

FROM THE BOARD

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE
June 12, 2025 BOARD MEETING



GSSD.CA

June 12, 2025 Regular Meeting

The Regular Board meeting on June 12, 2025, was held at the Good Spirit Education Complex. The following trustees were present: Chairperson Jaime Johnson, Vice Chairperson Nicole Pohl, Christopher Balyski, Shannon Leson, Cara Makort, Kelly Palmer, Jamie Smart-Sondergaard, Steve Variyan, Jan Morrison, Jay-Cee Brass 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

Chairperson Johnson commenced the meeting at 9 a.m. and reviewed GSSD's meeting norms. Trustee Makort then 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 for the April 24, 2025, Regular Board Meeting, and the May 22, 2025, Special 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](#) | [April 24, 2025](#) | [May 22, 2025](#)

Accountability Report

Inspiring Success: Report on initiatives to deepen relationships with families and communities, particularly in understanding Indigenous identities, histories, and worldviews.

Superintendent of Indigenous Education, Angella Pinay, presented an update on GSSD's work to build stronger relationships with families and First Nations communities, while deepening understanding of Indigenous identities, histories, and worldviews.

Division-wide priorities include:

- Relationship-building
- Cultural identity and pride
- Inclusive practices
- Student engagement and well-being



This year's highlights included:

- Métis Day, a Feast and Round Dance, and the first-ever Graduation Powwow
- Beading nights, storytelling month, and language instruction (Michif, Cree, Saulteaux)
- Involvement of Elders and Knowledge Keepers in cultural programming
- Partnerships with Cote, Keeseekoose, and Key First Nations for professional development (PD) and student events

GSSD continues to embed Treaty Education across Grades 1–12, with some schools now opening mornings with flag or victory songs.

Looking ahead, the Division plans to grow staff PD in anti-racist education, expand Elder networks, promote student leadership, and increase land-based learning opportunities.

While there is still work to do, GSSD remains committed to the path of reconciliation.

To view the accountability report in its entirety visit: [GSSD | Board | Board Meetings | Board Accountability Report – Report on initiatives to deepen relationships with families and communities, particularly in understanding Indigenous identities, histories, and worldviews.](#)

Board Development

Community Engagement and Communication

During the recent Board meeting, Director of Education Quintin Robertson presented the Board Development on Community Engagement and Communication.

The session emphasized that engagement is not a one-time event but an ongoing relationship. Key takeaways included the importance of transparency, inclusivity, and trust-building, as well as viewing families as partners in education. The Board discussed strategies to amplify local voices, lead with clear communication, and foster authentic connections to support student success across the Division.

To access the full document of the 10 fast facts visit [GSSD | Board | Board Meetings | Board Development – Community Engagement & Communication](#)

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

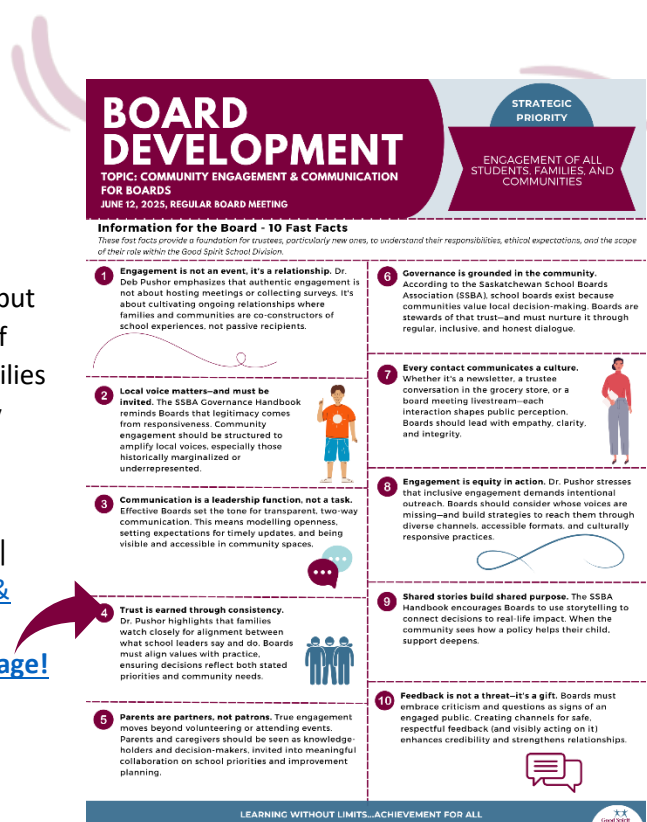
Advocacy Session

Elected Officials and the Saskatchewan School Boards' Association (SSBA)

The GSSD Board of Education recently hosted an Advocacy Session, bringing together elected officials and representatives from the Saskatchewan School Boards Association (SSBA) to strengthen relationships and engage in meaningful dialogue on key education issues.

