

At a 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, Chair Ms. Lacey Weekes, Vice-Chair Mrs. Cindy Anderson	Mr. Adam Hicks Mr. Ted Jaleta (virtually) Mrs. Tracey McMurchy Ms. Tara Molson
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	

Adam Hicks 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 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 October 17, 2023.
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Motion by Tracey McMurchy:

That the minutes of the Board meeting of October 17, 2023, be approved as distributed.

Motion Carried.

Early Learning	Juanita Redekopp-McKeown, Supervisor of Instruction, provided a brief overview of the Early Learning programs in Regina Public Schools, highlighting Provincial and Division direction, programming and supports, and partnerships and services. She pointed to the Early Years Evaluation and the renewed focus on family engagement. She outlined the Prekindergarten and Kindergarten programs and made special note of the High Count, High Rate Schools, Michif Early Learning Program and Kiskinwahamtok. She further noted the Early Learning Intensive Support (ELIS), Early Transitions Prekindergarten, Children Communicating, Connecting and in Community (4Cs), and the new Early Years Intervention Team. Regarding partnerships and services, she outlined ELIS, Ministry of Health and KidsFirst, Socialization, Communication and Education Program (SCEP), Early Childhood Intervention Program (ECIP), Wascana
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Rehabilitation, Campaign for Grade-Level Reading, United Way, Mosaic, Canada-Saskatchewan Agreement on Minority-Language Education and Second Official-Language Instruction, University of Regina Early Childhood, Métis Nation Saskatchewan, Regina Early Learning Centre, Regina Early Learning Family Resource Centre, and Foundations Learning and Skills Saskatchewan. Ms. Redekopp-McKeown responded to questions relative to early years assessments, intensive supports spots, partnerships, and funding. Board members expressed appreciation for the presentation.

Director's  
Report

Darren Boldt, Director of Education/CEO, provided his standing report, highlighting the annual United Way campaign taking place in November. He advised that eight Campaigns for Grade-Level Reading Schools receive significant support from the United Way and its partners. He celebrated the 2023 Summer Success data, and spoke of the vision assessments, follow-up support and intervention for Grades 1-3 students at Kitchener, Albert and Seven Stones Schools through the Emerald Park Clinic, a United Way partner, and five additional schools—Imperial, Coronation Park, Connaught, Thomson, and Arcola—that will receive similar support from another United Way partner, Eye Health Centres. He advised that November 10th was a Division-wide professional development day, where all employees were encouraged to participate in a new diversity training module “Fostering Psychological Safety: A Catalyst for Inclusive Workplaces,” fostering a sense of belonging to help address diversity, equity and inclusion in the Regina Public Schools workplace. On November 10th, schools also finished their school-level plans aligning with the Division’s strategic plan. He advised that these plans will be shared with School Community Councils and school communities and posted on school websites. Also on November 10th, Division Responsive Instructional Coaches, Student Achievement Superintendents and Coordinators, and Human Resources personnel held the first annual Internship Institute, with breakout sessions on Literacy in the Early Years – Play-based Learning, Responsive Literacy Structures and Best Practice in Writing, and Exploring the importance of student engagement and responsive teaching through the areas of math and land-based learning. He noted that 115 interns were in attendance. He advised that Thomson Community School launched kiskinwahamātowin, which means learning and teaching together. The school now has new signage that reads: pihtikwe tawaw, which translates into “come in you; there is room for you,” ensuring all students feel a sense of belonging and can discover themselves through new language and land-based learning opportunities. As well, Balfour Collegiate has named its scheduled advisory time pimātisiwin and wakôhtowin, or PAW for short. PAW encourages the use of rich and contextual nêhiyawêwin, or Cree language and is a natural tie-in to the school’s mascot and recently updated school team names, the Balfour Bears. Along with Regina Catholic Schools, the CAA, the City of Regina, and the Regina Police Service, Regina Public Schools launched a pilot program at Ethel Milliken and W.S. Hawrylak Schools, where CAA Safety Patrol students wear a backpack that visually shows how fast motorists are going in the school zone. During the week of November 6th to 10th, he advised that many Remembrance Day and Indigenous Veterans Day events and ceremonies were held. Later in the meeting, he noted that the Board will receive the 2022-2023 Annual Report and the 2022-2023 Audited Financial Statements. He commented that the Annual Report shows areas of growth and continued challenges in the year ahead as the Division continues to address post-pandemic learning challenges and strives towards equitable outcomes for all students. The Audited Financial Statements reflect the financial challenges resulting from successive years of funding that has not kept pace with enrolment growth, inflation, and programming pressures.

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**Audit and Risk Management Committee** Adam Hicks advised that the minutes of the November 7, 2023 Audit and Risk Management Committee meeting are included in the Board agenda package. He outlined the agenda items discussed, including: a review of the draft Audited Financial Statements for the period ending August 31, 2023, which will be presented later in the meeting; School Community Council profit and loss statements; a review of the draft Auditor's Reports; an in-camera discussion with the Auditors; and a review of the draft 2022-23 Annual Report, which will also be presented later in the meeting.

