

# FROM THE BOARD

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE  
JANUARY 25, 2024, BOARD MEETING



## January 25, 2024, Regular Meeting

The Regular Board meeting on January 25, 2024, was held at the Good Spirit Education Complex. The following trustees were present: Chairperson Jaime Johnson, Vice Chair Nicole Pohl, Christopher Balyski, Gilda Dokuchie, Jan Morrison, Bob Simpson, Jade Anderson, Gord Gendur, Shannon Leson, 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 Schools Mick Parmar, M.C. Knoll Vice-Principal Julie Parisloff and Canora Junior Elementary School Principal Shawna Stangel.

## Meeting Opening

Board Chair Johnson commenced the meeting at 10 am. Board Member Johnson reviewed GSSD's meeting norms and Board Member Variyan 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 December 14, 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 | December 14, 2023.](#)

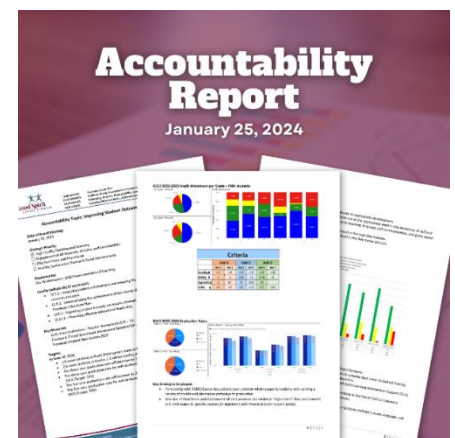
## Delegation

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 January 25, 2024.

## Accountability Report

### Improving Student Outcomes/Fall Assessment Data & Credit Attainment Report

Lisa Wotherspoon, Superintendent of Learning, presented the accountability report on Improving Student Outcomes/Fall Assessment Data & Credit Attainment Report. Within the presentation, she reported on the Early Years Evaluation – Teacher Assessment (EYE – TA), Fountas & Pinnell Benchmark Assessment System (F&P – BAS), and Credit Attainment.



## Early Years Evaluation – Teacher Assessment (EYE – TA)



Lisa began by highlighting the Early Years learning goals that the Division aims to achieve by June 30, 2024. These goals focus on ensuring students leaving Kindergarten are ready to learn and those in Grades 1-6 are reading at or above their grade level. They also include objectives related to three and five-year graduation rates.

Data from Fall 2023 revealed that over 74% of GSSD kindergarten students are meeting appropriate levels in awareness of self and environment, social skills, approaches to learning, language and communication, and gross motor skills. Moreover, 67% of students are at the appropriate level in fine motor domain.

Some key strategies currently employed to hit targets set for June 30, 2024, include all Kindergarten teachers being trained and using Heggerty Phonological and Phonemic Awareness in their classrooms, a new Speech and Language Pathologist role focused on the PreK Early Learning Intervention Support (ELIS) programs and Kindergarten within the same schools and the launch of the Michif Early Language program for 3- and 4-year-olds in Fall 2023 at Columbia school, thanks to a collaboration with the Métis Nation of Saskatchewan.

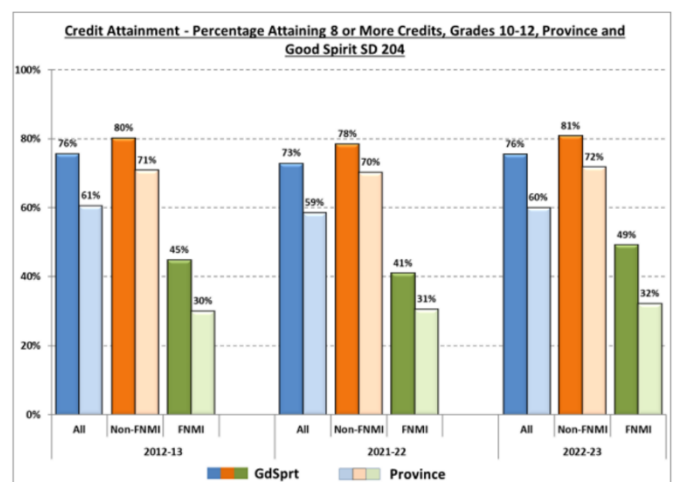
The Division's future strategies for enhancing early years learning include conducting Early Learning Data Discussion team meetings for setting targeted goals, implementing Early Childhood Environment Rating Scale assessments and training in selected Kindergarten classrooms for culturally responsive environments, distributing numeracy kits with Indigenous literature to Kindergarten teachers, and training all PreK teachers to use the Ages and Stages Questionnaire 3 (ASQ-3) during student-led conferences for personalized student support.

