



March 7, 2024

Dear Community Members,

We are grateful to everyone who has shared their concerns and thoughts regarding education in Saskatchewan. The engagement and feedback of our community are invaluable, especially during these times of intense public and media attention focused on the state of education in our province. This heightened interest largely stems from the stalled provincial bargaining process for a new collective bargaining agreement for teachers.

It is important to clarify that while school boards, including the Good Spirit School Division, employ teachers, we are not direct participants in these provincial negotiations. The Education Act mandates that our interests at the bargaining table are represented through appointees to the Government Trustee Bargaining Committee (GTBC), which includes representatives from the Ministry of Education. We firmly support our GTBC members in advocating for the interests of locally elected boards, aiming for a fair agreement for our teachers. This advocacy, however, takes place within the confines of the bargaining process, balancing respect for the process with our commitment to vocalizing issues and priorities that affect our division.

As your locally elected board of education, GSSD is actively listening and responding. Our foremost role is to champion the best interests of our students, staff, parents, families, and the communities we serve. This is a responsibility we uphold with the utmost dedication, striving continuously to strengthen our publicly funded education system.

One of our key responsibilities is to convey the unique needs and circumstances of our division. The diversity and local priorities of the Good Spirit School Division must be recognized and integrated into the decision-making processes for education. A pressing issue is the need for stability and substantial investment in the education system. This is especially challenging considering the funding challenges that boards of education across Saskatchewan have faced for years. We have consistently called for increased investment in education, recognizing it as a crucial long-term investment for our province's future. For more detailed insights, please visit <https://saskschoolboards.ca/wp-content/uploads/Praxis-Economic-Impact-Analysis-of-Saskatchewan-School-Divisions-on-the-Provincial-Economy.pdf>.

Central to our mission is securing increased funding to support our teachers, staff, and classrooms, and to provide every student with the opportunity to excel, regardless of their location or personal circumstances. We advocate for funding that is delivered to school boards unconditionally and in a manner that is sufficient, sustainable, and predictable. This approach enables us to craft and implement local plans that address our specific needs and collaborate effectively with teachers, staff, students, parents, and families on our shared priorities.

We remain hopeful that the negotiating parties, the Saskatchewan Teachers' Bargaining Committee, and the Government Trustee Bargaining Committee, will find common ground and move towards an agreement that ensures stability for students and families. The Good Spirit School Division Board of Education will continue to advocate for long-term investment in education for the benefit of all students.

Sincerely,

Jaime Johnson  
Board Chair  
Good Spirit School Division Board of Education