

# FROM THE BOARD

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE  
AUGUST 17, 2023 MEETING



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## August 17, 2023 Regular Meeting

The Regular Board meeting on August 17, 2023, was held at the Good Spirit Education Complex. The following trustees were present: Chairperson Jaime Johnson, Vice Chair Steve Variyan, Jade Anderson, Gilda Dokuchie, Gord Gendur, Shannon Leson, Jan Morrison, Bob Simpson, Lois Smandych, and Nicole Pohl. Also in attendance were division office staff, including Director of Education/CEO Quintin Robertson, Chief Financial Officer Keith Gervais, and Assistant to the Director Lauren Denysek.

## Meeting Opening

Board Chair Johnson commenced the meeting at 10 am and respectfully recognized that the meeting was taking place on Treaty 4 Territory; the traditional territory of the Anishinaabe, Cree, Assiniboine, and homeland of the Métis Peoples.

## Approval of Minutes

The meeting package included the minutes for the June 15, 2023 Regular Board Meeting and the August 16, 2023 Special Board Meeting, which were prepared by Chief Financial Officer Keith Gervais. The approved minutes can be accessed on the GSSD website: [GSSD](#) | [Board](#) | [Board Meetings](#) | [June 15, 2023, Minutes](#) and [August 16, 2023, Minutes](#).

## Delegation

As outlined in Board Policy 7, the Board will make provision for a delegation to make a presentation at a Board meeting in the interest of improving the education provided in Division schools.

During the Regular Meeting on August 17th, one delegation was approved to address the Board.

## Accountability Report

### Teacher and Administrator Supervision

Jason Trost, Superintendent of Human Resources, presented the accountability report on Teacher and Administrator Supervision to the Board.

Built on comprehensive measures, the supervision process promotes growth and student success. GSSD's model revolves around two core procedures: AP 412 – Supervision and Evaluation of Professional Staff, and AP 421 – Leadership Evaluation.

Focused on positivity and support, the Performance Evaluation Process fosters self-reflection, professional development, and lifelong learning. Initial evaluations occur during the first two years, with a collective assessment for second-year teachers. Thereafter, a four-year cycle assessment based on evidence ensures thorough evaluation.

Feedback, categorized as "Exemplary," "Proficient," "Progressing," and "Not Meeting Expectations," drives specific growth paths. Customized evaluation domains guide teachers and administrators, promoting engagement, relationships, and leadership. Annual Professional Growth conversations facilitate employee input, and future plans include digital enhancements such as storage and access to evaluations and future reflection.



To view the accountability report in its entirety visit: [GSSD](#) | [Board](#) | [Board Meetings](#) | [Accountability Report – Teacher and Administrator Supervision](#)

## Board Development

### Treaty Education

**BOARD DEVELOPMENT**  
TOPIC: TREATY EDUCATION

STRATEGIC PRIORITY  
HIGH QUALITY TEACHING AND LEARNING  
ENGAGEMENT OF ALL STUDENTS, FAMILIES AND COMMUNITIES  
EFFECTIVE POLICY AND PROCEDURE  
HEALTHY SUSTAINABLE PHYSICAL AND SOCIAL ENVIRONMENTS

