

Regina, Saskatchewan
May 10, 2011

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. Mike Walter, 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. Darren Boldt.

Motion by Mr. Bruce Lipinski:

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. Ron Christie.

Motion by Ms. Morgan Reed:

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. Greg Miller:

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 2010 Annual Meeting of Electors. Ms. Dawn Reich requested clarification with respect to reporting on the question she raised at the meeting regarding the decision to reduce the number of educational assistants. Dr. B. Young and Mr. Don Hoium, Director of Education, advised that the response provided at the meeting was that, in keeping with the Board’s policy governance, a Student Support Services review had been undertaken, a subsequent report was approved by the Board, and the Director of Education carried out the recommendations contained in that report. This response was reflected in the minutes of the meeting.

Motion by Ms. Starla Nistor:

That we dispense with the reading of the minutes of the 2010 Annual Meeting of Electors and that they be approved as circulated.

Motion Carried.

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Chairperson’s Report

Dr. B. Young welcomed former Trustee, Mrs. B. Saylor, to the meeting. Dr. Young addressed the meeting, thanking the attendees for demonstrating their interest in and commitment to public education and to the Division. She advised that the theme for this year’s annual meeting was “Partnerships.”

Dr. Young highlighted the Continuous Improvement Report brochure, noting that the full report is available on the Division’s website, and that copies are also available at every Regina public school. She outlined that 2,100+ employees work to support students and deliver programs designed to improve student success in 44 elementary schools, nine collegiates, three associate schools, and one adult campus. She pointed to the caring and compassionate work with students, and offered appreciation to the Elders Advisory Council for their continued work as advisors to the Board and for their work in schools.

Dr. Young was pleased to draw attention to the construction of two new school facilities—Arcola and Douglas Park—scheduled to open in September, 2012. She noted that Ministry approval has been given for the final designs of the new Wascana/Herchmer school and for the drawings stage of the Learning Across the Community shared facility including Scott Collegiate.

She acknowledged that Board members have been meeting with all 53 School Community Councils over the Winter and Spring, with a report on the findings from those meetings to assist the Board in its 2011-12 planning session.

Dr. Young emphasized the Board’s goal to continue to move forward with transparency, accountability and advocacy. In that regard, she advised that the Board members would be meeting with high school student leaders in the next week to discuss their educational needs, interests and ambitions. She further promised ongoing communication with government officials, stakeholders, partner organizations, and employee unions, all of which contribute to the governance decisions.

Dr. Young reported that this would be Mr. Don Hoiium’s last annual general meeting, as he will be retiring at the end of July. She thanked him for all of his hard work and determination, and wished him well in his future endeavours. She announced that Ms. Julie MacRae, currently the Superintendent and CEO of School District No. 34 in Abbotsford, BC, will be joining Regina Public Schools as the new Director of Education on August 1, 2011.

Partnership Displays and Discussion

Dr. B. Young addressed the meeting, introducing the theme of Partnerships. She emphasized that from Pre-Kindergarten to Grade 12, students, parents and Regina Public Schools staff enter into partnerships based on trust, understanding, nurturing and respect. She noted that the Division and individual schools enter into partnerships with many organizations to help achieve goals

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and outcomes that will benefit students and the community. While some partnerships are readily visible, like those that share school spaces, she outlined that some partnerships offer community-based services that benefit the entire school community. She noted that most schools have Partners in Education that provide in-kind services, funds, equipment, and volunteers, to assist schools in achieving learning goals. Dr. Young highlighted that partners extend a school's and a division's ability and resources well beyond what it could achieve on its own. She asked each of the Board members to introduce the partner organizations in attendance at the meeting.

Mrs. Katherine Gagne introduced the Regina Fire and Protective Services, highlighting programming that teaches students how to prevent fires, how to escape from fires, how not to burn and stay safe.

Mrs. Cindy Anderson introduced the Regina Police Service, highlighting the School Resource Officer Program, as well as crime prevention, pedestrian and traffic safety initiatives.

Mrs. Angela Fraser introduced the Regina Public Library, highlighting the annual Mayor's Mega-Minute Reading Challenge. She also noted other initiatives, such as Pre-school Story Time Outreach, Community Stories Program, Poetry Slam, aboriginal-based storytelling celebrations, puppet shows, and Family Day Literacy programs. She also noted that the Regina Public Library is a partner in the Learning Across the Community shared facility project.

