

FROM THE BOARD

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE
AUGUST 15, 2024, BOARD MEETING



GSSD.CA

August 15, 2024, Regular Meeting

The Regular Board meeting on August 15, 2024, was held at the Good Spirit Education Complex. The following trustees were present: Chairperson Jaime Johnson, 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, Communications Coordinator Lauren Denysek, and Superintendent of Schools Shaune Beatty.

Meeting Opening

Board Chair Johnson commenced the meeting at 10 am and 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 June 13, 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](#) | [June 13, 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.

Accountability Report

Offering Safe & Inviting Facilities Report

Pat Morrison, Facilities Manager, Shaune Beatty, Superintendent of Schools and Amanda Kornaga, Superintendent of Schools, presented the accountability report.

Facilities Manager Pat Morrison highlighted that the Good Spirit School Division prioritizes student safety and well-being in its facility management, using Preventative



Maintenance and Renewal (PMR) funding to ensure safe and inviting environments. Key projects include upgrades to building envelopes, HVAC and electrical systems, life safety systems, and exteriors, all aimed at enhancing temperature control, air quality, and overall safety. A recent 2-year safety management system project improved local Occupational Health Committee (OHC) support, incident reporting, and safety monitoring. Future strategies focus on expanding school surveillance, enhancing workplace safety audits, and improving facilities monitoring systems.

Shaune Beatty, Superintendent of Schools, presented key updates on the divisional safety plans, emphasizing the importance of aligning practices with AP165 Safe Schools and its appendices. These include crisis response, traumatic event responses, and a multidisciplinary approach to assessment, prevention, and intervention (Violent Threat Risk Assessment, VTRA). An audit revealed improvements in the VTRA processes, now more inclusive and culturally informed, with a shift towards using terms like ARTO (Assessment of Risk to Others) and IOC (Individual of Concern). GSSD has taken a leadership role in VTRA, expanding its trainer diversity and community involvement, with significant increases in completed assessments. Future strategies include annual reviews with staff and the release of educational videos on safety and VTRA processes, with support from community initiatives.



Amanda Kornaga, Superintendent of Schools, presented on initiatives aimed at enhancing student well-being in the Good Spirit School Division. The focus is on increasing students' sense of belonging, safety, and connection by aligning the division's efforts with the four pillars of comprehensive school community health: High Quality Teaching and Learning, Engagement of All Students, Families, and Communities, Effective Policy and Procedures, and Healthy, Sustainable Physical and Social Environments. Key initiatives include creating mental health resources for K-12, strengthening support services like counseling, revising policies for inclusivity, and promoting respect and diversity. Future strategies involve staff training on mental health literacy, further development of Social Emotional Learning, and updates to facility analysis and emergency response guides.

To view the accountability report in its entirety visit: [GSSD](#) | [Board](#) | [Board Meetings](#) | [Board Accountability Report – Offering Safe & Inviting Facilities](#)

Safety Presentation

Aimee Smith, Tim Hosaluk, and Sandra Cripps from the Saskatchewan Association for Safe Workplaces in Health presented their collaborative safety work with the Good Spirit School Division (GSSD). The primary goal was to reduce injury rates over two years, starting in 2022, and by 2024, there was a significant decrease in lost-time injuries. The team developed resources that will remain useful beyond the project, attended 96% of Occupational Health Committee meetings across GSSD, and updated safety policies and training. They expressed gratitude to the division's staff for their efforts and emphasized the ongoing commitment to supporting schools as new safety standards are implemented, aiming to sustain the momentum in promoting safety throughout the division.

It has been a busy two years!



-  Management and Leadership
-  Hazard Identification and Control
-  Training and Communication
-  Inspections
-  Incident Reporting and Investigation
-  Emergency Response

