

FROM THE BOARD

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE
FEBRUARY 29, 2024, BOARD MEETING



GSSD.CA

February 29, 2024, Regular Meeting

The Regular Board meeting on February 29, 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, Gord Gendur, Shannon Leson, and Lois Smandych. 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, and Superintendent of Indigenous Education Angella Pinay. GSSD's Kici Anishinabek Andrew Quewezance (elder and knowledge keeper) was also present until closed session.

Meeting Opening

Board Chair Johnson commenced the meeting at 10 am. Board Member Pohl reviewed GSSD's meeting norms 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. At this time, Director of Education Quintin Robertson offered tobacco to Andrew Quewezance. In Anishinaabe culture, as well as in many other First Nation cultures, the offering of tobacco holds significant cultural and spiritual importance. Tobacco is considered a sacred plant and is often used in various ceremonies and as a respectful offering in many indigenous cultures across Turtle Island.

Approval of Minutes

The meeting package included the minutes for the January 25, 2024, 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](#) | [January 25, 2024](#)

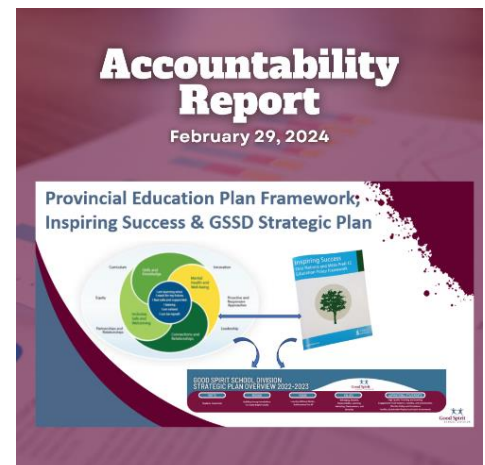
Delegation

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 February 29, 2024.

Accountability Report

Implementing the Inspiring Success Framework

Angella Pinay, Superintendent of Indigenous Education, presented the accountability report on Improving Student Outcomes/Implementing the Inspiring Success Framework.



Beginning her presentation with a warm acknowledgment of Andrew's presence, Angella expressed her enthusiasm for being part of the GSSD team. She provided a comprehensive overview of the Inspiring Success framework, emphasizing its aim to enhance the outcomes of all students in Saskatchewan, with a focus on Indigenous students.

The presentation outlined the framework's objectives to build capacity within the provincial education system by setting goals, indicators, and strategies aimed at significantly improving student achievement for all learners. Key themes included working together for better relations (Mino-wichin), reconciliation through education, and incorporating First Nation and Métis perspectives and ways of knowing (Dena wē maga nuk).

Angella stressed the "Student First Imperative," which focuses on listening and responding to student voices, and asking critical questions about the impact on students and how collective efforts can achieve desired outcomes. She highlighted the importance of creating opportunities to improve student well-being and achievement, inspire social harmony, address racism, power, and privilege, and value Indigenous perspectives, languages, and cultures.

The presentation also covered the significance of reconciliation and partnership with Indigenous communities and organizations, aligning with the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's Call to Action #63 iii. Angella concluded by showing how the Inspiring Success framework is integrated into all of GSSD's Aspirational Statements and the Strategic Plan, highlighting its pivotal role in shaping a brighter future for all students.

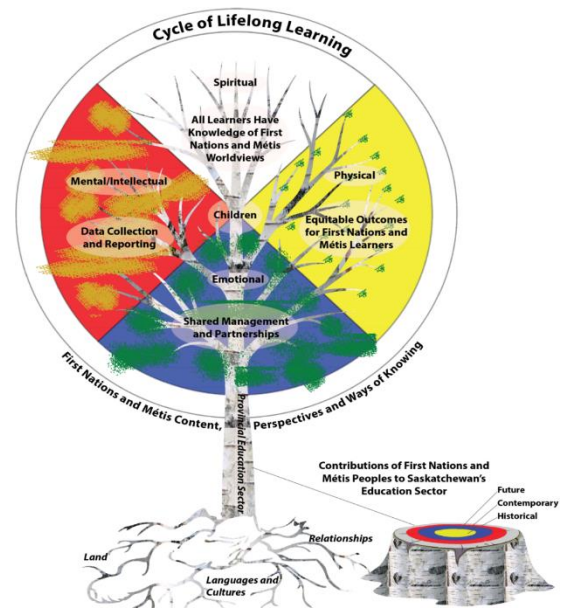
To view the accountability report in its entirety visit: [GSSD](#) | [Board](#) | [Board Meetings](#) | [Board Accountability Report - Implementing the Inspiring Success Framework](#)

