

FROM THE BOARD

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE
OCTOBER 12, 2023 MEETING



GSSD.CA

October 12, 2023 Regular Meeting

The Regular Board meeting on October 12, 2023, was held at the Good Spirit Education Complex. The following trustees were present: Chairperson Jaime Johnson, Vice Chair Nicole Pohl, Christopher Balyski, Gilda Dokuchie, Shannon Leson, Jan Morrison, Bob Simpson, Lois Smandych, and Steve Variyan. Also in attendance were division office staff, including Director of Education/CEO Quintin Robertson, Chief Financial Officer Keith Gervais, Assistant to the Director Lauren Denysek, Superintendent of Learning Lisa Wotherspoon, Churchbridge Public School Principal Patti Zerr and Vice Principal Jessica Kachur.

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 August 17, 2023 Regular 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](#) | [August 17, 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.

There were no delegations at the Regular Meeting on October 12th.

Accountability Report

Equitable Access to Technology

Jonas Prysliak, Information Technology Manager presented the accountability report on Equitable Access to Technology to the Board.

The report covered key measures, targets, data, key strategies in use, and future strategies. Notable accomplishments to date include deploying 128 iPads and 36 refurbished desktop computers at specific schools in September 2023 to upgrade their labs. Moreover, there has been a comprehensive project to replace Cisco access points and Layer 2

switches with Ubiquiti devices across all schools as part of a network device deployment initiative. Additionally, the Division has collaboratively devised a four-year plan with digital learning consultants to replace and upgrade school computer labs.

The Division continues to emphasize operational projects, such as the ongoing monthly cybersecurity training that enhances the expertise of GSSD employees, strengthening their cybersecurity posture. Another noteworthy achievement for this academic year is the introduction of an online student registration form and the launch of new School Level Plan (SLP) websites, replacing conventional text-only documents. GSSD is making strides toward achieving its goal of a 1:1 ratio of students to Chromebooks in grades 4-12. With the deployment of 900 Chromebooks this year, they are on track to reach this goal during the 2024-2025 school year. For grades K-3, they have successfully achieved their 3:1 ratio of students to iPads objective through the recent deployment of 128 iPads in September.

In conclusion, GSSD is dedicated to equitable access to technology through the multifaceted initiatives presented in this report. The commitment to enhancing technological infrastructure, providing cybersecurity training, streamlining processes with online registration forms, and expanding device deployment showcases a forward-looking approach to education.

To view the accountability report in its entirety visit: [GSSD](#) | [Board](#) | [Board Meetings](#) | [Accountability Report – Equitable Access to Technology](#)

Board Development

Inclusive Education

BOARD DEVELOPMENT
TOPIC: INCLUSIVE EDUCATION

STRATEGIC PRIORITY
HIGH QUALITY TEACHING AND LEARNING
HEALTHY, SUSTAINABLE PHYSICAL & SOCIAL ENVIRONMENTS

Information for the Board - 10 Fast Facts

- What is Inclusive Education?** Inclusive Education is used to describe education for students with diverse backgrounds who may or may not require additional support. The ministry defines inclusive education as "providing equitable treatment and appropriate high-quality education to all students. It encompasses a blend of philosophical beliefs, practices and processes to create flexible support systems and learning environments based on students' strengths, abilities, interests and needs."
- What is the goal of inclusive Education?** To reduce exclusion by eliminating barriers to school success and enhancing participation and sense of belonging in the community. Inclusive education promotes the perception that all persons, regardless of ability are important, respected and valued members of our communities. It supports all members of a school community in building understanding and compassion for others, which in turn will translate to caring, compassionate respectful citizens. Inclusive education also gives students a safe place to ask questions and learn about others with different abilities.
- What is the Difference between Adaptation, Differentiation, and Modification?** Adaptations are made by teachers to support student achievement in all Kindergarten to Grade 9 subject areas and Grades 10-12 courses and programs. The Adaptive Dimension applies to all types of education programs available to Saskatchewan students, and the approved curriculum is always the starting point for making decisions about adaptations.
- The Role of the Classroom Teacher in Inclusion** includes things such as:
 - understanding their role in student support
 - engaging in professional development, working collaboratively, and strengthening capacity to support student diversity and learning
 - infusing culturally responsive instruction and culturally relevant resources
 - using curriculum that supports students' social, emotional, behavioural, physical and academic interests, strengths and needs
 - working closely with parents/guardians and SSTs
 - empowering students' strengths and building instruction on prior knowledge, interests, learning profiles, perspectives, etc.
- Who are the Members of an Inclusive Team?**
 - The Student
 - Parents/guardians
 - In-school teams
 - Division team
 - Partnering agencies
 - Professional Connections
 - Cultural Connections
- ALL Students Come First!** Support teams follow the Needs Based Model to ensure barriers for learning are recognized and plans are created to remove them. Through this lens, a diagnosis to support students is not mandatory. Instead, we recognize the strengths of students to build knowledge and skills. Inclusive education promotes a culture of respect and belonging and an opportunity to learn about individual differences. Children have the opportunity to develop friendships with people they may not have otherwise considered.
- As educators we have a Duty to Accommodate** which includes:
 - Medically fragile students
 - Students with complex needs
 - Neurodivergent students
 - Students who are new to the country or English is a second language
 - Students with diverse backgrounds, trauma, culture, socio-economic
- Management of Inclusive Education** is documented in the electronic portfolio for students in an average year approximately:
 - Inclusion & Intervention Plan - 478 students supported with an IIP
 - Sec of Adaptation - 551 students supported with SOAs
 - Medical Management & Response - 214 students supported with MMR
 - Response to Intervention (RtI) - 559 students supported with RtI plans
- Student Success:** we cannot learn in a silo. Student Services works in collaboration with parents and partner agencies and schools in the development of Safety Plans and Success Plans for students with complex needs. These plans support students to be successful in the social and academic environments at school and ensure student, staff and school safety.