In attendance were:

- Yorkton MLA David Chan
- Canora-Pelly MLA Sean Wilson



- Len Lorenz, Constituency Assistant for David Chan
- SSBA President Shawn Davidson
- SSBA Southern Constituency Representative Robert Bachmann
- SSBA Executive Director Darren McKee



The session began with an informal lunch, followed by introductions and a productive discussion on several pressing topics, including classroom complexity, teacher working conditions, and capital funding. The group explored the importance of Preventative Maintenance and Renewal (PMR) funding and the need for ongoing investment in local infrastructure.

Other topics included the Education Act, accessibility legislation, Jordan's Principle and more. Both MLAs and SSBA representatives contributed valuable insights, working to better understand each other's roles and perspectives.

The session concluded with expressions of gratitude from Director of Education Quintin Robertson and Board Chair Jaime Johnson, emphasizing the importance of collaboration and continued relationship-building.

To end on a celebratory note, the Board proudly announced that Angella Pinay, GSSD's Superintendent of Indigenous Education, has been selected to present at the 2025 World Indigenous Conference in New Zealand — a remarkable honour and a testament to her leadership.

Action Items Arising from Closed Session

2025-26 Budget and Staffing Allocation Plan

Keith Gervais, Chief Financial Officer, presented the budget and staffing allocations plan within closed session for the 2025-2026 fiscal year. This plan was made in collaboration with school community councils, school staff, the Good Spirit Teachers' Association (GSTA), the Canadian Union of Public Employees (CUPE), administration, and stakeholders. Keith explained the increase in the operating grant for the Good Spirit School Division for the upcoming year, highlighting the importance of investing current funds in today's students. He pointed out that the largest budget increase is dedicated to instructional support, ensuring that students receive the essential resources in schools.

The Board passed a motion to approve the presented 2025-2026 budget. An infographic and details will be provided to stakeholders once finalized. Stakeholders are also encouraged to attend an online information session on the 2025-26 Budget on Tuesday, June 24, 2025 at 6:30pm. [Details on how to join can be found here.](#)

New Business

School Community Council Loans – Davison School

Davison School is actively fundraising for the installation of a new 5-foot-high chain-link fence around a large portion of its playground yard. The goal is to improve student safety by preventing balls and children from entering nearby streets during recess and playtime.

The Board passed the motion to approve the loan for the Davison fence project. Davison School aims to have the fence completed by August 2025, in time for the start of the new school year.



Policy Review



The Board reviewed and approved updates to Board Policy 2A, 14, 15, 16, and 16A. The reviewed policies are now available on the website:

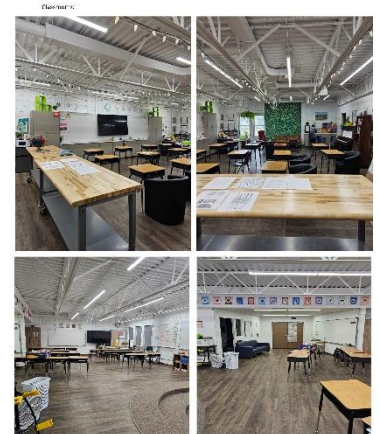
- [Policy 2 Appendix A Annual Work Plan](#)
- [Policy 14 Hearing on Teacher Matters](#)
- [Policy 15 Recruitment and Selection of Personnel](#)
- [Policy 16 Student Transportation](#)
- [Policy 16 Appendix A Good Neighbor](#)

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

Director's Report

Facilities Update

At the June 12, 2025 Board Meeting, Facilities Manager Pat Morrison provided an update on ongoing and upcoming infrastructure projects across the Division. Current initiatives include accessibility upgrades, playground improvements, and major renovations to school spaces such as gyms, classrooms, and washrooms. Several projects are in the planning or design phase, while others are already underway or scheduled for summer 2025. Preventative maintenance planning is progressing in partnership with AssetPlanner to enhance long-term asset management. The update also included a risk assessment, affirming that project management procedures remain aligned with Ministry expectations and budgeting standards.