Governance Partnership Agreement Presentation

Felice McKay, Strategic Advisor in Indigenous Education, from the Saskatchewan School Boards Association (SSBA) recently highlighted an initiative aimed at establishing partnerships and co-governance between school boards and First Nations/Métis locals. This effort seeks to create local co-governance agreements that foster trust and dialogue among elected governors, enhancing the education governance community.

The SSBA's role includes educating trustees on the benefits of partnership agreements, leveraging existing Memoranda of Understanding (MOU), and supporting the Indigenous Education Responsibility Framework. Additionally, the SSBA facilitates conversations, helping boards initiate dialogue and develop strong governance relationships, while also guiding the development of MOUs to ensure they meet all parties' needs.

Promotion of these partnerships is crucial, with the SSBA recognizing boards and Indigenous Nations for their governance leadership. McKay's presentation emphasized the significance of collaborative efforts in incorporating Indigenous perspectives into education, benefiting Saskatchewan's students through improved understanding and mutual respect.



Board Development

SOS-Q (Student Orientation to School) and OurSchool Survey

BOARD DEVELOPMENT

TOPIC: SOS-Q AND OUR SCHOOL SURVEY
FEBRUARY 29, 2024, REGULAR BOARD MEETING

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

Information for the Board - 10 Fast Facts

1. SOS-Q (Student Orientation to School) - On February 9th, a parent letter was sent home, informing caregivers that the survey will be given to all grades 4-9 students the following week.
2. A link was sent to students on February 12th and will close several days after all technology is restored.
3. The SOS-Q survey is quite straightforward and takes most students less than thirty minutes to complete.
4. The survey is confidential but not anonymous.
5. Students or their parents can choose to opt out of the survey for themselves or for their children.
6. Prior to the Our School survey being given out, staff are encouraged to speak with the students to create an understanding around why they are being asked to complete the survey.
7. Staff are generally assigned to classes to support students as they take the survey. Students can be given the list of terms and definitions provided by the Learning Bar. Staff can also support students as they would with an exam.
8. Our School is a provincially mandated survey. This year, they have set the measures and are not permitting changes or additional questions.
9. Results are provided to schools within two days of closing and division-wide aggregate results are sent within one week of the entire survey closing.
10. Some examples of questions include:
 - The things we learn at school are meaningful.
 - Teachers stop bullying when they see it happening.

LEARNING WITHOUT LIMITS...ACHIEVEMENT FOR ALL

Amanda Kornaga, Superintendent of Schools, provided an insightful overview of two student surveys: the Student Orientation to School (SOS-Q) and the OurSchool Survey. These surveys serve as critical tools for gathering student input, offering a unique opportunity to listen directly to the voices of our students.

The SOS-Q, offered once every two years by the Good Spirit School Division (GSSD), is a 15-20 minute, student-centered survey developed in collaboration with students to collect data on school safety, peer relationships, self-confidence, resilience, and the impact of school and extracurricular activities. This survey's insights help shape school-level planning, potentially altering electives, extracurricular offerings, and support interventions to create a more inclusive and supportive environment.

The OurSchool Survey is a provincially mandated survey conducted annually. This is an anonymous questionnaire that seeks student input to guide school improvement goals and provincial educational initiatives. Before taking the survey, staff prepare students, highlighting the importance of their honest feedback. This survey informs decisions on the development of clubs, events, and broader educational strategies, aligning with the Provincial Education Plan and contributing to various annual reports.

Together, these surveys represent critical tools in listening to and acting upon student voices to enhance the educational landscape.

