

Regina, Saskatchewan
January 11, 2011

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 Mrs. Katherine Gagne, Vice-Chair Mrs. Cindy Anderson Ms. Carla Beck	Mrs. Angela Fraser Mr. Tim Stobbs Mr. Dale West
Administration Present	Mr. Don Hoium, Director of Education Ms. Debra Burnett, Deputy Director, Division Services, & Secretary-Treasurer Mr. Mike Walter, 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 item be added: *Property Tax Exemptions*.

Adoption of Agenda Motion by Mrs. C. Anderson:
That, with the addition 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 December 14, 2010.

Motion by Mr. T. Stobbs:

That the minutes of the Board meeting of December 14, 2010, be approved as distributed.

Motion Carried.

Public Section Dr. B. Young noted the memorandum from the Public Section that had been distributed for Board members' information.

Renewing Regina Public Schools With respect to the next agenda item relating to the Renewal Plan, Dr. B. Young provided background information and history regarding the Renewal Plan, and stated that it had been agreed that the Vice-Chairperson, Mrs. K. Gagne, would bring forward the proposed motions in order to facilitate discussion.

Members of the Board presented their general views with respect to the proposed discontinuance of the English program at École Massey School. With respect to the motion, comments in favour included the need for quality of education throughout the system as a whole and the unsustainability of the program. Trustees acknowledged that certain concerns had been raised during

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consultations and expressed certainty that the Administration would address these as necessary.

Motion by Mrs. K. Gagne:

That the English program at Massey School be discontinued at the end of the 2010-2011 school year and that the Massey English attendance area be consolidated with that of Marion McVeety School for students residing north of a dividing line (parallel to Parker Avenue) and with that of Grant Road School for students residing south of the dividing line; with all current regular program Kindergarten to Grade 8 pupils (and their siblings) attending Massey English program to be eligible for transportation (in accordance with established procedures) to either Grant Road or Marion McVeety School commencing with the 2011-2012 school year.

Motion Carried.

Members of the Board presented their general views with respect to the proposed Athabasca School attendance area merger. With respect to the motion, comments in favour focused on the regular biennial review of the Renewal Plan, the elementary school program delivery model, parental choice of receiving school, the enrolment falling outside the confidence band, and the need to consider the system as a whole. Comments opposed focused on the close proximity to Sheldon-Williams Collegiate, facilitating the smooth transition of students into high school, the facility's low deferred maintenance requirements, the growth in Regina's population, and the viability of the surrounding community.

Motion by Mrs. K. Gagne:

That Athabasca School be closed at the end of the 2010-2011 school year and its attendance area be consolidated with that of Argyle School; with all current regular program Kindergarten to Grade 8 pupils (and their siblings) attending Athabasca School to be eligible for transportation (in accordance with established procedures) to either Argyle, Lakeview or Connaught School commencing with the 2011-2012 school year.

Motion Carried.

[Dr. B. Young, Mrs. A. Fraser, Mrs. K. Gagne, Mr. T. Stobbs, and Mr. D. West supported the motion; Mrs. C. Anderson and Ms. C. Beck opposed the motion.]

Update on Audited Financial Statements

Information relative to the 2009-10 Audited Financial Statements had been distributed. Ms. Debra Burnett, Deputy Director, Division Services, provided additional information, noting that, regarding the accounting for capital transfers, the Ministry of Education has requested the inclusion of a note disclosure in the draft Statements considered at the December 14, 2010, Board meeting. She advised that said note would be prepared and discussed with the Board's auditor, and that the Audited Financial Statements will be finalized for approval at the January 25, 2011, Board meeting.

Provincial Panel on Student Achievement Report

A copy of the Executive Summary of the Provincial Panel on Student Achievement had been distributed. Mr. Don Hoium, Director of Education, provided additional information, noting 16 recommendations made to improve student achievement in Saskatchewan. He outlined that the report contained one

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overarching recommendation that the government lead an ongoing public education campaign to strengthen the province’s culture of learning. He summarized the remaining 15 recommendations that clustered around themes, including improving outcomes of First Nations and Métis students, engaging communities and School Community Councils, advancing a comprehensive and sustainable early learning and child care strategy, enhancing student assessment and student engagement, ensuring supports for English as an Additional Language students and for students with intensive and diverse needs, and strengthening sustainable leadership at all levels of the education system.

Essential Learning Outcomes Posters

Information relative to the production of posters identifying the essential outcomes for English Language Arts and Mathematics had been distributed. Mr. Mike Walter, Deputy Director, Instruction and School Services, provided additional information, noting that research indicates students having knowledge of the outcomes they are expected to learn is an important factor for improving student achievement. It was further noted that the posters would be placed in every classroom across the Division, and that the language used in the posters is “student friendly” and appropriate for the grade level of the students.

Property Tax Exemptions

Information relative to City of Regina Property Tax Exemptions for the McCallum Hill Centre Parkade and The Mosaic Company had been distributed. Ms. C. Beck requested clarification as to the direct impact such exemptions would have on Division funding. Ms. Debra Burnett, Deputy Director, Division Services, advised that, pursuant to the transition funding model, the Ministry of Education approves a total budget figure for the Board, a portion of which is realized from the property tax base, with the remaining funds provided from the General Revenue Fund. Thus, although said exemptions have no direct impact on Board funding, they do indirectly impact the level of General Revenue Fund support required for education generally.

Closed Session

Motion by Mr. D. West:

That we go into closed session.

Motion Carried.

Motion by Mr. T. Stobbs:

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 *Renewal Follow-up* and *Personnel Matter*. The progress reports were accepted.

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Adjournment The Chairperson advised that this concluded the business of the meeting and called for a motion to adjourn.

Motion by Mrs. A. Fraser:

That the meeting adjourn.

Motion Carried.

Time of meeting: 7:00 to 8:44 p.m.

Chairperson

Secretary-Treasurer