

Regina, Saskatchewan
September 1, 2009

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 Hoium, 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: *Walking School Bus Liability Issues, Status of School Community Councils, Personnel Matter, and H1N1 Vaccinations.*

Adoption of Agenda Motion by Mr. R. Marchuk:

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 June 16, 2009. Mr. D. West noted that his absence from the June 16, 2009, Board meeting was due to his attendance at the SHSAA Annual Meeting at Waskesiu, Saskatchewan, as the Board's voting representative.

Motion by Mrs. B. Saylor:

That the minutes of the Board meeting of June 16, 2009, be approved as distributed.

Motion Carried.

Budget 2009-2010 Copies of the 2009-10 Budget Submission had been distributed. Mr. Don Hoium, Director of Education, Ms. Debra Burnett, Deputy Director, Division Services, and Mr. Ross Brown, Deputy Director, Instruction and School Services, provided additional information. Mr. Hoium outlined the context associated with the budget submission, noting the expectation that the new education funding model will be clarified over the next 18 months.

Mr. Brown highlighted the key actions in the Continuous Improvement Plan priority areas of Higher Literacy and Achievement, Equitable Opportunities and Outcomes for All, and Smooth Transitions Into and Through the System, and responded to questions.

Chair	S/T

Ms. Burnett highlighted the Continuous Improvement Plan priority of Accountability, Governance and Facilities. In a year-to-year comparison, she noted a 5.22% increase over last year’s budget. She further explained that the reduction in full-time equivalent staff members reflects the conversion of paraprofessional to professional staff over the 2008-09 and 2009-10 school years.

Ms. Burnett highlighted that the revenue projections are a function of the new funding model, with property taxes being determined based on provincially-established mill rates. It was noted that decreased property tax dependency was offset by increased provincial funding and that Ministry approval of the budget was now required.

Board members expressed appreciation for the presentation.

Motion by Mrs. B. Saylor:

That the 2009-10 budget totalling \$185,512,482 be approved as presented for submission to the Ministry of Education.

Motion Carried.

Discussion ensued regarding the formalization of established practices surrounding the use of operating reserve funds.

Motion by Mr. R. Marchuk:

That the balance held, at any time, in the Board’s Operating Reserve Fund, be designated generally in support of non-recurring expenditures related to facility and program-related improvements and equipment and technology-related acquisitions and specifically for any non-recurring expenditure authorized by the Board as a charge against said fund.

Motion Carried.

School Opening Report

Mr. Don Hoiium, Director of Education, acknowledged the hard work and dedication of staff and their efforts in getting the 2009-2010 school year off to a smooth start.

Mr. Ross Brown, Deputy Director, Instruction and School Services, reported on in-services provided in August to teachers and support personnel, including Circle of Courage training. He further highlighted work undertaken in the area of First Steps literacy. He noted that, to date, approximately 110 new teachers had been hired in either a full- or part-time capacity.

Ms. Debra Burnett, Deputy Director, Division Services, reported on the numerous projects undertaken by the facilities staff over the summer and in preparation for school opening. She noted the many challenges faced regarding maintenance and program-related projects, and was pleased to outline the planned projects that were completed, including routine maintenance of all schools, completion of the link connecting the two relocatable wings at Thom Collegiate, completion of new developmental centre space and newly renovated FIAP program space at Winston Knoll Collegiate, the replacement of 89,000 square feet of roofing surface (together with fall arrest system installation at seven schools), replacement of a boiler at Centennial School, flooring replacements at nine schools, installation of new play structures at nine schools,

Chair	S/T

library renovations at Glen Elm School, painting projects at Massey School, roof repairs at Lakeview School, window replacements at Rosemont School, a water main replacement at F. W. Ford School, installation of 20 rooftop units, erection of five storage sheds, and installation of solar panels at Campbell Collegiate.

Ms. Burnett summarized projects and upgrades undertaken by the Information Technology department. She advised that the Stores and Distribution department accommodated approximately 50 teachers moves. She reported that the Human Resources department processed 175 staff postings and issued 197 teacher contracts over the Summer months. On the transportation front, Ms. Burnett highlighted that the two buses transporting former Herchmer students to Wascana school will be used in relation to the North Central Transportation project, in an effort to ameliorate the effects of transiency on student achievement. Ms. Burnett expressed appreciation to all staff involved in the projects outlined.

Board members expressed appreciation to all staff for their work in preparing for the 2009-2010 school year. Mr. R. Marchuk expressed concern with the early school start, and recommended that the Board examine how the school year is structured.

