

Board Present In-person: Chair D. Boyko; Vice-Chair T. Jelinski; Trustees M. Christopher, K. Day, B. Elliott, O. Fortosky, F. Possberg, M. Raney and S. Zakreski-Werbicki.

Executive In-person: Director of Education F. Rivard; Chief Financial Officer/Deputy Director J. Lloyd; Superintendents K. Cardinal, T. Fradette, L. Giocoli Clark, T. Hickey, K. Kowal, S. Gessler, T. Shircliff, J. Vangool and R. Martin.

Resources: Communications Consultant, D. Kunz; Executive Assistant to the Director of Education and Corporate Governance Advisor, B. Cutts;

Invited Guests: Coordinator, D. Lich

Attendance Notes: One trustee seat is vacant at the time of this meeting.

The meeting was called to order by Chair Boyko at 1:34 p.m. and began by acknowledging that we are on Treaty 6 Territory, traditional territories of First Nations including Cree, Dene, Nakota, Lakota, Dakota and Saulteaux, and homeland of the Métis Nation. We pay our respect to the First Nation and Métis ancestors of this place, and we reaffirm our relationship with one another in the spirit of Reconciliation.

The opening prayer was led by Trustee F. Possberg.

Adoption of Agenda

Motion: Moved by Trustees M. Raney and M. Christopher, that the agenda be approved as circulated.

All in favour/none opposed/no abstention

CARRIED

UNANIMOUS

Declaration of Conflict of Interest

- The Chair called for any declaration of conflict of interest based on the materials provided for this meeting. One conflict of interest was noted, pertaining to a Committee of the Whole agenda item. Based on discussions and board agreement, Trustee K. Day will step out of the meeting for the discussion on the agenda item.

Approval of Minutes

- The Chair called for the approval of the minutes of the November 24, 2025 meeting, as presented.

Motion: Moved by Trustees B. Elliott and S. Zakreski-Werbicki, that the minutes of the regular meeting of November 24, 2025 be adopted as circulated.

All in favour/none opposed/no abstention

CARRIED

UNANIMOUS

Consent Items

- The Chair called for the approval of the consent agenda items, noted as containing two items for approval, being 1) Out of Province Learning Activities; and the 2) Out of Scope Remuneration information provided to the board.
- No questions or comments arose regarding the consent agenda items.

Motion: Moved by Trustees O. Fortosky and K. Day that the consent agenda items be received and that any/all recommendations within be approved as presented:

All in favour/none opposed/no abstention

CARRIED

UNANIMOUS

Discussion/Decision

6.1 Area of Focus: Religious Education

- The Religious Education Area of Focus Report was provided by Superintendent T. Hickey and Coordinator, D. Lich. The report outlined the ongoing work for Religious Education during the period of November 2024 through to November 2025, and highlighted the areas of priority that have moved forward.
 - A presentation was provided that outlined GSCS board priority areas in alignment with the religious education program goals and rationale.
 - The priority key areas were detailed in each of the following areas:
 - Teaching and Learning in Religious Education;
 - Staff and student faith formation;
 - Community of Faith;
 - Justice and Peace; and
 - Pastoral and Board priorities this supports.
 - Highlighted was the ongoing work over the past year to equip staff and students with high quality resources.
 - An update was provided on the Byzantine Rite, which also highlighted the continued updating of resources.
 - The additional staff support transition from a .5 full time equivalent (FTE) position to a 1.0 FTE has increased support for staff and student formation; teachers and staff are at the heart of Catholic education.
 - The Formation Framework and the Four Stages of a Christian Journey were provided and explained, along with the rationale for choosing this framework.
 - The Chair called for any questions or comments on the report, presentation or materials provided. Discussions on the catechism of the church and the guidance and direction provided to teachers to convey this asked for further information from administration.
 - Responses from administration confirmed that all of the schools have access to the catechism, through various access points on the internal website.
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- Trustees asked for confirmation of the process when the division is made aware or matters that seem out of alignment. Details were provided on the good communication process for families in connecting with the appropriate staff and sequence of steps, along with the supports provided with the process.
- Further discussions were had on faith formation as a core priority.
- Trustees requested to receive guideline documents that would be provided for teacher chaplains and teachers. Administration confirmed these documents are currently under review and will be brought to the board once completed.
- Trustees asked questions regarding the Tragic Events Response Team and how they are supported to respond to challenging situations. Details were provided on the process which includes a point of decompressing for the team. The supports were outlined which included access to the Employee Family Assistance Program (EFAP) as needed. The religious education portal also has resources for wellbeing, available to all.
- Mass etiquette was discussed, with Trustees suggesting supports and education for students and staff to ensure a continuity of practice in alignment with church teachings when attending school and division masses.
- The work and leadership of the Together in Faith and Action (TFAC) standing committee of the board was noted.
- Appreciation was noted by Trustees for the good work in spreading the love of Jesus.
- The Chair concluded the discussions suggesting that a presentation such as provided to the board be provided at a Catholic School Community Council meeting so that our parents and families can hear of the ongoing good work in religious education. Further suggested was to extend this to the Diocese, Catholic Women’s League (CWL), etc. This would also benefit partners and community members who do not currently have children in our schools but are passionate about and supportive of Catholic education.

