

FROM THE BOARD

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE
APRIL 25, 2024, BOARD MEETING



GSSD.CA

April 25, 2024, Regular Meeting

The Regular Board meeting on April 25, 2024, was held at the Good Spirit Education Complex. The following trustees were present: Chairperson Jaime Johnson, Vice Chair Nicole Pohl, Jade Anderson, Christopher Balyski, Gord Gendur, Shannon Leson, Jan Morrison, Bob Simpson, Lois Smandych, Gilda Dokuchie 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, Miller School Principal Chad Lechner, and Davison School Principal Darla Nashiem.

Meeting Opening

Board Chair Johnson commenced the meeting at 10 am and Board Vice Chair 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.

Approval of Minutes

The meeting package included the minutes for the March 28, 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](#) | [March 28, 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 April 25, 2024.

Accountability Report

Forming Partnerships

Quintin Robertson, Director of Education, presented the accountability report on Forming Partnerships.

The Good Spirit School Division (GSSD) actively maintains and seeks to develop a wide array of strategic partnerships aimed at enhancing educational opportunities, community engagement, and professional development. These partnerships span various sectors and initiatives:



Educational and Facility Sharing: GSSD collaborates with Christ the Teacher School Division (CTTSD) for rural student transportation and improved sports facilities at Melville Comprehensive School. They also have space rental agreements with Suncrest College for educational and community use, including a community daycare.



Community and Cultural Engagement: GSSD collaborates with local organizations such as the Métis Nation of Saskatchewan, which oversees the Michif Early Learning Program, and the Yorkton Tribal Council, to enhance cultural education and provide advisory support.

Health and Wellbeing Initiatives: In collaboration with the Sunrise Health Authority, GSSD supports the Mental Health Capacity Building Initiative at Dr. Brass School. Additionally, Esterhazy High School hosts a nurse practitioner from the Saskatchewan Health Authority.

Academic and Athletic Support: Initiatives include educational services for the Mauler’s Hockey Team and funding an athletics director to support the East Central District Athletic Association through a partnership with CTTSD.

Safety and Prevention Programs: The Community Threat Risk Assessment and Support Protocol aims to create safer school environments through early intervention and violence prevention strategies.

Career and Skills Development: The Regina District Industry Education Council (RDIEC) connects students with future career paths in agriculture, trades, and health. The Y.E.S.S. program at Suncrest College offers skill training and work experience placements.

To view the accountability report in its entirety visit: [GSSD | Board | Board Meetings | Board Accountability Report – Forming Partnerships](#)



Board Development

Indigenous Cultural Events and Celebrations in the Good Spirit School Division

BOARD DEVELOPMENT

TOPIC: INDIGENOUS CULTURAL EVENTS & CELEBRATIONS
APRIL 25, 2024, REGULAR BOARD MEETING

Information for the Board - 10 Fast Facts

1. Research and Understand the Event: Prior to attending, familiarize yourself with the type of celebration you will be participating in, whether it is a Feast, Round Dance, Pow-wow, or any other cultural event. Understanding the significance and customs associated with the event demonstrates respect for the culture and traditions of the First Nations community.
2. Respect Traditional Gender Roles: In some First Nations communities, there may be specific seating arrangements based on gender. It is essential to respect these traditional customs. If unsure, you can inquire with event organizers or local knowledge keepers about appropriate seating arrangements.
3. Appropriate Attire: Consider wearing traditional attire if appropriate and respectful. For example, if attending a Pow wow, you might consider wearing a ribbon skirt or shirt, which holds cultural significance. However, if you are unsure about what to wear, it is best to ask the event organizers or local community members for guidance.
4. Bring a Gift: If your organization is hosting the event, you will want to honor those you have asked to come with a gift beyond a tobacco offering such as a blanket or it could be something symbolic or culturally significant, such as traditional artwork, food, or monetary. Again, if unsure, you can ask for guidance on appropriate gifts from event organizers or local community members.
5. Respect Sacred Items and Spaces: Many First Nations celebrations involve the use of sacred items and spaces. It is crucial to treat these with the utmost respect and reverence. Avoid touching or interfering with any sacred items unless invited to do so and be mindful of your behavior in sacred spaces.

