

## January 2020 Regular Meeting

The regular meeting of the Board for January 2020 took place in the Saskota Room at the Good Spirit Education Complex on Thursday, January 30, 2020. In attendance at this month's meeting were Bob Simpson, Chairperson, Jaime Johnson, Vice Chair, Trustees Jade Anderson, Chris Balyski, Gilda Dokuchie, Gord Gendur, Jan Morrison, Lois Smandych, 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.



## Delegation

Members from the Yorkton Regional High School attended the Board Meeting to update the Board of Education on the preparation and progress being made toward the 2020 Canadian Student Leadership Conference which is being held in Yorkton during September 2020. The delegation of students and staff reviewed the work which has been done to date as well as a glimpse into the highlights of the upcoming conference. There is great anticipation for the upcoming conference as Yorkton was home to the first National Student Leadership Conference held in 1985.



Left to Right:  
Members of the CSLC Delegation:  
YRHS students Alex Hodgson, Zane Chopik,  
Brady Bjornerud, Anara Morrison and  
Langenburg Central student Charlee Mitschke

For more information on the conference, click the following link [CSLC 2020](https://www.cslc2020.ca) or visit [gssd.ca/school/yrh](https://gssd.ca/school/yrh) > CSLC 2020

## Accountability Report

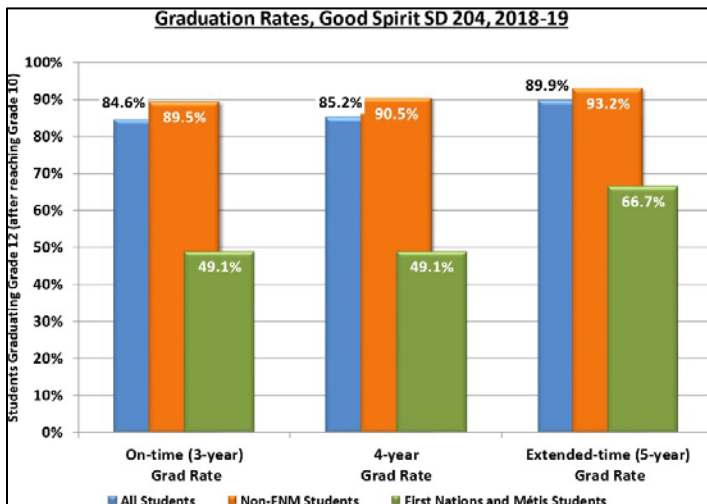
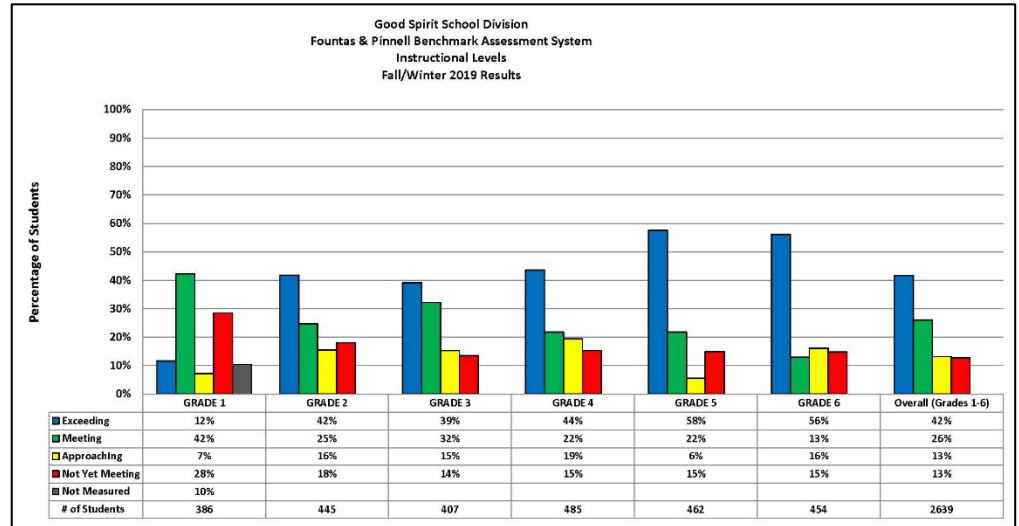
Superintendent of Education, Lisa Wotherspoon, presented an Accountability Report to the Board, focussing on Early Years and Reading. Wotherspoon shared that GSSD's goal for June 30, 2020, is to see 90% of students exiting Kindergarten ready to learn as measured by the Early Years Evaluation (EYE) and that by June 30, 2020, 30% more GSSD students will exit Kindergarten at appropriate development level (green) than when entering Kindergarten.