Board Development

Role of the Consultant

Information for the Board - 10 Fast Facts

- Consultants within the Good Spirit School Division report directly to the Superintendent of Learning and are responsible for the following three categories with general responsibilities:
 - Student Services Consultants:**
 - Coordinating student support teachers and their school teams
 - Screening of Professional Service Providers and contracted external service providers
 - Coordination of educational assistance offering responsive instruction, including the use of the Adaptive Dimension
 - Reducing or eliminating barriers to learning
 - Individual intervention Plans
 - Coordination for schools and families with partner agencies
 - Curriculum Consultants:**
 - Coordination of PreK-12 curriculum implementation
 - Implementation of high yielding practices in instruction and assessment
 - Curriculum requests
 - Task and 2 intervention
 - Library funding
 - Transitioning students to post-secondary opportunities
 - Digital Learning Consultants:**
 - Leading and supporting end users with technology integration for staff role
 - Support staff with effectively implementing the use of technology to leverage learning and meet student needs
 - Classification of all online subscriptions, education software, and learning management systems
- Consultants possess in depth knowledge of educational best practices and current trends within their area of study. Many have a master's degree in an education-related discipline and several years of experience in their educational environment prior to becoming a consultant. Consultants are expected to continue to engage in professional development and training to stay current in their role.
- All consultants provide educational leadership within the school division through classroom visits, modeling, team meetings, supporting professional learning communities, developing support material, and covering critical operational development.
- Manages finances within their area of responsibility is crucial. This involves maintaining internal financial controls, ensuring value for money in expenditures and procuring resources.
- Consultants may have direct supervisory responsibilities of other school division personnel such as professional service providers while others support in school administrators with the supervision of employees such as educational assistants and library technicians.
- Part of the consultant's work includes reviewing, updating, and developing administrative procedures within the school division in aligning their practices with these procedures. In the past two school years, the Education Services team has updated over 10 APs, Forms, and Job Descriptions. Consultants were instrumental in this work.
- The consultants serve as a liaison between schools and Ed. Council providing updates on initiatives and practices currently implemented and supported in schools while also providing feedback and guidance on how to continue meeting the diverse needs of our schools.
- Consultants support and implement the Provincial Education Plan and GSSD's strategic plan through the development and implementation of activities that align with the provincial and division plans within their area of responsibility. This includes collecting, analyzing, and reporting on data to determine the impact of their activities on student growth and achievement. Consultants meet regularly with the Superintendent of Learning to review work plans and data.
- The consultants support the Superintendent of Learning with ensuring that the Good Spirit School Division is compliant with legal and ministerial mandates.
- Ultimately, the role of the consultants is to support senior leadership, in-school administrators, classroom teachers, and para-professionals in ensuring students can meet the standards of education set by the Ministry.

LEARNING WITHOUT LIMITS...ACHIEVEMENT FOR ALL

Lisa Wotherspoon, Superintendent of Learning, presented the Board Development on the Role of Consultants.

Consultants within the Good Spirit School Division, reporting directly to the Superintendent of Learning, play vital roles in supporting student services, curriculum implementation, and digital learning. They coordinate and supervise various educational and support staff, implement high-yield instructional practices, integrate technology in learning, and manage financials within their area of responsibility. These consultants possess extensive knowledge and experience in educational best practices, often holding advanced degrees. They provide leadership through classroom visits, team meetings, and professional development, while also managing administrative procedures and aligning school practices with division policies. Additionally, they support the Provincial Education Plan and GSSD's strategic plan, ensuring compliance with legal and ministerial mandates.

To access the full document of the 10 fast facts visit [GSSD](#) | [Board](#) | [Board Meetings](#) | [Board Development – Role of the Consultant](#)

Click here to enlarge the image!

Advocacy Session

Good Spirit Education Complex Employees

The Board of Education hosted a lunch for the 12-month employees of the Good Spirit Education Complex, bringing together staff from departments such as administration, payroll, accounting, facilities, transportation, technology services, and human resources. This gathering provided an opportunity for employees to reconnect and showcase their essential roles within the school division. The Board expressed heartfelt gratitude for the hard work and dedication these employees bring, often behind the scenes, and acknowledged the critical support they provide.



New Business

Review Results from the Preliminary Board Evaluation Survey & Develop a Positive Path Forward

Each year, the GSSD Board of Education completes a survey to inform the development of the Positive Path Forward plan, which outlines goals and initiatives to enhance Board functioning. The Board self-evaluation process helps answer key questions about Board roles, relationships, communication, adherence to plans and policies, accomplishments, and areas for improvement. This evaluation involves reviewing Board role performance, work plan completion, interpersonal relationships, Board-Director relations, and Board motions. The process concludes with creating a Positive Path Forward plan to ensure continuous improvement and alignment with the division's strategic goals. Over the summer, Board

members completed their Annual Board Survey, and during the August 15, 2024, meeting, a collaborative Positive Path Forward was created.

Policy Review

The Board reviewed Board Policy 1 Foundational Statements, and Board Policy 2 Appendix A Annual Work Plan. The approved and updated policies can now to be viewed on our website at [GSSD.ca](https://www.gssd.ca):

- [Board Policy 1 Foundational Statements](#)
- [Board Policy 2 Appendix A Annual Work Plan](#)

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



Director's Report

Transportation Update



Keith Gervais, Chief Financial Officer, shared the latest Transportation Update with the Board. The reporting period was from April 16, 2024, to August 15, 2024.

The Good Spirit School Division will start the year with 97 regular bus routes, aiming to expand to 98 with driver recruitment in the Esterhazy area. Staffing challenges persist, but efforts are underway to ensure all routes have permanent drivers for the 2024-25 school year. Contract negotiations with CUPE bus drivers are ongoing, and a recent bus tender resulted in new buses, including a wheelchair-capable vehicle. The Transportation department has seen increased driver applications due to new recruitment incentives. Upcoming activities include driver in-service meetings, 15-passenger van training, and updates on bus standards from the Canadian Pupil Transportation Conference. All buses and fleet vehicles have undergone thorough summer maintenance and inspections.

Financial Update

Keith Gervais, Chief Financial Officer, presented the Board with the latest financial update, confirming that the financials are on track, reflecting effective budget management. As the division is nearing the end of the fiscal year, with 11 out of 12 months completed, the accounting team is actively preparing for year-end. Some financial adjustments are attributed to the addition of the new Superintendent of Indigenous Education position and other staffing changes. Keith assured the Board that there are no major concerns at this time.

