

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 noted that Ms. Carla Beck has requested that her presentation be withdrawn from the agenda, and that Ms. Mahaila Scott was unable to attend the meeting to make her presentation.

Adoption of Agenda Motion by Mrs. B. Saylor:

That, with the amendments 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 September 15, 2009.

Motion by Mrs. R. Parisian:

That the minutes of the Board meeting of September 15, 2009, be approved as distributed.

Motion Carried.

Structural Innovation School Presentation Ms. Lisa Allen, Principal, Mr. Luke Friesen, Vice-Principal, and Ms. Gail Digby, Teacher, Albert Community School, provided an overview of the structural innovation model at Albert Community School for the 2009-10 school year. Ms. Allen showcased Albert's numeracy plan, including an increase to 240 minutes a week of math instruction, team teaching, regular math mentoring, and the use of math buddies once a week. She further highlighted the literacy plan, that allows for small flexible student groupings for an hour a day, and introduces different forms of writing and reading. She noted that the First Steps and Reading Effects programs had already been in place prior to the 2009-10 school year. She pointed to an increase in Albert's Family Literacy gatherings, where books are both loaned and given to students. Mr. Friesen outlined the Inquiry Plan, that focuses on concept-based teaching to give students a sense of belonging in the classroom, the school and the community. He noted that the Inquiry Planning Framework is used across all grade levels, allowing grades to work together in collaborative planning and flexible groupings. Ms. Digby highlighted the project-based learning approach, emphasizing activities that involve students studying the world around them. She noted that, in planning

Chair	S/T

and collaborating with colleagues, students are showing more ownership, independence and work, and students are more actively engaged, which produces excitement, enthusiasm and cooperation. In closing, Ms. Allen noted that Albert’s Structural Innovation plan revolves around belonging, intervention, flexible literacy groups, straight-grade math, culturally-relevant First Nations and Métis content, inquiry-based learning, and teacher collaboration. Ms. Allen and Mr. Friesen responded to questions relative to the one-to-one computing project, parent and community support, and Cree instruction. Board members expressed appreciation for the presentation.

[Mr. G. Schenher joined the meeting during the above presentation.]

Public Presentations

The Board received a presentation from Mr. Yens Pedersen, on behalf of the Davin School Community Council. Mr. Pedersen outlined the importance of Davin School in the community. He highlighted the City of Regina’s downtown renewal plan, and questioned if the Board had taken the City’s plans into consideration in the development of the 10-Year Renewal Plan. He stated that Davin School should be a model for other schools to emulate. Mr. Pedersen noted the historical significance of Davin School. He further expressed concern for the future of the early childhood learning centre housed in Davin in the event that Davin was closed. Mr. Pedersen urged the Board to work with the Davin community and to keep Davin School open. Board members expressed appreciation for the presentation. Mr. R. Marchuk noted the uniqueness of Davin School but also the uniqueness of all the schools in the Division. Dr. B. Young further noted that the future of Davin School was not being contemplated at the current time.

The Board received a presentation from Ms. Patricia Elliott. She urged the Board to accept Option 1 in the Biennial Review and table the 10-Year Renewal Plan for one year, or, alternatively, to accept Options 2 or 3 in the Review, with the amendment that the closure citations for Dieppe and Ken Jenkins Schools be tabled, and that the list of schools be re-examined to ensure all schools currently above or projected to be above the confidence band of 200 students, plus or minus 30 percent, be removed from the list of potential closures. Ms. Elliott noted that the enrolment assumptions contained in the 10-Year Plan were no longer relevant. She expressed concern that proposed mergers will advance receiving schools beyond the 400-student enrolment mark. She challenged the Plan’s budgetary assumptions, as annual mill rate increases are no longer available. Ms. Elliott asserted that structural innovation can be adapted to a variety of school settings and sizes. She questioned the transparency of and opportunity for public input into future biennial reviews. Ms. Elliott responded to questions. Board members expressed appreciation for the presentation. Mr. Don Hoiium, Director of Education, provided clarification relative to the Davin and Elsie Mironuck School situations, and regarding Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy requirements. Mrs. B. Saylor pointed out that both Douglas Park and Arcola Schools are rebuilds and not a merger scenario, and that structured learning and developmental classrooms will continue to be present in Regina Public schools.

The Board received a presentation from Ms. Dawn Popescul, on behalf of the Dieppe School Community Council and the Dieppe Community Association. Ms. Popescul urged the Board to accept Option 1 in the Biennial Review and table the 10-Year Renewal Plan, or, at the very least, to accept Options 2 or 3 with the amendment to postpone the closure citation for Dieppe School. In support of her request, Ms. Popescul proposed the following: enrolment

Chair	S/T

assumptions and projections used in the 10-Year Renewal Plan have changed significantly and need to be re-examined, the main premise on which the 10-Year Plan was based is no longer valid with new information on projected enrolments and future trends, the Biennial Review was not transparent enough and did not include public input, and the need to prepare for an increased First Nations and Métis student population by maintaining smaller, neighbourhood schools. Board members expressed appreciation for the presentation.

