

Regina, Saskatchewan
April 13, 2021

At a meeting of the Board of Education of the Regina School Division No. 4 of Saskatchewan, held via teleconference at 1600 4th Avenue.

Members Present
Mr. Adam Hicks, Chair
Ms. Tara Molson, Vice-Chair
Mrs. Cindy Anderson
Mr. Ted Jaleta
Mrs. Elizabeth Strom
Mrs. Sarah Cummings Truszkowski
Ms. Lacey Weekes

Administration Present
Mr. Greg Enion, Director of Education
Ms. Naomi Mellor, Deputy Director, Division Services/CFO
Mr. Darren Boldt, Deputy Director, Student Achievement/School Services

Mrs. Sarah Cummings Truszkowski acknowledged the location of every Regina Public School and the School Division Office on Treaty 4 land.

The Chairperson called the meeting to order and asked for a motion to adopt the agenda. It was requested that the following items be added: *Saskatchewan Assessment Management Agency Annual General Meeting Summary* and *Sponsorship Discussion*.

Adoption of Agenda
Motion by Mr. Ted Jaleta:

That, with the additions requested, the agenda be adopted.

Motion Carried.

Declaration of Any Conflicts
The Chairperson asked if there were any conflicts of interest to be declared. None were reported.

Approving of Minutes
The Chairperson then asked for a motion to approve the minutes of the meeting held on March 23, 2021. Mrs. Sarah Cummings Truszkowski noted two spelling errors, in the 11th sentence under Organizational Culture and Diversity Committee, and the first sentence under Wascana Plains Boundary Changes, and asked that the word “not” be added in the fifth sentence of her subdivision report.

Motion by Mrs. Sarah Cummings Truszkowski:

That the minutes of the Board meeting of March 23, 2021, be approved as amended.

Motion Carried.

Pre-Adult Campus and Flex Program
Information regarding the Allan Blakeney Adult Campus (“Adult Campus”) and its Pre-Adult Campus (PAC) and Flex (FLEX) programs had been distributed. Mr. Rick Steciuk, Superintendent, Student Achievement/School Services, introduced Mr. Brent Bachiu, Principal, and Mr. Stephen Poll, Vice-Principal. Mr. Bachiu advised that the Adult Campus provides young adults, aged 18-21, with an opportunity to complete their Grade 12 education. He further advised

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that students who have already completed Grade 12 and are wanting to upgrade their courses to meet university or post-secondary institution requirements are also supported, as well as English as an Additional Language (EAL) learners who will eventually transition back to their home high school. Mr. Poll outlined the Adult 12 program that requires completion of seven credits. Relative to enrolment, he noted that approximately 44% are self-declared Indigenous students and 20% are EAL students. Mr. Bachiu summarized data relative to credit attainment and graduation rates from 2013/14 to 2019/20. He concluded the presentation by commenting on FLEX, which began in 2018/19, to support learners, aged 18-21, who had been unsuccessful in the traditional classroom setting and were still in pursuit of a Grade 12 education. He advised that FLEX accommodates students requiring flexible learning times and styles through use of modular-based course material. He noted that PAC extends to those learners, aged 17, and assists them with transitioning into FLEX. Mr. Bachiu, Mr. Steciuk, Mr. Poll, and Mr. Darren Boldt, Deputy Director, Student Achievement/School Services, responded to questions relative to wait lists, class sizes, remote learning, students pursuing post-secondary vs. trades, extended graduation rates, and the move from downtown to the 4th Avenue location. Trustees expressed appreciation for the tremendous work being done at the Adult Campus.

COVID-19 Update

Mr. Greg Enion, Director of Education, provided an update on the Division’s COVID-19 plan. He advised that, with the current remote learning in place, there have not been any cases that require students and/or staff to self-isolate; however, the Division is still getting notification of students and staff testing positive for COVID-19. He further advised of a discussion with the Director of Regina Catholic Schools, earlier in the day, relative to remaining at Level 4. He noted that they will talk again on Friday, April 16th, and will consider advice from the Regina Medical Health Officers (MHOs) at that time. He noted that he has received some feedback from parents/stakeholders, and reiterated that it is the Division’s hope that in-class learning can be reinstated; however, based on case numbers, the Division will be monitoring the situation on a weekly basis, taking direction from the MHOs.

