

FROM THE BOARD

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE
MARCH 27, 2025 BOARD MEETING



GSSD.CA

March 27, 2025, Regular Meeting

The Regular Board meeting on March 27, 2025, was held virtually via Teams. The following trustees were present: Chairperson Jaime Johnson, Vice Chairperson Nicole Pohl, Christopher Balyski, Shannon Leson, Jan Morrison, Cara Makort, Kelly Palmer, Jamie Smart-Sondergaard, Steve Variyan, and Kendra Stav. Also in attendance were division office staff, including Director of Education/CEO Quintin Robertson, Chief Financial Officer Keith Gervais, Communications Coordinator Lauren Denysek, and Superintendent of Indigenous Education Angella Pinay.

Meeting Opening

Board Chairperson Jaime Johnson commenced the meeting at 10 a.m., then reviewed GSSD's meeting norms and respectfully recognized that the meeting was taking place on Treaty 4 Territory; the traditional territory of the Anishinaabe, Cree, Assiniboine, and homeland of the Métis Peoples.

Approval of Minutes

The meeting package included the minutes from the February 27, 2025, Regular Board Meeting, which were prepared by Chief Financial Officer Keith Gervais. The approved minutes can be accessed on the GSSD website: [GSSD](#) | [Board](#) | [Board Meetings](#) | [February 27, 2025](#)

Delegation

As outlined in Board Policy 7, 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. There were no delegations.

Accountability Report

Inspiring Success: GSSD's efforts to embed the Inspiring Success First Nations and Métis PreK-12 Education Policy Framework into strategic planning, curriculum planning, instruction, and assessment

Angella Pinay, Superintendent of Indigenous Education presented a detailed report on *Inspiring Success*, Saskatchewan's framework for First Nations and Métis education. The report outlined the background of the policy, its development, and its foundational role



in the Provincial Education Plan. It emphasized the importance of cultural inclusion, land-based learning, student voice, and the shared responsibility of improving outcomes for Indigenous learners.

Key strategies highlighted included GSSD's partnerships with Indigenous communities, investment in staff and cultural programming, new administrative procedures, and targeted professional development. A key current initiative is the four-part learning series underway for Central Office staff, Board Members, and Indigenous Advisory Council members. This series is part of the division's celebration of 150 years of Treaty 4 Territory.

Looking ahead, the division will keep strengthening governance-to-governance relationships and seek new partnerships that support cultural learning and student success. Angella also emphasized the importance of clear communication protocols and regular, personalized outreach—encouraging thoughtful practices and expanding meeting protocols beyond land acknowledgements.



Following the presentation, the discussion highlighted the outstanding work of the Indigenous Education Team. A message from Canora Junior Elementary School was shared regarding kind words about GSSD's Cultural Advocate, Robert Severight. Robert, who was also in attendance for the presentation of the Accountability Report, shared that he enjoys his role and values the relationships he builds with both staff and students.

Board Chair Johnson closed the presentation with encouraging words, recognizing the progress GSSD has made in incorporating the Inspiring Success Framework. She acknowledged the strong work already completed while noting that there is still more to do to continue moving forward in a good way.

For a more comprehensive overview, please refer to the full report linked below. To view the accountability report in its entirety visit: [GSSD](#) | [Board](#) | [Board Meetings](#) | [Board Accountability Report – Inspiring Success](#)

Board Development

Legal and Ethical Responsibilities

Director of Education Quintin Robertson shared a summary of the legal and ethical responsibilities of Board members.

Key points included the importance of following provincial standards, engaging with the community, acting ethically, protecting confidentiality, and supporting continuous improvement.

The Board is also expected to advocate for education, recognize Indigenous governance, encourage civic involvement, show unity in decisions, and evaluate its own effectiveness. These responsibilities help guide the Board in serving students and communities across the division.

To access the full document of the 10 fast facts visit [GSSD](#) | [Board](#) | [Board Meetings](#) | [Board Development – Legal and Ethical Responsibilities](#)



[Click here to expand the image!](#)

New Business

Board Meeting Start Times

After reviewing trustee feedback, **the Board has decided to adjust the start time of its meetings to 9:00 a.m.** (previously 10:00 a.m.) to better support participation. This change will take effect starting with the April 24, 2025, Board meeting. Regularly scheduled meetings will continue to be held at the Good Spirit Education Complex in the RM of Orkney or via video conference, following the 2024-2025 schedule below:

- April 24, 2025
- June 12, 2025
- August 14, 2025

[Board Policy 2A Annual Work Plan](#) was updated to reflect this change.

Policy Review

The Board reviewed and approved updates to Board Policy 10 and 11. Both policies simply had an updated review date added. The reviewed policies are now available on our website:

- [Board Policy 10 Policy Making](#)
- [Board Policy 11 Delegation of Authority](#)

Board Policy 9 Board Representation will undergo further revisions and be brought back to the April 24, 2025 meeting.

