

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

Members Present	Mrs. Sarah Cummings Truskowski, Vice Chair Mrs. Cindy Anderson Mr. Adam Hicks	Mr. Ted Jaleta Mrs. Tracey McMurchy Ms. Lacey Weekes
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	

Ted Jaleta acknowledged the location of every Regina Public School and the School Division Office on Treaty 4 land.

Sarah Cummings Truskowski assumed the position of Chair in the absence of Tara Molson. The Chairperson called the meeting to order and asked for a motion to adopt the agenda.

Adoption of Agenda	<u>Motion by Adam Hicks:</u> That the agenda be adopted as prepared.
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Motion Carried.

Declaration of Any Conflicts	Sarah Cummings Truskowski asked if there were any conflicts of interest to be declared. None were reported.
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2023-2024 Budget Submission	Copies of the 2023-2024 Budget Submission had been distributed. Naomi Mellor, Deputy Director, Division Services/CFO, provided additional information, noting 2023-24 Provincial budget impacts on the School Division, including: 1% increase in operating grants; eligibility for \$922K in Targeted Classroom Supports to sustain over 30 additional educational assistant FTEs; committed ongoing funding for capital projects in progress, plus the Campbell Collegiate foundation; and \$5.5M in Preventive Maintenance and Renewal (PMR), a \$500K reduction from 2022-23. With the 1% increase falling far short of covering enrolment increases, collective agreements with support staff, higher employee benefits, utility rates, transportation costs and other inflationary increases, she advised that the Division developed a budget strategy that included a series of measures to manage within available funding, including: increasing and expanding student fees for noon supervision; reducing spending on technology, learning resources and facility projects; reducing transportation costs; reducing positions in Division Office that support the delivery of education programs and services; reducing noon hour staff allocations at schools; and reducing instructional positions in schools that would increase staff to student ratios. It was pointed out that, in May, the Ministry of Education re-estimated projections for the new Saskatchewan Distance Learning Corporation (DLC) and modified the initial \$2M tuition claw back to \$840K, with school divisions being notified that billings would be based on actual (not estimated) enrolments for DLC students. In June, the Province announced an additional \$40M in funding for school divisions (\$20M for additional enrolment growth
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Chair	CFO

and \$20M to address class size and composition pressures). Ms. Mellor advised that Regina Public Schools’ share was \$2.375M for class size and composition and \$3.151M for additional enrolment growth; however, the class size and composition funding requires submission of a plan for approval by the Ministry and is conditional funding for 2023-24; and the estimated enrolment growth funding is based on a further 525 students beyond the Division’s original projection and will be reconciled to actuals based on September 30 actual enrolments. In addition, the budget submission deadline was extended to the end of July. Because the additional funding is tied to specific purposes (enrolments and class size/composition) versus being a general, unconditional funding increase, it was noted that, although welcomed, these changes were not sufficient to reverse all planned budget measures. Certain planned budget measures, such as increasing noon supervision fees, reducing noon supervision expenses, and reducing light vehicle costs, would still be necessary for long-term sustainability and are not impacted by the additional funding. She summarized the Division’s 2023-24 budget priorities, including: programming, Wahkotowin, early years growth, mental health and well-being, strengthening diversity, equity and inclusion, infrastructure construction, renewal and sustainability, and targeted, transparent and sustainable budget planning. With operating, capital and other grants, increased noon supervision fees, increased interest income, higher rates for community use of school facilities, and increased facility rental rates, she advised that total revenues, on a cash basis, are \$274.1M, an increase of 4.3% over 2022-23, and \$290M on a Public Sector Accounting Board (PSAB) basis, an increase of 4.1% over 2022-23. On the expense side of the budget, she outlined the removal of one-time items from the budget base, salary and benefit adjustments, projected enrolment increases, increased transportation costs, increased utility rates, additional technology security measures, decreased PMR spending, reduction in noon supervision expenses, adjusted technology renewal, reduced transportation spending, reduced Division Office FTEs, increased teacher-student ratios, a new Supportive Environment program, creation of a specialized intervention team, additional targeted literacy supports, an additional psychologist position, additional leadership capacity for diversity, equity and inclusion, a hold-back pending actual September 30 enrolments, and an increase of approximately 13 Division-wide FTEs. Total expenses, on a cash basis, are \$274.7M, an increase of 3.5% over 2022-23, and \$284M on a PSAB basis, an increase of 3.7% over 2022-23. On a PSAB basis, she noted that the surplus is attributable to capital grants that will be drawn down over time as the projects under construction are completed and amortized. She outlined that, on a cash basis, the 2023-24 budget shows a significant reduction in estimated deficit for the year and will be managed by accessing available reserve funds. In closing, Ms. Mellor advised that the Division demonstrated progress in all areas with targeted program improvements; however, there remains challenges relative to enrolment increases, predictable funding for general inflation and employee agreements, PMR and major capital projects. Board members expressed appreciation for the extensive work undertaken to bring this budget to fruition. Darren Boldt, Director of Education/CEO, advised that garnering feedback from in-school and Division Office administrators, greatly assisted in addressing targeted classroom interventions. Ms. Mellor and Mr. Boldt responded to questions relative to guidance counsellor, Indigenous Advocate, and Teacher-Librarian release time, teacher preparation time, advocating for adequate funding, and advocating by School Community Councils.

Motion by Cindy Anderson:

That the 2023-2024 budget be approved and submitted in the required form to the Ministry of Education, pending final adjustments approved by the Director of Education/CEO.

Motion Carried.
(Unanimously)

Chair	CFO

On behalf of the Board of Education, 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.

Adjournment Sarah Cummings Truszkowski advised that this concluded the business of the meeting and called for a motion to adjourn.

Motion by Lacey Weekes:

That the meeting adjourn.

Motion Carried.

Time of meeting: 5:00 to 5:48 p.m.

Chairperson

Chief Financial Officer