

FROM THE BOARD

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE
OCTOBER 9, 2025 BOARD MEETING



GSSD.CA

October 9, 2025

The Regular Board meeting on October 9, 2025, was held at the Good Spirit Education Complex. The following trustees were present: Chairperson Jaime Johnson, Vice Chairperson Nicole Pohl, Christopher Balycki, Shannon Leson, Cara Makort, Kelly Palmer, Jay-Cee Brass, 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, Superintendent of Learning Lisa Wotherspoon and Communications Coordinator Lauren Denyse.

Meeting Opening

Chairperson Johnson commenced the meeting at 9:30 a.m., 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 August 14, 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](#) | [August 14, 2025](#)

Accountability Report

Equitable Access to Technology: Technology Integration Plan

Jonas Prysliak, IT Manager, presented GSSD's updated Technology Integration Plan, outlining how the IT Department is supporting current and future educational goals. Key highlights include:

- **Device Access:** All students in Grades 4–12 now have a 1:1 Chromebook ratio, while K–3 students share 2:1 iPads. This is an increase from a 3:1 ratio of iPads from last year. Staff laptops are on a five-year renewal cycle, with recent upgrades completed. Future rollouts will focus on replacing aging devices.
- **Infrastructure & Security:** Bandwidth has been upgraded across schools, servers are being modernized, and security systems such as Sentinel One, Arctic Wolf monitoring, and Microsoft Defender have been implemented to protect the



division's digital environment. Cyber Security Training also continues, utilizing Vector Solutions to administer modules throughout the school year.

- **Classroom Impact:** Equitable device access supports personalized learning, digital citizenship, collaboration, and innovative teaching methods such as blended learning, coding, robotics, and artificial intelligence (AI) integration.
- **Software & Tools:** LanSchool (classroom management software for staff), Mosyle (iPad management software for staff), Edsby enhancements (including online parent-teacher booking), and Google Workspace for Education Plus licenses have been rolled out to support teaching, learning, and family engagement.
- **Ongoing Maintenance:** Repairs, device tracking, and system monitoring are managed in-house. Feedback from schools helps guide improvements.
- **Budget & Sustainability:** Long-term planning includes device refresh cycles, cost-saving measures, and external funding opportunities such as the Microsoft settlement rebate.
- **Professional Development:** Teachers and staff continue to receive training in technology use and cybersecurity, ensuring tools are effectively integrated into classrooms.

Overall, this plan ensures that technology is reliable, secure, and accessible across GSSD schools, giving students and staff the tools they need for success today and in the future.

To view the accountability report in its entirety visit: [GSSD](#) | [Board](#) | [Board Meetings](#) | [Board Accountability Report – Equitable Access to Technology](#)

Board Development

Student Engagement in the Middle Years

Shawn Kostiuk and Michelle Morley, Digital Learning Consultants, and Jessica Smith, Curriculum Consultant, presented the Board Development on Student Engagement in the Middle Years.

Highlights included:

- Every student in Grades 4-12 now has a Chromebook, ensuring equitable access to digital tools.
- Blended learning and personalized pathways are putting students at the center of their own learning.
- Over 80 educators have been trained in the *Building Thinking Classrooms* framework to strengthen math instruction.
- Writing workshops for Grades 7-8 are boosting student voice and creativity.
- Treaty Education is being embedded across all grades, building respect and shared understanding.
- Digital innovations such as coding, robotics, and AI (Artificial Intelligence) are preparing students with future-ready skills.