LEARNING WITHOUT LIMITS... ACHIEVEMENT FOR ALL

Student Services Consultants Val Ruf, Jackie Spencer and Cyndi van Eeden presented to the Board on the topic of Inclusive Education.

The three consultants unpacked Inclusive Education and what it means. They highlighted that differentiation is an organized yet flexible way of proactively adjusting teaching learning to meet kids where they are and help them to achieve maximum growth as learners.

The role of the teacher in inclusive education was highlighted as well as who the members of the Inclusive Team are. The school team works with an interdisciplinary team to ensure coordinated and integrated service delivery is developed which wraps itself around the student, family and school.

To highlight that all students come first, support teams follow the needs-based model to ensure barriers for learning are recognized and plans are created to remove them. Through this lens, a diagnosis to support students is not mandatory, instead, strengths of the student are recognized to build knowledge and skills.

Lastly, the Student Services Team highlighted that the team works in collaboration with parents and partner agencies and schools in the development of Safety Plans and Success Plans for students with complex needs. These plans support students to be successful in the social and academic environments at school and ensure student, staff and school safety.

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

Advocacy Session

Relationship Building with GSSD Administrators

Following lunch, the Board members and Good Spirit School Division (GSSD) administrators representing Churchbridge Public School (CPS), Invermay School (INV), Canora Junior Elementary School (CJES), Macdonald School (MAC), Grayson School (GRA), Preeceville School (PRE), and Kamsack Comprehensive Institute (KCI) came together for a dedicated session aimed at fostering stronger relationships.



GSSD staff were paired with their respective subdivision trustee, with guided prompts provided to stimulate meaningful discussions. These conversations revolved around student-centered practices, the current challenges facing schools, ongoing school initiatives and their alignment with student and staff well-being, the "Inspiring Success Policy," family engagement, student attendance, potential future collaborations between schools, and more. The advocacy session proved to be a positive exchange of ideas and insights, generating encouragement from both GSSD administrators and Board members.

The session concluded with a collaborative sharing of the discussions, wherein the Board commended the commendable efforts of teachers and staff, extending their heartfelt appreciation.

New Business

Amended Board Policies

The Board passed a motion to approve Board Policy 2 Role of the Board as presented. The updated Policy can be viewed on our website: [GSSD](#) | [Board](#) | [Board Policy Handbook](#) | [Policy 2 Role of the Board](#).

The Board passed a motion to approve Board Policy 2 Appendix B Board Self-Evaluation Process. The updated Policy can be viewed on our website [GSSD](#) | [Board](#) | [Board Policy Handbook](#) | [Policy 2 Appendix B Board Self-Evaluation Process](#).

The Board passed a motion to approve Board Policy 3 Appendix A Services, Materials and Equipment Provided to Trustees. The updated Policy can be viewed on our website [GSSD](#) | [Board](#) | [Board Policy Handbook](#) | [Policy 3 Appendix A Services, Materials and Equipment Provided to Trustees](#).

The Board passed a motion to approve Board Policy 3 Appendix B Board Member Visits to Schools. The updated Policy can be viewed on our website [GSSD](#) | [Board](#) | [Board Policy Handbook](#) | [Policy 3 Appendix B Board Member Visits to Schools](#).

