

## January 2019 Regular Meeting

The regular monthly meeting of the Board for January 2019 took place in the Fairview Education Center Board Room on Thursday, January 31, 2019. In attendance at this month's meeting were Lois Smandych, Chairperson, Bob Simpson, Vice-Chairperson, Trustees Jade Anderson, Gilda Dokuchie, Gord Gendur, Jaime Johnson, Shannon Leson, Jan Morrison, Florence Stachura, Steve Variyan, Assistant to the Director, Heather Morris, Director of Education/CEO, Quintin Robertson, Chief Financial Officer, Keith Gervais and Deputy Director of Education, Donna Kriger. Absent: Chris Balyski.



## Delegation

### Canadian Student Leadership Conference 2020 Representatives

Yorkton Regional High School (YRHS) Principal Mike Haczekwicz along with Vice Principals Johnna McBride and Dennis Nesselth, and SRC Advisor Roby Sharpe accompanied members of the YRHS Student Representative Council as a delegation to the Board. President Tasso Stamatinos, SRC members Anara Morrison and Zane Chopik delivered a presentation to the Board of Education regarding the 2020 Canadian Student Leadership Conference (CSLC) being hosted in Yorkton during September of 2020. Though Yorkton is the host community, students from across the Good Spirit School Division are involved as student leaders for the event in 2020.




The Conference theme is “From the Roots Up” signifying that the very first CSLC began in Yorkton in 1985 when the Premier of the day, challenged Yorkton students and their advisor to host a national conference. Since 1985, the conference has been hosted in communities across Canada, giving student leaders from across the country an opportunity to attend workshops to further develop their leadership skills, build confidence, and discover new ideas to help them make a difference in their own schools and communities.

The Board of Education has committed \$44,000 to the transportation costs associated with hosting the conference in 2020. The Board recognizes the importance of student leadership and is proud to support an event that will build leaders across our school division.

## New Business

### Board Budget Development Framework

Robertson discussed budget priorities for the 2019-20 school year with the Board of Education. The Board of Education committed that the 2019-20 budget priorities needed to focus within the seven areas of: Advocacy, Principled Decision Making, Expenditure Review, School Staffing, Minimizing Impact on Students, Maximizing Impact on First Nations Students, and Maximizing the Impact of the Education Sector Strategic Plan.

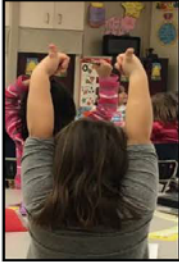


# Students Come First

## Board of Education Budget Framework – 2019-20

### HOW ARE WE FUNDED?

The Government of Saskatchewan determines the funding available to school divisions each year. The primary driver for funding is projected enrolment levels established prior to the upcoming academic year. Boards of Education are given the responsibility to allocate funding in an equitable and transparent manner that reflect the principles, priorities and commitments adopted by the Board of Education.



### WHAT ARE WE COMMITTED TO?

**Advocacy** —The Board of Education will continue to advocate to the Provincial Government and Ministry of Education so that GSSD can continue to live our motto of “Students Come First.”

**Principled Decision Making** — The Board of Education will continue to make budget decisions based on our Aspirational Statements: Student Learning and Well-Being, Equitable and Balanced Opportunities, Accountability for All, People Engagement and Sustainable Infrastructure.

**Expenditure Review**—The Board of Education and Administrative Council will continue to review expenditures for cost efficiencies in operational, administrative and instructional areas.

**School Staffing** —Staffing equity will be achieved by considering the Pupil Teacher Ratio (PTR) with an eye on class sizes and the diversity of our students, schools and communities. Consultation and collaboration with the local in-school administrators will be a key feature of the staffing process.

**Minimizing Impact on Students** – The Board of Education and Administrative Council will be mindful of class sizes, multi-grade configurations, supports for learning, professional development opportunities for staff, and program offering when making budget reductions.

**Maximizing the Impact on First Nations Students** – Currently there is a lack of parity in the student learning & well-being results achieved by our First Nations students. GSSD is compelled to engage our stakeholders to determine how we can enhance educational outcomes for our indigenous students, now & into the future.