STRATEGIC PRIORITY

EFFECTIVE POLICY AND PROCEDURES
HIGH IMPACT ON ALL INTERESTED PARTIES AND COMMUNITIES
HEALTHY, SUSTAINABLE, PHYSICAL AND SOCIAL ENVIRONMENT
HIGH QUALITY TEACHING AND LEARNING

6. Observe Protocols: Prior to attending the event, inquire about any specific protocols or customs that you should observe as a dignitary. This might include how to greet elders, appropriate conduct during ceremonies, or any other cultural practices that are important to the community.
7. Listen and Learn: Use the opportunity to listen and learn from members of the First Nations community. Be open to understanding their perspectives, traditions, and experiences. Respectfully engage in conversations and ask questions when appropriate, but also be mindful of not intruding or being insensitive.
8. Support Indigenous Businesses and Artisans: If there are vendors or artisans present at the event, consider supporting Indigenous businesses by purchasing their goods or artwork. This not only provides economic support but also helps to preserve and promote indigenous culture and traditions.
9. Respect Photography and Videography Guidelines: Before taking any photos or videos at the event, ensure that you are following any guidelines or protocols set forth by the organizers. Some ceremonies or performances may be considered sacred and not meant to be photographed or recorded.
10. Express Gratitude and Appreciation: At the conclusion of the event, express your gratitude and appreciation to the organizers, hosts, and members of the First Nations community for welcoming you and allowing you to participate in their celebration. A sincere thank you goes a long way in fostering positive relationships and mutual respect.

LEARNING WITHOUT LIMITS...ACHIEVEMENT FOR ALL

Angella Pinay, Superintendent of Indigenous Education, Robert Severight, Indigenous Cultural Advocate, and Andrew Qwezance, Kici-Anishinabe, presented the Board Development on Indigenous Cultural Events and Celebrations within the Good Spirit School Division. Before the presentation began, Quintin Robertson offered Robert and Andrew tobacco, a gift for their knowledge and sharing.

The board development was framed as a learning opportunity for the Board if they were to attend Indigenous Cultural Events and Celebrations. The report covered essential aspects such as researching the event, respecting traditional gender roles, choosing appropriate attire, and the significance of bringing gifts. Additional recommendations included respecting sacred items and spaces, observing local protocols, and engaging respectfully with community members.

The guidance also emphasized supporting Indigenous businesses, adhering to photography and videography protocols, and expressing gratitude to the hosts and organizers. Each of these points were explained to the Board with specific examples, such as participating in a

Pow-wow Grand Entry, understanding seating protocols at a Feast, and the appropriate handling of gifted items during a Round Dance.

At the conclusion of the presentation, the Board thanked Angella, Robert, and Andrew for their insights. They mentioned feeling more prepared and comfortable about participating in future events with a respectful understanding of the culture. Andrew wrapped up the session with a simple and important piece of advice for attending events... "Make sure to enjoy yourself!"

To access the full document of the 10 fast facts on Indigenous Cultural Events and Celebrations in GSSD, visit [GSSD | Board](#) | [Board Meetings](#) | [Board Development – Indigenous Cultural Events and Celebrations](#).

New Business

Preliminary Budget for 2024-2025

Keith Gervais, Chief Financial Officer, presented the preliminary budget for the 2024-2025 fiscal year, aiming to gather initial feedback from the Board ahead of a detailed examination at the special board meeting scheduled for May 23, 2024.

Keith detailed the increase in the operating grant for the Good Spirit School Division for the upcoming year and emphasized the importance of investing today's funds in today's students. He noted that the most substantial budget increase is allocated for instructional support, ensuring students receive the necessary resources in schools.

