

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: *Public Section Meeting, Saskatchewan School Boards Association Regional Meeting, Yamate Student Exchange, Parent Letter, and Thom IB Art Show.*

Adoption of Agenda Motion by Mr. D. West:

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 April 7, 2009.

Motion by Mrs. B. Saylor:

That the minutes of the Board meeting of April 7, 2009, be approved as distributed.

Motion Carried.

2009-10 Budget Planning Presentation The Board received a presentation from Ms. Karen Wilkie and Ms. Carla Beck regarding 2009-10 Budget Planning. Ms. Wilkie outlined the priorities she felt should be set to ensure the provision of quality education for children in the division. She highlighted the need for a more transparent, responsive Board with greater opportunity for meaningful public input. Ms. Wilkie expressed concern relative to the extensive capital projects outlined in the Board's 10-Year Renewal Plan, and felt the focus on priorities such as reducing class sizes, improving academic standards and facilitating greater community integration should be increased. She suggested that it would be more cost effective to maintain already equipped and furnished schools as opposed to building new facilities. In regard to busing of students, Ms. Wilkie questioned what dollar figure had been placed on environmental costs. Ms. Beck focused on her belief that small schools provide quality education and the best environment for learning and thriving for students. She likened the Division's challenges, as set out in the Board's 2009-10 Budget Proposals, to the challenges outlined in the background rationale of the Provincial Task Force on the Role of the School's report on School^{PLUS}. Ms. Beck provided a number of recommendations for

Chair	S/T

Board consideration. Board members expressed appreciation for the presentation and, together with the Administration, provided information in response thereto, including detail on the provincial process that is followed regarding capital project approvals, confirmation regarding re-use of furnishings from demolished schools, class size statistics, and the biennial review feedback process. Dr. B. Young noted that, with the new provincial funding model, the Board is still awaiting budgetary information from the Ministry of Education to assist in final budget decisions. She further noted that all of the Board’s decisions focus on the Continuous Improvement Plan priorities as well as the Board’s Shared Values.

Public Section Dr. B. Young advised that she had attended the Public Section Executive Meeting in Lanigan, Saskatchewan, on April 20, 2009. She provided a brief summary of the information presented by two of the SSBA Working Advisory Groups. Both the Finance Group and the Capital Group are reviewing the immediate and long-term issues associated with the new funding model. The Finance Group is also recommending that Directors of Education participate in that Working Group. Dr. Young further noted the importance of having a public advocacy action in place.

Saskatchewan School Boards Association Regional Meeting Mr. Don Hoiium, Director of Education, reminded Board members that the Saskatchewan School Boards Association Regional Meeting had been rescheduled to Wednesday, May 6, 2009, at 6:00 p.m., at the Division Office. Dr. B. Young, Mr. D. West, Mr. R. Marchuk, Mrs. R. Parisian, Mrs. B. Saylor, Mr. G. Schenher indicated their intention to attend.

School Redesign Meetings Mr. Don Hoiium, Director of Education, advised that, due to ongoing work with Fielding Nair International, the community discussion meetings set for the Arcola School and Douglas Park School communities had been rescheduled to June 3 and 4, 2009. He confirmed that information would be distributed to all families in the those two communities advising of the new dates. The scheduled meetings involving the Argyle/Athabasca and Wascana/Herchmer communities remain unchanged. Mr. Hoiium further indicated that Mr. Randy Fielding would be making a webinar presentation to the Board to discuss conceptual design and site selection recommendations at the May 19, 2009, Board meeting.

Commercial/Industrial Phase-In Plan Information regarding the City of Regina’s 2009 Reassessment Commercial and Industrial Phase-In Plan had been distributed. Ms. Debra Burnett, Deputy Director, Division Services, provided additional information, noting that Ministry officials had advised that, if phase-in plans were adopted in the past, this pattern should continue in 2009. She further advised that, in view of the new education funding model, an undertaking was secured that any phase-in costs associated with appeal decisions rendered in subsequent years would be the responsibility of the provincial government.

Motion by Mr. G. Schenher:

That the Board agree to adoption of the Commercial/Industrial tax phase-in plan for 2009 as set out in City of Regina Bylaw No. 2008-73, on the express understanding that there is no net cost to the Board of the phase-in plan (in the 2009 tax year or in subsequent tax years), and that Council of the City of Regina and the Ministry of Education be advised accordingly.

Motion Carried.

Chair	S/T

School Boards/
City Council
Liaison
Committee
Meeting

Information regarding a School Boards/City Council Liaison Committee meeting scheduled for May 21, 2009, had been distributed. Mr. Don Hoium, Director of Education, requested Board members to forward proposed agenda items to his attention prior to May 8, 2009.

Yamate Student
Exchange

Mr. Don Hoium, Director of Education, advised Board members that 41 students from the Yamate Gakuin High School in Yokohama, Japan, were currently in Regina, on an international exchange. A luncheon was hosted for the group at Division Office and Mr. Hoium had the opportunity to attend the function. He advised that 23 Regina public school students will be travelling to Japan during the Summer months to complete the exchange.

Thom IB Art
Show

Mrs. B. Saylor advised that she had attended the Thom Collegiate International Baccalaureate Art Show on April 20, 2009, a precursor to the I.B. art exams. Mrs. Saylor acknowledged the tremendous talent of the five female students enrolled in the program, and wished them well on their examinations.

Closed
Session

Motion by Mrs. B. Saylor:
That we go into closed session.

Motion Carried.

Motion by Mr. D. West:
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 *Public Section Meeting, 2009-10 Budget Update, and Parent Letter*. 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. R. Parisian:
That the meeting adjourn.

Motion Carried.

Time of meeting: 7:00 to 9:06 p.m.

Chairperson

Secretary-Treasurer