

Board Development Topic: Arts & Athletics in GSSD

Date of Board Meeting:

March 28, 2024

Strategic Priority:

- High Quality Teaching and Learning
- Engagement of All Students, Families, and Communities
- Effective Policy and Procedures
- Healthy, Sustainable Physical & Social Environments

Quality Indicator(s):

QI 1.1 – Facilitating environments where students feel a sense of belonging and have high levels of intellectual engagement.

QI 7.2 – Keeping the Board informed about Division operations, challenges, and celebrations.

QI 10.1 – Representing the Division in a positive, professional manner.

Presented by:

Amanda Kornaga, GSSD Superintendent of Schools (Athletics)

Kristen Myers, Superintendent of Schools (Arts)

Information for the Board (10 fast facts):

Athletics:

1. Coaches from across our division attended module one of the Aboriginal Coaching Module (ACM). It was a good launching point as SHSAA moved towards increasing diversity awareness. More than 30 plus coaches from East Central received certification.
2. A coach's toolkit has been developed and is in draft form. Resources were shared by ECDAAs coaches and our athletics director. The toolkit has been designed to support new coaches evidence-based practices and administrative procedures.
3. There are many teams to celebrate this season already. Esterhazy, Kamsack and Yorkton Regional High School football teams all advanced to playoffs, the YRHS girls won bronze in soccer, the EHS boys captured gold and the sportsmanship banner at provincials, the YRHS hosted 5A girls' volleyball and curling provincials, and most recently, the Norquay girls and boys basketball teams won bronze at Hoopla and Preeceville won gold!
4. Dan Alspach is in his third year as the ECDAAs Athletic Director. The position has improved the communication and collaboration between GSSD, CTTCS, and ECDAAs. His position on the SHSAA board of directors has improved collaboration with the provincial association.
5. Upcoming events: The ECDAAs Spring AGM is on April 30, ECDAAs will host a track and field coaches clinic in May, and finally Esterhazy will host 3A volleyball provincials in November.

Arts:

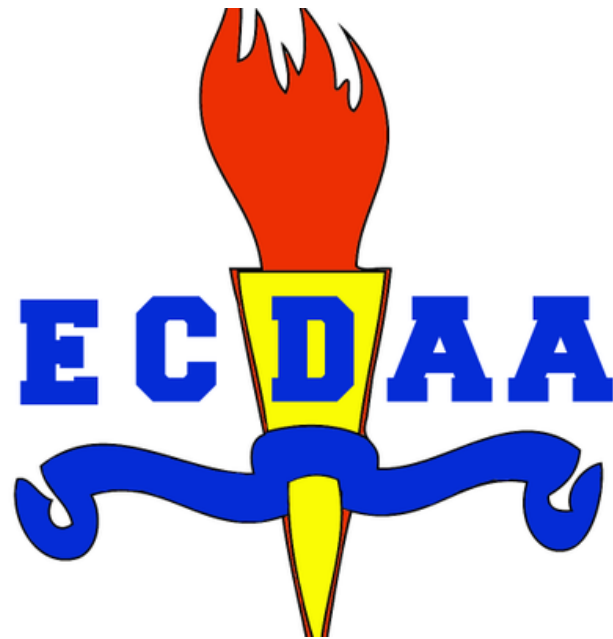
6. GSSD students participate in many curricular opportunities in the arts. In Kindergarten to Grade 9, Arts Education is one of the seven required areas of study. All students receive instruction in dance, drama, music, and visual art. Students in Grade 5 and up can also enroll in the band program. At Dr. Brass School, a performing arts academy and a visual art academy is offered for students in Grades 5-8. In high school, several arts electives are offered across GSSD including Dance, Drama, Visual Art, Band, Choral, and Instrumental Jazz. High school students require two credits in either Practical & Applied Arts or Arts Education to graduate.
7. GSSD students also participate in extra-curricular arts programs. Schools offer opportunities such as art club, drama club, improv, musical, choir, jazz band, guitar club, Indigenous cultural arts, and others.
8. Student artwork is displayed in rotation at the Good Spirit Education Complex. Every two months, teachers have the opportunity to submit student artwork for display. A variety of grade levels and schools are featured throughout the year.
9. Schools engage in many arts partnerships and events, including OSAC (Organization of Saskatchewan Arts Councils) School Tours, "Artists in Schools" grants, LIVE (Live Interactive Video Education) Arts, local performing arts festivals, Saskatchewan Drama Association Regional and Provincial Drama Festivals, Optimist Band Festival, Brandon University Jazz Festival, uSing uSask Choral (University of Saskatchewan), Saskatchewan Music Educators Association honour bands, and others. Recent accolades include the Yorkton Regional High School choir being selected to perform at the Yorkton Music Festival Hi-Lites Concert, Esterhazy High School Band being selected to perform at Musicfest Canada, and Esterhazy High School drama production winning the 2023 award for best overall performance at the provincial drama festival.
10. Many students continue to incorporate the arts into their lives after high school, through post-secondary and beyond. Students in various university and college programs can continue to participate in the arts (e.g., by enrolling in a drama elective, playing an instrument in the school band, etc.) Opportunities to participate in community theater, dance, band, choir, or art are plentiful in the Parkland region and beyond. A recent report published by the Saskatchewan Arts Alliance (2019) states that there is "an expressed connection between those who take arts education in school and the skills they bring to the workplace, including creativity, teamwork and perseverance," and that "arts education benefits students' overall well-being, including improved resilience, confidence, cognition, communication and self-understanding."

