

Regina, Saskatchewan  
May 5, 2009

At the Annual Meeting of Electors of the Board of Education of the Regina School Division No. 4 of Saskatchewan, held at 1600 4th Avenue.

Members Present  
Dr. Barbara Young  
Mr. Dale West  
Dr. John Conway  
Mr. Russ Marchuk  
Mrs. Rhonda Parisian  
Mrs. Barb Saylor  
Mr. Garry Schenher

Administration Present  
Mr. Don Hoium, Director of Education  
Ms. Debra Burnett, Deputy Director, Division Services, & Secretary-Treasurer  
Mr. Ross Brown, Deputy Director, Instruction and School Services

Opening Remarks  
Dr. B. Young, Chairperson of the Board of Education of the Regina School Division No. 4 of Saskatchewan, called the meeting to order and welcomed all in attendance.

Ms. Corrine Miller, Principal, Dr. A. E. Perry School, with piano accompaniment from Ms. Melanie Little, Teacher, F. W. Johnson Collegiate, led in the singing of *O Canada*.

Election of Chairperson for the Meeting  
Ms. Debra Burnett, Deputy Director, Division Services, and Secretary-Treasurer of the Board of Education of the Regina School Division No. 4 of Saskatchewan, invited nominations for the election of a Chairperson for the Annual Meeting of Electors. Dr. B. Young was nominated by Ms. Starla Nistor.

Motion by Mr. Mike Walter:

That nominations cease.

Motion Carried.

Dr. B. Young was declared elected by acclamation to serve as Chairperson of the Annual Meeting of Electors.

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Election of Secretary for the Meeting

Dr. B. Young, Chairperson of the meeting, then called for nominations for the appointment of a Secretary for the Annual Meeting of Electors. Ms. Debra Burnett was nominated by Mr. Bruce Baldwin.

Motion by Mr. Bruce Lipinski:

That nominations cease.

Motion Carried.

Ms. D. Burnett was declared elected by acclamation to serve as Secretary of the Annual Meeting of Electors.

Adoption of Agenda

The Chairperson then asked for a motion to adopt the agenda that was prepared for the meeting.

Motion by Mr. Ron Christie:

That the agenda for the meeting be adopted as prepared.

Motion Carried.

Approving of Minutes

The next item of business was the reading of the minutes of the 2008 Annual Meeting of Electors.

Motion by Mr. Greg Enion:

That we dispense with the reading of the minutes of the 2008 Annual Meeting of Electors and that they be approved as circulated.

Motion Carried.

Chairperson's Report

Dr. B. Young addressed the meeting, noting the change in meeting format from past years. She pointed out the information stations set up in the meeting area for the 14 schools that will be Structural Innovation demonstration sites in the 2009-10 school year. She advised that copies of the annual report, including the Director's comments, had been placed on every chair, and that copies of the

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Board's Audited Financial Statements were available at the meeting as well as on the Board's website along with other documents of interest.

Dr. Young took the opportunity to share with attendees a variety of concepts the Division has been drawing upon as it heads into the future and highlighted what has been happening during the past year. She focused on the Continuous Improvement Plan, a framework provided to all Divisions by the Ministry of Education, based on the priority areas of Higher Literacy and Achievement, Equitable Opportunities and Outcomes for All, Smooth Transitions into and through the System, and Governance, Facilities and Accountability. Dr. Young outlined strategies under each of the priority areas and highlighted examples, such as the establishment of professional learning communities in schools, the efforts of School Community Councils and their advisory roles to administration and staff in schools, the strengthening of partnerships that enable such projects as the Regina Trades and Skills Centre and the North Central Shared Facility, and the continuation of an alliance with Saskatoon Public Schools that facilitates the sharing of information and research in areas such as instruction and student assessment.

Dr. Young called attention to the Structural Innovation initiative that will be undertaken at several schools in the 2009-10 school year stressing the importance of literacy and numeracy and a forward-looking approach to the delivery of instruction.

