

Regina, Saskatchewan
May 11, 2010

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

Mrs. Cindy Anderson
Ms. Carla Beck
Mrs. Angela Fraser
Mrs. Katherine Gagne

Mr. Tim Stobbs
Mr. Dale West
Dr. Barbara Young

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. Donna Pym, Principal, Henry Janzen School, on piano, 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 Mr. Mark Whiting.

Motion by Mr. Ron Christie:

That nominations cease.

Motion Carried.

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

Chair	S/T

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 Ms. Paula Hesselink.

Motion by Mr. Greg Enion:

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. Dave Hutchinson:

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 2009 Annual Meeting of Electors.

Motion by Mr. Darren Boldt:

That we dispense with the reading of the minutes of the 2009 Annual Meeting of Electors and that they be approved as circulated.

Motion Carried.

Chairperson’s Report

Dr. B. Young addressed the meeting, thanking the attendees for demonstrating their interest in and commitment to public education and to the Division. She advised that, for the second year in a row, the Board would depart from previous traditional annual meeting agendas to highlight developments in the Division, with this year’s theme being “Smooth Transitions.”

Chair	S/T

Dr. Young introduced the Members of the Board. She noted some of the achievements in the past year, including support for innovative teaching styles, facility enhancements, Division Office restructuring, School Community Council involvement in Learning Plans, and identification of continuous improvement objectives, as well as orientation for the new Board. She outlined that the Board continues to work together to meet diverse student needs.

Dr. Young emphasized the need to draw on research and best practice to develop a cohesive strategic plan called continuous improvement. She outlined two key areas of focus: the teaching and learning innovation agenda and the importance of partnerships.

Dr. Young concluded by acknowledging that the important service to students in Regina Public Schools is only possible with the continued support and participation from its various partners and the entire Regina Public Schools staff.

Overview of
Smooth
Transitions
Programming

Mr. Ross Brown, Deputy Director, Instruction and School Services, addressed the meeting, introducing the Continuous Improvement Plan priority of Smooth Transitions into and through the System.

Mr. Wilfred Burton, Differentiated Learning Consultant, highlighted the area of Early Learning transitions, including Pre-Kindergarten and Kindergarten. He noted the importance of helping these young children develop socially as well as academically.

Mr. Todd Edwards, Principal, Thom Collegiate, outlined the area of transitioning from elementary to high school. He highlighted the work of liaisons who meet regularly with students prior to them entering high school, answering questions and assisting with registration procedures and core curriculum selection. He noted the importance of providing students with a sense of belonging, which is reinforced by the High School Advisory Program.

Mr. Darren Boldt, Superintendent, Instruction and School Services, spoke briefly about the area of smooth transitioning out of the system. He highlighted programming at the Adult Campus, designed for students 18-22 years of age. He pointed to the success of the Regina Trades and Skills Centre, providing opportunities for students to train in a variety of trades areas. He made reference to the Regina Public Schools Apprenticeship Scholarship. He further noted the establishment of a management committee with representatives from the University of Regina that will look at the possibility of offering credit classes at the high school level to encourage students to attend post-secondary institutions.

Chair	S/T

Mr. Greg Enion, Superintendent, Instruction and School Services, provided a brief outline of initiatives to ensure smooth transitions for new Canadians entering Regina Public Schools. With a large number of immigrants entering the system, he spoke of the important work of the recently established Newcomer Welcome Centre, a joint venture with Regina Public Schools, Regina Catholic Schools, Conseil des écoles fransaskoises, and the Regina Open Door Society, that provides onsite services for children and youth, educational assessment, registration and placement, as well as assistance from support workers.

(Attendees were provided the opportunity to visit Smooth Transitions Programming stations positioned throughout the meeting room.)

Comments
and/or
Questions from
Ratepayers

Mr. Ron Holloway, President, Regina Public School Teachers’ Association, noted a strong attendance of school administrators but expressed concern regarding the lack of general ratepayers in attendance. He referred to assessment for learning and requested clarification and assurance that any scores would remain anonymous and not reference students, teachers or schools. Dr. B. Young welcomed suggestions to entice more ratepayers to attend the annual meetings. Mr. Greg Miller, Supervisor of Assessment, advised that individual CAT scores are provided to parents, but that Assessment for Learning is a provincial assessment generated by an outside agency, and that the Division does not control the information the province provides. He further advised that the Division’s math assessments are internal, and that value-added assessments, evaluating student growth, are governed by Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy legislation.

Mrs. Barb Saylor, former Trustee, expressed appreciation for the continued strong work and direction of the Board and Division.

Ms. Dawn Reiss requested clarification on the Board’s policy governance model, and questioned the decision-making process, particularly as it related to the reduction in the number of educational assistants. She further asked how School Community Councils fit into the model. Dr. Young advised that the Board’s policy governance model allows for the Board to give leadership and direction to the Director. She pointed to current program reviews being undertaken, and outlined the Continuous Improvement Plan as the best indication of the Board’s goals in moving forward. She advised that School Community Councils are advisory to the schools. As for the decision relative to the reduction in educational assistants, Dr. Young advised that the Board was apprised of the plans for the reduction and, as a policy governance Board, will continue to monitor all aspects of the Division. Mr. Greg Enion provided

Chair	S/T

additional information relative to the decision, including the resulting increase in professionals working directly with teaching staff to meet the needs of all students.

With the focus on literacy and numeracy, Mr. Holloway expressed concern regarding the amount of testing and time spent on data collection in those two areas, and asked if the Division plans to provide opportunities to teachers to give feedback on structural innovation. Mr. Mike Walter, Superintendent, Instruction and School Services, advised that the Division has reduced the number of assessments over the last few years and, over time, will be replacing those assessments with value-added assessments. He noted that the new assessments are designed to be very practical and teachers are assisting in developing them. He further advised that teachers are incorporating the core curriculum into literacy and numeracy instruction, providing a unified approach to teaching and learning. Mr. Ross Brown advised that some feedback has already been gathered relative to Structural Innovation, and will continue on an ongoing basis to assist and inform the Division as initiatives move forward. In terms of a more general survey, he advised that one would be forthcoming for all staff early next year.

Closing
Remarks

The Chairperson called for a motion to adjourn the meeting.

Motion by Mr. Bruce Baldwin:

That the meeting adjourn.

Motion Carried.

Time of meeting: 7:00 to 8:37 p.m.

Chairperson

Secretary-Treasurer