

FROM THE BOARD

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE
OCTOBER 10, 2024, BOARD MEETING



GSSD.CA

October 10, 2024, Regular Meeting

The Regular Board meeting on October 10, 2024, was held at the Good Spirit Education Complex. The following trustees were present: Chairperson Jaime Johnson, Jade Anderson, Christopher Balyski, Shannon Leson, Jan Morrison, Bob Simpson, Lois Smandych, 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 August 15, 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](#) | [August 15, 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 was one delegation.

Accountability Report

Reporting on Kindergarten Readiness

Lisa Wotherspoon, Superintendent of Learning, provided an update on Kindergarten readiness, emphasizing GSSD's target to achieve a 2% increase in Kindergarten exit readiness by June 2025, reaching 83%. Currently, 81% of students are exiting Kindergarten meeting developmental expectations, a notable improvement from the 55% readiness level upon entry—representing a 26% gain. This result is

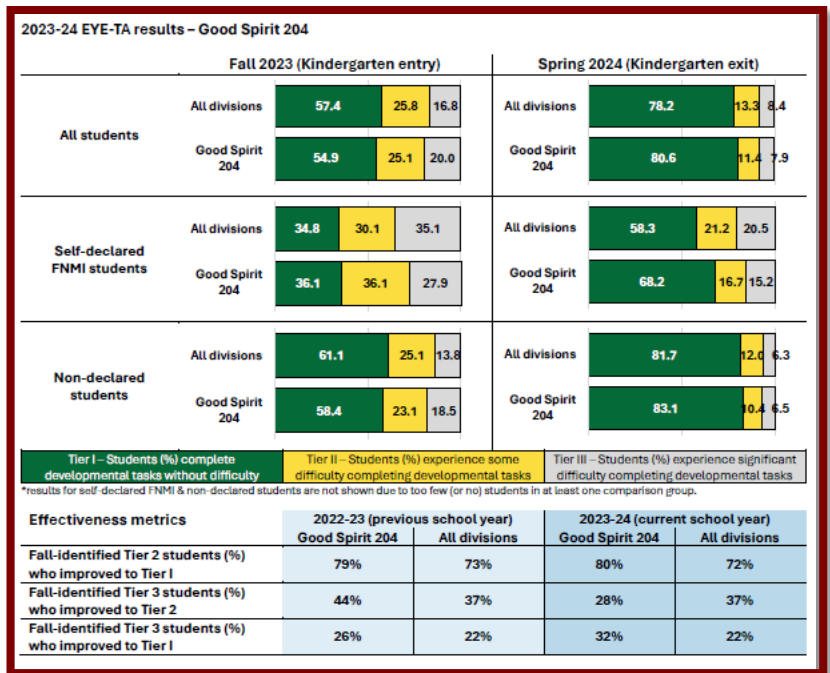


slightly above the provincial average of 78%. While 90% of students meet expectations across most developmental areas, 87% are meeting cognitive skill benchmarks.

For First Nations, Métis, and Inuit (FNMI) students, 68% exited Kindergarten demonstrating appropriate skill development, a substantial increase from 36% upon entry in Fall 2023—a 32% improvement.

Lisa commended the Early Years team for their ongoing efforts to improve Kindergarten readiness. Key strategies contributing to this success include:

- Targeted Early Learning Data Discussions
- Professional Development for PreK and Kindergarten Teachers
- Culturally Inclusive Learning Kits
- Enhanced Family Engagement



Future plans include piloting new math resources, expanding language programs, and strengthening partnerships with community organizations.

Additionally, PreK-Grade 3 teachers and administrators have engaged in three professional development sessions with Dr. George Georgiou and Dr. Kierstead in 2024 focusing on Early Literacy and the Science of Reading.

This year’s initiatives will also focus on intentional family engagement events aligned with Early Years Evaluation (EYE) targets. In November, during student-led conferences, teachers will review fall EYE data with parents to promote understanding and collaboration.

