beading projects at KCI, Churchbridge, and the Yorkton Regional High School. Together with Chantel Kitchen, a teacher at Dr. Brass, an art project with Indigenous artist, Kevin Peeace was carried out to increase the visual representation of Indigenous Peoples in GSSD schools.

Armstrong indicated that she oversees and supports the work of the Indigenous Community Workers and Indigenous Student Success Coaches at KCI and Victoria School within the community of Kamsack as well as at the YRHS, Dr. Brass and Columbia School in Yorkton. Together, she and her team support Indigenous students in their achievement and engagement. Collectively, the team also helps to build capacity among teachers with the division's strategic goal toward increasing their competencies regarding Indigenous history, worldview and perspectives.

To access the report, visit gssd.ca > [Board](#) > [Board Meetings](#) > 2021 05 06 > [Board Development – Indigenous Student Success Coach](#).

New Business

Preventative Maintenance Renewal

Facilities Manager, Patrick Morrison reviewed the three-year Preventative Maintenance and Renewal (PMR) Plan with the Board of Education. Morrison shared that the plan is to be in advance of the following year's budget and looking at the three years in the future. The Plan is to be in advance of the following year's budget and forecasts three years in the future, that is it was prepared for 2021-22, 2022-23, and 2023-24.

Morrison explained that examples of projects to be included in the plan are:

- 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

The plan is announced annually within the Provincial Budget and that funds are allowed to accumulate to allow for future plans which meet the approved criteria. Morrison indicated that prioritization of projects will be a result of Preventative Maintenance (PM) inspection review and project score. The projects must be, in accordance with the strategic plan, priority was given to improving student learning environment and ensuring that schools are safe and healthy. These items are included in our project scoring metrics as well as the budget % used by the school in the past 5-year period the budget allotment for each school based on size and enrollment.

The proposed budget for the following fiscal years is as follows:

Year	Opening Balance	Funding Received	Funding Spent
2020-21	\$3,230,925	\$1,906,713	\$1,044,961
2021-22	\$4,092,677	\$2,115,549	\$3,600,000
2022-23	\$2,608,226	\$2,100,000	\$3,250,000
2023-24	\$1,458,226	\$2,100,000	\$2,430,000

**Bold numbers are actual, others are forecasted*

The Facility Report satisfied the following Quality Indicators for the Director Evaluation:

- **QI 1.2** - Regular actions are taken to ensure buses and facilities are safe and healthy.
- **QI 3.6** - Review's 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.

Advocacy

GSSD Distance Learning

The Board of Education hosted an Advocacy session with staff, parents and students who were involved with GSSD's Distance Learning School for the 2020-21 School year. Tricia Strutynski, a parent to three remote learners shared the advantages of online learning and provided feedback regarding what "worked well" and what may have been "challenging" with respect to online learning this year. Likewise, Anna Barker and Kelsey Haas shared their perspectives as students within the Distance Learning School.

Overall, the participants in the advocacy session provided the Board and Senior Administration with excellent feedback which will be used to enhance the experience for both students and their families in 2021-22.

Director's Report

Board Policy Review

Director/CEO, Quintin Robertson reviewed Board Policy 12 which establishes the guidelines for the Director/CEO Roles and Responsibilities. Robertson shared that his role focuses primarily in the areas of Student Welfare, Educational Leadership, Fiscal Responsibility, Personnel Management, Policy & Procedures, Director/Board Relations, Strategic Planning & Reporting, Organizational Management, Communications & Community Relations as well as Leadership Practices.

As the lone employee of the Board of Education, Robertson will undergo a bi-annual evaluation set for August 20201 which will be conducted by Dr. Leroy Sloan. As part of the process, the evaluation will involve the collection of feedback from various stakeholders and employees within GSSD.

To access the Board Policy Handbook, visit gssd.ca > [Board](#) > [Board Policy Handbook](#).

Financial Update

Chief Financial Officer, Keith Gervais provided the Board with a detailed fiscal report to date for the Good Spirit School Division. Due to COVID-19 and the restrictions imposed by the Government, Gervais reported that GSSD is poised to see a surplus due in large part to reduced costs in Transportation, sub costs, reduced travel, and professional development.

Gervais will present the budget for the upcoming school year to the Board of Education in an upcoming Special Board meeting set for Thursday, May 27, 2021.

Student Incident Report

Director/CEO, Quintin Robertson updated the Board regarding student incidents of concern that resulted in out-of-school suspensions across the school division. Robertson indicated that the number of suspensions during the 2020-21 school year has been down significantly from previous years.

Upcoming Important Dates

May (dates TBD)	Virtual Employee Benefits Plan Seminars
May 12, 2021	Early Childhood Educator Day
May (dates TBD)	Early Childhood Intervention Program Week
May 24, 2021	Victoria Day
May 27, 2021	Special Board Meeting
May 31, 2021	Board Chairs Council Meeting, 8:30 am – 9:30 am, via Zoom
June 4, 2021	Public Section General Meeting, 8:30 am – 12:00 pm – Via Zoom
June 17, 2021	Regular Board Meeting
August 18, 2021	Director/CEO Evaluation, 9 am – 12:30 pm
August 18, 2021	Board of Education Evaluation, 1-4 pm
August 18, 2021	Special Board Meeting, 4-4:30 pm
August 19, 2021	Regular Board Meeting
September 15, 2021	Board Chairs Council Meeting, 1:00 pm – 4:00 pm, via Zoom
September 30, 2021	Deadline for Submissions for the 2021 Premier’s Board of Education Award for Innovation and Excellence and the 2021 Award of Distinction
September 30, 2021	Deadline for Bylaw Amendments (for the AGM) 4:30 pm
October 15, 2021	Deadline for Resolutions (for the AGM) 4:30 pm
October 25, 2021	Board Chairs Council Meeting, 8:30 am – 9:30 am, via Zoom
November 14–16, 2021	SSBA Fall General Assembly and AGM, Regina, SK – TBD
November 16, 2021	Board Chairs Council Meeting, 11:30 am – 4:00 pm, Regina, SK – TBD
December 6, 2021	Board Chairs Council Meeting, 8:30 am – 9:30 am – via Zoom

Upcoming Board Meetings: May 27 (Special Meeting), June 17, August 18 (Evaluation & Special Meeting), August 19.

Location: Zoom

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.

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

Contact Us

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Visit us online at
www.gssd.ca

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Create Bright Futures*