### Fountas & Pinnell Data:

In Fall 2023, Fountas and Pinnell data revealed that 64% of grades 2-6 students in Good Spirit School Division are reading at or above grade level, though this percentage drops to 38% among self-declared First Nations and Métis students. The division is responding with key strategies like transitioning to structured literacy in select schools, offering teacher development opportunities like the "Shifting the Balance" book study, and implementing new instructional resources and intervention plans for students below reading level. Future strategies involve an Early Learning steering committee to guide decisions on instruction and assessment, and professional development in the Science of Reading. The Division will also continue to develop Kdn.- Grade 4 Treaty Education kits and support the literacy resource "Under One Sun". The division plans to refine early literacy assessments and monitor the impact of EAL interventions on English language proficiency, focusing on curriculum outcomes that enhance language comprehension, background knowledge, and vocabulary.

### Credit Attainment:

In the 2022-23 academic year, Good Spirit School Division (GSSD) had a credit attainment rate of 76%, surpassing the provincial average by 16% overall and showing a 3% increase from the previous year. This rate was 9% higher for Non-FNMI students and 17% higher for FNMI students compared to provincial averages. As of June 2023, 76% of grades 10-12 students were on track to graduate, with 49% of FNMI students meeting this target. Key strategies contributing to this success includes the partnership with [Regina District Industry Education Council \(RDIEC\)](#) and the Career Education Liaison position which supports students with earning a variety of credits and alternative pathways to graduation,



revisions in assessment policies to reduce high-stakes exams, expansion of support roles for Indigenous students, diversification of course offerings, and enhanced guidance through myBlueprint planning. Future strategies involve drafting new work-based learning and credit policies, implementing timetable audits, developing a more robust student interest survey process, preparing for new graduation requirements in 2025, and engaging students and parents more effectively with myBlueprint resources.

To view the accountability report in its entirety visit: [GSSD](#) | [Board](#) | [Board Meetings](#) | [Accountability Report – Improving Student Outcomes/Fall Assessment Data & Credit Attainment Report.](#)

## Board Development

**BOARD DEVELOPMENT**  
 TOPIC: ASSESSMENT AND REPORTING  
 JANUARY 25, 2024, REGULAR BOARD MEETING

**STRATEGIC PRIORITY**  
 ENGAGEMENT OF ALL STUDENTS, FAMILIES, AND COMMUNITIES  
 EFFICIENT PROCEDURES AND HIGH QUALITY TEACHING AND LEARNING

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

- GSSD is in the process of updating AP 281 Assessment and Reporting and it has recently been posted for feedback. It includes specific information around assessment and reporting practices for parents, staff, and students and is in alignment with the Supporting Student Assessment in Saskatchewan provincial document.
- Student grades are based on provincial curriculum outcomes, which is referred to as "outcome-based assessment". The outcome identifies what students must know or be able to do to be successful. Teachers collect evidence in the form of observations, conversations, and products to support their judgment on where students are at in their journey toward meeting the outcome.
- Teachers engage in both "formative" and "summative" assessments, and the purpose of each of these is different: formative informs teaching while summative provides a measure.
- Teachers employ a variety of assessment tools to give all students the chance to demonstrate their learning. Teachers also look for opportunities to provide students with choice in how they show their learning, and to involve students in self-assessment and reflection.
- All students in a class may not be assessed the same way - this is called "differentiation". Students with an inclusion and/or Intervention Plan (IP) or a Record of Adaptations (ROA) may require specific adaptations to demonstrate their learning most effectively.
- Elementary students are graded using a provincially agreed-upon scale of 1-4, with 3 indicating a student is "meeting" the outcome. This scale does not function as an "out of" (e.g., "3 out of 4") but rather as a spectrum to indicate where students are at in their learning. High school students are graded using a more traditional percentage system which still relates to the provincial learning outcomes.
- Teachers report on academic achievement (related to provincial curriculum outcomes) and non-academic achievement separately. This means that factors like effort, behavior, and assignments being handed in late are not included as part of the grade. Teachers share this information with parents in other ways, such as through comments in Edsby or the FACTS Factors Affecting Student Achievement section of the report card.
- Parents have access to real time information about upcoming assignments and student progress through Edsby. All teachers from Grades 1-12 will be providing online gradebook updates as of March 2024. Parents can also view progress reports and report cards digitally. Print copies are made available for those who prefer that option.
- GSSD has guidelines in place for high school final exams (see AP 202 Final Exams and Assessments). Cumulative final exams (encompassing all learning outcomes from the course) can only be administered in math, ELA, and science courses. Final exams and assessments cannot be weighted more than 10% (Grade 10), 15% (Grade 11), or 20% (Grade 12) of a student's overall mark (with the exception of provincial departmental exams in Grade 12).
- GSSD also has processes in place to support high school students who may not be successful in their first attempt at a course (see AP 355 Credit Recovery and Credit Extension). Students earning a final mark between 40-47% will be granted additional time to complete the course, effectively "recovery" the learning they have already done instead of having to repeat these portions of the course. Students with extenuating circumstances may also be provided with an extension in order to finish their course.

