

Regina, Saskatchewan  
April 18, 2023

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

Members Present	Ms. Tara Molson, Chair Mrs. Sarah Cummings Truskowski, Vice Chair Mrs. Cindy Anderson	Mr. Adam Hicks Mr. Ted Jaleta Mrs. Tracey McMurchy Ms. Lacey Weekes
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Administration Present	Mr. Darren Boldt, Director of Education Ms. Naomi Mellor, Deputy Director, Division Services/CFO Mr. Rick Steciuk, Deputy Director, Student Achievement/School Services
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Mrs. Cindy Anderson 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.

Adoption of Agenda	<u>Motion by Mrs. Cindy Anderson:</u> That the agenda be adopted as prepared.
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Motion Carried.

Declaration of Any Conflicts	The Chairperson asked if there were any conflicts of interest to be declared. None were reported.
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Approving of Minutes	The Chairperson then asked for a motion to approve the minutes of the meeting held on March 21, 2023.
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Motion by Mrs. Sarah Cummings Truskowski:

That the minutes of the Board meeting of March 21, 2023, be approved as distributed.

Motion Carried.

Growing Young Movers	Information regarding the Growing Young Movers (GYM) Youth Leadership Pathway at Scott Collegiate had been distributed. Mr. Brian Lewis, GYM Executive Director and Teacher at Scott Collegiate, provided a brief summary of the GYM program, including a video. He outlined how the program assists in making youth more employable as well as making them want to stay in school. He noted that the program is non-profit and is funded through grants and sponsorships. Mr. Lewis responded to questions relative to the Moving for Change initiative, the number of elementary schools visited in the current school year, and sponsorship challenges. Board members expressed appreciation for the presentation.
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Director's  
Report

Prior to the Director's report, Ms. Tara Molson, on behalf of the Board, offered the following comments on the 2023-24 Provincial budget for education:

*This is not the budget that the education sector or Regina Public Schools wanted or needed. While we initially had some optimism over the reported injection of \$49.5M in new funding for next year, we now understand that this will not be the reality for school divisions. We were disappointed to learn that \$35.5M had already been provided to school divisions this year and is in 2022-23 base budgets – \$20M for inflationary funding in July 2022 and \$15.5M for enrolment increases in December 2022. The net real increase for school divisions next year, therefore, is less than \$14M or 0.7%, all of it for additional projected enrolment growth.*

*This is on top of many years of funding that has failed to keep pace with enrolment growth and inflation. Our students, staff, families, and communities deserve better.*

*Research on the benefits of public education is extensive and unchallenged – education brings improved health status, higher lifetime earnings, less reliance on the justice system, more social engagement, and increased feelings of trust and safety. Investing in public education builds the foundation for reducing poverty and inequality and sustaining economic growth for everyone. As Board Chair, I will be advocating for increased investment in public education and will be asking others to join me in that effort.*

Mr. Darren Boldt, Director Education/CEO, welcomed Mr. Rick Steciuk to his first Board meeting as the new Deputy Director of Student Achievement/School Services. Mr. Boldt advised that senior Administration has spent many hours working through the detailed implications of the Province's 2023-24 funding decisions and outlined that, for Regina Public Schools, the real year over year increase in funding for 2023-24 is \$2.5 million or 1%. He advised that this 1% increase must cover an enrolment increase of 700+ students, teacher salary increments, support staff salary collective agreement increases and increments, out of scope salaries, statutory benefit and other payroll related increases, utility increases and other general inflation, and programming pressures, particularly for students requiring specialized programming. He noted that a status quo budget that would allow the Division to offer the same student to staff ratios, programs and services next year as this year without any significant enhancements or reductions would require an annual funding increase in the 3% range, or approximately \$7M, even though that rate of increase would still be well below the inflation rate, only minimally keeping pace with enrolment growth, and would require some budget offsets. With mounting budget pressures, years of funding erosion, and a minimal funding increase this year, he advised that the 2023-24 budget will require significant reductions across the Division, impacting full-time equivalents in schools, including classroom teaching positions, as well as transportation services, renewal of technology, learning resources and equipment, and virtually every area within the Division. He committed to implementing these reductions in the most equitable way possible, to be transparent in decision-making, and to avoid job loss for permanent employees. On the capital side, he pointed to the lack of progress on the Division's capital priorities, which results in the Division being one more year away from addressing its capital needs, and he advised that alternative plans to deal with enrolment growth in certain areas will need to be examined, particularly on the east side of the City where a new school in The Towns area was a top major capital request. He also pointed out the disappointing funding reduction for Preventive Maintenance and Renewal which will be felt in the years ahead. He was pleased that major capital funding for the Campbell Collegiate foundation issue was approved. He reiterated that, despite the current budget constraints, students will always come first and the Division will do its very best to minimize impacts on front-line instruction and services.