**Public Section Update** Ted Jaleta advised that he attended the Public Section meeting on November 13, 2023 with fellow trustees, Adam Hicks, Sarah Cummings Truszkowski, and Director Darren Boldt. He noted that outgoing chairperson, Colleen McPherson, commented on engagement of our membership in the discussion about an agreement with the Saskatchewan School Boards Association, our partnership with SSBA, funding of independent schools and how this takes funding from public schools, and online learning being taken over by the provincial government and how that affects board autonomy. He noted that Linda Mattock, from Horizon School Division, was elected as the new chairperson. The financial report was reviewed, and it was noted that there was a substantial surplus again this year, partially because of receiving \$15,000 from SSBA. The Executive Director will be working with the table officers to develop a plan to redistribute some of this back to the membership.

**2022-2023 Annual Report** Copies of the 2022-2023 Annual Report had been distributed. Delaine Clyne, Supervisor, Strategic Supports, noted that the Annual Report is due to the Ministry of Education by November 29th for tabling in the Legislature by December 29th. She further advised that the Ministry continues to specify the format and content of the report, and that draft versions of the report were reviewed by the Ministry of Education and the Audit and Risk Management Committee, with recommended edits having been incorporated. She outlined some notable items in the Report, including: significant in-year enrolment growth that required funding adjustments; the resuming of in-person events; improvements in student achievement measurements; the opening of the new Argyle School, the finished design process of the North Regina Joint Use School Project, the site planning work on the Harbour Landing West Joint Use School Project, the progression of the Campbell Collegiate Vocational Wing, and the implementation of Preventive and Maintenance Renewal projects totaling \$6.9M; the initiation of a Division Energy and Sustainability Study to identify approaches to address greenhouse gas emissions and find cost savings; a focus on Information Technology process improvements that resulted in cost savings and continued to address the cyber security recommendations; a review and implementation of student transportation methods and processes that led to cost savings; initiating the 2023-2027 Strategic Plan through an engagement process that included focus sessions, an Employee Engagement Survey, and a Stakeholder Survey; the updating and modernizing of Division Administrative Procedures related to diversity, equity and inclusion; and improved Human Resources department systems and processes for recruitment, orientation opportunities for new staff, and initiated processes to improve disability management and safety management systems. Erik Van Dusen, Supervisor of Assessment, outlined Student Achievement results, focusing on Early Years Evaluation, Grade 3 Reading, Mental Health and Well-Being for Grades 4-8 and 9-12 students with a positive sense of belonging, Credit Attainment, and Three- and Five-Year Graduation Rates. He summarized that the Division: is encouraged by student achievement results showing modest improvements in Early Years, Grade 3 reading, and credit attainment data; continues to experience a recovery in student achievement from the disruptions caused by the COVID-19 pandemic; is encouraged with achievement results that generally compare well to provincial results; and is committed to reducing the

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achievement gap between non-FNMI and FNMI students. Mr. Van Dusen, Naomi Mellor, Deputy Director of Division Services/CFO, Rick Steciuk, Deputy Director of Student Achievement/School Services, and Darren Boldt, Director of Education/CEO, responded to questions relative to structural repairs at Campbell Collegiate, Grade 3 reading results, reasons for students not obtaining eight credits in a year, self-identification data, Indigenous graduation rates, the Ministry’s recent announcement on required course changes, mental health and well-being data, and available data on immigrant and English as an Additional Language students.

Motion by Lacey Weekes:

That the Regina Board of Education approve the 2022-23 Annual Report, subject to final edits approved by the Director of Education/CEO.

Motion Carried.  
(Unanimously)

2022-2023  
Audited  
Financial  
Statements

Copies of the draft Audited Financial Statements for the year ending August 31, 2023, had been distributed. Ashley Kuntz, Superintendent, Business Services, provided a summary of the assets/liabilities and revenues/expenditures. She advised that, in the opinion of the external auditor, the financial statements present the financial position of the Board fairly in all material respects and are in full compliance with GAAP and PSAB requirements. Ms. Kuntz advised that Regina Public Schools has a negative Net Financial Debt balance, but that the Division has cash and other assets sufficient to cover any short-term liabilities, and that the clean audit reports convey that the statements can be relied upon. Adam Hicks recommended that language in the executive summary of the Audited Financial Statements should be in layman’s terms to reflect the difficult and challenging position the Division continues to face given Provincial funding for PreK to Grade 12 education.

Motion by Adam Hicks:

That the Audited Financial Statements for the year ending August 31, 2023, be approved, subject to minor changes made after final review and approval by the Ministries of Education and Finance.