Ms. Naomi Mellor, Deputy Director, Division Services/CFO, provided information relative to transportation, noting that arrangements are in place with light vehicle vendors and the busing company wherein, upon providing two weeks’ notice to the service providers, rates are scaled back during the remote learning period. She advised that the savings realized will help to offset pressures in other areas.

Mr. Darren Boldt, Deputy Director, Student Achievement/School Services, advised that the Administrative Team is currently working on a pandemic recovery plan, identifying dedicated support teams, for targeted schools, who will work together with teachers to provide learning gap supports. He further advised that similar work is occurring to prepare for social and emotional supports. He noted that the Division will offer Summer School this year, and will also host a number of Summer Success Camps focused on literacy and numeracy.

Mr. Enion, Ms. Mellor and Mr. Boldt responded to questions relative to child care services for essential workers, Summer Success Camps, threshold for determining a return to in-class learning, quality of remote learning vs. in-class learning, and communication.

Mr. Adam Hicks referenced a draft letter from Regina Catholic Schools urging the government to include PreK-12 education staff on the vaccination priority list. He inquired if his fellow Board members were interested in sending a similar letter or sending a joint letter with the Regina Catholic board. Board members agreed that a joint board letter should be sent, and possibly include the Prairie Valley school board. Board members also urged Mr. Hicks to contact

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the Education Minister as a follow-up. Mr. Enion responded to a question relative to staff that have already been vaccinated. Mr. Hicks agreed to contact his counterparts to have a joint letter prepared and sent immediately.

Strategic Engagement and Advocacy Committee

Information from the March 30, 2021 Strategic Engagement and Advocacy Committee meeting had been distributed. Mrs. Elizabeth Strom provided a brief summary of the meeting discussions, noting that the Committee received updates on the following matters: previous School Community Council engagement events and plans moving forward once pandemic restrictions are lifted; the development of the Division’s Facebook page; capital projects; French Immersion; vaccinations; learning gaps; technology; focused group meetings with Community Schools administration; and Indigenous education. She advised that the Committee reviewed a draft communications plan and, after Committee feedback, will finalize same. She outlined that Mrs. Sarah Cummings Truszkowski reported on work she is undertaking relative to a poverty initiative, with a timeline to present to the Board in the Fall. Mrs. Strom further outlined that she is conducting research relative to potential programs that could be offered at a southeast high school, if funding for said high school is approved by the Ministry, and that she would present same to the Board once her research is completed. She noted a discussion on potential playground partnerships and the development of a sponsor package relative to same. She concluded by noting that the Shared Values Recognition Program will move forward, as in previous years, and that the Long Service Reception would be held after pandemic restrictions are lifted.

Succession Planning Committee

Ms. Lacey Weekes presented the motion of which she had given notice at the March 23, 2021 Board meeting.

Motion by Ms. Lacey Weekes:

WHEREAS Regina Public School’s mission is to instill the value of knowledge, the dignity of effort, and the worth of the individual; and

WHEREAS our shared value statements unite us: I belong, I want to know, I am responsible, and I respect;

BE IT RESOLVED that Regina Public School Board create a Succession Planning Committee to assist with hiring a new Director of Education.

Motion Carried.
(Unanimously)

In support of her motion, Ms. Weekes advised that Board Policy 2, *Role of the Board*, states “the Board of Education is responsible for selecting the Director,” and that this special committee would ensure efficient use of Board time. She further advised that terms of reference would include creating a timeline of events for succession planning, hiring an independent search firm to provide expertise in identifying a larger pool of candidates, and coordinating the process of identifying candidates to interview. She outlined that the special committee would be dissolved after a written report is presented to the Board or on before June 30, 2022, whichever comes first, that membership on the special committee would be selected by the Board Chair, that the interview process and final selection of a new director of education would involve all Trustees of the Board, and that the final decision would be made by a vote of the entire Board.