10-Year
Renewal Plan
Biennial
Review Report

The 10-Year Renewal Plan Biennial Review Report for 2009-10 and 2010-11 had been distributed. Mr. Don Hoiium, Director of Education, Mr. Ross Brown, Deputy Director, Instruction and School Services, Ms. Debra Burnett, Deputy Director, Division Services, and Mr. Mark Whiting, Manager, Policy, Planning and Research, provided additional information and responded to questions.

Mr. Hoiium advised that this is the first of three presentations and discussion opportunities relative to the Biennial Review. He drew attention to the 10-Year Renewal Plan that was adopted in November, 2007, and developed over an 18-month period, including 140 consultation meetings, with 18 program mergers and 11 school redesigns contemplated over the plan’s duration. He noted that the Biennial Review Report is based on seven objectives, and provided options for Board consideration.

Mr. Whiting provided an overview of enrolment trends and changes in demographics.

Mr. Brown summarized school-based merger activities, noting that activities were designed to support smooth transitions for students, parents and staff.

Ms. Burnett provided an overview of transportation supports. It was also highlighted that meetings continue with Regina Transit and the Regina Catholic School Division to explore collaborative approaches to transportation issues.

Ms. Burnett outlined facility supports and capital redesign developments, noting the redesign activities undertaken during 2008-09.

Mr. Brown summarized stakeholder merger process feedback, outlining those actions/activities that helped the merger process and those that could serve to improve future merger processes.

Ms. Burnett highlighted the human resources component of the report, noting that staff were encouraged to follow the students and did in many instances. She further commented that all displaced staff were successfully placed within the system.

Chair	S/T

Ms. Burnett walked through the financial summary. She advised that, on a go-forward basis, the level of facility savings and capital investment funds identified in 2008-09 are to be applied towards the costs of future merger projects as all capital rebuilds would now be subject to Ministry approval and funded provincially.

Mr. Hoium proceeded to outline the three scheduling and two process options contained in the Review Report.

Mr. Hoium, Mr. Brown and Ms. Burnett responded to questions. Board members expressed appreciation for the report.

Community Relations Committee

Mrs. R. Parisian provided a summary of the Community Relations Committee meeting held June 19, 2009, noting the main discussion centred on the continued role of the Shared Values Subcommittee. It was agreed that the Subcommittee had fulfilled its purpose and should be discontinued.

Motion by Mrs. R. Parisian:

That invitations be sent to the original members of the Shared Values Subcommittee to attend the Shared Values Recognition Program Awards evening on September 22, 2009.

Motion Carried.

Motion by Mrs. R. Parisian:

That thank you letters be sent to members of both the original Shared Values Committee and the reconstituted Subcommittee.

Motion Carried.

SSBA Fall General Assembly Showcase Presentation

An invitation to make a showcase presentation at the Saskatchewan School Boards Association’s Fall General Assembly on December 1, 2009, had been distributed. Mr. Don Hoium, Director of Education, noted that the Association had identified six possible themes for strengthening student achievement. It was agreed that the Board offer to showcase three innovative practices – Teacher Induction Leadership, Structural Innovation, and First Nations and Métis Initiatives.

H1N1 Vaccinations

Mr. D. West expressed concern that the educational field has not been identified in the H1N1 immunization prioritization framework being developed by the Federal Government. He recommended that the Board advocate vaccinations for all employees wanting same. It was agreed that a letter from the Chair be directed to the Regina Qu’Appelle Health Region requesting that the Division be consulted regarding any immunization processes being contemplated, specifically relative to students and staff.

Chair	S/T

Proposed 2009-2010 Board Annual Work Plan

Mr. Don Hoium, Director of Education, reviewed the Proposed Board Annual Work Plan for 2009-10.

Motion by Mr. G. Schenher:

That the Proposed Board Annual Work Plan for 2009-10 be approved as presented.

Motion Carried.

Closed Session

Motion by Mrs. R. Parisian:

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 recommended to the Board:

RPSTA Grievance

1) That the request of the Regina Public School Teachers' Association to present a grievance on behalf of an Association member be granted and that the Secretary-Treasurer be authorized to finalize arrangements for same.

Meeting Adjournment Time

2) That the September 1, 2009, Board meeting be authorized to continue beyond the 9:30 p.m. presumptive adjournment time.

Motion by Mr. G. Schenher:

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

Motion Carried.

Motion by Mrs. B. Saylor:

That recommendation No. 2 (above) from the Committee of the Whole be approved.

Motion Carried.

Chair	S/T

At the conclusion of closed session, the Committee of the Whole reported progress with respect to consideration of *Legal Matter, Walking School Bus Liability Issues, Status of School Community Councils, and Personnel Matter*. 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. G. Schenher:

That the meeting adjourn.

Motion Carried.

Time of meeting: 7:00 to 9:48 p.m.

Chairperson

Secretary-Treasurer