Dr. Young commented on the overall educational infrastructure crisis in Canada, and outlined the Board's goal to budget 2% of the value of the facilities portfolio each year to upgrading and renovating facilities. She did point out that Ministry approval is now required prior to commencing any facility improvements, and was pleased to confirm five Ministry-approved projects that will be proceeding.

Dr. Young affirmed the Board's desire for transparency and outlined the Board's policy governance approach, including a Board self-evaluation process. She highlighted the increase in Board meeting discussions taking place in public session, the augmentation of the Board meeting minutes, and the intensification of Board communication, including issuance of Board quarterly newsletters. She also noted the Board's involvement with the Saskatchewan School Boards Association relative to public education advocacy.

In closing, Dr. Young thanked the Regina ratepayers, community, and stakeholders for their ongoing commitment to Regina Public Schools. She further expressed gratitude to the administration and to her colleagues on the Board for their continued dedication and leadership.

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Overview of Structural Innovation Initiative

Mr. Ross Brown, Deputy Director, Instruction and School Services, addressed the meeting, introducing the Structural Innovation initiative. He outlined the process undertaken by administrators and educators to look beyond “one teacher, one classroom” and take advantage of all professionals within a school to improve student achievement. He highlighted the establishment of working groups to research and develop a framework to support innovative practices in literacy and numeracy instruction. Mr. Brown defined the four identified keys required to advance structural innovation: 1) flexible teaching arrangements and instructional Groupings; 2) teacher collaboration; 3) interdisciplinary and inquiry-based teaching and learning; and 4) inclusive practices. He advised that 14 schools—10 elementary and 4 high schools—were chosen as demonstration sites for the 2009-10 school year. He noted that each site will be monitored and supported by a team from Instruction and School Services. He thanked the Board members for their support and the School Community Councils for their continued input. He expressed pride and thankfulness for the efforts of each of the schools. Mr. Brown urged attendees to take some time to visit each station set up to learn more about the unique structural innovation plans for the coming school year.

(Attendees were provided opportunity to visit Structural Innovation stations positioned throughout the meeting room.)

Comments and/or Questions from Ratepayers

Ms. Patricia Elliott commended the Board for looking at how children learn. She expressed concern regarding class size and pupil-teacher ratios, and asked about community input relative to facility size. Dr. B. Young advised that smaller instructional groups are facilitated utilizing all professionals within the school, and that the 200-400 enrolment educational model supports this practice. Dr. Young further noted that each of the schools is drawing on the community to assist them in their initiatives, and that guidelines have been set to have a full complement of staff to implement the structural innovation initiatives.

With the proposal of elementary timetable adjustments, Mr. James Petrychyn, Sheldon-Williams School Community Council Chair, sought clarification on the continued provision of recess for students. Mr. Don Hoium, Director of Education, advised that 30 minutes of recess per day will continue, but changes, such as clustering by grade levels, may be explored.

With regard to larger schools, Ms. Amy Petrovitch asked about the possibility of an increase in bullying. Mr. Hoium advised that the concept of structural innovation is to provide opportunities for smaller group instruction on an

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ongoing basis, with the inherent outcome of closer relationships being formed, ensuring good learning and good socialization. He further noted that the Division continues to advance the shared values of respect and belonging in all of its plans. Dr. Young commented that school staff members are vigilant with respect to bullying issues and that assistance is continually sought from parents and the community to let the schools know of instances of bullying.

Ms. Marina Jeffery, Ethel Milliken School Community Council Secretary, acknowledged the pioneers who, after a century, are working to make schools look different and respond to changing needs.

Closing  
Remarks

The Chairperson called for a motion to adjourn the meeting.

Motion by Mr. Mark Whiting:

That the meeting adjourn.

Motion Carried.

Time of meeting: 7:00 to 8:11 p.m.

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Chairperson

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Secretary-Treasurer