**Information for the Board – 10 Fast Facts**

- Acknowledgment of Territory:** By learning about Treaty Education, students in the Good Spirit School Division understand and recognize that they are living and learning on Treaty 4 Territory. This acknowledgment fosters a sense of respect towards the history and culture of the Indigenous peoples who have lived on these lands for generations.
- Historical Perspective:** Treaty Education provides a valuable historical context to students about the development of Canada as a nation. This includes understanding the treaties signed between the First Nations and the Crown, such as Treaty 4, which have significantly influenced the country's historical and political landscape.
- Promotes Understanding and Reconciliation:** Treaty Education forms a crucial aspect of the reconciliation process with Indigenous peoples. It equips students with knowledge about past injustices, facilitating a culture of understanding, respect, and healing, in line with the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's Calls to Action.
- Enhances Cultural Diversity:** Understanding the principles of Treaty Education encourages cultural diversity and inclusion. Students learn to appreciate the richness of Indigenous culture, heritage and traditions, fostering an inclusive and respectful learning environment.
- Supports Curriculum Goals:** The Saskatchewan Ministry of Education identifies Treaty Education as an integral part of the K-12 curriculum. Knowledge about treaties supports the overall learning objectives, contributing to the holistic development of students.
- Respect for Indigenous Rights:** Understanding treaties helps students to comprehend the rights of Indigenous peoples in Canada, including rights to land, self-governance, and cultural practices. This understanding can foster civic responsibility and active citizenship.
- Real World Connections:** Treaty Education is not just about past events. It is about how these treaties impact present-day realities. Students will learn how treaties continue to affect various aspects of society, including law, politics, and social justice.
- Developing Critical Thinking:** Treaty Education challenges students to think critically about historical narratives and perspectives. This promotes independent thinking, analysis, and a deeper understanding of how history influences the present and future.
- Enhance Mutual Respect:** Learning about the treaties and their importance can foster mutual respect and empathy among students of different backgrounds. This can play a vital role in promoting harmony in multicultural societies.
- Encourages Responsible Citizenship:** As future citizens, students need to be aware of the commitments made by their ancestors. Understanding the obligations and responsibilities outlined in treaties like Treaty 4 can guide them towards being more responsible and informed citizens.

LEARNING WITHOUT LIMITS...ACHIEVEMENT FOR ALL

Quintin Robertson, Director of Education, presented to the Board on Treaty Education. He brought forward the fact that it's not just about acknowledging Treaty 4 Territory but fostering respect for Indigenous heritage and culture. Beyond history, Treaty Education promotes reconciliation, understanding past injustices, and nurturing healing in alignment with the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's directives.

This holistic approach enriches curriculum goals, embedding understanding of treaties into the K-12 syllabus. Importantly, it empowers students to comprehend Indigenous rights and current societal implications. Treaty Education cultivates critical thinking, mutual respect, and responsible citizenship, propelling students to acknowledge ancestral commitments and contribute to a harmonious, multicultural society.

Quintin also expanded further with his presentation and included some frequently asked questions and answers for the Board.

To access the 10 fast facts on Treaty Education, visit [GSSD](#) | [Board](#) | [Board Meetings](#) | [Board Development – Treaty Education](#)

Click to enlarge!

## New Business

### Policy 1 – Foundational Statements, Division Focus Areas and Long-term Goals

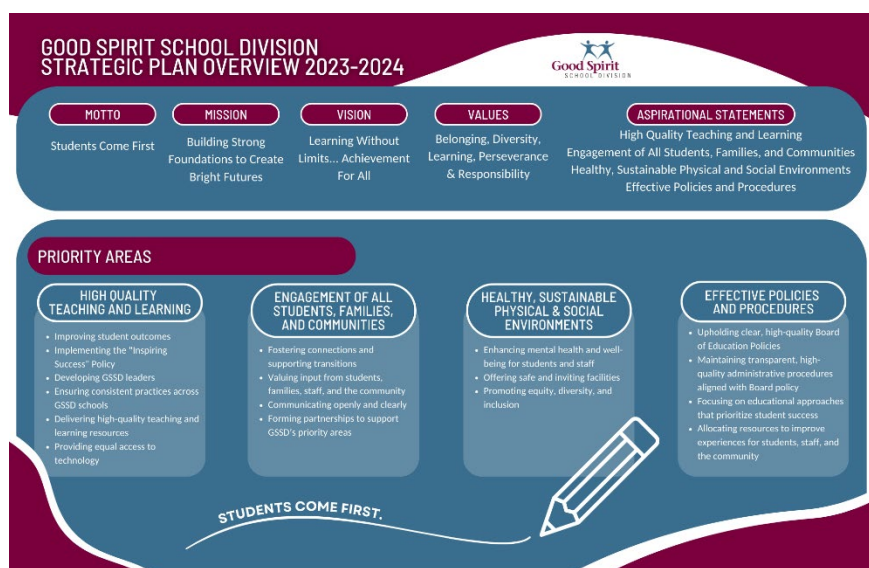
Policy 1 is reviewed annually to ensure that Division targets are reflective of the Provincial Education Plan. In a dynamic display of collaboration and foresight, the Board of Education convened for a Strategic Planning Retreat in June 2023. The purpose behind this intensive session was to refine the foundational elements of GSSD, namely its Motto, Vision, Mission, and Values. The following was amended for the 23-24 school year:

## Values - Belonging, Diversity, Learning, Perseverance, Responsibility

By honouring and embracing GSSD's organizational values in our work and relationships, we collectively strive to achieve our vision.