BOARD DEVELOPMENT
 TOPIC: STUDENT ENGAGEMENT IN THE MIDDLE YEARS
 OCTOBER 9, 2025, REGULAR BOARD MEETING

Information for the Board - 10 Fast Facts
 These 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 Chromebooks - Tech in Every Hand**
 From Grades 4-12, every GSSD student has a Chromebook - ensuring equitable access to digital tools that support creativity, collaboration, and personalized learning. This initiative reflects both the provincial and divisional goals of inclusive, tech-enabled classrooms.
- 2 Blended Learning - Tech Meets Teaching for Student Success**
 GSSD is redefining classrooms with blended learning that puts students in the driver's seat. With flexible, tech-enhanced instruction, learners explore at their own pace, make choices, and build agency. This shift from one-size-fits-all to personalized pathways aligns with Saskatchewan's vision for responsive, student-centered curriculum and GSSD's commitment to high-quality, equitable learning environments.
- 3 Building Thinking Classrooms - Elevating Math Through Engagement**
 GSSD is enhancing math instruction by implementing the research-based Building Thinking Classrooms framework. Over 80 educators have completed Day 1 training in the 14 key practices that promote student collaboration, problem solving, and resilience. These practices shift classrooms from traditional, teacher-led instruction to dynamic, student-driven learning environments. This initiative aligns with provincial priorities for innovative teaching and supports GSSD's strategic goal of improving student engagement and achievement in mathematics across K-12.
- 4 Writing Engagement - Crafting Voices That Matter**
 Grade seven and eight ELA teachers dove into writing workshops that spark creativity and student voice. These strategies support the provincial goal of strengths-based instruction and GSSD's mission to ignite literacy through engaging, authentic experiences.
- 5 Treaty Education - Living the Promise**
 Treaty Education in GSSD is more than curriculum - it's a commitment. By embedding K-12 Saskatchewan Treaty Education Outcomes into everyday learning, students explore Treaties as living agreements that shape our shared responsibilities. GSSD honors its role as treaty people, supporting teachers in delivering meaningful instruction and assessment that deepens understanding, fosters respect, and builds a stronger future together.
- 6 Provincial Assessment - Measuring What Matters**
 GSSD supports the Ministry of Education's Provincial Assessments in Grade 7 ELA and Grades 5 and 9 Math as part of our commitment to high-quality teaching and learning. These assessments will provide valuable insights into student achievement and instructional impact, helping educators tailor support and improve outcomes. It's about using data to drive meaningful learning for every student.
- 7 Coding & Robotics - Hands-On Learning for a Digital World**
 Ozobots, Micro:bits, Minecraft, and coding bring curriculum to life. GSSD students aren't just learning - they're building, solving, and creating. These experiences foster future-ready skills and reflect the provincial strategy to leverage technology for innovation, while supporting GSSD's vision of engaged, empowered learners.
- 8 Generative Artificial Intelligence (AI) - Smart Use of Smart Tools**
 AI is here - and GSSD is leading with purpose. Our AI Beliefs and Guidelines ensure ethical, safe, and meaningful integration of generative tools in learning. This aligns with Saskatchewan's call for global competencies and GSSD's focus on innovative, responsible digital learning.
- 9 Google Workspace - Smart, Secure, Student-Centered**
 Docs, Drive, Classroom-GSSD students and teachers collaborate seamlessly with secure, ad-free tools. This supports the provincial strategy for connected learning environments and GSSD's priority of safe, efficient digital ecosystems.
- 10 Digital Tools - Learning That Fits Every Learner**
 From visual thinkers to hands-on creators, GSSD's digital tools meet students where they are. Whether it's slides, videos, multimedia tools - learners show what they know in ways that work for them. These tools fuel personalization, boost engagement, and ensure every student has a voice and a choice in how they learn. It's tech that adapts to the learner - not the other way around.

LEARNING WITHOUT LIMITS...ACHIEVEMENT FOR ALL

These initiatives reflect both provincial priorities and GSSD's vision of *Learning Without Limits...Achievement for All*. Superintendent of Learning, Lisa Wotherspoon, ended the presentation by praising the curriculum team for working

together to support students. She noted how the team has done an excellent job using technology in the classroom and keeping students engaged in their learning.