Motion Carried.  
(Unanimously)

SSBA Fall  
General  
Assembly  
Summary

Sarah Cummings Truszkowski advised that, on November 12-14, most of the Board and Director Boldt attended the 108th Saskatchewan School Boards Association Fall Assembly in Regina alongside the other 26 public boards of education in Saskatchewan. The event opened with a performance by the Campbell Collegiate Jazz Band. Guest speakers Dr. Ken Coates and Dr. Jim Farney spoke about school boards and the challenges of education in tumultuous times, and about the politics of religious schools in Canada. This Board brought forward a resolution to advocate as a provincial organization with the provincial and federal governments to create a National School Food Program in all our schools, which passed, and the Board members look forward to seeing movement on this critical topic. Another resolution was planned regarding additional/incremental funding for school divisions that experience increases in student enrolments after September 30 each year, but it was withdrawn as a working group led by the Ministry of Education is showing great progress, and it is hoped an equitable way to recognize enrolment growth will be achieved. This Board also seconded a motion brought forward by Lloydminster Catholic School Division regarding continuing a safe school zone of 50m around all schools.

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That motion also passed, with the hope that children can continue to have safe, accessible education with no disruptions or interference.

**Planned Agenda Items** For Board member information, the Chairperson noted the planned agenda items currently set for the December 12, 2023 Board meeting, including Director’s Report, Appointment of Auditors, Quarterly Finance Accountability Report, Quarterly Transportation Accountability Report, and Meeting Evaluation (in closed).

**Information – Biannual Administrative Procedures Update** The Chairperson advised that the Biannual Administrative Procedures Update was included in the Board agenda package for information.

**Information – Subdivision Reports** Tracey McMurchy advised that attending School Community Council meetings allows her to connect with the amazing parents, family and community members of each of the schools in her subdivision. She noted that she and Trustee Hicks got together with their Subdivisions SCCs this past weekend, with 14 schools across two subdivisions sharing ideas and talking about best practices on engaging parents, families, and the community. She thanked Monsieur Levesque, Principal of École Massey School for welcoming us into his school and providing the space for us to gather. She outlined that SCCs raise money to help families who have faced unfortunate situations, families in need of food, warm clothing, books, etc. They hold barbecues, dances, and movie nights for the students. They invite the community to join them for breakfast, bagels and give away new books to students to encourage a love of reading. They partner with Associations to serve free chili dinner to the community. To engage parents, families and the community, she advised that Douglas Park School does “Meet the Teacher” posts on social media; École Massey School is holding an Arts, Craft and Trades Fair; Arcola School did a clothing drive and held a day where they gave away free clothing to the school’s families in need; Thomson School students are learning Cree and have cooking classes for parents, families and community members.

Adam Hicks advised that he attended a U of R Senate meeting on October 20th and noted many positive trends including record student attendance numbers, boosted a lot by international students, and the experience learning office where the goal is to help all 16,000 students leave with some form of either work or volunteering experience to supplement their educational journey. On November 9th he attended a Remembrance Day ceremony at one of the schools, a great teaching opportunity for students to not only learn about our history but to also honour those that have and continue to serve our country. On November 20th he attended the Sheldon-Williams SCC meeting that reviewed the strategic plan and discussions; Administration talked about making the strategic plan truly theirs and working with their staff to ensure all staff voices are heard. He further advised that he has finished module 2 and is entering module 3 of the ICD course “Oversight on Climate Change”, having used his trustee professional development allotment to help supplement some of the costs of the course.

Ted Jaleta advised that he attended SCC meetings at Wascana Plains School on October 19th, W.F. Ready School on October 24th, and W.F. Ready School and Wilfred Hunt School on November 6th. He also attended a Wascana Plains EAL information night on October 26th, and a Wascana Plains Newcomers engagement night organized by that ward’s city counsellor on November 2nd.

Sarah Cummings Truskowski advised that, during the past month, she attended SCC meetings at The Crescents School and at Seven Stones Community School. She was happy to hear of the great things happening at these schools, including

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Winter Feasts, potlucks, dances, and celebrations in the works. She also met with other leaders from the City and Province—Meara Conway, Trent Wotherspoon, Shanon Zachidniak, Alex Tzack, Andrew Nestor—in a brainstorming session about the Rosemont Mount Royal and North Central areas and looks forward to connecting again with this group to see how we can work together for the betterment of these communities. Alongside Trustee Jaleta and Director Boldt, she also took a Johnson Shoyama School of Public Policy class called “Governance for CEOs/Directors of Education, Senior Executives and Board Chairs.”

On behalf of the Board of Education, Adam Hicks 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 Lacey Weekes:

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 Adam Hicks:

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 November 21, 2023 Board meeting be authorized to continue beyond the 8:30 p.m. presumptive adjournment time.

Motion by Tara Molson:

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

Motion Carried.

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At the conclusion of closed session, the Committee of the Whole reported progress with respect to consideration of *Associate Schools Review Update*, *Policy Implementation Update*, *Labour Relations Update*, and *Meeting Evaluation*. 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 Cindy Anderson:

That the meeting adjourn.

Motion Carried.

Time of meeting: 5:30 to 8:49 p.m.

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Chairperson

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Chief Financial Officer