

August 2018 Regular Meeting

The regular monthly meeting of the Board for April 2018 took place in the Fairview Education Center Board Room on Thursday, April 19, 2018. In attendance at this month's meeting were Lois Smandych, Chairperson, Bob Simpson, Vice-Chairperson, Trustees Jade Anderson, Jaime Johnson, Shannon Leson, Chris Balyski, Gilda Dokuchie, Gord Gendur, Jan Morrison, Florence Stachura, Steve Variyan, Senior Executive Assistant Heather Morris, Director of Education Quintin Robertson, Chief Financial Officer Keith Gervais, and Deputy Director of Education Donna Kriger. Board Member absent was Jan Morrison.



The meeting was called to order at 10 am, by Board Chair, Lois Smandych. Meeting norms were reviewed and the minutes from the June 21 regular meeting, June 26 conference meeting, and the August 13, 2018 special meeting were approved as shared.

CLOSED SESSION DISCUSSIONS

Governance Budget

Keith Gervais reviewed the Board Governance budget for the year of 2017-18 and discussed any significant differences that exist in the 2018-19 Governance budget. Gervais shared that the Board was right on track for the 2017-18 fiscal year. Robertson commended the Board for the discipline they have demonstrated with respect to their budget and the challenges associated with it.

Human Resources Report

Laurie-Anne Rusnak, Manager of Human Resources, updated the Board regarding relevant employee issues from around the Good Spirit School Division.

Keith Gervais updated the Board of Education on the ratification of the CUPE 4784 and DPEA contracts with their employees. Gervais also indicated that CUPE 5123 will likely commence bargaining during this next school year.

Robertson and Gervais discussed new employee and outstanding employee issues with the Board of Education. The Board was made aware of the number of permanent, replacement and temporary contracts issued by the school division during the 2017-18 school year. Conversation also ensued regarding the recruitment of bus drivers and the importance of their work.

Transportation Committee Review

The Board of Education reviewed recommendations from the Transportation Committee regarding new transportation requests from across the school division.

NEW BUSINESS

Anne Portnuff Theatre Technician Contract

The Division passed a motion to provide a contract extension to the current technician who provides technical services for sound and lighting in the Anne Portnuff Theatre during community and school events.

Renewal of Millwright Building Lease

The Board has made the determination that the lease of the premises on Rankin Road in Churchbridge, for the period from September 1, 2018 until August 31, 2021, will be renewed for the purpose of housing the instruction of the Churchbridge Millwright Program.

Century Field Donor Recognition

The Board of Education recognized that the Century Field Bleacher project was a joint effort between the Yorkton Regional High School, Yorkton Minor Football and Good Spirit School Division. A number of community partners came together to work on the project and provide expertise as well as material and labour for the project. Logan Stevens, a company located in Yorkton, donated all the labour and equipment required for the installation of the bleachers. In recognition of their generous donation, Logan Stevens signage will be placed on the bleachers at Century Field.

Sale of Sturgis Elementary School

Good Spirit School Division passed a motion to sell the Sturgis Elementary School to the Town of Sturgis.

Sale of Fort Livingstone School

The Fort Livingstone School located in Pelly, Saskatchewan, was advertised for sale approximately a year ago. Recently an offer was made to GSSD regarding its sale, and the Board of Education passed a motion to accept the offer.

Board Policy Amendments

The Board of Education reviewed the Mission, Vision and Value Statements of the Good Spirit School Division during their August 30, 2018 meeting. The Board was in overwhelming agreement that the Mission, Vision and Values reflected the spirit and heart of the Good Spirit School Division.

In review of the Board Policies, the Board of Education passed a motion to make minor amendments to [Board Policy 2 Appendix A](#) related to the Role of the Board and [Board Policy 17](#) related to School Review.

Organizational Meeting

The Good Spirit School Division Board of Education held their organizational meeting for the 2018-19 school year. Lois Smandych will return as Board Chairperson with Bob Simpson retaining the position of Board Vice-Chairperson. Florence Stachura was elected through acclamation as the third and final member of the Board Executive Committee.