To access the full document of the 10 fast facts visit [GSSD](#) | [Board](#) | [Board Meetings](#) | [Board Development – Student Engagement in the Middle Years](#)

Advocacy Session

Good Spirit School Division Administrators

The recent Advocacy Session brought valuable collaboration and conversation between the Board and school administrators. Highlights included:

- **Students Come First in Action:**

- Melville Comprehensive School – Admin greets students daily and offers dedicated classroom supports.
- Invermay School – Staff know each student and family personally, creating a strong sense of community through school-wide events.
- Yorkdale Central School – Staff made welcome cards for a new family to help them feel at home.
- Saltcoats School – The Mustang Leadership Group is taking initiative this year by transforming the community hockey rink into a haunted mansion and planning student engagement events.

- **Listening and Acting on Feedback:**

- Columbia School – Updated cell phone expectations after staff and family input, resulting in increased engagement.
- Macdonald School – Partnered with Grayson School to offer more Practical Applied Arts (PAA) options (sewing, carpentry, cosmetology, outdoor education, etc.) and added new extracurricular opportunities like golf and community outings.

- **Student Voice and Innovation:**

- Grayson School – Students helped design a new wheelchair accessible playground. After just six months of fundraising, \$146,000 has been raised to go towards the new playground!
- Kamsack Comprehensive School (KCI) – Tested a “fewer bells” schedule to create calmer afternoons and fewer interruptions; staff and students both support the change. KCI also offers 14 different PAA classes for Grades 7-9, including Archery and Tourism.

During the session, Administrators joined their respective Trustees in table discussions to share questions, comments, and insights. These conversations offered valuable perspectives on each other’s roles and encouraged dialogue on how to strengthen support. Trustees expressed their gratitude for the opportunity to listen and learn from their administrators.



New Business

Saskatchewan School Boards Association's (SSBA) Fall Assembly

From November 16-18, 2025, several GSSD Trustees will attend the Saskatchewan School Boards Association's Fall General Assembly in Regina. In preparation, the Board appointed voting delegations. SSBA resolutions will be reviewed at the November 6, 2025 Board meeting. This ensures Trustees attend with a solid foundation while gaining valuable insights and connecting with board members from across Saskatchewan.



Canora Composite School Minor Capital Update

The Canora Composite School Roof and Envelope Project is facing higher-than-expected costs. Tender submissions for the project came in higher than the estimated budget. The upgrades include a new roof, windows, and exterior improvements to enhance safety and efficiency.

GSSD staff are reviewing options with the Ministry with a goal to bring a recommendation to the next Board meeting. The Division remains committed to completing this important project responsibly for the Canora community.

Policy Review



The Board reviewed and approved updates to Board Policy 2, 2A, 3, 3A and 3B. **A notable change is the April 23, 2026, Regular Board Meeting has been rescheduled to April 30, 2026.** The reviewed policies are now available on the website:

- [Board Policy 2 Role of the Board](#)
- [Board Policy 2 Appendix A Annual Work Plan](#)
- [Board Policy 3 Role of the Board Member](#)
- [Board Policy 3 Appendix A Services, Materials and Equipment Provided to Trustees](#)
- [Board Policy 3 Appendix B Board Member Visits to Schools](#)

Board Policy 2 Appendix B Board Self-Evaluation Process was tabled to a future meeting to allow for further changes. [GSSD](#) | [Board](#) | [Board Policy Handbook](#)

Director's Report

GSSD Professional Development Opportunities

August and September were filled with professional development (PD) opportunities. From school start-up sessions to curriculum-based PD and a Division-wide keynote, every GSSD employee had the chance to learn and grow ahead of the 2025-26 school year. October brings even more opportunities, including role-focused PD, *Continuing Your Journey to Becoming an Anti-Racist Educator*, an NVCI (Nonviolent Crisis Intervention) Refresher, and more! A full breakdown of all sessions will be available in the upcoming *September & October 2025 In Focus Release*.



Review Parent & Public Strategic Plan Report

The Board received the Parent and Public Strategic Plan for the 2025-26 school year. This comprehensive document highlights selected work plans in key focus areas that will guide the Division's efforts throughout the year. The plan reflects GSSD's commitment to student success.