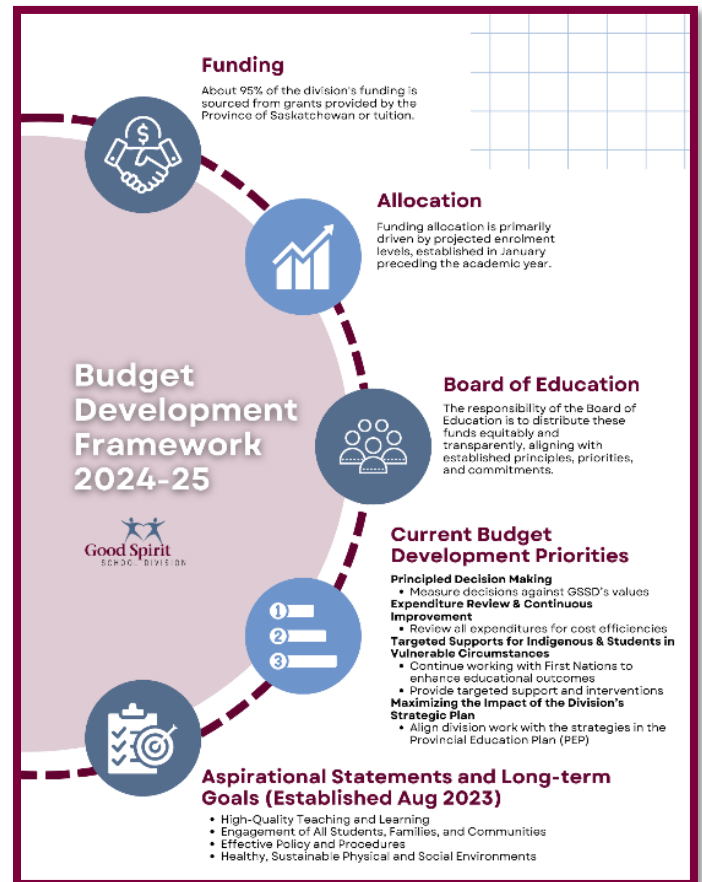
This presentation served as an excellent follow-up to the School Community Council Budget Feedback session held virtually on April 23, 2024. Before this board presentation, Administrative Council also discussed the budget with the presidents of the Good Spirit Teachers' Association (GSTA) and the Canadian Union of Public Employees (CUPE) on April 24, 2024. The budget process is designed to be highly collaborative, ensuring that the perspectives and inputs of various stakeholders are considered.

Once the budget is finalized, the Good Spirit School Division will make the details available for stakeholders to review.

Facilities 3-Year Preventative Maintenance and Renewal (PMR) Plan

Pat Morrison, Facilities Manager, presented the Facilities 3-Year PMR Plan at the recent board meeting.

The Board reviewed and approved the three-year Preventative Maintenance and Renewal (PMR) Plan for 2025-2026, 2026-2027, and 2027-2028, which is set to be submitted to the Ministry of Education Infrastructure Branch. The PMR Plan includes various projects such as architectural upgrades, mechanical and electrical system enhancements, and site improvements. Project prioritization is determined through inspections, facility requests, and comparative audits.



Policy Review

The Board reviewed Board Policy 3 Role of the Board Member, Board Policy 16 Student Transportation and its appendix, Policy 17 School Review and Policy 18 Community Partnerships. Minor revisions were made to each policy and the updated policies can now to be viewed on our website at [GSSD.ca](https://www.gssd.ca):

- [Policy 3 Role of the Board Member](#)
- [Policy 16 Student Transportation](#)
- [Policy 16 Appendix A Good Neighbour](#)
- [Policy 17 School Review](#)
- [Policy 18 Community Partnerships](#)

The updated Policies can be viewed on our website: [GSSD](https://www.gssd.ca) | [Board](#) | [Board Policy Handbook](#)

Director's Report

Transportation Update

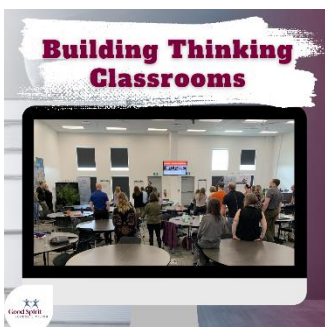
Ryan Hall, Transportation Manager, shared the latest Transportation Update with the Board.

Ryan began by highlighting that the Good Spirit School Division started the school year with 96 regular bus routes and plans to add two more by recruiting drivers in the Esterhazy and Yorkton areas, targeting a total of 98 routes. However, bus driver recruitment remains challenging, highlighted by a vacancy in the Kamsack area. Recent initiatives to boost recruitment include a \$500 incentive for new drivers after 10 days of driving and a \$250 referral bonus for current employees. Additionally, the division completed a tender for new buses in December 2023, with six buses expected by early May.

Financial Update

Keith Gervais, Chief Financial Officer, provided the Board with the latest Financial Update. Revenues are tracking very closely to the budget projections. Facilities is expected to exceed budget due to additional Preventative Maintenance and Renewal (PMR) projects, such as roofing and school upgrades, which will be funded from the PMR reserve. There were no significant variances to report. Keith also emphasized Ryan's update that new buses are expected to arrive in early May. The GSSD team will then prepare them for use in the upcoming school year.