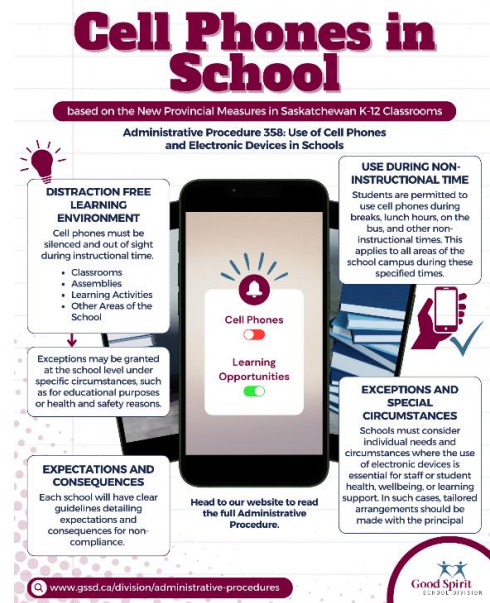
Professional Development Opportunities

A comprehensive list of professional development opportunities for the 2024-25 year was presented to the Board, highlighting a strong commitment to continuous learning and growth within the division. The first session is scheduled for August 22, welcoming all new professional staff to the Good Spirit Education Complex for a day of orientation and introduction to the division's culture and expectations. Throughout the year, over 25 professional development sessions are already planned, covering crucial topics such as instructional training, Violent Threat Risk Assessment (VTRA), anti-racist training, and more. These opportunities are designed to equip staff with the knowledge and skills necessary to foster a supportive and inclusive learning environment for all students and staff.

Administrative Procedures

The Board was informed of the Administrative Procedures that have undergone revision and review since the Regular Board Meeting on June 13, 2024. These procedures are now available on the [GSSD website](#):

- [AP 230- Home Based Education](#)
- [240 Distance Learning \(Updated July 2024\)](#)
- [226 Engagement of First Nations and Métis Elders, Traditional Knowledge Keepers, and Elders' Helper](#)
- [226-Appendix A Expense Voucher - Elders and Knowledge Keepers' Program](#)
- [AP 358 Use of Cell Phone and Electronic Devices in Schools](#)



Upcoming Important Dates

August 29, 2024	Public Section Table Officers' Meeting – via Zoom, 9:00-10:30 am
September 2, 2024	Labour Day
September 3, 2024	First day of School
September 5, 2024	Public Section Executive (only) Meeting – via Zoom, 9:00-10:30 am
September 13, 2024	Music Education Day
September 15-21, 2024	Early Childhood Intervention program Week
September 19, 2024	Public Section Executive Meeting – via Zoom, 9:00–10:30 am
September 26, 2024	Board Chairs Council – In-person, Regina, 1:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.
September 30, 2024	Orange Shirt Day
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 7-12, 2024	School Sport Week in Saskatchewan
October 9, 2024	Board of Education Nomination Deadline
October 10, 2024	Regular Board Meeting
October 14, 2024	Thanksgiving Day
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 21-27, 2024	Award Awareness Week
October 31, 2024	Deadline for Resolutions (for the AGM) - 4:30 p.m.
November 11, 2024	Remembrance Day
November 13, 2024	Board Election Day
November 18, 2024	Orientation Day
November 21, 2024	Regular Board Meeting & Organizational Meeting
November 24-30, 2024	Education Week – <i>"Learning is a Journey"</i>
November 25, 2024	School Bus Driver Appreciation Day
December 1, 2024	Board Chairs Council Meeting – In-person before Fall Assembly, Regina
December 1, 2024	Public Section Annual General Meeting, Time TBD, Delta Hotel, Regina
December 1-3, 2024	Fall General Assembly and AGM – Delta Hotel, Regina

December 12, 2024	Regular Board Meeting
December 25, 2024	Christmas Day
January 1, 2025	Happy New Year!
January 30, 2025	Regular Board Meeting
February 13, 2025	Public Section Executive Meeting – via Zoom, 9:00-10:30 am
February 27, 2025	Regular Board Meeting
March 27, 2025	Regular Board Meeting
April 3, 2025	Public Section Executive Meeting, Time TBD, Sheraton Cavalier Hotel, Saskatoon
April 24, 2025	Regular Board Meeting
May 22, 2025	Special Board Meeting
June 5 & 6, 2025	Public Section General Meeting & Professional Development Event, Location & Times TBD
June 12, 2025	Regular Board Meeting
August 13, 2025	Evaluation & Special Board Meeting
August 14, 2025	Regular Board Meeting

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Upcoming Board Meetings: October 10/24, November 21/24, December 12/24, January 30/25, February 27/25, March 27/25, April 24/25, May 22/25 - Special Board Meeting, June 12/25, August 13/25 - Evaluation & Special Board Meeting, August 14/25

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:

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Students Come First.