

FROM THE BOARD

Highlights of the GSSD Board of Education Monthly Meeting

May 2017

May 2017 Regular Meeting

The regular monthly meeting of the Board for May 2017 took place in the Fairview Education Center board room on Thursday, May 18, 2017. In attendance at this month's meeting were Lois Smandych, Chairperson, Bob Simpson, Vice-Chairperson, Trustees Jade Anderson, Chris Balyski, Gilda Dokuchie, Gord Gendur, Jaime Johnson, Shannon Leson, Jan Morrison, Florence Stachura, Steve Variyan, Quintin Robertson, Director of Education, Sherry Todosichuk, Deputy Director of Corporate Services, and Donna Kriger, Deputy Director of Education Services.

Grayson School Presentation

Several students from Grayson School along with their Principal, Cathy Gerhardt, visited with members of the Board during the noon hour. The students engaged the members of the Board in some math games prior to having lunch with them.

Bob Simpson, the Board Member representing the Melville-Grayson area, introduced the students and spoke passionately about the strength of the community and character of the students at Grayson School. Following Bob's introduction, two senior students delivered a presentation to the Board highlighting the numerous activities that go on in their school. The students also spoke to the depth of the academic opportunities they experience at Grayson School. Throughout the presentation, the students demonstrated pride and appreciation for their school, the student body and their teachers. Their presentation was filled with evidence that our vision of "Learning Without Limits.....Achievement for All" is being satisfied at Grayson School.



New Business

Board Policy 16 – Student Transportation

During the 2016-2017 school year, the Board Transportation Committee was involved in meetings regarding “walk zones” within the City of Yorkton and City of Melville. The Board took into consideration the consultation, which took place between Good Spirit School Division and Christ the Teacher School Division, and a decision was made to update Policy 16 in the Board of Education Handbook. The implications of this decision will see elementary school students in Yorkton and Melville who reside within the school catchment area of the school they are attending and live outside a radius of 300 metre (walk zone) from the school receive transportation to school; the walk zone for high school students is a radius of 500 metres.

Sturgis School Community Council Loan

The Board of Education approved the loan application from the Sturgis School Community Council to fund a playground project, which is scheduled for completion in the spring/summer of 2017.

Cooperative Football Agreement with Invermay and Foam Lake

The Board of Education approved the SHSAA Joint Sponsorship Application, allowing Invermay to enter a football cooperative with Foam Lake, beginning the 2017-2018 school year. The Board acknowledged that by approving this cooperative, it would allow Invermay School students the opportunity that otherwise would not be available to them.

Award of Contract and Tenders

With summer approaching, planning for preventative maintenance work is well under way. The Board was provided with information regarding tenders that were posted to complete work in various locations around the school division. The Board of Education approved tenders for the following projects to be completed within the Good Spirit School Division:

- replacement of the Norquay Gymnasium Floor;
- roof replacements at Invermay School, Preeceville School and the Sturgis Composite School;
- asbestos abatement at the Yorkton Regional High School;
- the addition of portable classrooms at Columbia School in Yorkton;
- a new phone/bell/intercom system installation for the Esterhazy High School;
- the awarding of a contract for Driver Education Services within Churchbridge, Esterhazy, Kamsack and Langenburg Schools.

Facility Highlights From Across GSSD

Teresa Korol, Assistant Superintendent of Business Administration, took the Board of Education through a virtual walkthrough of four schools located within the Good Spirit School Division. The virtual tour of the school facilities located across the Division assists in familiarizing new Trustees with its' schools. The information shared allows Trustees to know the state of its' facilities and potential risks associated with each building. The schools highlighted during the May Board Meeting are listed below:

Churchbridge Public School – located 56 km South East of Yorkton

Churchbridge Public School is a Kindergarten to Grade 12 facility with a current enrolment of 214 students and a utilization rate of 101%. Highlights of the facility include an Outdoor Classroom that allows for an alternate learning space, upgrades to the library, a newly renovated wheelchair accessible washroom and therapy space as well as a recent face lift to the gymnasium floor and change rooms. An offsite Millwright lab is also located a few blocks from the school where students from Churchbridge, Langenburg and Esterhazy are given the opportunity to take Millwright 10, 20 and 30.

Physical space remains a challenge in this school with its' growing population. The facilities team is currently working with the school to solve some heating issues as well as issues with the parking lot.

Lynette Kaminski is currently serving as the Principal of CPS with Susan Brenner serving as Vice Principal.



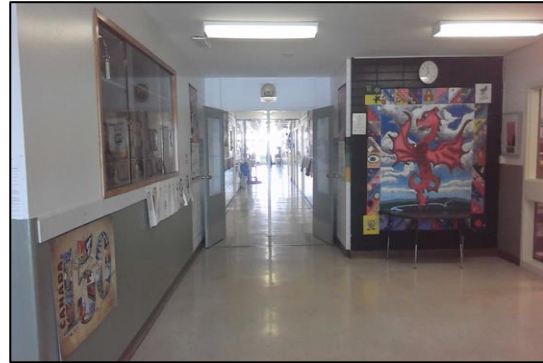
Grayson School – located 70 km South of Yorkton

Grayson School is a Kindergarten to Grade 9 school with an enrolment of 59 students and a weighted utilization of 53%. It is a building which has been very well taken care of over the years.

The school has seen an upgraded HVAC system and a roof replacement. Grayson is currently slated to receive new windows and renovations to provide a new PAA space for Home Economics.