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Mr. Boldt continued his report by advising of the significant water main break at McLurg School prior to the Spring break that caused significant damage to the facility’s boiler and electrical systems. He noted the April 26th planned reopening of the school and thanked the McLurg staff, the students and staff at the receiving schools, and the Facilities, Transportation, and Student Achievement departments who were able to minimize disruption to in class learning. In positive facilities news, he was pleased to announce the soft opening of the new Argyle School on April 17th. He advised that construction continues on site and the grand opening will be held in September when St. Pius X School is completed. He outlined that the Division has commenced its process of the development of a 4-year strategic plan, being led by Praxis Consulting. He noted significant stakeholder consultations will be held to assist in identifying the key areas of that strategic plan, and he expressed appreciation to the Board, staff, students, families, and the community for their anticipated participation in the process. He further pointed to two other significant processes and reviews that are close to completion, the SRO Review and the Associate Schools’ Review. He reported that the Division is currently in this staffing phase for next year, including working with schools on updating enrolment projections, going through leadership applications and placements, and starting the staffing work to prepare for next school year. He highlighted that grade 8 classes from 21 elementary schools are currently participating in the Pan-Canadian Assessment Program (PCAP) to help determine how education systems are meeting the needs of students in Canada. He concluded by encouraging Board members to participate in the grand entry of the First Nations University of Canada pow wow on April 22nd and 23rd at the Brandt Centre. Mr. Boldt responded to a question relative to PCAP data breakdowns.

Organizational  
Culture and  
Diversity  
Committee

Mrs. Cindy Anderson advised that the minutes of the March 28, 2023 Organizational Culture and Diversity Committee meeting are included in the Board agenda package. She outlined the agenda items discussed, including: joint meetings with the Regina Catholic School Board regarding prayer and venue, the Trustee Matrix, an update on Mental Health and Wellness, scheduling a Trustee Blanket Exercise, an update from Human Resources, a Diversity, Equity and Inclusion update, future pathways and intentions regarding Truth and Reconciliation, the possibility for diversity religious training sessions, and sexual assault training for students.

Quarterly  
Finance  
Accountability  
Report

The Second Quarter Financial Report, for the 6-month period ended February 28, 2023, had been distributed. Ms. Ashley Kuntz, Superintendent, Business Services, advised that, based on the second quarter forecast, the Statement of Operations shows an operating deficit on a cash basis of \$7.9M, approximately \$5.4M higher than the \$2.5M budgeted cash deficit, mainly due to: an increase in operating grant for September 30, 2022 actual enrolments and other grants for French language and Early Learning Intensive Support Program (ELISP); a significant increase in estimated interest income due to higher interest rates; projected higher salary costs due to additional full-time equivalents (FTEs) relating to September 30 enrolment growth and continued higher than budgeted substitute and casual costs including vacancies due to sick/quarantine leave; projected higher costs for bus and light vehicle transportation due to enrolment growth; projected higher costs for expansion of ELISP, fully offset by higher Ministry grant revenue; planned spending down of the Preventive Maintenance and Renewal reserve; and higher Governance costs due to the October 2022 by-election. She advised that, through the use of reserve funds, the Division will manage the expense increases incurred this year, noting that, overall, the Division remains in a stable financial position, but this year will deplete unrestricted reserves. Ms. Naomi Mellor, Deputy Director, Division Services/CFO, responded to questions relative to advocating for a mid-

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year funding adjustment based on enrolment increases, and funding per student. Mr. Adam Hicks requested future reports provide data on substitute costs.