Public
Education
Advocacy
Committee

Mrs. B. Saylor summarized discussions held at the Public Education Advocacy Committee meeting held September 29, 2009. She outlined the Committee’s progress to date, expressing appreciation to Mr. Terry Lazarou, Supervisor of Communications, for his work in drafting the proposed Board Advocacy Communications Plan and Terms of Reference for the Shared Values Recognition Program. She noted the two meetings held with MLAs in February and June, 2009, and highlighted Mr. R. Marchuk’s comments on the launch of the Shared Values Recognition Program. Mrs. Saylor noted several recommendations from the Committee, including future meetings with other levels of government, the design of a pop-up display booth for use at Board functions, the establishment and maintenance of a Shared Values Recognition Program file, and the consideration of informal dessert meetings with out-of-scope staff members. It was noted that a central display space at Division Office for the Shared Values Recognition Program recipients would be pursued. She noted minor corrections to the proposed 2009-10 Board Advocacy Communications Plan

Motion by Mrs. B. Saylor:

That the proposed Board Advocacy Communications Plan for 2009-10 be approved with the noted amendments.

Motion Carried.

Motion by Mrs. B. Saylor:

That the Chairperson be authorized to forward a letter to Ms. Pat Atkinson, MLA, in response to her request to meet with the Board, as discussed.

Motion Carried.

SSBA Public
Section

Information relative to the Public Section had been distributed. Dr. B. Young noted that she and Mr. Don Hoiium, Director of Education, would be attending a Members’ Council meeting on October 22 and 23, 2009, with discussion topics including the student achievement panel focus group, and how boards will obtain information from the Association’s Funding Committee relative to the development of the new funding model.

10-Year
Renewal Plan
Biennial
Review
Recommend-
ations

Dr. B. Young outlined the Board’s Continuous Improvement Plan and its long-term and ongoing strategies and goals, highlighting the fact that the 10-Year Renewal Plan forms part of the Plan. She noted that the 10-Year Renewal Plan has, to date, resulted in a significant reinvestment in instructional programming throughout the system, major facility upgrades to Thom Collegiate, Winston Knoll Collegiate and Elsie Mironuck School, and capital rebuilds at Arcola, Douglas Park and Wascana Schools, with provincial funding support totalling in excess of \$32 million. Dr. Young outlined the decisions to be made by the

Chair	S/T

Board, noting that motions would be introduced by the Vice-Chairperson and discussed by Board members, with voting thereon to be recorded.

Motion by Mr. D. West:

That, in consideration of the results of the Biennial Review and the recent change in the provincial education funding model, the future actions outlined in the 10-Year Renewal Plan be deferred for a one-year period to October, 2010, pending receipt of additional information pertaining to the provincial education funding model.

Motion Defeated.

[Dr. J. Conway supported the motion; Mr. R. Marchuk, Mrs. R. Parisian, Mrs. B. Saylor, Mr. G. Schenher, Mr. D. West and Dr. B. Young opposed the motion.]

Dr. J. Conway spoke in support for the motion, noting that the Board’s ability to raise taxes is no longer available, and that courtesy should be given to the incoming Board to determine the future of the plan. Mr. R. Marchuk expressed concern that the Board would be doing a greater injustice to students by not taking action now, and that it was incumbent upon the Board to ensure resources are equally available across the Division. Mr. G. Schenher advised that the 10-Year Plan is a living document and that the built-in Biennial Reviews are a critical element of the plan. Mrs. B. Saylor highlighted that the Biennial Reviews are built into the Plan so that necessary adjustments can be made. Mrs. R. Parisian noted that it is the Board’s responsibility to make decisions, to the best of its ability, to sustain the Division.

Motion by Mr. D. West:

That, in consideration of the enrolment projections and program delivery models contained within the Biennial Review and provided that enrolments remain within the confidence band on a go forward basis, the 10-Year Renewal Plan be adjusted so that Connaught (English and French Immersion), Argyle and Glen Elm schools are considered as receiving programs.

Motion Carried.

[Mr. R. Marchuk, Mrs. R. Parisian, Mrs. B. Saylor, Mr. G. Schenher, Mr. D. West, and Dr. B. Young supported the motion; Dr. J. Conway abstained from voting.]

