

December 2020 Regular and Organization Meeting

The regular meeting of the Board for December 2020 took place via Zoom on Thursday, December 17, 2020. All Trustees attended this month's meeting: Bob Simpson, Chairperson, Jaime Johnson, Vice Chairperson, Trustees Jade Anderson, Chris Balyski, Gilda Dokuchie, Gord Gendur, Shannon Leson, Jan Morrison, Lois Smandych, Nicole Pohl and Steve Variyan. Division office staff in attendance included Assistant to the Director Heather Morris, Director of Education/CEO Quintin Robertson, Chief Financial Officer Keith Gervais and Deputy Director of Education Donna Kriger.

Accountability Report

Student Learning and Well-being

Deputy Director, Donna Kriger presented an Accountability Report focussing on Student Learning and Well-Being. The presentation highlighted the 2020 graduation rates as well as student wellness data from the provincial OurSchool survey. Kriger reported that the 2020 overall on-time (3 year) graduation rate for GSSD was 87% with an extended-time (5 year) rate of 87%. Kriger shared that GSSD is seven percent higher than the province for on time graduation and two percent higher than the provincial rate for extended time graduation.

Kriger also shared information regarding remote learners who are currently completing high school credits within the division. Kriger highlighted that Math and Science seem to be areas where students experience the most significant challenges. Kriger also identified the mitigation strategies that will be employed to ensure students success is not impacted.

To conclude her report, Kriger highlighted data on student engagement, inclusion, and learning context. GSSD is on par with the province in each of these areas. There is some disparity in these areas between First Nation Métis and non-First Nation Métis students. Kriger acknowledged and thanked the Board for their continued support of First Nation Métis education and highlighted the resources which have been allocated to this important work.

The Board passed a motion to accept the report thus approving the following Quality Indicators from the Director of Education's annual evaluation:

- QI 1.4 – Utilizes performance metrics for the purpose of monitoring and evaluating operational performance relative to student wellness.
- QI 2.1 – The Director conducts an analysis of student success and ensures development of action plans to address concerns.
- QI 2.2 – The Director identifies trends and issues related to student achievement to inform the setting of yearly priorities and outcomes.
- QI 7.2 – Achieves the key results identified in the Strategic Plan.
- QI 7.3 – Reports at least annually on results achieved.

To read the full Accountability Report, please visit gssd.ca > Board > 2020 12 17 Regular Board Meeting > Accountability report – [Student Learning and Well-being](#).

Board Development

Facilities

Facilities Manager, Patrick Morrison, provided a report regarding the GSSD facilities department. Morrison highlighted the members of his team and the role they play within the department. Morrison informed the Board of the processes

used to prioritize service requests submitted by schools across GSSD. Morrison also unpacked the Preventative Maintenance Strategy that the department utilizes when using Preventative Maintenance dollars issued by the Ministry. The strategy ensures that GSSD assets are maintained and that catastrophic failures are reduced.

Morrison shared the philosophy of the department was to have a “yes” approach as outlined in the school division service agreements. He indicated that he and team have committed to ensuring they work from a “service approach” understanding that schools are the customer they are aiming to please.

To round out his report, Morrison focussed on how facility baselines are determined and how that information is used to ensure GSSD schools are receiving timely upgrades. He stressed the importance of consistency within schools despite their location across the division.

The Board expressed their admiration and appreciation for the excellent work Patrick has accomplished in his short tenure within GSSD.

Visit gssd.ca > Board > 2020 12 17 Regular Board Meeting > [Board Development – Facilities](#) to read more on the Facilities Team and their processes.

Advocacy Session

The Board of Education had the privilege of virtually hosting local Members of the Legislature, Greg Ottenbreit, Warren Kaeding and Terry Dennis. Conversation centered around rural and remote conductivity within our geographic location, the newly proposed Provincial Education Plan, in town bussing for rural locations outside the City of Yorkton, succession planning, funding predictability within the Education Sector, and the value of local governance.