Motion: *Moved by Trustees S. Zakreski-Werbicki and M. Christopher that the Board of Education receive the information as presented in the Area of Focus: Religious Education Report.*

All in favour/none opposed/no abstention

CARRIED

UNANIMOUS

6.2 Notice of Motion - Electoral Process: At-large and Ward Electoral Models

- The Notice of Motion – Electoral Process – At-Large and Ward Electoral Models agenda item was introduced by the Chair with a brief background provided.
- The motion was duly moved and seconded, then opened for discussion.
- Trustee O. Fortosky reviewed the intent of this motion, confirmed as to provide administration with direction to prepare a report, based on trustee discussions, so that an informed decision on this matter may be made in the future.
- Trustees individually shared their position and inputs into the direction to administration in preparing a board report and materials contemplating the at-large and ward electoral models.
- Discussions included direction on past materials provided to the board and the historic reference items to be included in the public report as well requests for further/current updates.
- Important that the report include the direction/guidance of our Bishops.

- The rationale, procedural requirements, challenges and risks to be presented with this report were discussed.
- The Chair concluded the discussions, calling for the vote on the motion.
- The vote was verbally requested to be recorded.
- The motion was carried with six in favour (M. Christopher, K. Day, B. Elliott, O. Fortosky M. Raney and S. Zakreski-Werbicki; two opposed (D. Boyko and T. Jelinski); and one abstention (F. Possberg).

Motion: Moved by Trustees O. Fortosky and M. Raney that the Board of Education approves that:

Whereas Greater Saskatoon Catholic Schools has grown exponentially in step with the City of Saskatoon; and

Whereas the City of Saskatoon has the expertise in Civic Elections through a Ward System; and

Whereas the three trustees elected in Biggar, Humboldt, and Martensville/Warman are elected in de-facto wards; and

Whereas the At-Large electoral model may not fully reflect the diverse needs and voices of communities served by our division; and

Whereas a Ward System has the potential to strengthen local representation, ensure equitable trustee accountability, and foster deeper connections between trustees and the constituents they serve; and

Whereas initiating a thoughtful and informed exploration of this governance model in alignment with our commitment to transparency, stewardship, and Catholic values,

That the administration prepares and presents a report outlining the implications, benefits, challenges, and procedural requirements associated with transitioning from the current At-Large electoral process to a Ward System electoral process for the 2028 Civic Election.

With six in favour/two opposed/one abstention

CARRIED

6.3 Financial Statements

- The agenda item to review and approve the financial statements for the periods ending September 30, 2025, and October 31, 2025, was provided by Deputy Director/Chief Financial Officer, J. Lloyd and a detailed review of the materials provided was presented.
- Highlights included pending updates regarding transportation and supports for learning funding. Administration anticipates that their budgeting preparation will align with Ministry decisions. The situation will be closely monitored, and updates will be provided to the board.
- The Chair called for comments or questions. Trustees appreciated the report provided.

Motion: Moved by Trustees K. Day and F. Possberg that the Board of Education approves the accounts paid for the periods September 1, 2025, to September 30, 2025, and October 1, 2025, to October 31, 2025. and receive the financial statements for the period ended October 31, 2025.

All in favour/none opposed/no abstention

CARRIED

UNANIMOUS

6.4 Facilities Monitoring Report: 2024-2025 Projects

- The agenda item to review the summary of the facility projects completed during the 2024-2025 school year was provided by the Superintendent of Facility Services, R. Martin, noting that this report is a good opportunity to pause and reflect on the past year.
- Highlights included thanks for the good work of our facility caretaking teams; a reflection on awâsisak kâ-nîmîhtocik St. Francis School as a milestone project and a physical manifestation of the boards commitment to the calls to action of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission; updates regarding Holmwood High School, related to stakeholder consultations and the facility design process; the record number of relocatables for our division this year; and preventative maintenance planning.
- Noted was that our model for caretaking is being recognized by The Ministry of Education and other school divisions who are piloting our systems in other schools.
- The GSCS Accessibility Plan, as posted to our website, was referenced through a good news story. The example shared how efforts towards accessibility and service responded to the needs of one family, being an accommodation made in changing cleaning products, that resulted in a benefit for other schools as well and a cost and consumption reduction for our division.
- The Chair called for comments or questions. The Trustees noted with appreciation the good news story shared and applauded administrations efforts to take the time to listen and find a solution as exemplary being a school division of service to others.
- Discussions were had on sensor lighting in schools, based on trustee questions and explanations that included details on occupancy code requirements, technology issues with retrofits on older facilities and lighting controls.
- Final comments noted appreciation for the newly installed portrait of St. Francis as commissioned by K. Peece for awâsisak kâ-nîmîhtocik St. Francis School.

