

# FROM THE BOARD

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE  
AUGUST 14, 2025 BOARD MEETING



GSSD.CA

## August 14, 2025

The Regular Board meeting on August 14, 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, and Kendra Stav. Also in attendance were division office staff, including Director of Education/CEO Quintin Robertson, Chief Financial Officer Keith Gervais, and Communications Coordinator Lauren Denyse.

## Meeting Opening

Chairperson Johnson commenced the meeting at 9 a.m. Trustee Pohl 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 for the June 12, 2025, Regular Board Meeting, and the August 13, 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](#) | [June 12, 2025](#) | [August 13, 2025](#)

## Accountability Report

### Inspiring Success: Report on partnerships that have enhanced student learning and well-being.

Superintendent of Learning Lisa Wotherspoon shared an in-depth presentation on GSSD's Early Literacy Partnership with Dr. George Georgiou and Dr. Matthew Kierstead.

GSSD is in a three-year partnership with literacy experts Dr. George Georgiou and Dr. Matthew Kierstead to ensure teaching practices are rooted in proven research. The focus is on helping teachers and administrators understand why certain strategies work, why some past approaches didn't have the desired impact, and how to put the science of reading into action.

In Year 1, Dr. Georgiou designed and implemented new reading screeners for early grades, while Dr. Kierstead provided professional development to principals,



meeting with them three times to review and interpret student data. The GSSD Early Years Interdisciplinary Team — including consultants, a speech-language pathologist, and a psychologist — played a key role in supporting this work across the Division.

Major accomplishments included:

- Selecting resources backed by the science of reading.
- Supporting schools with structured literacy implementation.
- Creating instructional walkthroughs and “look for” guides for administrators.
- Developing a Guide to Evidence-Based Literacy Instruction.
- Updating the Division’s Response to Intervention process.

The results speak for themselves — GSSD surpassed its goal, with over 80% of Grade 1–3 students now reading at or above average. Both experts praised the Division’s progress.

Looking ahead, GSSD will expand interventions into Grades 4–6, continue targeted administrator coaching, and partner with Kim Lockhart for further training in equitable, evidence-based instruction.

To view the accountability report in its entirety visit: [GSSD](#) | [Board](#) | [Board Meetings](#) | [Board Accountability Report – Report on partnerships that have enhanced student learning and well-being.](#)

Board Development

Establishing and Maintaining Partnerships

During the recent Board meeting, Director of Education Quintin Robertson presented the Board Development on Establishing and Maintaining Partnerships.

Quintin emphasized that every partnership should reflect GSSD’s core pillars — Belonging, Diversity, Learning, Perseverance, and Responsibility — and deliver measurable benefits for students.

GSSD currently works with 30+ partners — from mental health and cultural organizations to local municipalities and Indigenous communities — with special value placed on partnerships that bring services closer to our 15 rural communities. Some partnerships include the Grayson Library Partnership and the Little Miner’s Daycare Partnerships at Esterhazy High School.

Spring Preliminary Ministry Reading Results

Good Spirit SD 204 Preliminary Reading Results, 2024-25 (and comparator years)

		Grade 1	Grade 2	Grade 3
Students Reading At or Above Grade Level (AAGL)	2018-19	82.0%	79.3%	79.5%
	2023-24	69.7%	69.9%	70.4%
	2024-25	92.2%	88.4%	83.9%
Students Exempted from Results	2018-19	9.8%	9.2%	7.3%
	2023-24	19.3%	12.0%	11.0%
	2024-25	20.4%	16.8%	12.9%
Students Not Participating (recorded as 'na')	2018-19	0.8%	0.0%	0.2%
	2023-24	1.1%	1.9%	1.0%
	2024-25	1.8%	0.6%	1.1%
Percentage of Students Included in AAGL analysis	2018-19	89.4%	90.8%	92.5%
	2023-24	79.7%	86.1%	88.0%
	2024-25	77.8%	82.6%	86.0%

# BOARD DEVELOPMENT

TOPIC: ESTABLISHING AND MAINTAINING PARTNERSHIPS

AUGUST 14, 2025, REGULAR BOARD MEETING

Information for the Board - 10 Fast Facts

These 10 fast facts provide a foundation for trustees, particularly new ones, to understand their responsibilities, ethical expectations, and the scope of their role within the Good Spirit School Division.

1 Purpose Anchored in Priority

Every partnership must echo the Board's core pillars – Belonging, Diversity, Learning, Perseverance, and Responsibility – or it risks becoming noise rather than harmony.

2 Mapping the Landscape

GSSD currently engages in over 30 formal and informal partnerships ranging from mental health supports to cultural engagement initiatives.