For a more comprehensive overview, please refer to the full report linked below. To view the accountability report in its entirety visit: [GSSD](#) | [Board](#) | [Board Meetings](#) | [Board Accountability Report – Kindergarten Readiness](#)

New Business

Policy Review

The Board reviewed Board Policy 1 Foundational Statements, Board Policy 2 Role of the Board, Board Policy 2 Appendix A Annual Work Plan, and Board Policy 8 Appendix C Indigenous Advisory Committee Terms of Reference. There were no changes to Board Policy 1 & 2 and there were minor edits to Board Policy 2 Appendix A Annual Work Plan and Board Policy 8 Appendix C Indigenous Advisory Committee Terms of Reference.:

- [Board Policy 1 Foundational Statements](#)
- [Board Policy 2 Role of the Board](#)
- [Board Policy 2 Appendix A Annual Work Plan](#)
- [Board Policy 8 Appendix C Indigenous Advisory Committee Terms of Reference](#)

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

Director's Report

Review Public Friendly Strategic Plan

The Board received the Parent and Public Strategic Plan for the upcoming 2024-25 School Year to review. The plan is a comprehensive document outlining selected work plans for key focus areas that will guide the Division's efforts throughout the year. This annual adaptation and review of the Strategic Plan ensures the Division's commitment to staying responsive and aligning its goals with the evolving needs of students, parents, and the community. The report is now published and can be viewed on our website: [GSSD](#) | [Media Room](#) | [2024-25 Strategic Plan Public Friendly](#)

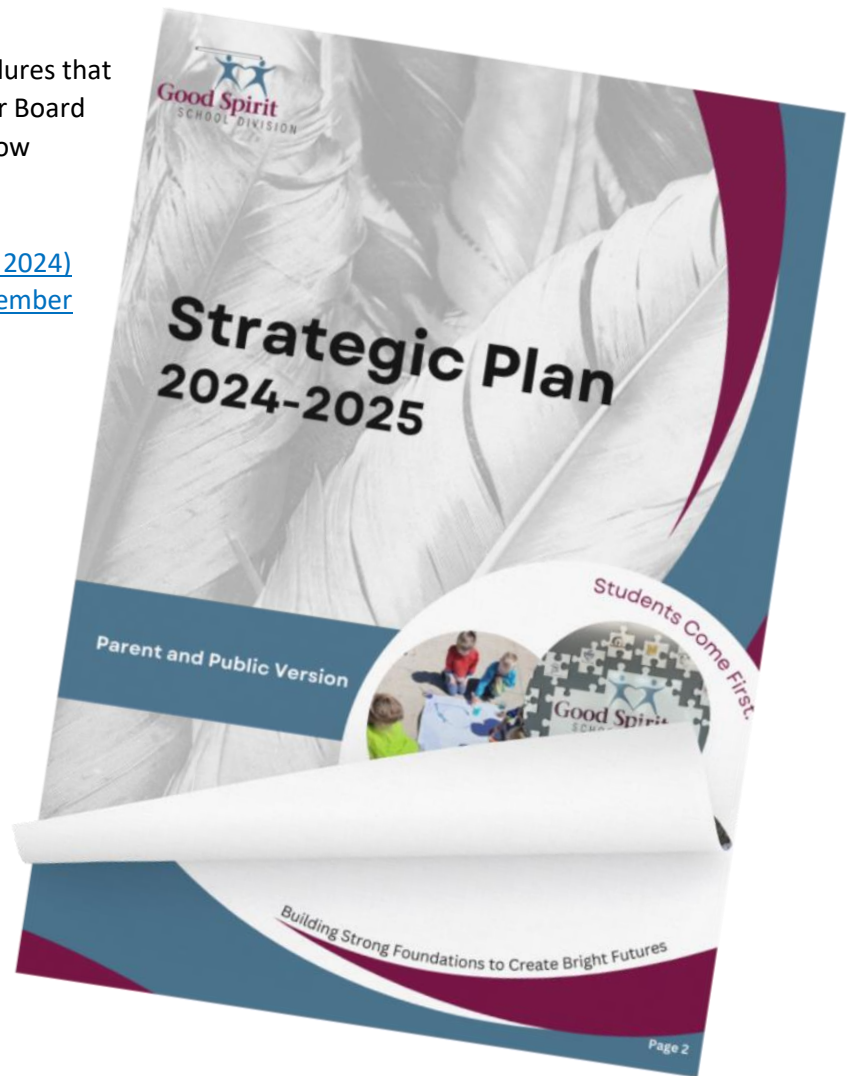
Professional Development Opportunities

The 2024 school year is off to a fantastic start, with over 25 professional development sessions already completed! From Early Literacy and Outcome-Based Assessment to Blended Learning, August, September, and early October have been packed with valuable learning opportunities. GSSD staff and trustees have explored topics like Mental Health Literacy, Dance Workshops, Edsby, Anti-Racist Training, and much more. All of these sessions will be highlighted in the upcoming release of the September & October 2024 edition of In Focus—stay tuned!