Macdonald School Tour

Pat Morrison also presented a school tour of Macdonald School in Stockholm.

View it now on our website! [Macdonald School Tour](#)

Financial Update

Chief Financial Officer Keith Gervais presented the Division's third quarter financial update. Tuition revenue is higher than projected due to an increase in students from surrounding First Nations communities. Expanded funding for early learning and intensive supports has resulted in additional staffing costs. While overall revenues are trending upward, expenditures have also increased—particularly in instructional areas, largely due to retroactive pay from the new collective bargaining agreement.

Administrative Procedures

The Board was informed of the Administrative Procedures that have undergone revision and review since the Regular Board Meeting on April 24, 2025. The following APs have been finalized and posted to the website:

- [AP 317 - Integrated Health Care Services In GSSD Schools \(NEW May 2025\)](#)
- [AP 317 App A - Integrated Health Care Services In GSSD Schools \(NEW May 2025\)](#)
- [AP 317 App B - Integrated Health Care Services In GSSD Schools Fair Notice Letter \(NEW May 2025\)](#)

- [AP 317-1 - GSSD and Integrated Health Services Consent Form \(NEW May 2025\)](#)
- [AP 505 - Student Fees Non-Tuition \(Updated May 2025\)](#)

Closing Items

Committee Reports

Board Chair Jaime Johnson, Trustee Jay-Cee Brass, and Director of Education Quintin Robertson recently attended the *Inspiring Success* session in Saskatoon, hosted by the Ministry of Education. GSSD's own Angella Pinay presented at the session, which was described by attendees as high-level, informative, and inspiring. Trustee Brass highlighted the opportunity to hear from the provincial Youth Council, noting strong affirmation for the work GSSD is doing—particularly the positive impact of Indigenous Community Workers (ICWs), a role students from other divisions expressed a desire to have in their own schools.

Expanding on the Inspiring Success session, on July 2, 2025, Quintin, along with Angella Pinay, Superintendent of Indigenous Education, Audrey Severson, Norquay Principal, Stacey Rubletz, Norquay Vice Principal and Shaune Beatty, Superintendent of Schools, visited Île-à-la-Crosse to learn more about *Following Their Voices*. The team explored how the community integrates language instruction and land-based learning, including a visit to their land-based site and time spent canoeing with local educators. The trip offered valuable insights into implementing *Follow Their Voices* into select GSSD schools next year.

School Community Councils & Celebration

Trustee Jaime Johnson shared exciting news that Norquay School's *Buckets of Hope* initiative has received a Student Citizenship Award from the Public Schools of Saskatchewan. The Norquay Girls' Basketball team, who led the project, will be formally presented with the award at an upcoming school assembly.

Congratulations to Norquay School on this well-deserved recognition! [Watch their inspiring video submission here.](#)

Trustee Balyski shared that incoming Preeceville Principal Mindi Meadows recently visited Preeceville School for a tour. The visit was a great opportunity to connect, and Mindi expressed her excitement about joining the school community.

Trustee Pohl noted her schools' Grade 8 farewells are coming up and she is very excited to attend!

Trustee Stav shared updates from her schools in Melville and Grayson, noting the many SCC meetings, farewells, and graduations taking place. Trustee Stav also shared a highlight from Melville Comprehensive School. On June 11, many students performed in the school choir as part of a two-hour program that showcased the growing strength of the music and band programs. Special recognition was given to Mr. Wishnevetski for fostering a deep love of music among students. Trustee Stav also highlighted the school's outdoor courtyard as a vibrant space for the event.

Trustee Smart-Sondergaard shared several exciting updates. Macdonald School recently hosted the Willow Awards, welcoming a visiting author from Toronto to celebrate literacy. Meanwhile, the Esterhazy High School (EHS) theatre group traveled to provincials for drama, earning many awards and accolades. In addition, the EHS band group enjoyed a multi-day trip to Fernie, further enriching their musical experience.

Trustee Brass noted his excitement to attend Norquay grad on Saturday, June 14, 2025.

Trustee Makort shared plans to attend the Dr. Brass and MC Knoll Grade 8 Graduations and the Yorkton Regional High School Graduation, taking place later this June.



Upcoming Important Dates

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: August 13/25 - Evaluation & Special Board Meeting, August 14/25

Location & Time for Regular Board Meetings: 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](#)