Wotherspoon engaged the Board in conversation surrounding the work being done within Early Years classrooms. The work has included professional development, meetings held with each school team to address targeted goals, a focus on Family Engagement, as well as introducing the support of an Early Years coach, Literacy coaches, and Speech Language Pathologists to support Literacy with Early Years classrooms.



Superintendent Wotherspoon shared that an investment into classroom resources to support oral language and phonemic awareness in Prekindergarten and Kindergarten has occurred. A strong partnership with Regional KidsFirst Community Developer (Pop Up Play Dates, IMPACT, Eat Play Learn) is also assisting GSSD in targeting Early Years children and classrooms. Likewise, partnerships with Daycare Directors, SIGN and the Yorkton Early Learning Family Resource Center are all assisting GSSD with meeting it's June 2020 goals.

Wotherspoon also reported on the progress being made toward GSSD's reading goals which suggest by June 30, 2020, 81% of Grades 1-6 students will be reading at or above grade level which will be a 2% increase from the year before. A tremendous amount of professional development and classroom resources have been allocated to improve reading results across the division. Wotherspoon highlighted that according to fall results, 68% of GSSD's students in grades 1-6 are reading at or above grade level. She identified that it is typical to see this number increase significantly from fall to spring which makes the goal of 81% very possible.



Donna Kriger, Deputy Director, concluded the Accountability Report by leading the Board through a discussion on Graduation Rates. Kriger would have shared that GSSD's 2018-19 graduation rate was the highest achieved over the past ten years. Though disparity exists between the graduation rate of Indigenous and non-Indigenous students, Kriger highlighted that the graduation rate of First Nation Métis students rose 11% from the previous year. Kriger celebrated the work of the high schools across Good Spirit which resulted in GSSD having an on-time (3-year) graduation rate that is 7% higher than the province. GSSD has met the provincial target of 90% for the extended time (5-year) graduation rate.

In her report, Kriger also shared data with the Board of Education which demonstrated the correlation between attendance and graduation rates. GSSD students attend more regularly than their provincial counterparts from Kindergarten through 12. Kriger identified that in-school administrators and their staffs are working hard to build meaningful relationships with students while providing relevant, engaging lessons and establishing strong intervention structures which are resulting in improved graduation rates.

The Board passed a motion to accept the Accountability Report as presented, thus satisfying the following quality indicators (QI):

- 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 view the accountability reports in their entirety, visit [gssd.ca](http://gssd.ca) > Board > Board Meetings > 2020 01 30 Regular Board Meeting > Accountability Report – [Student Learning – Early Years](#), Accountability Report – [Student Learning – Reading](#), Accountability Report – [Student Learning – Graduation Rates](#).

## Board Development

Quintin Robertson, Director of Education, satisfied the following QIs with his report to the Board of Education related to the East Central District Athletic Association (ECDAA):

- QI 6.2 – The Director keeps the Board informed about Division operations.
- QI 6.3 – The Director provides the Board with balance, sufficient, concise information and clear recommendations for actions items in agendas.
- QI 6.6 – The Director ensures high quality management services are provided to the Board.

Robertson highlighted that the mission of high school athletics is to foster educational opportunities for all students through interschool sport. Robertson shared his appreciation for the staff within GSSD who dedicate their time and efforts to ensure that students are given the opportunity to participate and experience authentic athletic opportunities within Good Spirit.

Robertson also informed the Board that GSSD supports the ECDAA through both budget and release time for participants. Robertson shared with the Board that three half-day meetings are held each year. The Saskatchewan High School Athletics Association (SHSAA) Annual General Meeting will be held June 24-26, 2020, in Moose Jaw and GSSD will support the participation of 7-10 delegates. GSSD also supports athletes and coaches at provincial competitions by covering hotel and mileage costs.

A celebration regarding school athletics will see Yorkton host the 2020 Provincial Championships in Track & Field on June 5 and 6 at Century Field. The event will see numerous GSSD employees serve as volunteers to ensure the Provincial Championship runs seamlessly and that student athletes and their coaches experience a well organized event.

To read more on the board development topic, visit [gssd.ca](http://gssd.ca) > Board > Board Meetings > 2020 01 30 Regular Board Meeting > Board Development – [East Central District Athletics Association](#).