Fully aligned with the Saskatchewan Provincial Education Plan (PEP), the Strategic Plan ensures provincial priorities are brought to life in meaningful ways across our schools and communities. This annual adaptation and review process keeps the Division responsive, focused, and connected to the evolving needs of students, parents, and the broader community.

The report is now published and can be viewed on our website: [GSSD](#) | [Media Room](#) | [2025-26 Strategic Plan Public Friendly](#)



Administrative Procedures

The Board was informed of the Administrative Procedures that have undergone revision and review since the Regular Board Meeting on August 14, 2025. The following APs have been finalized and posted to the website:

- [212 Prekindergarten \(Updated September 2025\)](#)
- [213 Kindergarten \(Updated September 2025\)](#)
- [233 Preschool and Parent Education Program \(PPEP\) \(September 2025\)](#)
- [364 Early Years Evaluation \(Updated September 2025\)](#)
- [412 Supervision and Evaluation of Professional Staff \(Updated September 2025\)](#)
- [413 Performance Improvement Plan for Professional and Support Staff \(Updated September 2025\)](#)
- [421 Leadership Evaluation \(Updated September 2025\)](#)

Closing Items

School Community Councils & Celebration

Trustees shared several positive updates from their schools, School Community Councils (SCCs), and communities:

- **Trustee Johnson** reported on a joint celebration between Norquay School and Sturgis Composite School's senior basketball team, who raised funds in support of a teammate battling brain cancer. The funds were donated to the Jim Pattison Children's Hospital, which has since nominated the team for the National Youth Philanthropist Award. The recognition banquet will be held in Saskatoon this November.
- **Trustee Balyski** noted a strong start to the school year, highlighting that Preeceville School's new principal has been warmly welcomed by staff, students, and parents.



The Senior Girls Basketball team presenting a cheque for \$3000 to the Jim Pattison Children's Hospital.

- **Trustee Pohl** shared that SCCs at Springside and Yorkdale Central Schools have started the year with new members stepping into leadership roles. While overall engagement remains a challenge, both SCCs are off to a positive start.
- **Trustee Palmer** commended the SCCs in the area, noting impressive efforts at Langenburg Central School, which hosted a pancake breakfast for more than 300 students and staff. He also recognized the enthusiasm and organization within Churchbridge, Saltcoats, and Langenburg SCCs, as well as the great work done to improve school facilities over the summer.
- **Trustee Stav** shared updates from Melville Comprehensive and Grayson Schools, where both principals reported encouraging progress. She highlighted the Ignite Melville initiative, a community event uniting local leaders to discuss growth opportunities. Partnerships between the schools, the City of Melville, and the Youth Council are expanding, with another event scheduled for October 29, 2025. She also noted Grayson School's ongoing playground fundraising efforts.
- **Trustee Morrison** is excited to engage with Columbia School as she will be chaperoning the upcoming Halloween dance!
- **Trustee Variyan** shared plans to attend the upcoming SCC meeting at the Yorkton Regional High School.
- **Trustee Makort** reported that MC Knoll School will hold its Annual General Meeting on October 20, with elections for new SCC members.



Trustee Palmer shows off his grilling skills at the Langenburg Central School pancake breakfast!

Upcoming Important Dates

October 12-18, 2025	Saskatchewan Library Week
October 13, 2025	Thanksgiving, GSEC Closed
October 16, 2025	Deadline for Resolutions (for the AGM) - 4:30 p.m.
October 19-25, 2025	Education Week – <i>Seeds of Learning, Roots to Success</i>
October 20, 2025	Board Chairs Council Meeting – virtual, 8:30 – 9:30 a.m.
October 27-31, 2025	Media Literacy Week
October 29, 2025	Digital Citizen Day
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 30, 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: November 6, 2025, December 11, 2025, January 29, 2026, February 26, 2026, March 26, 2026, April 30, 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.

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