- **Belonging:** We ensure all students, families, and staff feel valued, included, and respected.
- **Diversity:** We celebrate the unique contributions each student, family, and staff member brings to our division.
- **Learning:** We pursue innovative and relevant educational opportunities for students and staff.
- **Perseverance:** We nurture an environment that supports learning and builds confidence.
- **Responsibility:** We strive for excellence while upholding the Foundational Statements of GSSD.

The division's long-term goals with the continued focus on high quality teaching & learning, engagement of all students, families, & communities, effective policy and procedures, and healthy, sustainable physical, & social environments were also revised and updated.



The Board passed a motion to approve the Board Policy 1 – Foundational Statements as presented. The updated Policy can be viewed on our website: [GSSD](#) | [Board](#) | [Board Policy Handbook](#) | [Policy 1 Foundational Statements.](#)



Click to enlarge!

## Policy 2 Appendix A – Annual Work Plan

Prior to the new year, the Good Spirit School Division Board of Education develops a yearly plan, which includes setting Division priorities and outcomes, Board member development, advocacy sessions, as well as reviewing and approving the budget and Preventative Maintenance and Renewal capital plan. The Annual Work Plan is used to guide Trustees and Senior Administration in setting Regular Board meeting agendas.

The Board passed a motion to approve the Annual Work Plan for the 2023-2024 School Year. The updated Policy can be viewed on our website [GSSD](#) | [Board](#) | [Board Policy Handbook](#) | [Policy 2 Appendix A Annual Work Plan.](#)

## **Policy 8 – Committees of the Board and Policy 8 Appendix C – Indigenous Advisory Committee**

The Board passed a motion to approve the amended Policy 8 Committees of the Board and Policy 8 Appendix C – Indigenous Advisory Committee as presented to reflect the staffing changes in the Division. The Indigenous Advisory Committee will consist of the new Superintendent of Indigenous Education, the Board Chair or Vice Chair, the Director and/or designate and the Board Trustee Representative from the Key First Nation Subdivision.

The amended Policy can be viewed on our website: [GSSD](#) | [Board](#) | [Board Policy Handbook](#) | [Policy 8 Committees of the Board](#) | [Policy 8 Appendix C Indigenous Advisory Committee](#)

## **School Community Council Loan**

Kamsack Comprehensive School (KCI) has requested a loan to purchase a 15-passenger van for their school. Through consultation with GSSD's transportation department, purchasing options have been reviewed in order to accommodate suitable requests. KCI has acquired a large sum in fundraising efforts over the past years. The main fundraiser recently was having students work at an annual golf tournament in the area. KCI has also held community BBQ events to raise money for the van. The purchase of a van would help alleviate parent volunteer drivers or having an event cancelled due to a shortage of bus drivers in the Kamsack area.

*The Board made a motion to approve the SCC loan application for the KCI purchase of a 15-passenger van.*

## **Organizational Meeting**

The Board of Education conducted its organizational meeting for the 2023-24 school year. Jaime Johnson was renamed Board Chairperson and Nicole Pohl was named Board Vice-Chair. Board indemnities and remuneration were discussed and approved for the 2023-24 school year. Committees of the Board were also determined, based on the interests and strengths of the trustees.

You can view the Media Release regarding this year's organizational meeting on our website: [GSSD](#) | [Division](#) | [Media Room](#) | [GSSD Elects Board Chair and Vice-Chair](#)

Upcoming meeting dates and Trustee information can be found on our website: [GSSD](#) | [Board](#) | [Board Members](#)

