

Regina, Saskatchewan
September 6, 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	Ms. Julie MacRae, Director of Education Ms. Debra Burnett, Deputy Director, Division Services, & Secretary-Treasurer Mr. Greg Enion, Superintendent, Instruction and School Services (in the absence of Mr. Mike Walter, Deputy Director, Instruction and School Services)	

The Chairperson called the meeting to order and welcomed Ms. Julie MacRae to the position of Director of Education. She then asked for a motion to adopt the agenda. It was requested that the following item be added: *Dr. A. E. Perry School*.

Adoption of Agenda Motion by Mr. T. Stobbs:

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 June 21, 2011.

Motion by Mrs. C. Anderson:

That the minutes of the Board meeting of June 21, 2011, be approved as distributed.

Motion Carried.

School Opening Update Ms. Julie MacRae, Director of Education, welcomed the Trustees to a new school year and acknowledged the hard work and dedication of staff from Instruction and School Services and Division Services in preparing for the 2011-12 school year. She noted that, in the absence of Mr. Mike Walter, Deputy Director, Mr. Greg Enion, Superintendent, would provide an overview of the work undertaken by Instruction and School Services staff to prepare for a smooth school opening. Mr. Enion outlined learning opportunities provided to teachers in August, including the New Teacher in-service, structured learning orientation, and RespectED training. He noted that the Newcomers Welcome Centre has placed 110 new English as an Additional Language students into the system since early August. Mr. Enion advised that five new principals were welcomed at the Opening Principals' Meeting, along with new Superintendent, Mr. Luc Lerminiaux, and new Director of Education, Ms. Julie MacRae.

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Ms. Debra Burnett, Deputy Director, Division Services, reported on the numerous undertakings of Division Services staff in preparation for school opening. In terms of major projects, she referenced the Douglas Park and Arcola School rebuilds that are on target to open next year, the underpinning at Campbell Collegiate, and the planned addition of two portables to each of George Lee and Marion McVeety Schools. She then outlined a representative sampling of work completed by Facilities staff, including the installation of washrooms and/or new millwork in eight pre-K classrooms, flooring repair or replacement at nine schools, partial roof replacements at six schools and at the Division Office, painting projects at sixteen schools, site work projects at seven schools, wall repair/replacement projects at fifteen schools, the creation of new fitness centres at Martin and Sheldon-Williams Collegiates, the renovation of the Cochrane High School fitness centre, and layout modifications at the Adult Campus. She further noted that renovations at the Division Office, designed to position staff more strategically within the building, will be completed by the end of September. Ms. Burnett summarized projects and upgrades undertaken by the Information Technology department including the first phase of the elementary school technology refresh, the completion of the elementary network upgrade, the commencement of the high school network upgrade, the replacement of all printers and copiers in the Division, and the installation of 38 data projectors and 16 Smart Boards in classrooms. She highlighted the ongoing work of the Transportation and Human Resources departments. Ms. Burnett expressed appreciation to all staff involved in the undertakings outlined.

On behalf of the Board, Dr. B. Young expressed appreciation to all staff for their work in preparing for the 2011-2012 school year.

Renewal Plan
Biennial
Review Report

The Renewal Plan Biennial Review Report for 2011-12 and 2012-13 had been distributed. Ms. Julie MacRae, Director of Education, Mr. Mark Whiting, Manager, Policy, Planning and Research, Mr. Greg Enion, Superintendent, Instruction and School Services, and Ms. Debra Burnett, Deputy Director, Division Services, provided additional information and responded to questions.

Ms. MacRae advised that the Biennial Review is part of the Renewal Plan that was adopted in November, 2007, and she expressed appreciation for the thoroughness of the review process.

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

Mr. Enion highlighted school-based merger activities associated with the mergers of the Ken Jenkins School attendance area and the opening of a French Immersion program at Centennial School. He noted that activities were designed to support smooth transitions for students, parents, staff, and communities.

Ms. Burnett provided an overview of the transportation supports provided, noting that transportation demands associated with 2009-10 Renewal actions were less than anticipated.

Ms. Burnett highlighted facility enhancements undertaken at receiving schools.

Mr. Enion summarized stakeholder merger process feedback, outlining those actions/activities that helped the merger process and suggestions for improvement.

Ms. Burnett outlined the human resources aspect of the report, noting that teaching staff were encouraged to follow students, and that all displaced teachers

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were afforded priority in the placement process. She further commented that, in terms of affected support staff, all permanent employees were successfully re-assigned.