LEARNING WITHOUT LIMITS...ACHIEVEMENT FOR ALL

## Assessment and Reporting Practices

Kristen Myers, Curriculum Consultant, presented to the Board on the topic of Assessment and Reporting Practices.

Diving into student assessment, the Good Spirit School Division (GSSD) has embraced a series of innovative updates and guidelines that significantly enhance the way student learning and achievement are measured and reported. GSSD has recently updated its Assessment and Reporting policy (AP 281) to align with Saskatchewan's provincial guidelines. This update offers detailed information for parents, staff, and students on assessment practices.

Kristen also highlighted that GSSD assessments are outcome-based, combining formative and summative methods, and tailored for diverse student needs, including options for student self-assessment.

The Board Development also addressed how elementary and high school students are evaluated and touched on credit recovery.

To access the full document of the 10 fast facts on Assessment and Reporting Practices, visit [GSSD](#) | [Board](#) | [Board Meetings](#) | [Board Development – Assessment and Reporting Practices.](#)

## Advocacy Session

### Relationship Building with Matt Love – Education Critic, NDP

Before breaking for lunch, the GSSD Board of Education convened with Matt Love, Education Critic, NDP. The Board Trustees and GSSD guests all introduced themselves and then dove into key topics regarding and affecting education.

These topics included provincial grants, capital funding, and bargaining. The discussion also touched upon the Parents' Bill of Rights, emphasizing the necessity for understanding. The role of locally elected boards was examined, stressing their importance in decision-making processes. The Provincial Curriculum and SaskDLC were other key topics, with a focus on their development. A significant part of the discussion was dedicated to the importance of collaboration with First Nations, recognizing the need for collaboration with these communities. The session wrapped up with both parties expressing strong support for shared goals and the critical role of open communication and partnerships in driving positive changes in the education landscape.



## New Business

### Review of Board Budget Development Framework for 2024-25

During the review of the Board Budget Development Framework for 2024-25, the board thoroughly examined various key aspects. The session included an in-depth look at how GSSD is funded. It also covered a comprehensive overview of what GSSD represents, encompassing our aspirational statements, motto, mission, vision and values. Furthermore, the board discussed various considerations and priorities, which are crucial in shaping the framework and guiding the division's strategic financial planning for the upcoming year. This review was essential in aligning the budget with the overall objectives of GSSD.

The Board will approve the Board Budget Development Framework for 2024-25 during the February 29, 2024, Regular Board Meeting.

### French Immersion Designation

Under Section 180.3 of The Education Act (1995), the Minister of Education is mandated to designate schools where French is the principal language of instruction in designated programs. In this context, a board motion is necessary to request the Ministry of Education to officially designate the French Immersion program at Melville Comprehensive School (MCS). The Good Spirit School Division has committed to maintaining this designation for at least three years, from 2022-23 to 2024-25. Currently, French Immersion programming at MCS starts from Grade 10 for students who have participated in the program until Grade 9. These students then have the opportunity to fulfill bilingual program graduation requirements and earn a "mention bilingue" on their high school diploma. The benefits of designation include enhanced credibility of the program and greater access to various programs and initiatives available to the division.

### Policy Review

The Board revised Policy 2 Appendix A Annual Work Plan with updated agenda items and conducted a thorough review of Policy 8 and its appendices A, B, C, D, E, F and G. Policy 8 and its appendices underwent minor or no revisions, and the most recent versions are now available on the GSSD website for the public to view.