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 Middle Years Student Senates

Board members from the Good Spirit School Division hosted students in grades 7 and 8 from across eleven schools for a unique event combining relationship building and conversation.

The participating schools included Churchbridge Public School, Columbia School, Esterhazy High School, Grayson School, Invermay School, Macdonald School, Melville Comprehensive School, Norquay School, Springside School, and Yorkdale Central School. This unique gathering allowed students to share their insights over lunch, followed by a dynamic Advocacy Session aimed at enhancing student, family, and community engagement.



The session was structured with predetermined questions which had been provided to the students beforehand. These discussions provided a platform for students to express their thoughts on how to better connect with their school community, improve the physical school environment in terms of health and sustainability, and offer their visions for enhancing the educational experience.

Trustees and students engaged in focused conversations on various topics, including the success of school programs like the canteen and breakfast program at Grayson School and the positive impact of a no-phone policy observed at Invermay School and Columbia School. Additionally, discussions highlighted the importance of community engagement, the value of clubs and extracurricular activities, and the need for supports for students with high needs.

Key takeaways from the session included the appreciation for the close-knit community feeling in smaller schools, the positive feedback on no-phone policies, the stress associated with being online, and the desire for more creative ways to enhance learning. Students also expressed pride in their schools' accomplishments in both academics and sports, and the value of having a voice in school matters through student councils.

The session concluded with an open floor for final thoughts, led by the Director of Education, followed by expressions of gratitude to all participants.

In conclusion, the Board extended their heartfelt thanks to all the students and staff who participated and emphasized the impactful and beneficial nature of directly communicating with students about the daily situations and circumstances that influence their lives.

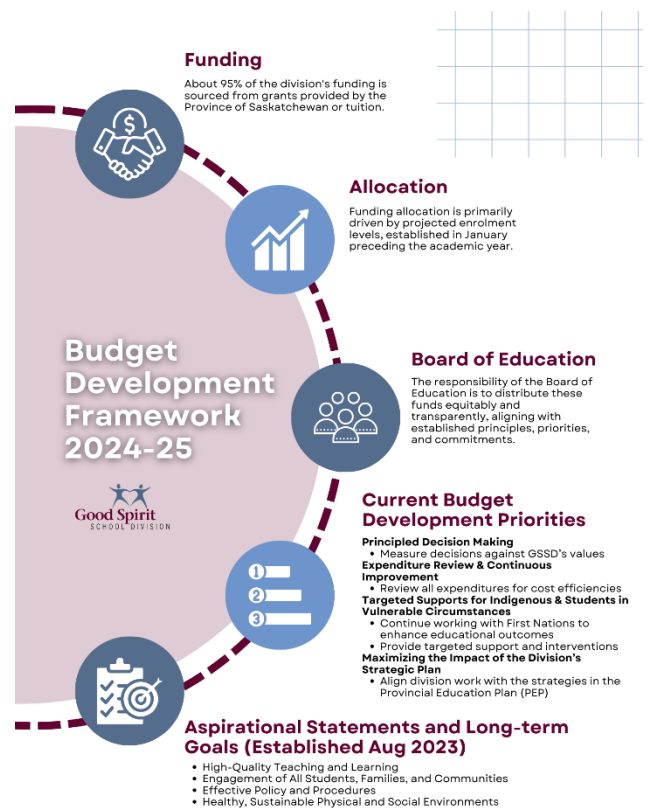


New Business

Approval of the Board Budget Development Framework for 2024-25

The Good Spirit School Division is gearing up for the 2024-25 budget development, with a significant focus on aligning the budget with the Province of Saskatchewan's funding, primarily determined by projected enrolment levels. The Board of Education aims to distribute these funds equitably, emphasizing principled decision-making, expenditure review for cost efficiencies, targeted support for Indigenous and vulnerable students, and maximizing the impact of the division's strategic plan. These efforts align with the division's mission, values, and vision, aiming to foster high-quality teaching and learning, engage communities, ensure effective policies and procedures, and maintain healthy, sustainable environments.