Quarterly  
Transportation  
Accountability

The Second Quarter Transportation Report for the 6-month period ended February 28, 2023, had been distributed. Ms. Ashley Kuntz, Superintendent, Business Services, advised that the report shows an increase in the number of students accessing transportation services as well as an increase in the number of routes. She reminded Board members of the information provided at the December 13, 2022 Board meeting relative to the student-centred transportation model, and was pleased to advise that one additional minivan has been deployed to George Lee School's structured learning program. Ms. Kuntz responded to questions relative to electric buses, and usage increases. Ms. Naomi Mellor, Deputy Director, Division Services/CFO, responded to a question relative to transportation costs associated with the McLurg water main break.

Long Service  
Reception

Board members determined which presentation roles they would assume at the Long Service Reception to be held June 9, 2023.

SSBA Spring  
General  
Assembly  
Summary and  
CSBA  
Convention  
Attendance

Ms. Tara Molson advised that the SSBA Spring Assembly was held April 5th and 6th in Saskatoon, and that she, Mrs. Sarah Cummings Truskowski and Ms. Lacey Weekes attended the two-day assembly. She advised that school boards had the opportunity to discuss the funding shortfalls announced in last month 2023-24 Provincial budget, and noted that the Honourable Dustin Duncan, Minister of Education, was present and took questions from the floor relating to the lack of education funding. She commented that, collectively, school boards from across the province acknowledged the funding instability which will result in difficult decisions being made in the future. She highlighted a presentation by Dr. Alec Couros on media and social media and how it can benefit board advocacy, a session on governance lead by Mr. Ken Acton, presentations from the Deans of Education from the Universities of Regina and Saskatchewan relative to teachers' education programs, and presentations on SSBA vision renewal and the Director's Performance Assessment guide.

At the last Board meeting, Ms. Molson noted that Mrs. Cindy Anderson asked that the CSBA Convention be added to this meeting agenda to determine if anyone would be attending. None of the Board members are planning to attend.

Planned Agenda  
Items

For Board member information, the Chairperson noted the planned agenda items currently set for the May 16, 2023 Board meeting, including Celebration of Neurodiversity at Dr. A.E. Perry School, Regina Food for Learning Delegation, Director's Report, Audit and Risk Management Committee, Policy, Governance and Sustainability Planning Committee, Indigenous Education Advisory Council, Preventive Maintenance and Renewal Plan, Annual Facilities Accountability Report, Annual Information Technology Accountability Report, Shared Values Recognition Program Voting Protocol and Process, Advocacy Strategy for New Schools, SRO Review Update, and 2023/24 Budget Development Update.

Agenda  
Requests

Mr. Adam Hicks requested information on water pipe asbestos at a future Board meeting.

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Information –  
Subdivision  
Reports

Mr. Ted Jaleta advised that he attended the W.S. Hawrylak SCC meeting on March 20th, where fundraising and Grade 8 graduation plans are underway. He attended a Wahkotowin event at Wascana Plains on March 29th that had an exhibit exposing the social divide and the fissures that still run deep through Canadian society. He expressed appreciation for the staff and students who contributed to the event. He attended the W.F. Ready SCC meeting on March 29th, and the Jack MacKenzie SCC meeting on April 5th. He further advised that, on April 1st, he was a panelist at an Understanding Canadian Education System Forum hosted by the Nigerian community.

Mrs. Sarah Cummings Truszkowski advised that she joined four of the seven Elementary Student Forums, at Plainsview, Thomson, Dr. L.M. Hanna and Jack MacKenzie Schools, where students shared their thoughts and concerns regarding racism, discrimination, diversity, safety, and gender and sexual diversity. She attended The Crescents SCC meeting on April 4th; the school is busy with basketball, soccer, choir and band; they just completed their One Book One School event; and they are planning a senior camping trip to Lumsden Beach Camp and their Grade 8 Farewell. She also noted her attendance at the SSBA Spring Assembly and Public Section Executive Meeting. She concluded her report by noting recent calls received from concerned citizens on the Division’s gender and sexual diversity Administrative Procedure and reiterated that she will continue to stand up for all students and make sure they feel they belong.