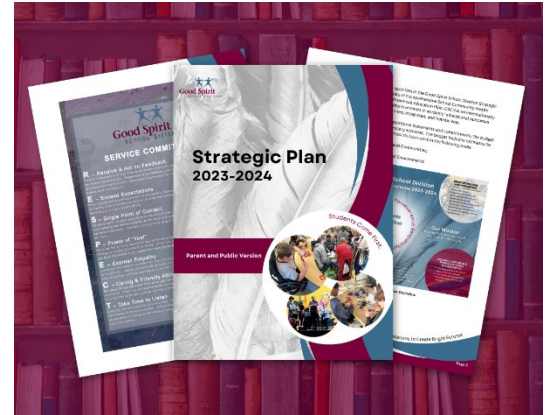
Board Policy 3 Role of the Board Member will continue to be reviewed and brought forward again at the November 16, 2023 Regular Board Meeting.



Director's Report

Parent and Public Strategic Plan

The Board received the Parent and Public Strategic Plan for the upcoming 2023-24 School Year to review. The plan is a comprehensive document outlining selected work plans for key focus areas that will guide the Division's efforts over the next five years. This annual adaptation and review of the Strategic Plan ensures the Division's commitment to staying responsive and aligning its goals with the evolving needs of students, parents, and the community. The report will be published on the GSSD website once final review is complete.



Professional Development Opportunities

Quintin Robertson, Director of Education and CEO of GSSD reviewed the professional development activities that have taken place through the school year so far, and what opportunities are upcoming for GSSD staff. So far over 15 professional development opportunities have occurred since the start of the school year, including two Division wide days that included Keynote Speaker Dr. Nathalie Reed on the topic of Trauma-Informed Practices on August 29, 2023, and most recently Keynote Speaker Dr. Niigaan Sinclair who spoke to the Division on Anti-Racism on October 10, 2023.

A breakdown of all PD Sessions that have occurred during the 2023-24 school year will be available in GSSD's upcoming September/October In Focus Media Release! This media release will be available at the end of October/beginning of November and will be posted to GSSD's socials and website.

Conclusion

School Community Councils and Celebrations

The October 12, 2023 Regular Board Meeting concluded with Board Members sharing information about their school community councils and some wonderful events happening around the Division. Board Member Smandych highlighted her attendance at Octoberfest in Churchbridge and commended the turn out, the event's activities and the high-spirits that it brought to the community. Board Member Balycki commented on the engaging back-to-school barbeques he has attended and highlighted the many sporting events happening around the Division. Board Member Variyan celebrated the grand opening of the century field lights at the Yorkton Regional High School and Board Member Simpson applauded Melville Comprehensive School for their new Science Technology Engineering and Math (STEM) Lab. Simpson also mentioned Miller School's great efforts in fundraising money for a new playground and equipment to include their new Grade 6 students this year. Board Member Pohl brought up the great work of Student Leadership Councils in her subdivision and Board Member Leson touched base on his recent East Central District Athletic Association (ECDAA) meeting and mentioned the recent School Sport Week along with welcome back to school events. Lastly, Board Chair Johnson highlighted the great work of the new administrators in her subdivision and highlighted Norquay School's Student Representative Council that recently travelled to New Brunswick for the Canadian Student Leadership Conference.

Upcoming Important Dates

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 4, 2024	National Ribbon Skirt Day
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
June 21, 2024	National Indigenous Peoples Day
August 15, 2024	Regular Board Meeting

Information

Board Meeting Attendance

Board meetings are held throughout the school year (excluding July). At times, and only as needed, special meetings of the board may be called. Regular meetings are open to public attendance except for the in-committee (closed) portion of discussions. To address the Board an [Application for Delegation to Board Meeting](#) must be filled out and returned at least seven days prior to the meeting. If you have any questions, please contact our Administration Office via phone (306) 786-5500 or through email at info@gssd.ca.

The Board will hold Regularly scheduled meetings at the Good Spirit Education Complex in the RM of Orkney or via Video Conference at 10:00 a.m. according to the following schedule in 2023-2024:

- November 16, 2023
- December 14, 2023
- January 25, 2024
- February 29, 2024
- March 28, 2024
- April 25, 2024
- May 23, 2024 (Special Meeting)
- June 13, 2024
- August 15, 2024

Visit us at www.gssd.ca for more information on:

- [Board Meetings | Good Spirit School Division \(gssd.ca\)](#)
- [Programs & Services | Good Spirit School Division \(gssd.ca\)](#)
- [Registration | Good Spirit School Division \(gssd.ca\)](#)
- [School Community Councils | Good Spirit School Division \(gssd.ca\)](#)

Upcoming Board Meetings: 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.

Contact Us:

Good Spirit School Division #204

 www.gssd.ca

 (306) 786-5500

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 [Good Spirit School Division 204](#)

Students Come First.

For more information related to the Board of Education, visit our website at: GSSD.CA | Board