[GSSD](#) | [Board](#) | [Board Policy Handbook](#)



Director’s Report

Professional Development Opportunities

The Board received an update on upcoming professional development opportunities available to both Division staff and Board members. Notably, on Friday, April 4, 2025, the Board is invited to attend Session #3 of GSSD’s Treaty 4 Learning Series, held in recognition of 150 Years of Treaty 4 Territory. Stay tuned for the March/April *In Focus* media release at the end of April, where we’ll recap professional development events that have taken place across the Division.

Facilities Update

At the March 27 Board Meeting, Facilities Manager Patrick Morrison shared an update highlighting ongoing and upcoming projects across the division.

Current Projects – Active Design

Facility	Description	Life Cycle Stage
Canora Junior Elementary School	Repair exterior window curtain panels	Planning
Canora Junior Elementary School	Barrier free outdoor swing and gazebo	Planning
Churchbridge Public School	Repair/Replace Sidewalks	Planning
Churchbridge Public School	Replace Main Backboards in Gym.	Design
Grayson School	Paint Hallways	Planning

Invermay School	Entrance Ramp Accessibility Improvements	Planning
Langenburg Central School	Revisions to traffic control plan	Planning
Macdonald School	Gymnasium storage solution	Planning
Macdonald School	Portable Classroom Reno	Planning
MC Knoll	Joint library renovation	Planning
Melville Comprehensive	Revitalization of Track and Football Field	Design
PJ Gillen	Renovation of band building to create usable storage	Planning
Preeceville School	Replace concrete at main entrance	Planning
Victoria School	Replace damaged stair treads throughout	Planning
Victoria School	Support SCC with Kitchen Renovation Project	Design/Funding
Yorkdale Central	Cleanup of PAA Area, dust collector wall and fence	Planning
Yorkdale Central School	Asphalt Replacement	Planning
Yorkdale Central School	Boiler Replacement and Boiler Room Renovations	Planning
Yorkdale Central School	Corridor Flooring	Planning
Yorkdale School	Reset of playground equipment	Planning
Yorkton Regional High School	Shop Ventilation Improvement	Planning
Yorkton Regional High School	Finish Line Building	Design/Funding
Yorkton Regional High School	Elevator Replacement	Design

Current Projects - Scheduled

Facility	Description	Scheduled Start
Canora Composite School	Roof and envelope issues – Minor Capital	2025.05.01
Canora Junior Elementary School	Drainage system for the northwest entrance	2025.04.01
Churchbridge Public School	Classroom Reno Phase 2	2025.07.01
Dr Brass School	Concrete steps and pad replacement	2025.07.01
Dr Brass School	Basement refresh including band room and various areas	2025.04.21
Kamsack Comprehensive	Green House Setup	2025.05.01
Macdonald School	Remove Broken Concrete	2025.04.01
Melville Comprehensive	Elevator Replacement	2025.06.01
Melville Comprehensive	Home Ec Project	2025.09.01
Norquay School	Installation of gym fans	2025.04.21
Norquay School	Cultural Room	2025.09.01
Norquay School	General Washroom Repairs and Additions	2025.05.01
Saltcoats School	Classroom Reno Phase 2	2025.07.01
Sturgis Comp	PAA Drainage	2025.07.01
Victoria School	Parking lot and berm	2025.05.01
Yorkdale Central	General Reset of Playground Equipment	2025.05.01
Yorkton Regional High School	PAA Renovation – Welding/Automotive Wall and Lighting	2025.07.01

Current Projects – Work in Progress

Facility	Description	Current Status
Melville Comprehensive	Renovation of Washrooms	Active – 70% Complete

Recently Completed Projects

Facility	Description
Norquay School	Surveillance System
Miller School	Revamp office space and Gym Storage

Planning for the Future

GSSD is working to build a system-wide preventative maintenance plan using AssetPlanner. The goal is to streamline inspections, service requests, and projects for more efficient facility management.

The division has also received \$2.835 million in Preventative Maintenance and Renewal (PMR) funding for 2025-26. This supports vital work like roof replacements, boiler upgrades, and other priority projects across schools.

These facility improvements reflect GSSD's commitment to healthy, sustainable physical environments—supporting student success today and into the future.

Preeceville School Tour

Pat presented a virtual tour of Preeceville School and highlighted some great renovations.

Recently completed projects:

- Entrance Way Renovation
- Kindergarten Renovation
- Sensory Room Renovation
- Surveillance System
- Science Lab Flooring
- High School Classroom Renovation (2019)

Planned projects:

- Main Entrance Concrete
- Home Economics Renovation
- Fire Alarm Upgrade
- Roof Replacement – Section 7

[Click here to view the School Tour of Preeceville!](#)



Trustee Balyski wrapped up the presentation by commending Pat and his team for their fantastic work—not only at Preeceville School but also for their ongoing contributions across the Division.