3 Rural Realities, Local Leverage

In a division serving 15 rural communities, local partnerships (libraries, health regions, indigenous organizations, municipalities) are vital for bringing services closer to students.

4 Student-First Metrics

Partnerships are not just goodwill exercises. Effective ones measurably improve attendance, well-being, achievement, or access to learning opportunities.

5 Clarity is Currency

Clear expectations, roles, and responsibilities are essential. Partnerships with fuzzy boundaries often fizzle or fail.

6 Relationships Over Transactions

Long-term partnerships thrive on trust, shared goals, and consistent communication – not just on funding or outcomes.

7 Cultural Bridges, Not Gaps

Partnerships with indigenous communities must be built on respect, reciprocity, and recognition of Truth and Reconciliation Calls to Action.

8 Data-Driven Direction

Regular review of partnership effectiveness (through surveys, usage stats, student feedback) ensures alignment and accountability.

9 Board as Connector and Catalyst

Trustees play a key role in championing partnerships – opening doors, advocating in the community, and asking the hard questions about impact.

10 Sustainable Over Spectacular

While high profile partnerships get attention, the quiet, enduring ones often deliver the deepest impact over time.

LEARNING WITHOUT LIMITS...ACHIEVEMENT FOR ALL

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

From the Board Report – August 14, 2025, Regular Board Meeting Page 2 of 6

Strong partnerships are built on clear expectations, trust, shared goals, and ongoing communication, with regular reviews using data and feedback to ensure alignment. Trustees serve as connectors and advocates, helping open doors and ensure impact.

To conclude the report, Quintin highlighted that partnerships aren't extras — they bring essential programs, services, and opportunities that our students and rural communities might otherwise go without. We choose them carefully, hold them to high standards, and measure them by one question: Are they making a real difference for students?

To access the full document of the 10 fast facts visit [GSSD](#) | [Board](#) | [Board Meetings](#) | [Board Development – Establishing and Maintaining Partnerships](#)

## Action Items Arising from Closed Session

### 2025-26 Revised Budget

During Closed Session, Trustees reviewed an updated budget that included two adjustments: the removal of the Canora Composite School Roof Minor Renovation Project, as funds will be paid out this year and next, and the removal of a new photocopier lease until Ministry approval is received. The Board approved the revised budget with these changes.

### New Business

#### Review Results from the Board Evaluation Survey & Develop a Positive Path Forward

On August 13, 2025, the Board took part in its Self-Evaluation, facilitated by Ben Grebinski with support from Quintin Robertson. Together, the Board created a “Positive Path Forward,” reflecting on past events and exploring ways to strengthen processes. By the end of the session, all members agreed the Board works well together, and that through both successes and challenging decisions, they have remained united.

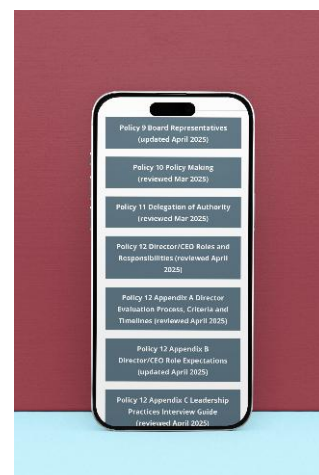
#### Conduct School Closure/Grade Discontinuance and Boundary Review

There were no proposed school closures, grade discontinuations, or boundary reviews at this time. The Division has submitted a request to the Ministry for electoral boundaries to align with attendance area boundaries. Once approved, the Division will share the updated information.

### Policy Review

The Board reviewed and approved updates to Board Policy 1, 2A (2024-25), 2A (2025-26), 8, 8E, 8D, 17, 18, and 19, 20. The reviewed policies are now available on the website: [GSSD](#) | [Board](#) | [Board Policy Handbook](#)

- [Board Policy 1 Foundational Statements](#)
- [Board Policy 2 Appendix A Annual Work Plan \(2024-25\)](#)
- Board Policy 2 Appendix A Annual Work Plan (2025-26) – to be posted once completed
- [Policy 8 Committees of the Board](#)
- [Policy 8 Appendix D LINC Negotiating Committee Terms of Reference](#)
- [Policy 8 Appendix E Support Staff Negotiating Committee Terms of Reference](#)
- [Board Policy 17 School Review](#)
- [Board Policy 18 Community Partnerships](#)
- [Board Policy 19 Enterprise Risk Management](#)
- [Board Policy 19 Appendix A Enterprise Risk Management Framework](#)
- [Board Policy 20 Respect for Human Diversity](#)



## Organizational Meeting

The GSSD Board of Education held their Organizational Meeting during the Regular Board Meeting on Thursday, August 14, 2025. At the meeting, the Board elected the chair and vice-chair as well as various subcommittee members for the upcoming year. Details have been posted on the GSSD website indicating committee member representation. Mrs. Jaime Johnson was re-elected as chairperson with Mrs. Nicole Pohl being re-elected to the position of vice-chairperson.