Ms. Lacey Weekes advised that she attended an Arts Dessert Theatre at MacNeill School on March 29th, where they performed Unluck Cinderella; the desserts were provided by the Balfour Commercial Cooking students. She congratulated everyone involved in the event. She expressed appreciation for all the students who participated and shared their thoughts and concerns at the Elementary Student Forums, noting that the Board will have those discussions in mind when developing the Strategic Plan.

Mrs. Cindy Anderson advised that she attended four of the seven Elementary Student Forums, and reminder Board members that the High School Student Forum will be held on April 25th. She also highlighted that McLurg School won the Battle of the Books.

Mr. Adam Hicks advised that Argyle School held a farewell to the building. He noted that some community members and former alumni expressed concern that no documentation was taken before the building is to be torn down, but confirmed with Administration that photos were taken last year by the Facilities department. He attended the Harbour Landing Moving Night, with hundreds of children and parents in attendance. He advised that Dr. A.E. Perry School, the Albert Park Community Association and a number of community families are looking at fundraising for new community playgrounds and a full development of the City grounds behind the school. He also attended the annual Health Day at Saskatchewan Polytechnic, where dentists, hygienists, and students offer free full dental services in their state-of-the-art facility. He noted that the event is hosted every March and many children were able to access services to which they otherwise do not have access.

Mrs. Tracey McMurchy advised that Thomson School is wrapping up its Nursing Students program that offered classroom presentations and babysitting courses over the noon hour. They also have noon hour beading, pow wow, drumming and in-class engagement activities to help students with cultural opportunities and an increased feeling of belonging. They are working with the Heritage Community Association, offering cooking classes to families and students, and working with Second Harvest Food Rescue to provide boxes of food to families each week. She noted that Douglas Park School is looking forward to their school-wide National Indigenous People’s Day on June 15th, where students will go to differ stations throughout the school to learn about Indigenous cultures. She advised that Massey School continues its endeavor on

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renovating the school library, and the SCC will hold its annual meeting and member recruitment on May 11th. She highlighted that registrations are up for the Balfour Arts Collective. She further noted that Balfour students have expressed that they want beautification of the outside teepee area. Balfour Collegiate is also hosting the Saskatchewan One Act Festival next weekend. Campbell Collegiates Grades 10-12 just attended a mix of band and choir in Banff, and the Grade 9 students will be going to Winnipeg and Virden for a similar band and choir tour.

Ms. Tara Molson advised that she attended a recent George Lee SCC meeting where concern about the provincial education budget was discussed. George Lee School is also selling bedding plants. She also highlighted an Indigenous games session held at her workplace today with Regina Public School employees, and noted that Mr. Jeff Cappel, Indigenous Education Coordinator, was in attendance.

On behalf of the Board of Education, Mrs. Cindy Anderson 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. Cindy Anderson:

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. Sarah Cummings Truszkowski:

That we rise and report.

Motion Carried.

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

CUPE  
Grievance  
01-2023

1) That, upon consideration of all relevant detail, Grievance #01-2023, submitted by CUPE Local 650, be denied.

Meeting  
Adjournment  
Time

2) That the April 18, 2023 Board meeting be authorized to continue beyond the 8:30 p.m. presumptive adjournment time.

Motion by Mrs. Cindy Anderson:

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

Motion Carried.  
(Unanimously)

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Motion by Ms. Lacey Weekes:

That recommendation No. 2 (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 *Associate Schools Review*, and *2023-2024 Budget Development Update and Communications Strategy*. 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 Mr. Ted Jaleta:

That the meeting adjourn.

Motion Carried.

Time of meeting: 5:30 to 8:59 p.m.

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Chairperson

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Chief Financial Officer