Motion by Mr. D. West:

That, based on the change to the capital funding approval process introduced with the 2009-2010 provincial budget:

- a) School redesign discussions associated with the proposed merger of Argyle and Athabasca school attendance areas be suspended pending approval of planning for construction of a new facility by the provincial government; and
- b) Site selection discussions associated with the proposed merger of Haultain and Glen Elm school attendance areas be deferred pending approval of planning for construction of a new facility by the provincial government.

Motion Carried.

[Mr. R. Marchuk, Mrs. R. Parisian, Mrs. B. Saylor, Mr. G. Schenher, Mr. D. West, and Dr. B. Young supported the motion; Dr. J. Conway abstained from voting.]

Chair	S/T

Motion by Mr. D. West:

That, with respect to motion 3, in the event that provincial government approval to proceed with the planning for a new Athabasca-Argyle facility is not forthcoming by June 30, 2010, that Athabasca School be cited for closure in the Fall of 2010 in keeping with Board policy and its attendance area merged with that of Argyle School, with parental choice for student attendance at Argyle, Lakeview or Connaught Schools.

Motion Carried.

[Mr. R. Marchuk, Mrs. R. Parisian, Mrs. B. Saylor, Mr. G. Schenher, Mr. D. West, and Dr. B. Young supported the motion; Dr. J. Conway abstained from voting.]

Motion by Mr. D. West:

That, with respect to motion 3, in the event that provincial government approval to proceed with the planning for a new Haultain-Glen Elm facility is not forthcoming by June 30, 2011, that Haultain School be cited for closure in the Fall 2011 in keeping with Board policy and its attendance area merged with that of Glen Elm School with parental choice for student attendance at Glen Elm, Imperial or McDermid Schools.

Motion Carried.

[Mr. R. Marchuk, Mrs. R. Parisian, Mrs. B. Saylor, Mr. G. Schenher, Mr. D. West, and Dr. B. Young supported the motion; Dr. J. Conway abstained from voting.]

Motion by Mr. D. West:

That, based on the 2009-10 phase of the 10-Year Renewal Plan, Centennial School be designated a dual-track school effective with the 2010-2011 school year and the French Immersion attendance area boundary of Elsie Mironuck School be modified accordingly; and that the attendance area boundary change be carried forward for consultation with the Elsie Mironuck and Centennial School Community Councils and other interested parties, with the Board to make its final decision with respect to this matter on or before March 15, 2010.

Motion Carried.
(Unanimously)

Motion by Mr. D. West:

That, based on the 2009-10 phase of the 10-Year Renewal Plan, Ken Jenkins School be cited for closure effective June 30, 2010, and its attendance area combined with that of Elsie Mironuck School (English program) with parental choice for student attendance at Elsie Mironuck or Ruth M. Buck Schools; and

that the proposed facility closure and attendance area merger be carried forward for consultation with the Ken Jenkins School Community Council and other interested parties, with the Board to make its final decision with respect to this matter on or before March 15, 2010.

Motion Carried.

[Mr. R. Marchuk, Mrs. R. Parisian, Mrs. B. Saylor, Mr. G. Schenher, Mr. D. West, and Dr. B. Young supported the motion; Dr. J. Conway opposed the motion.]

Chair	S/T

Motion by Mr. D. West:

That, based on the 2009-10 phase of the 10-Year Renewal Plan, Dieppe School be cited for closure effective June 30, 2010, and its attendance area combined with that of McLurg School with parental choice for student attendance at McLurg or Walker Schools; and that the proposed facility closure and attendance area merger be carried forward for consultation with the Dieppe School Community Council and other interested parties, with the Board to make its final decision with respect to this matter on or before March 15, 2010.

Motion Defeated.

[Mr. R. Marchuk and Mr. G. Schenher supported the motion; Dr. J. Conway, Mrs. R. Parisian, Mrs. B. Saylor, Mr. D. West, and Dr. B. Young opposed the motion.]

Mrs. R. Parisian, Mr. D. West and Mrs. B. Saylor spoke against the motion, noting that Dieppe School is now within the confidence band level of 140 students. Mr. G. Schenher expressed concern that 140 students is the absolute lowest in the confidence band, and that enrolment projections show future enrolment decline instead of growth.

Motion by Mr. D. West:

That, with a view to lengthening the timeline for school merger activities, Policy 15 “Facility Requirements and School Closures” be referred to the Audit and Policy Review Committee to bring forward recommendations to the Board by April 30, 2010, to be effective with the commencement of the 2010-11 school year.

Motion Carried.

[Mr. R. Marchuk, Mrs. R. Parisian, Mrs. B. Saylor, Mr. G. Schenher, Mr. D. West, and Dr. B. Young supported the motion; Dr. J. Conway abstained from voting.]

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 9:18 p.m.

Chairperson

Secretary-Treasurer