During this Regular Board meeting, the Board approved the 2024-25 Budget Development Priorities as presented, which will serve as a critical tool in realizing a high-quality, inclusive, and forward-thinking educational environment, reflecting the division's commitment to continuous improvement and innovation.



Approval of the 2024 Board of Education Pre-Election, Transition and Orientation Plan

The Good Spirit School Division (GSSD) is preparing for the municipal elections on November 13, 2024, a key event for electing School Board Trustees who influence the direction of education in their communities. To support trustee recruitment, GSSD has updated its Elections website with resources, including a promotional video and detailed information on the trustee role and the election process. This information is accessible for prospective trustees and will be promoted through social media and to GSSD School Community Councils.

GSSD covers various subdivisions, ensuring representation across communities. A robust orientation program awaits new trustees, covering the education system, GSSD operations, trusteeship roles, and communication skills. This program, supported by mentorship and ongoing board and staff assistance, aims to equip new trustees for effective governance.

GSSD's Pre-Election, Transition and Orientation Plan dedicates itself to fostering a well-informed, collaborative board to champion student success in the Parkland Region. At the February 29, 2024 Regular Board Meeting, the Board approved the 2024 Board of Education Pre-Election, Transition and Orientation Plan as presented.

Approval of the Technology Integration Plan

Shawn Kostiuk and Michelle Morley, GSSD Digital Learning Consultants, presented the technology integration plan.

This plan highlights the strategic priorities of the GSSD Information Technology (IT) Department in their efforts to offer the necessary support and resources for achieving both present and future educational objectives of the school division.

The presentation covered a wide array of critical areas, including assessment and planning, device procurement and deployment, software deployment and upgrades, IT security improvements, servers and infrastructure, performance monitoring and feedback mechanisms, budgeting and sustainability, and professional development.

A key point emphasized throughout the presentation was the importance of collaboration with the GSSD Digital Learning Consultants. This partnership ensures that the technology rolled out is effectively used by both students and staff in classrooms, supporting educational outcomes.

The Curriculum and Student Services team also plays a vital role in the deployment and support of curriculum-based software. Through regular review and assessment, the Good Spirit School Division is set to achieve seamless technology integration, strengthening the IT environment's security, and fostering a modern, efficient learning atmosphere for students and teachers alike. Continuous monitoring, evaluation, and feedback will drive the ongoing enhancement of the technology integration effort.

Shape the Future of Education: Become a Trustee with the Good Spirit School Division Board

6,000 STUDENTS | 27 SCHOOLS | 15 COMMUNITIES | 11 ELECTED TRUSTEES | 1000 EMPLOYEES

The Good Spirit School Division, situated in Yorkton, Saskatchewan, serves as an exemplary educational institution, catering to the needs of over 6,000 students across East Central Saskatchewan. The Division boasts an operating budget exceeding \$90 million dollars. This substantial investment underlines its dedication to providing high-quality educational opportunities. Remarkably, the Division consistently meets or surpasses nearly all educational benchmarks set by the Ministry of Education and the Province of Saskatchewan. Renowned for its inclusive and nurturing approach, the Good Spirit School Division stands as a beacon of caring and excellence in education. Its foundational values of belonging, diversity, learning, perseverance, and responsibility are evident, ensuring that "Students Come First" is not just a motto, but a lived reality in all its public schools.

Role of the Board/Trustee:

- Accountability to Provincial Government:**
 - Ensuring compliance with provincial educational standards and policies.
 - Performing Board functions as per governing legislation and Board policy.
- Policy Oversight:**
 - Creating and approving policies that align with the Board's vision and mission.
 - Regularly reviewing policy impacts and effectiveness.
- Community Accountability:**
 - Making decisions that reflect community values and the interests of the Division.
 - Engaging in dialogue and respecting diverse perspectives.
- Board Development:**
 - Focusing on ongoing learning and effectiveness of Board members.
- Fiscal Responsibility:**
 - Overseeing budgeting and fiscal management to ensure resource allocation aligns with priorities.
- Strategic Planning and Reporting:**
 - Setting strategic priorities and outcomes, aligning with the Division's vision.
 - Evaluating and reporting on the Division's achievements.
- Director of Education/Board Relations:**
 - Selecting and evaluating the Director, providing clear corporate direction.
 - Delegating administrative authority while respecting the Director's executive role.
- Political Advocacy:**
 - Developing and reviewing advocacy plans to promote the Board's mission.
 - Building relationships to support the Division's goals.