The updated Policies can be viewed on our website: [GSSD](#) | [Board](#) | [Board Policy Handbook](#)

- [Policy 2 Appendix A Annual Workplan](#)
- [Policy 8 Committees of the Board](#)
- [Policy 8 Appendix A Executive Committee Terms of Reference](#)
- [Policy 8 Appendix B Finance Committee Terms of Reference](#)
- [Policy 8 Appendix C Indigenous Advisory Committee Terms of Reference](#)
- [Policy 8 Appendix D LINC Negotiating Committee Terms of Reference](#)
- [Policy 8 Appendix E Support Staff Negotiating Committee Terms of Reference](#)
- [Policy 8 Appendix F Transportation Committee Terms of Reference](#)
- [Policy 8 Appendix G Workplace Wellness Steering Committee Terms of Reference](#)



## Director's Report

### Facilities Update and School Tour of Springside School

Pat Morrison, the Facilities Manager, presented an update on various projects his team is handling. He covered the ongoing and scheduled projects, including those currently in progress. Pat specifically mentioned the replacement of a rooftop HVAC unit at Yorkdale Central School, three rooftop HVAC units at Davison, and the construction of the vice-

principal's office at KCI. Additionally, the Facilities team is diligently addressing Service Requests from schools across the Division. Pat also conducted a tour of Springside School, where he showcased projects at the school such as roof and boiler replacements, and the installation of a VoIP Phone System. Schoolyard improvements like an asphalt play area, playground sand and the cleanup of old equipment was made possible by the Saltcoats School Community Council, local volunteers and the GSSD Facilities team.

### Update on Facility's Safety Management System Project

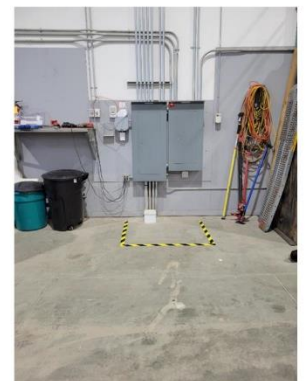
Sandra Cripps, representing the Saskatchewan Association for Safe Workplaces in Health (SASWH), shared the work that has been done in partnership with the Division.

What has been done so far:

- Training needs analysis
- Updating policy and procedures
- School visits
- Updated Occupational Health & Safety (OHS) boards –all required documents and current legislation
- Attended Occupational Health Committee meetings to provide training and assist with structure and intent
- Production of safety flashes/communication
- Workplace Hazardous Materials Information System (WHMIS) training
- Supplied updated Personal Protective Equipment–e.g. bus wash
- 5S event
- Hazard identification through incident analysis

### 5S event – Division office - Nov. 14-17, 2023

Concluding the presentation, Patrick Morrison took the opportunity to commend Sandra Cripps and her team for their collaborative efforts in working with GSSD schools. He emphasized the positive experience of partnering together.



### Service Recognition and SEASTARS Awards

This year, the Good Spirit School Division will celebrate Staff Appreciation Week from February 11-17, 2024, under the theme "Shaping the Future Together". This special week includes recognizing staff members for their years of service, with awards presented for 10-50 years of dedication to the division. In addition to these celebrations, GSSD also honors nominated staff with the SEASTARS awards, an acronym for Sparkling Examples of Accomplished Skillful Talented And Radiant Staff. During the board meeting, trustees reviewed the plans for the week and will have the chance to participate in various celebratory events across the division.

### Professional Development Opportunities

Quintin Robertson, the Director of Education/CEO, provided an overview of the professional development (PD) initiatives undertaken during the current school year and highlighted upcoming opportunities for GSSD staff. To date, more than 30 professional development sessions have been conducted since the commencement of the school year.

A breakdown of all PD Sessions that have occurred during January and February of 2024 will be available in GSSD's upcoming January/February In Focus Media Release. This media release will be available around February 29, 2024, and will be posted to GSSD's socials and website.

