

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

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

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

Mr. Ted Jaleta 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: *Trustee Matter* and *School Boards/City Council Liaison Committee Meeting Update*. It was noted that item 6b, *COVID-19 Update*, would be moved up in the agenda, and item 8a, *Trustee Remuneration*, would be deferred to the June 15, 2021 Board meeting.

Adoption of Agenda
Motion by Mr. Ted Jaleta:

That, with the amendments noted, 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 April 13, 2021.

Motion by Mrs. Elizabeth Strom:

That the minutes of the Board meeting of April 13, 2021, be approved as distributed.

Motion Carried.

Recognition of Katherine Gagne, former Regina Board of Education Trustee
Mr. Adam Hicks made a presentation to former trustee, Mrs. Katherine Gagne, for her 11 years of diligent and effective service to Regina Public Schools, nine of those years as Chair of the Board. Mr. Hicks noted that Mrs. Gagne is in the top 10 of longest serving trustees, and the longest serving female Chair of the Board. Mrs. Cindy Anderson, Mrs. Elizabeth Strom, and Mr. Hicks highlighted professional and personal accomplishments of Mrs. Gagne and expressed appreciation for her compassion, steadfastness and commitment to public education. Mrs. Gagne expressed appreciation for the Shared Values plaque. She voiced gratitude for the continued leadership of Mr. Greg Enion, Director of Education, Ms. Naomi Mellor, Deputy Director, Division Services/CFO, and

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Mr. Darren Boldt, Deputy Director, Student Achievement/School Services, and extended good wishes to the current Board.

COVID-19 Update

The Board received a presentation from Ms. Dawn Barker, via teleconference, regarding the return to in-class learning. A petition to stop in-class learning in Regina until otherwise safe had been delivered to the Chair on April 30th. Ms. Barker expressed concern for staff and students returning to the classroom at this time. She expressed concern relative to the mental well-being of students, the inability of students and staff to physically distance properly in classrooms, and the risk of students not keeping their masks on. She encouraged the Board to reconsider the return to in-class learning. Board members expressed appreciation for the presentation.

Mr. Greg Enion, Director of Education, noted that it has been a challenging 14-month period for the School Division. He thanked staff and ratepayers for their feedback, and thanked the families for their efforts during the remote learning periods. He expressed appreciation to the school staff for their flexibility. He affirmed that Administration will continue to do their best to make sound, rational decisions going forward, always keeping the safety and wellness of everyone in mind. He advised that elementary schools reopened on May 3rd, noting that student attendance was down by 12% on May 3rd and down by 10% on May 4th. Relative to a recent telephone conversation with Regina Medical Health Officers (MHOs), he highlighted that the 7-day average at the end of March was 100 cases, and the 7-day average at the end of April dropped to 68 cases. He further advised that the MHOs reported hospital visits are trending down, and that the MHOs supported the return to in-class learning. He confirmed that the Division has an ample supply of medical grade masks for staff and students, and advised that families can contact their school principal if they feel more masks need to be ordered from Division Office. He thanked Ms. Naomi Mellor, Deputy Director, Division Services/CFO, and her team for their proactive work in ensuring the Division has had an adequate supply of personal protective equipment (PPE) throughout the pandemic. Mr. Enion reported that Administration has been contemplating 2021 graduation plans and has been working with the Regina Exhibition Association on tentative plans for graduation ceremonies to be held at Mosaic Stadium, noting that guidelines will be reevaluated on May 17th.

Mr. Darren Boldt, Deputy Director, Student Achievement/School Services, advised that he has been involved in numerous conversations with the Ministries of Health and Education, Public Health, and other school divisions in the Regina area relative to the roll out of rapid COVID-19 antigen testing. He noted that there are logistics still to be completed, but is hoping to have the roll out finalized by May 7th.

Mr. Enion responded to questions relative to available PPE, the number of students testing positive after being considered a close contact, graduation plans, reducing teacher workload, encouraging outside lunch hours, and a threshold to return to remote learning. Board members expressed appreciation to Mr. Enion, Mr. Boldt and Ms. Mellor for their hard work and leadership throughout this difficult time. Mr. Adam Hicks reiterated that the Division will continue to rely on the advice of the MHOs when making decisions. He further expressed appreciation for the Board’s extensive advocacy for school staff vaccinations.