## New Business

### Board Budget Development Framework

Director/CEO Robertson shared that as the school division begins solidifying the budget for the 2020-21 school year, one of the first steps is to ensure the budget priorities align with the direction set out by the Board of Education documented in the Budget Framework.

For 2020-21 the Board of Education is committed to the following seven areas:

- Advocacy;
- Principled Decision Making;
- Expenditure Review;
- Equitable Staffing;
- Reducing Negative Impact on Students;
- Target Supports for First Nations Students; and,
- Maximizing the Impact of the Division Strategic Plan.

Robertson unpacked the Budget Development process with the Board of Education highlighting that historically, instructional staffing (school based) and administration (central office) represents approximately 74% of GSSD budget expenditures. Robertson indicated that GSSD has continued to refine the budgeting process for these two areas that involves consultation at the school-based level (in-school administrators, professional service providers), local level (School Community Council) and Board level. Robertson committed that GSSD would begin the consultation process with SCC Symposiums in February, while administrators would be involved in budget conversations in March.

### **Out of Country/Extended Educational Field Trips for Students**

The Board of Education passed a motion to approve two Out of Country travel requests which will see the Yorkton Regional High School Cheerleading team travel to Florida to participate in the High School Worlds Competition in Orlando, Florida from February 6-12, 2020.

A request put forth by Nathan Seghers and Darren Kitsch, was also approved, allowing the North Band and Kamsack Comprehensive Senior Band students to participate in a band trip to Minot, North Dakota during April 3-6, 2020. The opportunity will allow students to participate in a full band rehearsal and sectionals at the University of Mary as well as allowing them to attend the University of Mary Spring Band and Choral concert.

### **Yorkton Regional High School Community Council Constitution**

As outlined in section 5 of the GSSD School Community Council Operations Manual, each council shall develop and adopt a constitution within six months of their Annual General Meeting. The Yorkton Regional High School Community Council submitted their amended constitution to Senior Administration. The Board of Education passed a motion to approve the Yorkton Regional High School Community Council Constitution amendments as presented.

### **Amended Policy 7 – Board Operations**

At the direction of the Board of Education, Administration has committed to bring forward two Board Policies per regular Board Meeting for review. During the December 19, 2019 Regular Board meeting, the Board directed Administration to make minor edits replacing “Fairview Education Centre” with “Good Spirit Education Complex” and within Bullet 10.8 – replacing “will normally” with the word “may”.

## **Director’s Report**

### **Financial Update**

Chief Financial Officer (CFO), Keith Gervais, presented the Board of Education with an updated financial report. Gervais indicated that GSSD was on track for a balanced budget for the 2019-20 year. Gervais also discussed the upcoming implementation of atrieveERP, a newly adopted Human Resource, Payroll and Accounting System.

### **Transportation Update**

Deputy Director Kriger presented a Transportation update to the Board of Education. Kriger shared the following information within her report:

Total Students Transported	2875	2398 Rural, 477 Urban
Number of Rural Routes	98	
Number of Urban Routes	6	5 in Yorkton, 1 in Melville
Number of Unfilled Routes	0	
Number of Cancellations	see below	
Average age of bus Fleet	2014 (6 years old)	2005 (oldest) 2020(newest)
Average one-way ride time (minutes)	39.5 minutes	
Longest one-way ride time	117 minutes	Student living 1 mile from the Horizon School Division boundary west of Springside

Some discussion ensued regarding the division wide bus cancellations which occurred in January due to dangerously low temperatures and windchills. The Board communicated their approval and satisfaction on the swift action taken to ensure student and driver safety.

In the absence of a Transportation Manager, Kriger has been overseeing the operations of the Transportation Department. Deputy Director Kriger informed the Board of some newly developed processes within Transportation and highlighted the excellent work of the Transportation team over the past several months.

### **Provincial Track Meet**

Director/CEO Robertson informed the Board, that on June 5 & 6, 2020, the East Central District Athletic Association (ECDAA) will host the Saskatchewan High School Athletics Association (SHSAA) Track and Field Championships at the Kinsmen Century Field facility in Yorkton. Robertson shared that set up for the event will occur June 4 with take-down occurring on June 7, 2020.