**Maximizing the Impact of the ESSP** – The Board of Education is cognisant of the importance of our four Focus Areas – Student & Family, People Capacity, Internal Processes and Financial Stewardship.

### WHAT ARE WE ABOUT?

**Student Learning and Well-Being**  
We exist to provide the highest level of student learning. All students will experience learning environments rich in the opportunities and experiences necessary to promote intellectual, emotional, spiritual and physical well-being.

**Equitable and Balanced Opportunities**  
We are committed to provide equitable, balanced opportunities among schools, students and staff.

**Accountability for All**  
We are all accountable. Board members, students, staff, families and community members have a responsibility, both individually and as part of the learning team, to participate and to contribute positively to public schools.

**People Engagement**  
We are all a community of learners. Collaborative partnerships with students, staff, families and community members will enhance educational opportunities.

**Sustainable Infrastructure**  
We are committed to providing modern, responsible infrastructure to maintain and promote the highest levels of support for students, staff, families and the community.

**Building Strong Foundations to Create Bright Futures**

### Application for Major Capital Funding - YRHS

Robertson reminded the Board of Education that the Infrastructure Branch of the Ministry of Education requires an application for funding for all major capital projects exceeding \$1 Million. These applications require Board approval and are to be submitted to the Ministry by February 28, 2019.

The Yorkton Regional High School requires significant upgrades including air quality/mechanical upgrades, roof replacements and building code upgrades. The Good Spirit School Division has submitted requests for funding for this building for the past 13 years as the upgrades required are substantial and are estimated to cost at least \$20 Million.

During 2016, the Director of Education and Board Chair met with MLA Greg Ottenbreit to request his advocacy on behalf of the Good Spirit School Division for Major Capital funding. In the fall of 2016 and again in the spring of 2017 members of the Infrastructure Branch through the Ministry of Education visited the YRHS to see the condition of the school first hand. Since that time, local MLA's Ottenbreit, Warren Kaeding and Terry Dennis have been apprised of the continued



request for a major capital upgrade for the YRHS. The Good Spirit School Division remains optimistic that government funding will be realised for this project and appreciates the interest the local Members of the Legislature have demonstrated through their continued support of GSSD.

## **Out of Country/Extended Educational Field Trip Requests**

The Board of Education passed a motion permitting an Out of Country/Extended Educational Field Trip request allowing the Canora/Invermay/Norquay/Preeceville/Sturgis Senior Band and chaperones to travel to Minneapolis, Minnesota on May 8-13, 2019. Likewise, the Board passed a motion to approve the Out of Country/Extended Educational Field Trip request allowing the Kamsack Comprehensive Senior Band students and chaperones to travel to Minneapolis on May 8-13, 2019 as well.

## **Director's Report**

### **Board Development – Understanding Math Screeners and Intervention**

Superintendent of Education, Lisa Wotherspoon, provided the Board of Education with information regarding how Math Screeners are currently utilized across the Good Spirit School Division. Wotherspoon indicated that the screeners are administered in September with all Grade 2-8 students. She shared that the content in the math screeners is based on Saskatchewan math curriculum from the previous two grades. For example, students beginning Grade 4 are being asked to show competency with content from Grades 2 and 3 math curriculum. Recognizing that speed in processing is not a strong indicator of conceptual understanding, the amount of time required to complete the screener is not to be limited.

A data collection template accompanies the screeners and allows teachers to identify potential individual student gaps as well as potential gaps in previous instruction. Thus, the screeners are designed to be responsive and to inform teacher instruction. Students who score below 75% in September are re-screened in April for evidence of growth.

The [Board Development - Understanding Math Screeners and Intervention](#) report is posted in the [Board](#) section of the website under 2019 01 31 Regular Board Meeting.