Environmental Initiatives

Information regarding environmental initiatives in Regina Public Schools had been distributed. Ms. Juanita Redekopp-McKeown, Supervisor of Instruction, outlined the connection of environmental initiatives to all curriculum. She described the broad area of learning of engaged citizens that speaks to a student’s ability to shape positive change, contribute to environmental sustainability, and demonstrate responsibility for the natural environment. She

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further described the curricular competency of social responsibility that speaks to a student’s ability to contribute positively to their physical environment. Mr. Shayne McMillen, Coordinator of Numeracy/Science/Social/ Indigenous Education, shared information on initiatives in arts education, practical and applies arts, and social sciences. He highlighted gardening initiatives at the elementary level, and a hydroponic system developed at Campus Regina Public for growing fruits and vegetables, a project that has integrated several courses. Ms. Lori Milligan, Outdoor Environmental Education (OEE) Program Manager, advised that OEE supports teachers and students in outdoor learning connected to curricular outcomes, offering hands-on experiences to enhance classroom teachings. She outlined a few of the many environmental organizations that have partnered with Regina Public Schools, that allow for students to collect real science data to be submitted to the partnering organizations. Ms. Vanea Cyr, Supervisor of Indigenous Education, provided a brief summary of land-based learning and future plans in Indigenous education. She noted the focused approach to learning that links curriculum with Indigenous knowledge, pedagogy, and world view, and advised that land-based learning is a tangible form of reconciliation and relies on the wisdom and knowledge of Elders and Knowledge Keepers. Mr. Jeffery Cappo, Cultural Liaison, spoke of the importance of land-based learning, teaching students how and why to protect Mother Earth. Mr. McMillen highlighted some extracurricular initiatives that focus on the environment. Mr. Jared Kleisinger, Superintendent, Educational Facilities, advised that \$1.3M was secured through the Climate Action Incentive Fund, and has been allocated to LED lighting in five schools, noting that each project will greatly reduce the amount of electricity used in each of those facilities which will, in turn, reduce the indirect greenhouse gas emissions and reduce the Division’s overall carbon footprint. He presented a summary of the Campbell Collegiate LED lighting project and the savings that will be derived from the retrofit. He further outlined further projects to reduce water and natural gas usage, including boiler replacements and washroom upgrades. He advised that money saved through these projects will be diverted into future Green Energy Fund budgets. Mr. Greg Enion, Director of Education, Ms. Redekopp-McKeown, Ms. Milligan, Ms. Cyr, Mr. Cappo, and Mr. Kleisinger responded to questions relative to occupant behavior, OEE programming accommodation, future Educational Facilities plans, partnerships, reception to land-based learning, and Indigenous student engagement. Board members expressed appreciation for the presentation and the continued and growing environmental initiatives.

Audit and Risk Management Committee

Mr. Ted Jaleta advised that the Audit and Risk Management Committee met, via teleconference, on April 20, 2021. He advised that Mr. Rod Sieffert, from MNP LLP, summarized the 2020/21 Audit Service Plan, highlighting key changes and developments, including ongoing impacts of the COVID pandemic, as well as new reporting and new assurance developments. Mr. Sieffert also outlined an estimated audit fee is \$46,000 to complete the engagement, and responded to a question relative to the Public Sector Accounting Standards amendments announced for new fiscal year. Mr. Jaleta advised that the Committee approved the proposed 2020/21 Audit Service Plan submitted by MNP LLP. He advised that Ms. Michelle Lindenbach and Ms. Kristen Young, from the Provincial Auditor’s Office, provided a brief summary of the Audit Involvement Memorandum for the 2020/21 fiscal year, and responded to a question regarding the reporting in the Provincial Auditor’s 2021 Report, Volume 1. It was noted that there are no performance audits or follow-ups planned for the Division this year. Mr. Jaleta pointed to the detailed report regarding the review of the Division’s financial reserve position and Administration’s direction going forward, and advised that Ms. Naomi Mellor, Deputy Director, Division Services/CFO, highlighted the recommendations contained in SASBO’s recent review of Operational Reserves among Saskatchewan school divisions, outlined Administration’s work to date and advised that analysis of the amounts in each reserve category would continue, with adjustments to categories being made as