The session was greatly appreciated by the Board of Education. Many thanks were expressed for the work done by the local MLA’s and for their advocacy at the provincial level. Warren Kaeding, member for the Saltcoats-Melville area requested that a future advocacy session include conversation around student mental health. The Board of Education looks forward to continued dialogue with the local Members of the Legislature.

New Business

Land Claims Fund - Cowessess

Chief Financial Officer, Keith Gervais, presented a land claim item regarding the transfer of land within the Good Spirit School Division to the Cowessess First Nation #73. The Specific Land Claims Fund has been negotiated by the Government of Canada allowing the First Nation to purchase land which will be granted reserve status.

Director’s Report

Board Policy Review

As part of the Board of Education annual work plan, members reviewed Policy 4 and the Appendix which supports Board Member Code of Ethics. Highlights of the Policy and Appendix ensure that Board members commit to high ethical standards as showcased within it. Likewise, the Board reviewed Board Policy 5 Role of the Board Chair and Policy 6 Role of the Board Vice-Chair.

To access the Board Policy Handbook, visit gssd.ca > Board > [Board Policy Handbook](#).

Trustee Wall of Recognition

Board Chair, Bob Simpson, brought forth his desire to honour current and former Board Trustees who have served on the Good Spirit School Division Board of Education. Chair Simpson will be spearheading a committee who will endeavor

to establish the “Wall of Recognition” honouring those who have served the children and families within the geographic boundaries of GSSD.

Financial Update

Gervais presented a detailed financial update to the Board of Education. Gervais highlighted those areas which are impacted due to COVID-19. Gervais also reported on the Contingency Funding that was granted to GSSD due to additional expenses incurred as a result of the pandemic. Below is a summary of the approved expenditures that were submitted to the Ministry for approval. The vast majority of the expenditures were a result of the remote learning school that was established because of COVID-19. The Board of Education and the Good Spirit School Division is grateful for the assistance the Saskatchewan Ministry of Education has provided through this funding.

Category	Description	Expense	Status
Sanitation	.5 FTE Caretaker	\$25,250	Approved
Sanitation	Wipes, Hand Sanitizer, etc	\$100,000	Approved
Equipment/Furniture	Plexiglass dividers	\$15,000	Approved
Equipment/Furniture	Audio Systems – 30	\$300,000	Approved
Equipment/Furniture	Water Bottle Fillers – 15	\$30,000	Approved
Remote Learning	Teachers – Additional 5.65 FTE	\$529,970	Approved
Remote Learning	Supports – 5.5 FTE	\$262,633	Approved
Remote Learning	Network Tech - .60 FTE	\$46,993	Approved
Remote Learning	Staff Devices & Chromebooks (400)	\$206,098	Approved
Remote Learning	Books/Workbooks/Hotspots	\$100,000	Approved
Other	Health Consulting	\$2,500	Approved
Other	PPE (Gloves, Masks, Gowns)	\$90,000	NOT Approved
Total Approved		\$1,618,444	

Student Attendance

Assistant to the Director, Heather Morris, presented a report on student attendance for the school division. Morris indicated that schools where student attendance is typically very good have seen a decline this year due to students needing to self isolate due to COVID-19 exposure most notably in the communities where they live.

Director of Education/CEO, Robertson commended Morris and members of the technology team for their work to mine the data. The sentiments were echoed by the Board of Education.

Student Incident Report

The Board of Education approved a motion to accept the Student Incident Report as presented by Director/CEO, Quintin Robertson.