[Board Members](#) | *More Information* under each trustee



## Director's Report

### GSSD Professional Development Opportunities

With the new school year soon underway, trustees received an overview of the professional development opportunities planned for 2025–26, with more than 50 events already scheduled.

### Transportation Update

Keith Gervais, Chief Financial Officer presented a transportation update from May 1 – July 31, 2025.

The Division is now operating 98 bus routes. Recruiting bus drivers remains a challenge, with efforts continuing through social media, job fairs, financial incentives, and upcoming notices to families via Edsby and student take-home pamphlets.

#### Recent work and updates:

- Ryan Hall, Transportation Manager attended the SASBO conference in Saskatoon to discuss recruitment, training, routing, GPS, cameras, and new school bus requirements.
- The Division held a well-attended staff BBQs for bus drivers in Yorkton and Melville.
- The Division completed summer inspections of all buses.
- GPS systems were upgraded on nearly all buses for more accurate tracking.
- A YRHS student was hired to assist at the Yorkton bus garage due to a mechanic shortage.
- The driver in-service meeting is scheduled for August 19–20 with SGI presenting on safety and inspections.
- The Transportation team is finalizing routes for the new school year.

### Financial & Governance Budget Update

Chief Financial Officer Keith Gervais provided an update on the Division's financial position. The Ministry has provided funding for the Collective Bargaining Agreement retroactive pay and the Canora Roof Project. Finances are on track to close the year positively at the end of August, with governance expenses expected to come in slightly under budget due to lower election costs. Overall, the Division's finances remain strong and on target.

### Administrative Procedures

The Board was informed of the Administrative Procedures that have undergone revision and review since the Regular Board Meeting on June 12, 2025. The following APs have been finalized and posted to the website:

- [AP 312 - Washroom and Changeroom Access \(NEW June 2025\)](#)



- [AP 203 - Academic Integrity \(NEW June 2025\)](#)
- [AP 121 - Review of Administrative Procedures \(Updated June 2025\)](#)
- [AP 121-App. A - Administrative Procedures Review Process \(updated June 2025\)](#)

## Closing Items

### School Community Councils & Celebration

Trustee Palmer shared that Langenburg Central School is preparing for a pancake breakfast to kick off the school year, and Trustee Stav was pleased to announce that Davison School's new fence is up and ready!

## Upcoming Important Dates

August 28, 2025	Public Section Table Officer's Meeting – 9-10:30am, Zoom
September 1, 2025	Labour Day, GSEC Closed
September 2, 2025	First Day of School
September 18, 2025	Public Section Executive (only) Meeting – 9-10:30am, Zoom
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 9, 2025	Regular Board Meeting
October 13, 2025	Thanksgiving, GSEC Closed
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 6, 2025	Regular Board Meeting
November 11, 2025	Remembrance Day, GSEC Closed
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 or 17, 2025	Public Section AGM – day and time TBD – Regina, Delta Hotel
November 16-18, 2025	SSBA Fall General Assembly and AGM – Regina, Delta Hotel
December 11, 2025	Regular Board Meeting
December 25 & 26, 2025	Christmas & Boxing Day, GSEC Closed
January 1, 2026	New Years Day, GSEC Closed
January 29, 2026	Regular Board Meeting
February 12, 2026	Public Section Executive Meeting - Directors and Board Chairs are invited to this meeting, 1-2:30pm, Zoom
February 16, 2026	Family Day, GSEC Closed
February 26, 2026	Regular Board Meeting
March 26, 2026	Regular Board Meeting
April 3, 2026	Good Friday, GSEC Closed
April 16 or 17, 2026	Public Section Executive Meeting, Day/Time TBD (on agenda for SSBA Spring Assembly), Sheraton Cavalier Hotel, Saskatoon
April 23, 2026	Regular Board Meeting
May 18, 2026	Victoria Day, GSEC Closed
May 21, 2026	Special Board Meeting

June 4/5, 2026	Public Section General Meeting and Professional Development Events – Location and Venue TBD
June 11, 2026	Regular Board Meeting
June 25, 2026	Last Day of School
August 13, 2026	Regular Board Meeting

**Upcoming Board Meetings:** October 9, 2025, November 6, 2025, December 11, 2025, January 29, 2026, February 26, 2026, March 26, 2026, April 23, 2026, May 21, 2026 - Special Board Meeting, June 11, 2026, August 13, 2026

**Location & Time:** Good Spirit Education Complex at 9:30 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](mailto:lauren.denysek@gssd.ca).

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