### **Facilities Presentation**

Manager of Operations, Teresa Korol, shared a presentation with the Board of Education, highlighting Saltcoats School, which is a Kindergarten to Grade 8 facility with a September 30, 2018 enrolment of 152 students. The original school was built in 1959 with the gym and two additional classrooms being added in 1977. In 1984, a kindergarten classroom was added to the school and completes the current structure.





The gymnasium is a well used space within Saltcoats School as the Mustangs are well known for the emphasis they place on daily physical activity and extra-curricular programming.

The library is a space that School Community Council members have taken great pride in over the years. Saltcoats School has a very strong emphasis on “literacy” and the library has served as the hub of learning in the school for many years.



Korol identified that Principal Noel Budz is very proud of his school but recognizes that the classroom environments could use some refreshing and updating in Mustang colours.

To view the Facilities Report in its entirety, click [here](#).

## Financial Report

CFO Keith Gervais updated the Board of Education regarding the most recent Financial Statement for the Good Spirit School Division. Gervais reported that the school division is on track for a balanced budget in the 2018-19 school year.

## Transportation Report

Director/CEO Robertson shared some statistical information regarding busing within the Good Spirit School Division. Below is some of the information discussed at the January 31, 2019 Board Meeting.

Total Students Transported	2790	2279 Rural, 411 Urban
Number of Rural Routes	98	
Number of Urban Routes	6	5 in Yorkton, 1 in Melville
Number of Unfilled Routes	0	
Average age of bus Fleet	2012 (6 years old)	2002 (oldest) 2019(newest)
Capacity utilized on bus (average)	BusPlanner - 56%; Actual -77%	Information to correct in BusPlanner
Average one-way ride time (minutes)	40 minutes	

## Student Incident Report

Robertson presented the student suspensions from across the Good Spirit School Division. The report highlighted the severity of the incidents and the follow up actions related to the events.

## 2019-20 School Year Calendar

Robertson shared that the draft school year calendar is currently being jointly developed with Christ The Teacher Catholic Schools. Robertson indicated that work on the 2019-20 school calendar began on January 24, 2019 in order to construct several calendar options for the school year.

Robertson shared that once the options have been developed, GSSD will construct a survey that will be open to staff and the public to voice their opinions on the calendar options. In the past, GSSD has made every reasonable attempt to incorporate the feedback received and construct additional calendar options that might be brought before the Board of Education for approval.

## **MySchoolSask**

Deputy Director, Donna Kriger, updated the Board on the MySchoolSask/MonÉcoleSask (MSS/MES) Program which is a multi-year business and technology transformation program that includes the implementation of a new provincial student information system (SIS), modernization of business processes, the migration of legacy data and the integration of the Ministry's student data system.



Kriger shared that the benefits of moving toward a new student information system will make student transitions across the province easier and more manageable. Kriger suggested that the system will provide a more robust means to sharing student information from school to school, school division to school division as well as information sharing with the Ministry of Education.

Kriger, who is the Executive Sponsor of the project within the Good Spirit School Division identified that she and her team are committed to implementing the new student information system with little interruption to schools and their stakeholder groups. Kriger indicated that the plan developed for GSSD will ensure that all schools, students and their parent(s)/guardian(s), and division central office staff are trained and supported for a full implementation to begin in the fall of 2019-20.

## **Database Programmer/Analyst**

Donna Kriger, reviewed how the Good Spirit School Division commissioned Laurie-Anne Rusnak to carry out an organizational review during the spring of 2018. Rusnak would have interviewed all staff at the Fairview Education Centre to determine what was working well within the organizational structure and what areas needed additional consideration or attention.