Ms. Burnett advised that, in terms of financial impacts, the savings associated with the identified actions totalled \$47,664 in 2010-11 (\$28,500 higher than anticipated), and, on a go forward basis, annual savings will total \$153,147 or \$133,488 higher than originally projected. She reminded the Board that the Renewal Plan called for operational savings to be re-invested in educational programming and, consistent with that commitment, the savings from the identified merger actions were used to fund expansion of the Reading Effects program. She further summarized capital improvement and school re-design progress. She advised that, with removal of board access to the property tax base, the facility savings realized from the mergers would continue to be earmarked for facility improvements within the system. In conclusion, Ms. Burnett highlighted that, since its inception, actions pursuant to the Renewal Plan have resulted in significant annual re-investments focused on improving student achievement: \$836,285 annually re-invested in facility improvements within the system and \$994,017 annually re-invested in educational programming areas such as Reading Effects, Structural Innovation and literacy supports.

Ms. MacRae proceeded to outline the report recommendations for consideration by the Board.

Motion by Mr. D. West:

That the Renewing Regina Public Schools 2011-12 & 2012-13 Biennial Review Report be received as presented.

Motion Carried.

Trustee/School
Community
Council
Consultations
Report

Findings from the 2010-11 Trustee/School Community Council (SCC) Dialogue had been distributed. Ms. Julie MacRae, Director of Education, outlined the consultation process and the questions posed to SCC members for discussion. Dr. B. Young highlighted the observations collected and noted that SCCs: 1) are very proud of their ability to successfully fundraise in support of the purchase of playground equipment and numeracy and literacy materials; 2) would like to be more involved; 3) review the Learning Improvement Plan with school staff with little direct participation in the development process; 4) agree that enhanced parent involvement is important in supporting the learning program; 5) desire greater collaboration, and increased opportunities for collaboration with other SCCs in the Division; and 6) appreciate the attendance of their Trustee at school events and at at least one SCC meeting each year. Board members commended the process and the opportunity provided for relationship-building. Appreciation was extended to Mr. Mark Whiting, Manager, Policy, Planning and Research, for preparing the consultation summary.

Review of
Conflict of
Interest
Requirements

Information relative to conflict of interest parameters (statutory and common law) had been distributed and was discussed in detail. Dr. B. Young inquired if Board members would prefer to have a standing conflict of interest question at the beginning of each Board meeting. Board members agreed that the current practice of individual Board members declaring conflicts of interest at the time of agenda item discussion was working well and the preferred approach. At the same time, Mr. T. Stobbs indicated that, as an employee of SaskPower, he would be regularly declaring a conflict with respect to items involving that

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Crown Corporation, including the SaskPower Utility Easement Agreement item to be considered later in the meeting. Ms. C. Beck also declared a conflict of interest relative to any future Civic Pension Plan discussions given the involvement of her spouse in continuing pension plan negotiations.

Board Annual Work Plan 2011-12

Dr. B. Young outlined the proposed Board Annual Work Plan for 2011-12, noting that the plan is designed to reflect items and activities in the three priority areas of: 1) Improving Student Success; 2) Quality Governance and Policy Making; and 3) Community Relations and Advocacy.

Motion by Mr. T. Stobbs:

That the proposed Board Annual Work Plan for 2011-12 be approved as presented.

Motion Carried.

Facilities: SaskTel Utility Easement Agreements

Requests from SaskTel, regarding execution of easement agreements to provide fibre optic cable to W. H. Ford, Ruth Pawson and Wilfred Hunt Schools, had been distributed.

Motion by Mr. D. West:

That execution of Utility Easements with SaskTel relative to the W. H. Ford School, the Ruth Pawson School, and the Wilfred Hunt School properties be authorized.

Motion Carried.

Facilities: SaskPower Utility Easement Agreement

A request from SaskPower, regarding execution of an easement agreement relative to the installation of a power line on the Douglas Park School property, had been distributed.

Motion by Mrs. C. Anderson:

That execution of the Easement of Right-of-Way with SaskPower relative to the Douglas Park School property be authorized.

Motion Carried.

[Mr. T. Stobbs noted a conflict of interest, absented himself from the presentation and discussion, and abstained from voting on the immediately preceding motion.]

Positive Path Forward 2011-12

A copy of the Board’s “Positive Path Forward (Areas for Emphasis) 2011-12” had been distributed. Dr. B. Young provided additional information. Ms. C. Beck noted that the sixth priority listed should be amended to read “economic” rather than “economics.”

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Closed
Session

Motion by Mrs. A. Fraser:

That we go into closed session.

Motion Carried.

Motion by Mrs. K. Gagne:

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 *Communication Plan* and *Dr. A. E. Perry School*. 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 Ms. C. Beck:

That the meeting adjourn.

Motion Carried.

Time of meeting: 7:00 to 9:01 p.m.

Chairperson

Secretary-Treasurer