A current challenge in Grayson is that the water is not fit for drinking. As a result, the school has provided water coolers for the students to fill their water bottles or glasses.

Cathy Gerhardt is the current Principal of Grayson School.



Kamsack Comprehensive Institute – located 89 km North East of Yorkton



Kamsack Comprehensive Institute (KCI) is a Grade 5-12 school with an enrolment of 255 students and a utilization rate of 57% although the classroom utilization rate is 71%.

The school boasts a large welcoming commons area and a bright open library that is well used by the students. KCI has two gymnasiums with the larger gym having seen its' hardwood floor refinished a few years ago. A large fitness center is also accessible for the students of KCI.

KCI also has a significant space dedicated to the Practical and Applied Arts with the area equipped to offer Welding, Automotive and Construction as well as a Home Economics lab that offers Food Studies and Sewing.

Last year, a camera system was installed to support student and facility safety. Other improvements include grading and resurfacing of the outdoor running track with shale. Continual upgrades to exterior sidewalks and improving water drainage are on the agenda for future improvements.

Tracy Forsythe is currently serving as the Principal at KCI and Ryan Gareau is the current Vice Principal.

Yorkdale Central School – located within the City of Yorkton

Yorkdale Central School is a Kindergarten to Grade 8 facility with an enrollment of 444 students and a utilization rate of 105%. Yorkdale is the elementary school in Yorkton that provides education to all the rural students in the Yorkton attendance area.

Yorkdale Central provides PAA programming for all Yorkton schools as well as for Saltcoats School and Springside School. There is a large shop that is equipped for small carpentry projects as well as a Home Economics lab which is designed for food studies.

Yorkdale Central is fortunate to have a large Student Centre that serves multiple purposes. It houses a Before and After School Program while it is also used throughout the day for band classes and other large group events. The Student Centre is used as a lunch room for all the grades 5-8 students over the noon hour.

Shaune Beatty serves as Principal at Yorkdale Central with Noel Budz serving as the Vice Principal.



Highlighted Celebrations

Quintin Robertson, Director/CEO, highlighted three recent celebrations from within Good Spirit with the Board members. Director/CEO Robertson shared a video of students from the Sturgis Composite School who were moving into newly renovated classroom space. Students from the current Sturgis Composite High School as well as students from the Sturgis Elementary School will be housed under one roof next year. Despite the magnitude of the job, the Good Spirit School Division Facilities Department has been able to keep the project on schedule and Board members were able to witness students transitioning into their new classrooms.

Quintin Robertson, Director/CEO also shared a recent video put out by the Saskatchewan Teachers Federation, which highlights the Ag in the Classroom project spearheaded by the incoming principal of Churchbridge Public School, Amanda Kornaga. The video helps to celebrate the excellent work of the Churchbridge Public School as well as its' community partners. It can be viewed by visiting the link provided below:

[The Teacher Project - CPS Ag in the Classroom](#)

Director/CEO Robertson concluded his highlighted celebrations with an update regarding the 2017-2018 Good Spirit School Division budget. He shared that despite the challenges associated with the provincial budget cuts to the Education Sector, there would be no redundancies expected with staffing in the Good Spirit School Division. The news was met with accolades from the Board to the Director/CEO on the thought and care taken in navigating a challenging time.

Highlights from the Director's Report

1. Out of Attendance LEAN Close Out Report

Quintin Robertson, Director/CEO, discussed the LEAN Event targeted at improving Out of Attendance Area requests within the Good Spirit School Division. The desired outcomes of the event were to refine the current process to make Out of Attendance Area requests flow more easily in the future. Anticipated improvements will result in a future process, which is more fluid. It will include the ability to apply online with a reduced wait time while providing a better understanding of the criteria used for Out of Attendance Area requests. Director Robertson shared that he is hopeful that the refined process will give parents an improved experience with reduced wait time for a response.

2. Director Evaluation

The Board of Education was provided with two interviewee lists and as a result, made the determination who would be part of the interview process regarding the Director/CEO annual evaluation. The evaluation will take place prior to the commencement of the 2017-2018 school year.

3. Public Section Discussion

Quintin Robertson, lead the Board through a discussion regarding their future intentions concerning Public Section. The conversation included the role of Public Section, possible efficiencies associated with the operation of Public Section and future commitment to membership of Public Section.

4. School Closure/Transition Update

Information was shared regarding the progress surrounding the school closure of Fort Livingstone School in Pelly and the Transitioning of Sturgis Elementary School and the Sturgis Composite School.

If you are interested in viewing the transition documentation, visit the Media Room on the GSSD website or click here: [Fort Livingstone School Transition to Norquay School Documentation](#) or [Sturgis Elementary Transition to Sturgis Composite School Documentation](#).

5. Important Dates

Important upcoming dates were shared with the members of the Board of Education. Board members were reminded of dates surrounding an upcoming Special Board Meeting, the Advocacy Session planned with the Parkland College, the GSSD Elementary Showcase Outdoor Track Meet, the Dollars for Scholars Golf Classic hosted by the Parkland College, as well as the Superannuation/Retirement Banquet being held to celebrate the careers of those teachers within the Good Spirit School Division who will not be returning to teach in the fall of the 2017-2018 school year.

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 Thanks for reading!

Next Board Meeting Scheduled for June 15th, 2017

Location: Fairview Education Board Room

Contact Us

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