Mr. Adam Hicks advised that certain Trustees had already indicated interest in sitting on the special committee, and that he would email Trustees with his membership decision later in the week.

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2021/22 School Year Calendars Proposed elementary and high school calendars for the 2021/2022 school year had been distributed. Mr. Darren Boldt, Deputy Director, Student Achievement/ School Services, advised that the calendars are very similar to the 2020/2021 calendars, apart from a four-day start-up for teachers, with the first day of school for students to be September 1, 2021. To accommodate the calendars and planned school breaks, he further advised that the number of student days will decrease from 182 to 181 and, to ensure the required instructional minutes are met, the length of each school day will be increased by 2 minutes. He pointed to the two-week break in December as well as two one-week breaks in both February and April. He responded to a question relative to elementary recess breaks.

Motion by Mrs. Cindy Anderson:

That the 2021/2022 school year calendars be approved as presented, subject to review by the Ministry of Education.

Motion Carried.
(Unanimously)

Planned Agenda Items For Board member information, Mr. Adam Hicks noted the planned agenda items currently set for the May 4, 2021 Board meeting, including Environmental Initiatives Presentation, COVID-19 Update, Audit and Risk Management Committee, and 2021/22 Budget Development.

Notices of Motion Ms. Tara Molson gave notice of her intention to present the following motion at the May 4, 2021 meeting of the Board:

WHEREAS Regina Public Schools’ mission is to instill the value of knowledge, the dignity of effort, and the worth of the individual;
AND WHEREAS we, as a Board, understand and reflect on the unprecedented times we are currently facing and will continue to face in the months to come;
AND WHEREAS the Provincial Government and the Division have identified additional resources are required to address the impacts on learning due to the COVID-19 pandemic;
BE IT RESOLVED that Regina Public School Trustees forgo the annual 2% remuneration payment increase with an expiry date of June 30th, 2022.

Saskatchewan Assessment Management Agency Annual General Meeting Summary Mrs. Sarah Cummings Truszkowski provided a brief summary of the annual general meeting of the Saskatchewan Assessment Management Agency (SAMA), held virtually on April 14, 2021. She outlined the role of SAMA as an independent agency that provides a property assessment system for Saskatchewan. She further noted that the City of Regina provides its own assessment services but must follow the SAMA standards. She commented that 2021 is a revaluation year, and that all assessment data is available on the City of Regina’s website. Mr. Adam Hicks inquired if attendance at the SAMA annual meetings is of benefit to the Board. Mrs. Cummings Truszkowski advised that the meeting was very interesting but was not certain she needed to attend. Ms. Naomi Mellor, Deputy Director, Division Services/CFO, outlined that school boards have not levied property tax since 2009, and indicated that attendance at said meetings would not necessarily be relevant to the Board. Mr. Hicks suggested that the matter of future representation at SAMA meetings be tabled until receipt of next year’s AGM invitation.

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Information – Subdivision Reports Ms. Lacey Weekes advised that the resource guide on Ramadan, received from ICNA Sisters Canada (Regina Chapter), had been shared with School Community Councils. She also wished the School Division’s Muslim families a Happy Ramadan.

On behalf of the Board of Education, Mrs. Sarah Cummings Truskowski acknowledged that every student, staff and community member has equal value as prescribed under the United Nations Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the Saskatchewan Human Rights Code, noting that diversity makes us stronger.

Closed Session Motion by Mr. Ted Jaleta:

That we go into closed session in order to consider those matters identified on the meeting agenda for referral to said session.

Motion Carried.

Motion by Mr. Ted Jaleta:

That we rise and report.

Motion Carried.

At the conclusion of closed session, the Committee of the Whole reported progress with respect to consideration of *2021/22 Budget Development* and *Sponsorship Discussion*. The progress reports were accepted.

Adjournment The Chairperson advised that this concluded the business of the meeting and called for a motion to adjourn.

Motion by Ms. Lacey Weekes:

That the meeting adjourn.

Motion Carried.

Time of meeting: 5:30 to 8:31 p.m.

Chairperson

Chief Financial Officer