Respectfully submitted,

Quintin M. Robertson, Director/CEO
Good Spirit School Division

Fast Facts

Athletics



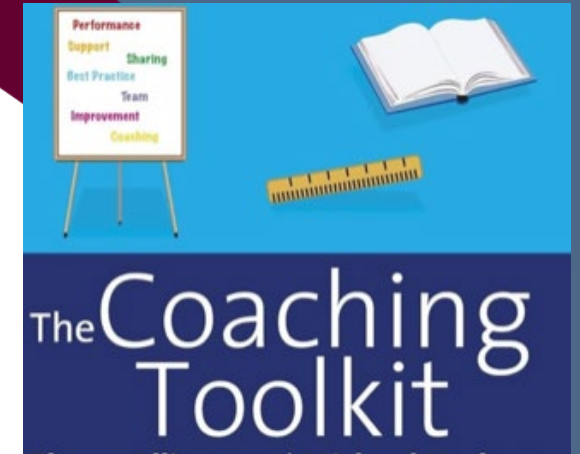
Growth

- Coaches from across our division attended module one of the Aboriginal Coaching Module (ACM). It was a good launching point as SHSAA moved towards increasing diversity awareness. More than 30 plus coaches from East Central received certification. Angella was of great support in providing valuable feedback that would enhance the course.



Development

- A Coach's Toolkit has been developed and is in a draft form. Resources were shared by ECDAAs Coaches and our athletics director. The primary goal of the toolkit is to provide new coaches with a starting point in terms of the administrative side of coaching.



Projects



Track upgrades including the re-surfacing of the Century Field Track and the building of a finish line tower are upcoming projects being targeted by ECDAA. Coordination between GSSD, ECDAA and the City of Yorkton will be required to move forward.



Celebrations



Football- Esterhazy, Kamsack and YRHS advanced to playoffs.

Soccer- YRHS Girls won Bronze.

Volleyball – EHS Boys captured gold and the sportsmanship banner at provincials

Curling – Yorkton hosted Regional curling. EHS Boys captured silver at provincials

Basketball - Norquay and Preeceville boys and girls teams qualified for Hoopla. Norquay girls and boys won Bronze. Preeceville girls won Gold.

Upcoming Events

ECDAAs Spring AGM on April 30th.

ECDAAs to host a Track and Field Coaches clinic in May.

Esterhazy to host 3A Boys Provincials in November 2024.





ECDAA Athletic Director



Dan Alspach is in his third year as the ECDAA Athletic Director. The position has improved the communication and collaboration between GSSD, CTTCS and ECDAA. His position on the SHSAA board of directors has been valuable in terms of accessing the provincial Association.

ECDAA President, Curtis Spelay, had this to say about Dan as the Athletic Director; "his work is vital to the running of all our activities and events that we host. The importance of his role in ECDAA can not be measured. Dan is always forward thinking and facilitating change and improvements in our District."

Gratitude



THANK YOU!

ECDAAs wishes to extend a huge "thank you" to the GSSD school board and division for the support of extra-curricular athletics. The funding, time supports and commitment allowing schools to provide quality opportunity for GSSD students does not go unnoticed and is greatly appreciated!

Questions