Ms. Carla Beck introduced the Regina Qu'Appelle Health Region, noting the benefits of services and initiatives such as pandemic planning, flu shots and immunizations, and access to Child and Youth Services and Addiction Services.

Mr. Tim Stobbs introduced the Regina Trades and Skills Centre, highlighting the Trades and Skills Construction Apprenticeship Program (TASCAP) for Grades 11 and 12 students, as well as training in other industry-demanded skill areas such as Construction Apprenticeship (in partnership with Habitat for Humanity), Construction Worker Preparation, and Culinary Arts.

Mr. Dale West introduced the Regina YMCA, noting the Alternative to Suspension Program for Grades 9 to 12 students, as well as the Virtual YMCA at Albert School.

Mrs. Katherine Gagne introduced the University of Regina, noting that Regina Public Schools provides Education internship placement for countless University students, and, in return, benefits from the availability of new, highly qualified graduated teachers every year. She further noted that high school students have access to university level courses through the UR Accelerated

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Program. She advised that the University is active in research focused on student transitions from high school to university, and that high school teachers are afforded an opportunity to engage in dialogue with the University regarding curriculum matters.

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

Comments
and/or
Questions from
Ratepayers

Mr. Bob Hughes addressed the Board, noting that he is involved in a petition to save Athabasca School. He advised that, in conversations with many community members, the Board’s willingness to listen has been questioned. Dr. B. Young assured Mr. Hughes that all presentations made to the Board are taken into consideration when decisions are made.

Ms. Susan McLaren raised a concern that Ms. Dawn Reich’s request to amend the minutes was denied. Dr. Young advised that it had been her understanding that Ms. Reich did not put forth a motion to amend the minutes, but rather asked for clarification. She apologized if she had misunderstood Ms. Reich’s intent.

Ms. Patricia Elliott asked if there was any public record of the meetings held with Board members and the Athabasca community. She requested that, if a proposal came forward for a potential use for Athabasca School as a community hub, if each Board member would support same. Dr. Young advised that notes were taken at the community meetings and provided to the Board members for consideration during the decision-making process, but that no report was compiled for public viewing. All seven Board members responded that they would consider any forthcoming proposals, but that no commitment could be made currently without having further information.

Mr. Gordon Chubak asked about plans for the redevelopment of the Athabasca School property and requested the Board consider holding the sale of the property in abeyance for a year to consider all options. He remarked that if the property is redeveloped into housing, student population in the area would increase, thereby impacting enrolments in the surrounding schools. He suggested that no money would be saved by closing the school. Mr. Don Hoium, Director of Education, outlined Board procedure with respect to the disposition of surplus property, noting that the City of Regina has right of first refusal, and, if there is no interest from the City, the property is then tendered for sale, with the Board subsequently deciding on the successful bidder.

Mr. Rene Dumont requested clarification as to why the School Community Councils and parents were not involved in the decision to reduce the number of School Community Coordinator positions. Dr. Young advised that, the role of

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the community coordinator is now performed by several individuals, not just one person. She noted that the School Community Councils play an advisory role to their respective principals and staff, and are not involved in any personnel decisions.

Mr. Rick Hesch expressed confusion regarding the Board moving forward with transparency, governance and accountability, wondering who was accountable to whom. He asked what measurements were in place to see improved results in the Division. Mr. Hoium pointed to the Continuous Improvement Report as providing a full disclosure of measures of achievement in all areas. Mr. Hesch further requested why no First Nations and Métis partnerships were highlighted at the meeting. Mr. Hoium advised that a number of significant First Nations and Métis partnerships are in place, including a new partnership with the FSIN. He emphasized that degree of partnerships between Regina Public Schools and First Nations and Métis organizations is unprecedented in the Province. Dr. Young commented on the Board's goal of more transparency, noting that it is a work in progress. She encouraged those with ideas to communicate in writing with the Board.

Closing
Remarks

In closing, Dr. B. Young, on behalf of her fellow Board members, thanked everyone for their continued support of public education. She then called for a motion to adjourn the meeting.

Motion by Mr. Greg Enion:

That the meeting adjourn.

Motion Carried.

Time of meeting: 7:00 to 8:25 p.m.

Chairperson

Secretary-Treasurer