Motion: Moved by Trustees F. Possberg and B. Elliot that the Board of Education receive the information as presented in the Facilities Monitoring Report.

All in favour/none opposed/no abstention

CARRIED

UNANIMOUS

6.5 Holy Cross High School Roof Replacement 2025-2026

- The Request for Tender (RFT) for the replacement of multiple roof sections at Holy Cross High School was provided by Superintendent of Facility Services, R. Martin.

- With our continuous improvement projects, the replacement of roof sections is a current priority. Details were provided on the process, the responses to the RFT and the recommendation of award put forward.
- The Chair called for questions and comments. Trustees reviewed with administration the other renovations and upgrades that have occurred at Holy Cross High School. Overall budget constraints for the initial capital project were reviewed, which resulted in decisions to slowly complete the needed renovations/updates over time.

Motion: Moved by Trustees T. Jelinski and K. Day that the Board of Education award the tender for Holy Cross High School roof replacement to Flynn Canada Ltd. for the tendered price of \$1,679,800 plus GST and PST.

All in favour/none opposed/no abstention

CARRIED

UNANIMOUS

6.6 St. Dominic School - Saskatoon Roof Replacement 2025-2026

- The Request for Tender (RFT) for the replacement of multiple roof sections at St. Dominic (Saskatoon) School was provided by Superintendent of Facility Services, R. Martin.
- Noting the overall roofing needs in our division, explanations were provided on the plans for replacement as these roofs are aging out. The RFT process and decisions were reviewed for the St. Dominic Saskatoon school roof replacement and the recommendation of award put forward.
- The Chair called for questions and comments. Trustees requested an overall understanding of the longevity of roofs. Administration provided an overview on life expectancy of roofs and how this has changed as products and process have improved, as well as noting division strategy improvements such as ongoing good maintenance. Currently the expectation is that a roof should last twenty years.

Motion: Moved by Trustees S. Zakreski-Werbicki and M. Raney that the Board of Education award the tender for St. Dominic (Saskatoon) School roof replacement to Century Roofing & Sheet Metal Ltd. for the tendered price of \$667,448 plus GST and PST.

All in favour/none opposed/no abstention

CARRIED

UNANIMOUS

6.7 Condensing Units Replacement: Bishop James Mahoney High School

- The Request for Tender (RFT), as coordinated in partnership with Summit Engineering, for the replacement of condensing units at Bishop James Mahoney High School was provided by Superintendent of Facility Services, R. Martin.
- Details were provided on the investment into Bishop James Mahoney High School, which is now at forty years of age. The RFT process and decisions were reviewed for the condensing unit replacement which ideally will be replaced for summer 2026 as well as the recommendation of award put forward.
- The Chair called for questions and comments. No questions or comments were noted.

Motion: Moved by Trustees O. Fortosky and B Elliott, that the Board of Education award the contract for the replacement of condensing units at Bishop James Mahoney High School to Ainsworth Inc. for the tender price of \$329,985 plus GST and PST.

All in favour/none opposed/no abstention

CARRIED

UNANIMOUS

6.8 Student Technology Investment

- The Student Technology Investment agenda item, as reviewed by Deputy Director /Chief Financial Officer, J. Lloyd and Superintendent S. Gessler, referenced the board approval for student technology with the 2024-2025 financial statements and the actions resulting from that approval.
- The student technology items purchased were explained, which included Chromebooks, charging carts, and necessary licensing. Further funding was provided through the Board allocation and an amount reallocated from the Information Technology budget.
- Explanations were provided on the purchase process requirements. The items will be allocated to schools based on their needs and student ratios, including items for our school division inventory. Administrations efforts have been to satisfy the requirements in our schools, with a plan for deployment between now and end of May 2026.
- Communications on these purchases will be provided to the GSCS Foundation as well.
- The Chair called for questions or comments. Trustees suggested that we share this good news as a story on our website.
- Remarks noted appreciation for the technology student ratio explanations and efforts to be equitable, with comments on the ratio information provided and that students also need to take a break from screens.
- Administration noted that it appears that curriculum and resources are moving to online so while the point is well taken, efforts are to respond to these shifts as well as replace technology that is aging out.
- Further discussions confirmed that GSCS does not have a technology fee for students, but the demands for technology in the classroom are continuing to grow. Trustees queried on past practices for requiring families to purchase items for school such as dictionaries and how the times and needs have changed. Administration responses noted that there are challenges to keep up with the technology and reviewed some potential solutions in the future other than requiring families to pay a fee.
- Remarks and questions on the potential of replacing textbooks with technology and the extension of life for technology included a review of the efforts made to extend technology, work with licensing, retrofitting, etc., which results in full use of devices until end of life.

