

FEATURED BOARD MEMBER

JUNE 2023



LOIS SMANDYCH

Lois Smandych - A Dedicated Board Member Committed to Educational Excellence



Lois Elaine Smandych, a trusted and esteemed member of the Good Spirit School Division (GSSD) Board of Education, has been making a remarkable impact on the education sector for over two decades. She has served on the GSSD Board of Education as Vice Chair, Chair, and is currently a Trustee for Subdivision No. 5 encompassing Saltcoats, Bredenbury, Churchbridge, and Langenburg. Lois always brings a wealth of experience and a deep commitment to GSSD's Motto of Students Come First.

Prior to her tenure as a trustee, Lois had a diverse background that laid a solid foundation for her educational journey. With a passion for learning, Lois worked as a librarian at the Parkland Regional Library for two decades. Her experience in the library sector cultivated her understanding of the importance of access to knowledge and the transformative power of education.

Lois's dedication to community service is evident through her involvement in various organizations. She served as a Councilor and Mayor for the Town of Bredenbury and is a member of the Saskatchewan School Boards Association (SSBA). She has also contributed to palliative care initiatives in the health sector and played a vital role in Church Leadership and Big Brothers Big Sisters in Yorkton. Her commitment to service and her extensive involvement in these diverse organizations showcase her exceptional leadership skills and her ability to make a difference in people's lives.

Since her election in the fall of 2000, Lois has been an integral part of the GSSD Board of Education, which previously included the Yorkdale and York School Divisions. Throughout her tenure, Lois has consistently exhibited exemplary leadership, dedicating her time and expertise to contribute to the growth and improvement of the school division.

Lois's involvement in the SSBA has been instrumental in shaping educational policies and promoting the best interests of students across the province. She served as the Southern Constituency Representative from 2005 to 2008 and contributed to important committees such as the University of Regina Senate and the Multitype Library Board, further emphasizing her commitment to lifelong learning and the development of educational resources.

Within GSSD, Lois has played an active role in numerous committees and initiatives. She served on the LINC Committee, focusing on enhancing the educational experiences of students. Additionally, her involvement in Visions, an initiative promoting Indigenous Elder involvement, demonstrates her commitment to fostering inclusive educational practices and celebrating diverse cultural perspectives.

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Lois has also served as an Executive Member within the Public Section and was involved with litigation action and Student Achievement Awards.

Over the years, Lois has witnessed significant changes within the school division. With three amalgamations and an evolving focus on policy and governance, she has been at the forefront of navigating these transitions. Her dedication to keeping board policies current and relevant to the changing times in education has ensured that the GSSD remains adaptive and responsive to the needs of its students and communities.

One of Lois's most notable accomplishments lies in her unwavering commitment to collaboration and communication. She consistently fosters open dialogue among Board members, school staff, students, and parents, recognizing the importance of collective decision-making and shared responsibility. Her warm and welcoming approach to new members and her collaborative efforts with the Director of Education have played a pivotal role in maintaining strong relationships within the GSSD community.

To stay connected with the school community, Lois embraces various communication channels. Lois is best known for her thoughtful phone calls and impressive memory for dates. Whether through in-person visits, phone calls, emails, or social media, she ensures that she remains accessible and approachable to students, staff, and parents. Attending events and actively engaging with stakeholders further strengthens her understanding of the needs and aspirations of those she serves.

Lois has most certainly already left a legacy of being accountable to students, parents and supporting the staff at the Good Spirit School Division. Integrity, work ethic, respect, honesty, commitment, consistency, communication and advocacy are all important qualities of a Board Member, and Lois embodies each and every one of those every day.

The advice that Lois offers to someone considering a role as a Board of Education Trustee is to carefully consider the time commitment. The need for consistency is key!

Some of Lois' memorable moments as a trustee have been the Saltcoats Autumn Summit, the Churchbridge Public School Millwright Program and Outdoor Education, and Langenburg Central School's Leadership Provincial Conference and opening of a new school.

In conclusion, Lois Elaine Smandych has been an exceptional and trusted member of the Good Spirit School Division Board of Education, making a remarkable impact on the education sector for over two decades. Through her dedication, leadership, and commitment to GSSD's motto of "Students Come First," Lois has left a lasting legacy of accountability, integrity, and tireless advocacy for the students, parents, and staff she serves. Her remarkable contributions and meaningful experiences truly embody the essence of a dedicated Board of Education Member.