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needed. It was specified that spending down reserves results in incurring deficits, and must be done carefully so as to not jeopardize the financial health of the Division. Ms. Mellor further advised that Administration will be developing an Administrative Procedure on Operating Reserves. Mr. Jaleta advised that questions were answered relative to other school divisions' reserves, targeted spending, the template being developed by SASBO, long-term strategies, and potential risks. Following that, he noted that Ms. Mellor and Ms. Ashley Kuntz, Supervisor, Accounting and Purchasing, provided information on the progress in implementing the plan to address the deficiencies that arose from the MNP special audit, and responded to questions regarding internal audits, decentralized purchasing, and key messages. The Committee also received information on outstanding legal actions. Mr. Jaleta reported on Mrs. Elizabeth Strom's inquiry on financial risk due to the pandemic and the move to remote learning, and noted Ms. Mellor's advice that the Division has experienced net savings due to the pandemic and remote learning, and that the savings are being reinvested in renewing laptops and purchasing learning resources, as well as plans regarding IT security, which includes an externally sourced cyber security review. It was also noted that government funding has remained the same. Mr. Enion further outlined that Division Office has a backup generator and a backup server located offsite, to protect all electronic documentation. The meeting concluded with Mr. Enion expressing appreciation to the Trustees for advocating for teachers and education staff to be included in those given priority access to the COVID-19 vaccine.

School Boards/City Council Liaison Committee Meeting Update

Ms. Tara Molson provided a brief summary of discussions held at the School Boards/City Council Liaison Committee meeting on May 3, 2021, including capital projects, City transportation opportunities, access to facilities, and an emergency service communication network. Mr. Adam Hicks responded to a questions relative to City bus transportation. Mr. Darren Boldt, Deputy Director, Student Achievement/School Services, responded to a question relative to community use of facilities, and advised that a further report on same would be on the agenda for the May 25, 2021 Board meeting.

SSBA Request for Feedback on Position Statements

A request for feedback on Saskatchewan School Boards Association Position Statements had been distributed. Mr. Adam Hicks advised that Board members should email any responses to Ms. Suzanne Shuba, Executive Assistant, and that all responses would then be submitted as one reply.

Planned Agenda Items for May 25th Board Meeting

For Board member information, Mr. Adam Hicks noted the planned agenda items currently set for the May 25, 2021 Board meeting, including COVID-19 Update, Organizational Culture and Diversity Committee, Preventative Maintenance and Renewal Plan, Ministry of Education Interim Strategic Plan Endorsement, and Capital Projects Update.

Information – Subdivision Reports

Mrs. Elizabeth Strom congratulated Balfour Collegiate student, Tyler McClellan, who was selected as Simon Fraser University's Schulich Leader Scholar in Mathematics, receiving an \$80,000 scholarship to cover his costs while studying at Simon Fraser.

Mr. Adam Hicks advised that the Harbour Landing School Community Council, with a donation from Dulux Paints, repainted the outdoor basketball lines, and painted some games and an obstacle course on the pavement. He also recognized Trustees Jaleta, Strom, Cummings Truszkowski, and Weekes for successfully completing the Johnson Shoyama Graduate School of Public Policy course.

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On behalf of the Board of Education, Mr. Ted Jaleta 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 Mrs. Elizabeth Strom:

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 Mrs. Cindy Anderson:

That we rise and report.

Motion Carried.

At the conclusion of closed session, the Committee of the Whole recommended to the Board:

Meeting
Adjournment
Time

- 1) That the May 4, 2021 Board meeting be authorized to continue beyond the 8:30 p.m. presumptive adjournment time.

Motion by Mr. Ted Jaleta:

That recommendation No. 1 (above) from the Committee of the Whole be approved.

Motion Carried.

At the conclusion of closed session, the Committee of the Whole reported progress with respect to consideration of *SSBA Executive Composition, Membership Fees, and Voting Review, Public Section, and Trustee Matter*. 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 Mrs. Sarah Cummings Truskowski:

That the meeting adjourn.

Motion Carried.

Time of meeting: 5:30 to 9:00 p.m.

Chairperson

Chief Financial Officer