

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

Members Present	Dr. Barbara Young, Chair Mr. Dale West, Vice-Chair Dr. John Conway Mr. Russ Marchuk	Mrs. Rhonda Parisian Mrs. Barb Saylor Mr. Garry Schenher
Administration Present	Mr. Don Hoiium, Director of Education Ms. Debra Burnett, Deputy Director, Division Services, & Secretary-Treasurer Mr. Ross Brown, Deputy Director, Instruction and School Services	

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 School Boards Association Working Advisory Groups Nominations, Transportation, Confidential Parental Correspondence, and Discovery Pre-School Information.*

Adoption of Agenda Motion by Mrs. R. Parisian:

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

Motion Carried.

Approving of Minutes The Chairperson then asked for a motion to approve the minutes of the meeting held on January 6, 2009.

Motion by Mr. G. Schenher:

That the minutes of the Board meeting of January 6, 2009, be approved as distributed.

Motion Carried.

Audit and Policy Review Committee Information relative to the Audit and Policy Review Committee meeting of January 14, 2009, together with proposed revisions to Policy 7 “Board Operations” and Policy 8 “Committees of the Board”, including suggested terms of reference for a newly constituted Public Education Advocacy Committee, had been distributed. Mr. D. West provided a brief summary of discussions held at the meeting, noting that, upon approval of the terms of reference, oversight of the Employee Recognition Program would be assumed by the new standing committee. It was further noted that the existing duties of the Trustee Remuneration, Expense and Evaluation Committee would be added to the terms of reference of the Audit and Policy Review Committee, with the exception of Board and Director Evaluations, which would become functions of the whole Board. Mr. West further advised that Committee members had agreed with the recommendations of Mr. Don Hoiium relative to the Policy and Procedures Advisory Committee, namely, that the committee be renamed the Procedural Advisory Committee and that it remain as an employee representative committee but become a standing committee that would meet biannually as opposed to being an annually appointed ad-hoc committee.

Chair	S/T

Motion by Mr. D. West:

That the proposed changes to Policy 8 “Committees of the Board” and Policy 7 “Board Operations” be approved as presented.

Motion Carried.

Motion by Mr. D. West:

That the Chairperson’s nominations of Mrs. B. Saylor (Chair), Mr. D. West and Mr. R. Marchuk to the Public Education Advocacy Committee be approved.

Motion Carried.

Public Boards
Caucus

Information relative to Public Boards Caucus events, including preparation of an application to the Saskatchewan School Boards Association for Section status consideration, had been distributed. Dr. B. Young drew attention to the distributed agenda for the February 5, 2009, Executive meeting, noting that members would be asked to bring forward topics of importance for potential advocacy or involvement of the Public Section. As such, the matter would be added to the agenda of the February 3, 2009, Board meeting for further discussion. Dr. Young further advised of the Communications meeting scheduled for February 13, 2009, wherein representatives from each division would participate in planning a program for the June General Meeting relative to communicating positive messages regarding public education.

Saskatchewan
School Boards
Association
Regional
Meeting

Information regarding a Saskatchewan School Boards Association Regional Meeting scheduled for April 2, 2009, for Trustees and Directors from Regina Public, Prairie Valley and Regina Catholic School Divisions, had been distributed. Mr. Don Hoium, Director of Education, advised that a supper was planned for 6:00 PM, with the meeting commencing at 7:00 PM.

Saskatchewan
School Boards
Association
Working
Advisory
Groups
Nominations

Dr. B. Young advised that the Saskatchewan School Boards Association, through email, had invited Trustees to let their names stand for consideration for one of three Working Advisory Groups, and that Trustees should respond directly to the email if they were so interested. The matter would be placed on the agenda for the February 3, 2009, Board meeting for discussion. She further advised that Mr. D. West had been named to the Teacher Certification Board and that she had been named to the Provincial Bargaining Committee.

Apprenticeship
Scholarship

Information regarding the new RPS Apprenticeship Scholarship Program had been distributed. Mr. Ross Brown, Deputy Director, Instruction and School Services, and Ms. Debra Burnett, Deputy Director, Division Services, provided additional information. Mr. Brown advised that there were three scholarships available to applicants who had graduated from Regina Public Schools (under 22 years of age) or that were currently registered in a Regina Public School or the Regina Trades and Skills Centre and within three credits of graduation. He highlighted that the chosen candidates would gain two work experience credits, accumulate up to 1,000 hours towards an apprenticeship certificate, and be eligible for a scholarship of up to \$12,000 for a six-month work experience placement. Ms. Burnett advised that Mr. Gord Heidel, Career Development Consultant, had been actively involved in establishing the program and had agreed to assume the role of supervising teacher. She further advised that each

Chair	S/T

candidate would be paired with an RPS tradesperson and that there were currently three RPS trades people who had expressed a willingness to participate in the program. Ms. Burnett outlined that a committee would be struck to determine the successful candidates, who then, along with the involved trades people, would be introduced to Board members at a future Board meeting. Board members expressed appreciation for the hard work and dedication demonstrated in the ongoing development and implementation of the scholarship program.

Class Size Report

Information regarding class sizes for both elementary and high schools had been distributed. Mr. Ross Brown, Deputy Director, Instruction and School Services, provided additional information, noting an average class size of 23.83 students for Grades 1 to 8, an increase of 0.07 from last year, and an average class size of 24.26 students for Grades 9 to 12, a decrease of 0.46 from last year. Mr. Brown responded to questions from Board members regarding Pre-Kindergarten enrolment figures. He further acknowledged the hard work of the Superintendents and in-school administrators for their efforts in meeting the challenges in this regard.

Closed Session

Motion by Mrs. B. Saylor:

That we go into closed session.

Motion Carried.

Motion by Mr. G. Schenher:

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 *Transportation, Confidential Parental Correspondence, City of Regina Reassessment 2009 Presentation, 10-Year Renewal Plan Update, and Discovery Pre-School Information*. 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. D. West:

That the meeting adjourn.

Motion Carried.

Time of meeting: 7:00 to 9:09 p.m.

Chairperson

Secretary-Treasurer