The Board has determined that regular board meetings for the 2018-19 school year will take place on the following dates:

- October 4, 2018
- November 22, 2018
- December 20, 2018
- January 31, 2019
- March 14, 2019
- April 16, 2019
- May 16, 2019
- June 20, 2019
- August 29, 2019

Members serving on various Committees of the Board were determined to be:

LINC Negotiations Committee

- Jaime Johnson
- Lois Smandych

Finance Committee

- Jaime Johnson
- Steve Variyan
- Lois Smandych or Bob Simpson

Support Staff Negotiations Committee

- Jaime Johnson
- Bob Simpson

East Central District Athletics Association Rep

- Shannon Leson
- Steve Variyan (alternate)

Transportation Committee

- Jade Anderson
- Bob Simpson
- Florence Stachura

Public Board Section

- Lois Smandych
- Bob Simpson (alternate)

Melville Comprehensive School Governance Authority

- Bob Simpson

First Nation Education Service Agreements and Networking Representation

- Gilda Dokuchie
- Gord Gendur
- Jaime Johnson

School Community Councils – Attendance at schools within a members own Subdivision, with Steve Variyan assigned to the Yorkton Regional High School and Dr. Brass School, Gord Gendur assigned to Columbia School, Jan Morrison assigned to M.C. Knoll School, Gilda Dokuchie assigned to Canora Junior Elementary School, Canora Composite School and Norquay School.

Closing out the organizational meeting, the Board of Education discussed and set the indemnity rates for the 2018-19 school year.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Board Development – [Understanding Strategic Planning](#)

Robertson discussed the importance of why the Board of Education needs plan strategically. He reminded the Board that Strategic Planning is at the very core of effective governance. Robertson discussed how the Strategic Plan serves as the Good Spirit School Division's guide and roadmap to our vision or ideal state. He suggested that it provides continuity and direction for the Board. Robertson referenced that the Administration and the Board of Education share the responsibility of communicating the priorities of the Strategic Plan to staff, key stakeholders, and the community at large. Robertson, also reminded the Board of their role in determining the Division's Motto, Mission, Values, Vision, Aspirational Statements, Focus Areas, and Long Term Goals on an annual basis.

Robertson reinforced that the benefits of strategic planning for the Board, allows GSSD to focus its time and resources on goals which ultimately improve student outcomes. It also enables all functional areas, schools, etc. on the same/similar priorities. Strategic planning reminds us that "hope" is not a plan. It provides data that allows us to be transparent in our processes and results while increasing accountability within the overall organization.

Robertson closed the Board development by referencing that strategic planning is evergreen which prevents GSSD from becoming stagnant while also allowing the division to realize efficiencies.

Sea Star Recognition

Robertson led the Board through a discussion regarding staff recognition and the annual Sea Star Awards. The Board of Education committed to continue recognizing staff who go "above and beyond" the expectations of their daily work.

Attendance Letters to GSSD Families

Robertson led a discussion regarding the importance of student attendance for overall achievement and success at all grade levels. Robertson shared that attendance letters were mailed to families across the division, asking them to make every attempt to have their children attend school regularly, and if possible, every day.

Additional Information

Robertson invited Gervais to provide the Board with an updated Financial Report. Kriger shared information pertaining to high school induction days and upcoming home-based education orientation evenings. Robertson also shared the upcoming parent engagement sessions to be held later in September.

Important Dates

September 4	Provincial Students' Day
September 19-21	Langenburg Central School Provincial Leadership Conference
September 20	Board Chairs Council Teleconference, 1:30–4pm
September 24	Public Section Executive Meeting – Teleconference
September 30	Orange Shirt Day
October 1	Deadline for Bylaw Amendments (for the AGM)
October 9	Truth & Reconciliation, 9 am – 3:30 pm, St. Mary's, Yorkton
October 10-12	Employee Benefits Plan Seminar
October 14-20	Education Week – <i>A World of Learning for Every Student</i>
October 15	Deadline for Resolutions (for the AGM)
October 23	Melville Comprehensive School Governance Meeting, 4 pm
November 15-17	Fall General Assembly and AGM
November 17	Board Chairs Council Meeting
February 7	Board Chairs Council Teleconference

Submissions & Feedback

To submit photos or stories regarding the Board of Education or an individual Trustee in your school community, please contact the Good Spirit School Division at Heather.Morris@gssd.ca.

Next Board Meeting: October 4, 2018

Location: Fairview Education Board Room

Contact Us

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