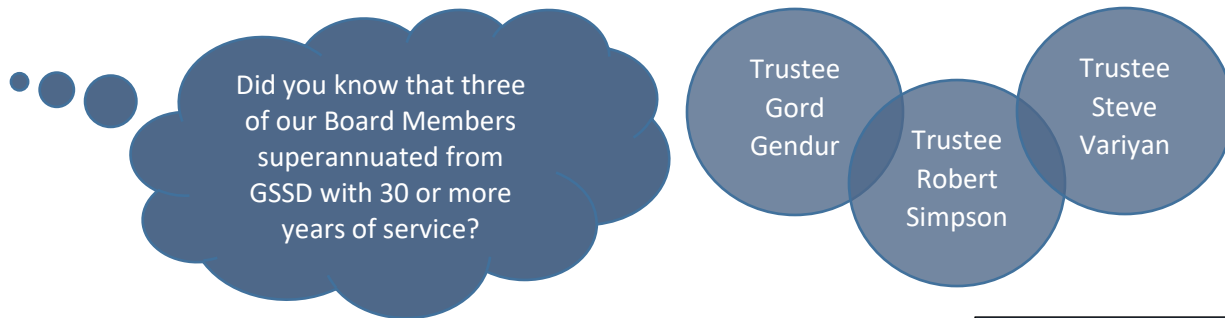
The review highlighted an overwhelming response that the GSSD Technology Department was understaffed and presented a recognized “gap” within the organization. As a result, GSSD added to its organizational structure a “Database Programmer/Analyst”, an “IT Manager” and a “Data Reporting Assistant”. In January 2019, Kishan Malaviya joined the GSSD Central Office Team as a Database Programmer/Analyst. To date, Malaviya has improved a number of internal processes, making GSSD more efficient in various areas within the organization.

## **Good Spirit Education Complex**

Quintin Robertson updated the Board of Education on the progress of the newly acquired Good Spirit Education Complex. Robertson shared that Operations Manager Teresa Korol and Facilities Coordinator Dave Sliva met with the consultants from 1080 Architecture on December 20 to review the building in preparation for final drawings. The consultants advised that they would have tender ready drawings for mid-February. Given the August 30<sup>th</sup> transition timeline, Teresa has requested partial architectural drawings so the project can begin as soon as possible. The GSSD facilities team has expressed the intent to tender the phases of the project separately and act as the prime contractor in an effort to manage the timeline and budget.

## Upcoming Important Dates

February 2019	Aboriginal Story Telling Month
February 2019	Inclusive Education Month
February 7	Board Chairs Council Teleconference, 1:30–4 pm
February 10-16	Teacher/Staff Appreciation Week
February 26	North Cluster Regional SCC Symposium, Kamsack Comprehensive Institute, 7 pm
February 27	Red Cross Pink Day
February 27	Central Cluster Regional SCC Symposium, Yorkdale Central School, 7 pm
February 28	South Cluster Regional SCC Symposium, Davison School, 7 pm
March 14	Regular Board Meeting, 10 am – 5 pm
March 16 & 17	2 <sup>nd</sup> Annual Saskatchewan SCC Conference, North Battleford
March 31-April 2	National Congress on Rural Education in Canada – Saskatoon, SK.
April 11	Board Chairs Council Meeting
April 11-12	Spring General Assembly, Saskatoon
April 16	Regular Board Meeting, 10 am – 5 pm
May	Early Childhood Education Month
May 16	Regular Board Meeting, 10 am – 5 pm
May 30	Special Board Meeting, 1 -5 pm
June 6-7	Public Section General Meeting and PD – Travelodge Hotel, Regina
June 10	North Cluster Regional SCC Symposium, Preeceville School, 7 pm
June 12	Central Cluster Regional SCC Symposium, Columbia School, 7 pm
June 13	South Cluster Regional SCC Symposium, Esterhazy High School, 7:00 pm
June 20	Regular Board Meeting
June 20	Retirement Banquet, Gallagher Centre
August 28	Board & CEO/Director Evaluation, 9 am – 4 pm
August 28	Special Board Meeting, 4-4:30 pm
August 29	Regular Board Meeting, 10 am – 5 pm



Did you know that three of our Board Members superannuated from GSSD with 30 or more years of service?

Trustee  
Gord  
Gendur

Trustee  
Robert  
Simpson

Trustee  
Steve  
Variyan

## 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](mailto:Heather.Morris@gssd.ca). Thanks for reading!

Next Board Meeting: March 14, 2019, 10 am – 5

Location: Fairview Education Board Room

## Contact Us

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