The event will bring over 1,400 student-athletes along with teachers, coaches, officials, and parents to Yorkton. As with previous efforts playing host in 2001, 2007, and 2015, Good Spirit has the opportunity to raise the profile of track and field by showcasing athletes from across the East Central District, and to provide them with an opportunity to compete with a home-track advantage. As members of the SHSAA, the ECDAA is obliged to host provincial events on a rotational basis.

The Board was reminded that hosting provincial track is a huge responsibility and much of the manpower is voluntary or recognized through extra-curricular in the LINC agreement. Curtis Spelay who is a teacher at the Yorkton Regional High School will serve as the Commissioner for this event and he has assembled a stellar team of GSSD staff members to assist him.

### **Canadian Student Leadership Conference**

Kriger and Gervais updated the Board of Education regarding the financial commitment offered to the Yorkton Regional High School for transportation costs and substitute costs associated with hosting the 2020 Canadian Student Leadership Conference. Kriger and Gervais reported that the YRHS staff have been very conscientious in budgeting and have come in under budget in their projections.

The conference will see over 1,000 students from across Canada attend Yorkton during September 2020 for the National Conference "From the Roots Up". This will be the third time the YRHS has hosted the conference, including the 1985 event which served as the very first National Student Leadership Conference.

### **Hofer Colony School**

Recently, GSSD was approached by the Hofer Colony to provide a school for children living on the colony to attend. Robertson explained that in the case of Hofer Colony School, the projected mid-year enrolment is 3 full-time equivalent (FTE) students. The projected September enrolment is 3.5 FTE therefore, Hofer Colony School would not meet the threshold for Ministry School Funding. As a result, the colony leadership has expressed a desire to pursue other options. GSSD has entered into a service agreement with Hofer Colony from February 1, 2020 to June 30, 2020.

### **Administrative Procedure Update**

The Board of Education was provided a listing of revised and new Good Spirit Administrative Procedures for their review:

- [AP 404 Staff Member Substance Use](#)
- [AP 438 Certification: Support Staff](#)
- [AP 431 Placement and Transfer of Professional Staff](#)
- [AP 559 School Closure or Inclement Weather and Student Transportation](#)
- [AP 550 Transportation Safety](#)

## Joint Sponsorship Renewal

The Board of Education was informed of a joint sponsorship application between Invermay School and Horizon School Division's, Foam Lake School for Football.

## GSSD Professional Development

Robertson reviewed the numerous Professional Development opportunities being offered across the school division during January 31<sup>st</sup> and February 3<sup>rd</sup>. Robertson highlighted the alignment between the sessions offered and the Good Spirit School Division Strategic Plan.

## Upcoming Important Dates

February	Aboriginal Story Telling Month
February 6	Board Chair Council Meeting, Regina (TBC), 1:40-4 pm
February 7	Trustee Academy, Regina
February 9-15	Teacher/Staff Appreciation
February 10	Trustee Academy, Saskatoon
February 17	Family Day
February 18-21	Winter Break
February 27	Red Cross Pink Day
March 12	Regular Board Meeting, 10 am–5 pm
March 14 & 15	SCC Conference, North Battleford
March 16	Board Chairs Council Teleconference, 8:30–9:30 am
March 29-30	National Congress on Rural Education – TCU Place, Saskatoon, SK
April 2	Regular Board Meeting, 10 am–5 pm
April 7	Board Chairs Council Meeting, Delta Saskatoon, 8:30-11:30 am
April 7-8	Spring Assembly, Delta Hotels Downtown (formerly Radisson), Saskatoon, SK
April 10	Good Friday
April 13	Easter Monday
April 14-17	Easter Break
April 22	Administrative Professionals Day
May	Early Childhood Education Month
May 14	Regular Board Meeting, 10 am–5 pm
May 18	Victoria Day
May 25	Board Chair Council Teleconference, 8:30-9:30 am
May 28	Special Board Meeting, 1-5 pm
June 18	Regular Board Meeting, 10 am–5 pm
August 27	Regular Board Meeting, 10 am–5 pm

### Upcoming Board Meetings:

March 12, 2020, April 2, 2020, June 18, 2020, August 27, 2020

Location: Good Spirit Education Complex, Saskota Room

To review Board Policy 7 Board Operations, visit [gssd.ca](http://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](mailto:Heather.Morris@gssd.ca).

### Contact Us

Good Spirit School Division  
#204

Phone: (306)786-5500

Visit us online at

[www.gssd.ca](http://www.gssd.ca)

*Building Strong Foundations to  
Create Bright Futures*