Motion: Moved by Trustees M. Christopher and K. Day that the Board of Education receive the Student Technology Investment Report as presented.

All in favour/none opposed/no abstention

CARRIED

UNANIMOUS

6.9 Approval of Board Policy - Decision Matrix

- The review and approval of Policy 2.7 Decision Matrix was reviewed by Director of Education, F. Rivard, noting the changes and revisions provided through board policy review. Details on each revision were discussed.
- Highlighted for further discussion was the trustee placement on the committee that interviews for principals and vice principals positions. Discussions included that while some felt strongly that trustees should not participate at these interviews as a governance matter, others felt there is a benefit for trustees to see the quality of incoming administration which reaffirms for our future state. In addition, this helps build relationships between the board and administration in showing the boards interest. Confirmation was provided that the trustee role at these interviews is as an observer and not a decision maker.
- Remarks reiterated the need for the board to not be involved in the everyday running of the business in alignment with good governance.
- The Chair concluded the discussion with appreciation for the good discussion, noting that this matter will be reviewed on an ongoing basis but to remain as is for now.

Motion: Moved by Trustees K. Day and M. Christopher that the Board of Education approves the Board Policy 2.7 Decision Matrix as revised.

All in favour/none opposed/no abstention

CARRIED

UNANIMOUS

7.0 **Correspondence**

- The Chair noted the board scholarship letter, dated November 27, 2025, as received by the board, from a student sending thanks and appreciation for the board scholarships received.
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8.0 **Reports and Good News**

8.1 Report of the Director of Education

- The Director of Education report was reviewed, as received.
 - The ongoing activities since the previous report highlighted the Ukrainian Catholic Foundation fundraiser which took place on November 22, 2026; the Knights of Columbus Carol Festival; the TCU Place-Noon Festival of Carols; Advent Celebrations; and the Care & Share Holiday Lunch Program.

8.6 Committee/Partnership Reports

- The Chair called for the reports from our committees and partnerships.
- The reports for each committee/partnership meeting that occurred since the last board meeting are noted as follows.

- Joint Operations Committee (JOC)
 - Trustees F. Possberg and T. Jelinski
 - Vice-Chair T. Jelinski will serve as chair of the JOC for the coming year; the chair of this committee rotates between Humboldt Collegiate Institute (HCI) and GSCS annually.
 - Highlights of the verbal report included the current enrollment for HCI; the financial review and audit report; the HCI Learning Improvement Plan and areas of focus; HCI's graduation rate goals and HCI's relocatable process and costs.
 - HCI's Trustee L. Mattock sent congratulations on the national Canadian Catholic School Boards (CCSBA) award received this fall and appreciation of the partnerships that GSCS has cultivated over the years.
 - Trustee F. Possberg added details with appreciation of GSCS's support for the families of HCI regarding the driver training program.

- Together in Faith and Action Committee (TFAC)
 - Trustees S. Zakreski-Werbicki and M. Christopher
 - The report was verbally provided by Trustee M. Christopher, which highlighted details on the new faith-based materials being piloted and the ongoing work of our Religious Education Team.

- Greater Saskatoon Catholic Schools Foundation
 - Trustees B. Elliott and T. Jelinski
 - The report was verbally provided by Trustee B. Elliott and updated on the annual board work to review and approve grant requests received from schools.
 - The Schools Win Twice fundraiser supports the Foundation in their ability to support these grant requests, but at the last meeting the fundraiser had not yet concluded so the monies raised were not yet known.

- māmawohkamātowin Partnership (Saskatoon Tribal Council)
 - Chair D. Boyko and Trustees T. Jelinski and M. Raney
 - The report was verbally provided by Chair D. Boyko with explanation on the overall governance and compliments on the positive working group.

- nākatēyimitowin Educational Partnership (CUMFI)
 - Chair D. Boyko and Trustees K. Day and S. Zakreski-Werbicki
 - The report was verbally provided by Chair D. Boyko, with note of the good work being done. The struggle to find Michif speakers and teachers is ongoing. The funding award received was noted as greatly appreciated and will help support the school and community of St. Michael.

- Division Committee on Reconciliation and Healing
 - Chair D. Boyko and Trustee K. Day
 - The report was verbally provided by Trustee K. Day, noting the ongoing work informed by the elders who attend and are dedicated to working together.