Financial Update

Keith Gervais, Chief Financial Officer, presented a financial update to the Board. Grant revenue remains on track, and tuition figures are unchanged since the last meeting. Divisions have received funding from the Ministry to support amended teacher salary payments; however, these funds will not be distributed until a signed agreement is in place. Retroactive payments will follow once contracts are updated. Some savings may be seen in Governance due to a lower-cost election period this year. Preventative Maintenance and Renewal budgets may fluctuate as planning continues for the next school year. A third and fourth quarter forecast will be submitted to the Ministry once finalized. Overall, budgets are tracking well for this point in the year.

Administrative Procedures

The Board was informed of the Administrative Procedures that have undergone revision and review since the Regular Board Meeting on February 27, 2025. The following APs have been finalized and posted to the website:

- [AP 438 - Certification of Staff \(Updated March 2025\)](#)
- [548 Loan of Equipment and/or Materials \(updated March 2025\)](#)
- [548-1 Loan Request Form \(NEW March 2025\)](#)
- [216 Instrumental Music Education \(Updated March 2025\)](#)
- [216-1 Instrument Rental Contract \(NEW March 2025\)](#)

The Board also reviewed the rollout plan for the new Administrative Procedure on Washroom and Changeroom Access. The plan includes consultations with labour groups, administrators, school community councils, staff, and stakeholders. Feedback will be gathered between March and June, with the procedure to be finalized and posted by June 30, 2025.

Closing Items

School Community Councils & Celebration

Trustee Balyski shared the success of both Preeceville teams at Hoopla 2025. Preeceville Girls captured the 1A Girls Gold, while the Boys captured the 1A Boys Silver. The games were thrilling and exciting to watch all weekend.



Trustee Johnson echoed Balyski’s comments and highlighted the exciting recent events. She recognized Norquay’s impactful fundraising efforts in support of a fellow student. While attending Hoopla, the Norquay girls' basketball team visited the Jim Pattison Children’s Hospital to present their fundraising donation and receive a tour. The team proudly brought home the 2A Girls Bronze medal, while the Norquay boys also had a strong showing, finishing in 4th place.



Trustee Stav recognized Melville Comprehensive School and their 2nd Annual Career Fair on March 26, 2025. The event had participation from Grade 7 students as well as Grade 9-12 students. It was a wonderful day, with the Career Fair being open to the public in the evening.

Trustee Morrison recently attended a School Community Council (SCC) meeting at MC Knoll School and shared several celebrations. The Boys' basketball team earned 1st place at the City Championships, and SCC members expressed appreciation for the recent GSSD SCC Winter Symposium, noting the valuable discussions. MC Knoll also runs a twice-weekly Pace and Power Club in the mornings, promoting wellness and healthy habits. There’s a strong sense of pride in the student and family participation.



Upcoming Important Dates

April 2, 2025	Indigenous Council Meeting – 2:00 – 3:00 p.m., Saskatoon
April 3, 2025	Board Chairs Council Meeting
	In-person before Spring Assembly, 8:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m., Saskatoon
April 3, 2025	Public Section Executive Meeting, Time TBD, Sheraton Cavalier Hotel, Saskatoon

April 3 & 4, 2025	Spring Assembly – Saskatoon, Sheraton Cavalier Hotel Downtown
April 18, 2025	Good Friday
April 21, 2025	Easter Monday
April 24, 2025	Regular Board Meeting
May 19, 2025	Victoria Day
May 22, 2025	Special Board Meeting
May 26, 2025	Board Chairs Council Meeting – virtual, 8:30 – 9:30 a.m.
June 4-6, 2025	Employee Benefits Plan Seminar, location TBD
June 5 & 6, 2025	Public Section General Meeting & Professional Development Event - Regina DoubleTree by Hilton
June 5, 2025	Good Spirit Retirement Gala, St. Mary's Cultural Centre
June 12, 2025	Regular Board Meeting
August 13, 2025	Evaluation & Special Board Meeting
August 14, 2025	Regular Board Meeting
September 18, 2025	Board Chairs Council – In-person, Regina, 1:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.
September 30, 2025	Deadline for Submissions for the 2025 Premier's Board of Education Award for Innovation and Excellence & the 2024 Award of Distinction – 4:30 p.m.
October 1, 2025	Deadline for Bylaw Amendments (for the AGM) – 4:30 p.m.
October 16, 2025	Deadline for Resolutions (for the AGM) - 4:30 p.m.
October 20, 2025	Board Chairs Council Meeting – virtual, 8:30 – 9:30 a.m.
November 16, 2025	Board Chairs Council Meeting – In-person before Fall Assembly, Regina 1:00 – 4:00 p.m. - Directors are invited to this meeting
November 16-18, 2025	Fall General Assembly and AGM – Regina, Delta Hotel

Upcoming Board Meetings: April 24/25, May 22/25 - Special Board Meeting, June 12/25, August 13/25 - Evaluation & Special Board Meeting, August 14/25

Location & Time: Good Spirit Education Complex at 9 a.m. 5B Schrader Drive, Yorkton, SK S3N 3Z4

To submit photos or stories regarding the Board of Education or an individual Trustee in your school community, please contact lauren.denysek@gssd.ca.

Board Policy 7 Board Operations: [GSSD](#) | [Board](#) | [Board Policy Handbook](#)