Administrative Procedures

The Board was informed of the Administrative Procedures that have undergone revision and review since the Regular Board Meeting on August 15, 2024. These procedures are now available on the [GSSD website](#):

- [215-App Physical Activity Safety Manual \(July 2024\)](#)
- [AP 253 - Special Project Credit \(updated September 2024\)](#)
- [AP 251 - Apprenticeship Credits \(Developed September 2024\)](#)
- [AP 361 - Student Progress and Placement \(Updated September 2024\)](#)
- [AP 361-2 FORM - Grade Placement \(Updated September 2024\)](#)
- [AP 412 - Supervision and Evaluation of Professional Staff \(Updated September 2024\)](#)
- [AP 429 - Indigenous Membership Citizenship Verification For Recruitment \(Developed September 2024\)](#)
- [AP 429 App A - Indigenous Membership Citizenship Verification For Recruitment Types Of Approved Documents \(Developed September 2024\)](#)
- [AP 513 App B - Flex Time for Educational Assistants \(Updated September 2024\)](#)



Closing Items

School Community Councils & Celebration

To close the meeting in a celebratory manner, trustees shared updates and reflections on their schools and communities:

Trustee Johnson highlighted the schools in Norquay and Kamsack, emphasizing the incredible family engagement and back-to-school events that have taken place so far.

Trustee Morrison expressed her excitement to attend her first Yorkton Regional High School Thanksgiving Feast on Friday, October 12, 2024. She noted that this event is always a highlight for both the school and the community, bringing delicious food and meaningful engagement for all.

Trustee Pohl praised Yorkdale Central School for the success of their recent book fair and BBQ, which created a buzz of excitement. She also mentioned the new Indigenous gardens and the vibrant atmosphere felt throughout the building. Trustee Pohl highlighted the Grade 4/5 Track Meet, sharing that she'd happily risk a sunburn in September for such an amazing event. She also noted that both she and Trustee Simpson enjoyed presenting medals at the event.

Trustee Balyski shared his experience attending the first "Friday Night Lights" football game in Preeceville, commending the community sponsorship and support for the event. He also received positive feedback on the recent renovations at his schools.

Trustee Anderson attended School Community Council meetings at all three of her schools. She mentioned the high level of interest in elections and the positive energy surrounding various events like pancake breakfasts, BBQs, and parent engagement activities.

Trustee Simpson bid farewell to Grayson School, reflecting on its vibrancy and the many exciting projects happening in his schools. As he said his goodbyes, Trustee Simpson reminisced about key memories, including the opening of the Good Spirit Education Complex. Lastly, he commended the Division for its visibility and transparency throughout his time on the Board.

Upcoming Important Dates

***Note: Board meeting dates are subject to change following the November 13th Election**

October 7-12, 2024	School Sport Week in Saskatchewan
October 13-19, 2024	Saskatchewan Library Week
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 21-25, 2024	Media Literacy Week



A heartfelt thank you to Trustees Jade Anderson, Lois Smandych, Gilda Dokuchie, Gord Gendur and Bob Simpson, who won't be returning for the next term. Your impacts and dedication do not go unnoticed. You're amazing!

Missing from photo: Gilda Dokuchie, Gord Gendur

October 21-27, 2024	Award Awareness Week
October 23, 2024	Digital Citizen Day
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 for New Trustees
November 21, 2024	Regular Board Meeting & Organizational Meeting
November 24-30, 2024	Education Week – <i>“Learning is a Journey” Apprendre est une aventure!</i>
November 25, 2024	School Bus Driver Appreciation Day
December 1, 2024	Board Chairs Council Meeting – In-person before Fall Assembly, Regina, timing TBD - Directors are invited to this meeting
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 23, 2025	Regular Board Meeting
January 30 & 31, 2025	SSBA School for New Trustees - Saskatoon
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

Upcoming Board Meetings: November 21/24, December 12/24, January 23/25, 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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 [Good Spirit School Division 204](#)

Students Come First.