Early Years Evaluation

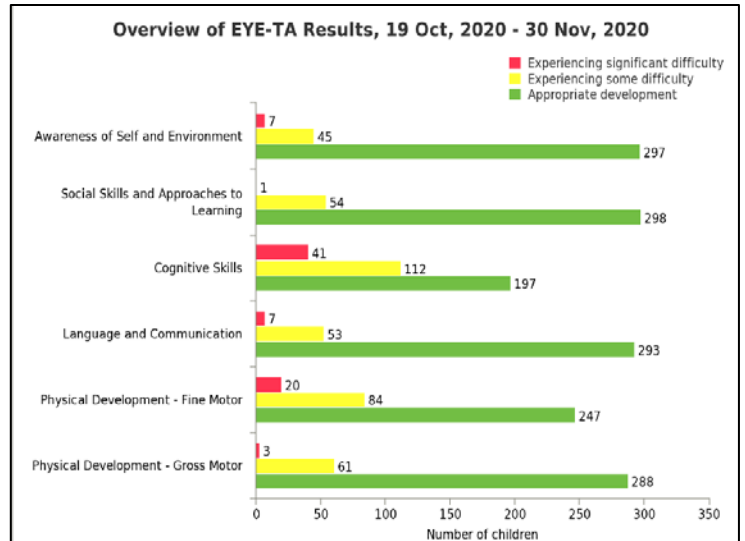
Robertson brought forth an information item, provided by Lisa Wotherspoon, Superintendent of Education, related to the Early Years Evaluation results for the Good Spirit School Division. Robertson indicated that there has been very little change from the previous year’s results.

Overall, 56% of GSSD students who entered Kindergarten in the Fall of 2020 scored at the appropriate development level. This number has remained relatively constant over the past 5 years and reflects a similar trend to the provincial data where roughly 40% of students enter Kindergarten each year without the necessary developmental skills for

learning. A 30% increase from Fall to Spring would see 86% of GSSD students exiting Kindergarten at the appropriate development level.

One area highlighted, was geared toward the students who entered Kindergarten in the Fall of 2020 scored at the appropriate development level (green) in Awareness of Self (84%), Social Skills and Approaches to Learning (84%), Language and Communication (83%) and Gross Motor (81%). GSSD will continue to target the Cognitive Domains (59%) and Fine Motor (72%).

Robertson complimented the work of Wotherspoon and her team for the dedication and hard work they have demonstrated toward the goals related to Early Years Education.



Administrative Procedures

Robertson reviewed new or revised Good Spirit School Division Administrative Procedures. Highlighted in Robertson’s review were Administrative Procedure 372 – Apprenticeship Credits and Administrative Procedure 153 – Elections.

Upcoming Important Dates

January 27, 2021	Family Literacy Day
January 27, 2021	International Holocaust Remembrance Day
January 28, 2021	Regular Board Meeting
February 2021	Aboriginal Story Telling Month
February 16, 2021	Public Section Executive Meeting 2:00 pm-3:30pm Teleconference
March 4, 2021	Regular Board Meeting
March 28-29, 2021	26 th National Congress on Rural Education in Canada
April 1, 2021	Regular Board Meeting
April 15, 2021	Public Section Executive Meeting, Saskatoon
April 15 & 16, 2021	SSBA Spring Assembly, Saskatoon
May 6, 2021	Regular Board Meeting
May 27, 2021	Special Board Meeting
June 3 & 4, 2021	Public Section General Meeting and PD Event, Travelodge, Saskatoon
June 17, 2021	Regular Board Meeting
August 18, 2021	Director/CEO Evaluation, 9 am – 12:30 pm
August 18, 2021	Board of Education Evaluation, 1-4 pm
August 18, 2021	Special Board Meeting, 4-4:30 pm
August 19, 2021	Regular Board Meeting

Upcoming Board Meetings: January 28, March 4, April 1, May 6, May 27 (Special Meeting), June 17, August 18 (Evaluation & Special Meeting), August 19.

Location: Zoom

To review Board Policy 7 Board Operations, visit gssd.ca > Board > Policy Handbook > [Board Operations](#)

Submissions & Feedback

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

For more information related to the Board of Education, visit our website at gssd.ca > [Board](#)

Contact Us

Good Spirit School Division
#204

Phone: (306)786-5500

Visit us online at

www.gssd.ca

*Building Strong Foundations to
Create Bright Futures*