## Administrative Procedures

The Board was informed of the Administrative Procedures that have undergone revision and review since the Regular Board Meeting on December 14, 2023. These procedures are now available on the [GSSD website](#):

- [AP 240 – Distance Learning](#)
- [Form 261-1 - Category A and B In-Province and Out-Of-Province Field Trip Request](#)
- [AP 558 – Fleet Vehicles](#)
- [AP 438- Certification of Staff](#)
- [AP 434 - Noon Hour Supervision](#)
- [AP 400 Appendix - Criminal Record Checks and Vulnerable Sector Checks](#)
- [AP 400-2 - Request for Criminal Record Check and Vulnerable Sector Check](#)
- [AP 450 - Out of Scope Salaries](#)
- [AP 497 - Partnerships](#)
- [Form 412-3 - Teacher Professional Growth Plan](#)
- [Form 412-4 - Teacher Evaluation Report](#)
- [Form 412-6 Indicators of Responsive Teaching Self-Assessment](#)
- [Form 421-2 - Leadership Performance Evaluation](#)
- [AP 140 Responsible Use of Technology](#)



## Conclusion

### School Community Councils and Celebrations

The January 25, 2024, Regular Board Meeting concluded with Board Members sharing information about their school community councils. Board members brought feedback, support, and celebrations to the meeting.

Board Member Johnson brought praise to the GSSD Facilities Team, noting their great work and welcomed presence at Norquay school. Johnson also highlighted the recent Stella Pelly room naming event at Kamsack Comprehensive Institute, noting that Senator Mary Jane McCallum was in attendance, the Senator who sponsored Bill S-227, an act respecting a National Ribbon Skirt Day.

Board Member Pohl and Morrison noted that their school's School Community Council Meetings are upcoming.

Board Member Smandych used this opportunity to reflect on her recent attendance at the Round Dance hosted by GSSD on December 16, 2024. She expressed her gratitude for the event, noting how much she learned from the experience. Eagerly anticipating the next one, she expressed her thanks for the opportunity and encouraged everyone to participate in future events. M.C. Knoll's Vice-Principal, Julie Parisloff, also expressed her appreciation and enjoyment of the event. She noted how wonderful it was to see families at school the following Monday who had participated in the event.

Board Member Anderson mentioned the support for the Saskatchewan Teachers' Federation among teachers and parents. She also highlighted the successful partnership between Esterhazy High School and the Saskatchewan Health Authority, which has resulted in a Nurse Practitioner visiting the school once a week. Additionally, she mentioned some wonderful financial education happening at EHS and proudly noted the recent provincial volleyball championship victory by the EHS Boys volleyball team.



## Upcoming Important Dates

February 11-17, 2024	Teacher/Staff Appreciation Week Theme “Shaping the Future Together”
February 15, 2024	Public Section Executive Meeting – 1:00p.m. – 2:30 p.m. – via zoom
February 15, 2024	Board Chairs Council Meeting – via Zoom, 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.
February 19, 2024	Family Day
February 28, 2024	Pink Shirt Day
February 29, 2024	Regular Board Meeting
March 18, 2024	Board Chairs Council Meeting – via Zoom, 8:30 – 9:30 a.m.
March 28, 2024	Regular Board Meeting
March 29, 2024	Good Friday
April 1, 2024	Easter Monday
April 11, 2024	Board Chairs Council Meeting
April 11, 2024	Public Section Executive Meeting
April 11-12, 2024	Spring Assembly – Saskatoon, Sheraton Cavalier Hotel Downtown
April 25, 2024	Regular Board Meeting
May 20, 2024	Victoria Day
May 23, 2024	Special Board Meeting
May 27, 2024	Board Chairs Council Meeting – via Zoom, 8:30 – 9:30 a.m.
June 6 & 7, 2024	Public Section General Meeting and Professional Development Event
June 13, 2024	Regular Board Meeting
June 21, 2024	Indigenous People’s Day
August 15, 2024	Regular Board Meeting
September 26, 2024	Board Chairs Council – In-person, Regina, 1:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.
September 30, 2024	Deadline for Submissions for the 2024 Premier’s Board of Education Award for Innovation and Excellence & the 2024 Award of Distinction – 4:30 p.m.
October 16, 2024	Deadline for Bylaw Amendments (for the AGM) – 4:30 p.m.
October 21, 2024	Board Chairs Council Meeting – via Zoom, 8:30 – 9:30 a.m.
October 31, 2024	Deadline for Resolutions (for the AGM) - 4:30 p.m.
December 1, 2024	Board Chairs Council Meeting – In-person before Fall Assembly, Regina, timing TBC - Directors are invited to this meeting
December 1-3, 2024	Fall General Assembly and AGM – Regina, Delta Hotel



## 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.

**Upcoming Board Meetings:** February 29, March 28, April 25, May 23 (Special Meeting), June 13, August 15

**Location & Time:** Good Spirit Education Complex at 10am. 5B Schrader Drive, Yorkton, SK S3N 3Z4

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

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

 (306) 786-5500

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**Students Come First.**