

FEATURED BOARD MEMBER

BOB SIMPSON

About Bob Simpson

APRIL 2024

In the heart of Saskatchewan's educational landscape, Trustee Simpson has been a beacon of commitment, passion, and dedication. Starting his journey in 1975 as a teacher in Ituna, Simpson embarked on a mission not just to educate but to inspire and motivate young minds towards a healthy, active lifestyle, both physically and mentally. Simpson's career spans over three decades and is marked by notable achievements and positive impact on the communities he served.

Simpson's tenure in Ituna for eight years was filled with many contributions, not just in the classroom and sports field but also in the community. As president of the Ituna Golf Club Association, he played a role in the development of the clubhouse, now a central hub for social activities.

His leadership in organizing Ituna's first Zone 4 Winter Games stands as a testament to his ability to bring people together for a common cause. His dedication extended beyond his professional life, finding joy in coaching, participating in community sports, and being a proud family man involved in farming and building a home in Ituna.

Transitioning to Melville Comprehensive School in 1983, Simpson continued his passion for coaching and community service. His achievements include co-chairing the 1990 Saskatchewan Winter Games, winning five provincial championships in football and basketball, and volunteering on numerous boards, such as the Regional Park Board and golf committee. His efforts in organizing the Provincial Superannuated Teacher's Golf tournament in 2019 further marked his ongoing commitment to community and educational excellence.

Elected to the Good Spirit School Division (GSSD) Board in 2009, Simpson's leadership skills shone brightly as he served as Vice Chair and Chair, contributing significantly to strategic planning and the betterment of educational experiences. His approachability, understanding, and dedication have been key to fostering growth, cooperation, and success within GSSD. Under his guidance, the division saw improvements in facilities, the establishment of innovative programs, and a strengthened relationship with the community.

Reflecting on his career, Simpson's legacy is not just in the accolades or positions held but, in the lives, touched, the communities uplifted, and the positive changes enacted. As he looks back on his journey through education and community service, his message is clear: dedication, preparation, and passion are the hallmarks of making a difference. Simpson's story is a reminder of the impact one individual can have on many, embodying the principle that at the heart of education and community service lies the belief that students come first.



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What do you feel you bring to the Board table as a trustee?

I bring commitment and a desire to do all I can to make the educational experience of GSSD students the best it can be. I bring cooperation, understanding, responsibility, honesty and above all, dedication and passion. The success of GSSD through strategic planning for a successful future is very important to me.

What advice would you give to someone considering a role as a Board of Education Trustee?

My advice would be:

- To be prepared! Read all Board packages before meetings, follow policy, become totally immersed and invested- learn all you can so that you can make educated decisions.
- Attend professional development workshops, conferences, symposiums, etc. Knowledge is key!
- Learn about what is happening in other school divisions and across the country.
- Network with other board members.
- Bring back new, innovative ideas and concepts to GSSD. Ultimately this will only make GSSD better.
- Be on committees that are of interest so that contributing in that area will make for a better Board and school division as a whole.

Are there any specific experiences or moments from your time as a trustee that have been particularly meaningful or memorable?

I will firstly remember all the dedicated, past and present, people involved with GSSD and the wonderful relationships I have made. Working with so many dedicated professionals who believe students come first was an exceptional experience I will remember and think of often.

Another memory will be the Indigenous learning and experiences such as smudging ceremonies and circle gatherings I was able to take part in.

Other innovative initiatives such as hockey and dance academies in several GSSD schools will stand out for me.

My most valued memories will always be witnessing the hard work of past and present support staff, bus drivers, educational assistants, caretakers, teachers, principals, superintendents, CEO's and GSSD Board members. What a team! I like to feel I made a difference. I am so proud and thankful to have been a member of such a hardworking team who always remembers...

students come first!