Next Steps:

- Head to [GSSD.ca](https://gssd.ca) to learn more about:
 - becoming a trustee (video)
 - Good Spirit School Division's [Aspirational Statements and Priority Areas](#)
 - the four pillars of the [Comprehensive School Community Health framework](#)

Upcoming municipal/Board elections coming **October 2024!**
Contact GSSD at 306-786-5500 for more information.



Policy Review

The Board reviewed Board Policy 9 Board Representatives, Policy 10 Policy Making, and Policy 11 Delegation of Authority. Board Policy 9 & 10 underwent minor revisions and Board Policy 11 had an updated date of review.

- [Policy 9 Board Representatives](#)
- [Policy 10 Policy Making](#)
- [Policy 11 Delegation of Authority](#)

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

Director's Report

Transportation Update

Ryan Hall, the GSSD Transportation Manager, shared the latest Transportation Update with the Board.

In his report covering the period from December 16, 2023, to February 29, 2024, Hall provided several updates. Notably, Melville Comprehensive School's Career Fair took place on January 17, 2024, with Mike Haczkecz playing a key role in organizing and attending the entire event. Ryan Hall joined the evening session, which was open to the public, aiming to attract new bus drivers. The Division is currently hiring for a vacant route in the Kamsack area.

He also noted a significant decrease in route cancellations, which have dropped by about 16% year-over-year up to the end of January. This improvement is largely attributed to the mild winter conditions experienced in the region. Additionally, the gentler winter has had a positive effect on the budget, leading to reduced fuel consumption and considerably fewer instances of parts breakage.

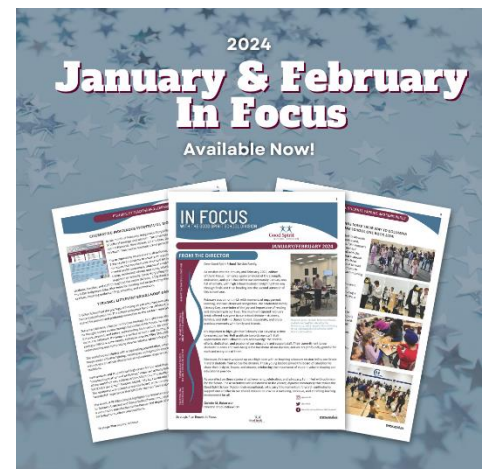
Did you know that GSSD highlights a Bus Driver every two months in our In Focus media release? Make sure to check it out to see why employees enjoy being a bus driver! [GSSD](#) | [Media Room](#) | [2024 03 01 In Focus Report](#)

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 35 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 are available in GSSD's January/February In Focus Media Release. This media release is available to read on our website!

[GSSD](#) | [Media Room](#) | [2024 03 01 In Focus Report](#)



Administrative Procedures

The Board was informed of the Administrative Procedures that have undergone revision and review since the Regular Board Meeting on January 25, 2024. These procedures are now available on the [GSSD website](#):

- [AP 143 - Use of Social Media](#)
- [AP 200 - Organization for Instruction](#)
- [AP 281- Division Assessment Program - Guiding Principles](#)

Conclusion

School Community Councils and Celebrations

Board Member Smandych shone a light on the fantastic efforts of numerous schools during Family Literacy Day. The activities were both entertaining and captivating for entire communities. Furthermore, Smandych had the chance to attend the Service Recognition and SEASTARS awards ceremonies at various schools, highlighting the vibrant atmosphere of these events.

Upcoming Important Dates

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 5, 2024	GSTA and GSSD Retirement Banquet
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



Upcoming Board Meetings: 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.

Contact Us:

Good Spirit School Division #204

 www.gssd.ca

 (306) 786-5500

 @gssd_204

 @gssd204

 [Good Spirit School Division 204](#)

Students Come First.