Professional Development Opportunities



Quintin Robertson, the Director of Education/CEO, provided an update on the professional development (PD) initiatives for the current school year, highlighting that over 40 sessions have taken place. Noteworthy sessions that occurred in April included Building Thinking Classrooms led by Kyle Webb and Mental Health First Aid Training. Information about the PD sessions conducted in March and April of 2024 will be featured in the Good Spirit School Division's March/April In Focus Media Release.

Good Spirit School Division is hiring...
SCHOOL BUS DRIVERS

GSSD has introduced a Signing Bonus of
\$500
paid to any new driver after the 10th day of driving.

For more information contact:
transportation@gssd.ca or call 306-786-5505

Learning Without Limits... Achievement For All

Administrative Procedures

The Board was informed of the Administrative Procedures that have undergone revision and review since the Regular Board Meeting on March 28, 2024. These procedures are now available on the [GSSD website](#):

- [AP 201 - Curriculum \(Updated April 2024\)](#)
- [AP 217 - Special Project Credit \(updated February 2024\)](#)
 - [FORM 217-1 - Special Credit Project Proposal Template](#)
 - [FORM 217-2 - Special Project Roles and Responsibilities \(New April 2024\)](#)
 - [FORM 217-3 - Characteristics of Effective Special Project Credits \(New April 2024\)](#)
 - [FORM 217-4 - Special Project Daily Log \(New April 2024\)](#)
- [AP 218 - Secondary Student Credit Requirements \(Updated April 2024\)](#)
- [AP 270 - Selection and Development of Learning Resources \(updated April 2024\)](#)

Conclusion

School Community Councils and Celebrations

Board member Anderson shared her experience as a judge at the Grade 8 science fair in her community, praising the students for their intellectual and engaging presentations.

Board member Pohl updated that the Springside School Community Council (SCC) is meeting regularly, and she is looking forward to participating in an upcoming learning walk they are organizing.

Board member Variyan reported that the Columbia SCC has started their educational journey by watching the first module on SCCs, aiming for ongoing learning and collaboration.

Board member Johnson acknowledged the successful participation of her schools at Hoopla. She highlighted the pep rally held at Norquay School on Thursday, April 25, 2024, noting its positive impact on students and players. She also highlighted the community's support for a Norquay teacher. The Student Representative Council (SRC) is selling bracelets, with all proceeds being donated to the Cancer Foundation of Saskatchewan.

To conclude the celebrations, Quintin Robertson spoke about his attendance at the Preeceville pep rally alongside Board Member Balyski and Superintendent of Schools Shaune Beatty. During the assembly, service recognition awards for staff were also given out and celebrated. He described the atmosphere as electric and the experience as tremendously positive.



Upcoming Important Dates

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 9, 2024

Deadline for Board of Education Nominations

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.

November 13, 2024

Municipal/Board Elections

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

Follow us on Facebook and Instagram to Stay Up to Date on the Latest Celebrations and News from the Division

FEATURED LEADER
ISABELLA KULAK
APRIL 2024

Isabella Kulak has recently achieved an extraordinary honor: The Jim Brady Medal of Excellence!

"My advice for others wanting to make a positive change is to not let anyone change who you are or decide your future for you."
Isabella Kulak



Good Spirit School Division

FEATURED ATHLETE
STEPHAN ROY
APRIL 2024



Stephan's passion for skiing began at the age of 5, and he joined the Assesippi race team shortly after celebrating his 7th birthday.

Last year, Stephan received an exclusive invitation to participate in the Canada Winter Games as part of Team Manitoba.




This year, his skill on the slopes caught the attention of Team Canada, who invited him to try out for the Ski Cross events at both the Youth Olympic Games and the Junior Worlds.

Stephan's multifaceted athletic journey illustrates a true love for sports, leaving his mark in the world of competitive athletics!

Good Spirit School Division

FEATURED ARTIST
RYDER NYSTEDT
APRIL 2024

Ryder's work reflects an impressive attention to detail and a commitment to capturing realism in human portraits. His dedication to his craft as a student, as he continually hones his skills and seeks improvement in every medium and subject he explores.

Good Spirit School Division

Upcoming Board Meetings: 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

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 [Good Spirit School Division 204](#)

Students Come First.