## **Director's Report**

### **Transportation Update**

Ryan Hall, Transportation Manager, reported to the Board that GSSD started the school year with 97 regular routes and plans to recruit drivers in the Esterhazy area to reinstate one more route, bringing the total to 98. He noted that bus driver recruitment remains challenging, however, GSSD has permanent staff in place for all 97 routes. GSSD also launched BusPlanner Web on their website, allowing families to confirm attendance areas for schools and check eligibility for bus service. This is an important step in the registration process, and BusPlanner provides an easy-to-use platform for existing and new GSSD families. Furthermore, the school bus cancellations have reduced by approximately 45% during the current school year due to more favorable weather conditions and a greater number of available spare drivers. The Transportation Department is busy building and optimizing routes for the 2023-24 school year. On August 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> bus drivers gathered at the Good Spirit Education Complex for their annual in-service. These meetings provided information and training from the Student Services team, the bus garage staff, and the Transportation Department administrative team. Overall, Ryan is confident and optimistic that the Transportation Department is ready and on track for the upcoming school year.

## Financial Update

Chief Financial Officer Keith Gervais delivered a comprehensive and thorough financial update to the members. Importantly, Gervais provided the Board with the encouraging news that GSSD is presently maintaining its intended financial course successfully.

## Upcoming Important Dates

September 5, 2023	First Day of School
September 6, 2023	Public Section Table Officers' Meeting – 9:00 a.m.-10:30 a.m. - via Zoom
September 13, 2023	Public Section Executive Meeting – 9:00 am. To 10:30 a.m. – via Zoom
September 21, 2023	Board Chairs Council – In-person, Regina, location TBC, 1:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.
September 21-22, 2023	Beginning Your Journey to Becoming an Anti-Racist Educator, Birch Room, 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.
September 27, 2023	Deadline for Bylaw Amendments (for the AGM) – 4:30 p.m.
September 30, 2023	Orange Shirt Day
September 30, 2023	Deadline for Submissions for the 2023 Premier's Board of Education Award for Innovation and Excellence & the 2023 Award of Distinction – 4:30 p.m.
October 9, 2023	Thanksgiving Day
October 12, 2023	Regular Board Meeting
October 12, 2023	Deadline for Resolutions (for the AGM) - 4:30 p.m.
October 23, 2023	Board Chairs Council Meeting – via Zoom, 8:30 – 9:30 a.m.
November 11, 2023	Remembrance Day
November 12, 2023	Board Chairs Council Meeting – In-person before Fall Assembly, Regina, 8:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. (Directors will be invited to this meeting or portion of)
November 13, 2023	Public Section Annual General Meeting – 3:30 (unconfirmed), Delta Hotel, Regina
November 12-14, 2023	Fall General Assembly and AGM – Regina, Delta Hotel
November 16, 2023	Regular Board Meeting
December 4, 2023	Board Chairs Council Meeting – via Zoom, 8:30 – 9:30 a.m.
December 14, 2023	Regular Board Meeting
December 25, 2023	Christmas Day
January 1, 2024	Happy New Year!
January 25, 2024	Regular Board Meeting
February 19, 2024	Family Day
February 15, 2024	Public Section Executive Meeting – 1:00p.m. – 2:30 p.m. – via zoom

February 29, 2024	Regular Board Meeting
March 28, 2024	Regular Board Meeting
March 29, 2024	Good Friday
April 1, 2024	Easter Monday
April 11, 2024	Public Section Executive Meeting – Time TBD (SSBA Spring Assembly April 11/12, Saskatoon)
April 25, 2024	Regular Board Meeting
May 20, 2024	Victoria Day
May 23, 2024	Special Board Meeting
June 6 & 7, 2024	Public Section General Meeting and Professional Development Event June 6 – 6:30 p.m. – 9:00 p.m. June 7 – 8:30 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. Saskatoon – Location TBD
June 13, 2024	Regular Board Meeting
August 15, 2024	Regular Board Meeting

**Upcoming Board Meetings:** October 12, November 16, December 14, January 25, February 29, March 28, April 25, May 23 (Special Meeting), June 13, August 15

**Location:** Good Spirit Education Complex

To review Board Policy 7 Board Operations, [GSSD](#) | [Board](#) | [Board Policy Handbook](#)


**Submissions and Feedback**

To submit photos or stories regarding the Board of Education or an individual Trustee in your school community, please contact [lauren.denysek@gssd.ca](mailto:lauren.denysek@gssd.ca).

**Contact Us:**

Good Spirit School Division #204

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**Students Come First.**

For more information related to the Board of Education, visit our website at: [GSSD.CA](#) | Board