

Regina, Saskatchewan
September 20, 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. 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: *Public Presentation (by Mr. Bill Gray)*.

Adoption of Agenda Motion by Mr. D. West:

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 September 6, 2011.

Motion by Mrs. A. Fraser:

That the minutes of the Board meeting of September 6, 2011, be approved as distributed.

Motion Carried.

Business Education Partnership Information regarding a proposed partnership between École Wilfrid Walker School and Affinity Credit Union had been distributed. Ms. Simone Verville, Principal, welcomed the new partnership. Ms. Marianne Jurzyniec, Financial Services Manager, Affinity Credit Union, expressed appreciation for the opportunity to be involved with École Wilfrid Walker School in a shared community venture.

Motion by Mrs. K. Gagne:

That the proposed educational partnership between École Wilfrid Walker School and Affinity Credit Union be approved.

Motion Carried.

Chair	S/T

Public Presentations

The Board received a presentation from Ms. Dawn Popescul, on behalf of the Dieppe School Community Council. Ms. Popescul urged the Board to not cite Dieppe School for closure as recommended in the Biennial Review, based upon the following: 1) the consultations being relied upon are out-dated and focus on enrolment numbers and school size; 2) there are alternatives to school closures, and RPS should look to the role adopted by the Vancouver Board of Education in similar circumstances; and 3) there is well-documented and readily available research that supports small schools as positive learning environments. Board members expressed appreciation for the presentation.

The Board received a presentation from Mr. Bill Gray, on behalf of the Queen City Eastview Community Association, urging the Board to retain Haultain School in Eastview. He noted that Haultain School is located in the midst of commercial and industrial entities, but that new housing in the area has risen dramatically since 2001. He also raised questions relative to bussing arrangements for students. Mr. Gray urged the Board to make decisions on a case-by-case basis. In response to a Board member’s question, Mr. Gray confirmed that the new housing in the area was in replacement of older stock. Board members expressed appreciation for the presentation.

The Board received a presentation from Mr. Bob Hughes, on behalf of the Save Athabasca School Committee. A copy of a report, entitled “Exploring Schools as Community Hubs,” authored by Dianna Graves through the Community Research Unit of the University of Regina, had been distributed. He quoted that “the two-fold purpose of this report is to research the concept and review models of community hubs, and specifically schools that have become community hubs in their neighbourhoods and service regions; as well, to investigate the hub model as an alternative to closure of Athabasca School.” He outlined the three goals of the report: 1) to present the community hub concept to the Board during its biennial review as an option for Athabasca School; 2) to share information learned with other schools and communities in Regina and throughout Saskatchewan; and 3) to provide a solid research foundation for action. He noted that a number of interested parties had contacted the Committee, and advised that more time would be needed to invite more interest and to hold initial meetings with interested parties to explore the idea of establishing a community hub at the Athabasca School site. He presented the signed petitions to the Chairperson as previewed at the June 21, 2011, Board meeting. Mr. Hughes concluded by urging the Board to place a moratorium on school closures until more evidence can be obtained relative to the effects such closures have on students, communities, and the environment. Mr. Hughes responded to questions relative to expressions of interest, and what would be achieved if the disposition of the Athabasca School property was delayed for a year. Mr. West clarified that he had not provided the \$100,000 annual operating cost estimate for Athabasca School as referenced on page 30 of the report. Board members expressed appreciation for the presentation.

The Board received a presentation from Ms. Trish Elliott, on behalf of RealRenewal. A copy of RealRenewal’s “Response to the Biennial Review, September 2011,” had been distributed. Ms. Elliott proceeded to outline a number of recommendations contained in the above-noted response. She urged the Board to establish Representative Committees of Review to consider proposed renewal actions. She expressed concern regarding communication and suggested the Board provide a number of written documents to interested parties. She encouraged the Board to ensure that all staff members have opportunities to provide input into the process. She expressed the need for detailed minutes of all closure-related public and stakeholder meetings. She noted a trend toward large schools and commended the Board for initiating an attendance area study focused on elementary school programs with enrolment projections beyond 520 students. In concluding, Ms. Elliott expressed support for the Save Athabasca School Committee’s property disposition moratorium

Chair	S/T

request and further urged the Board to place a five-year moratorium on school closures. Ms. Elliott responded to questions from Board members relative to collection of RealRenewal feedback and its membership. Board members expressed appreciation for the presentation.

The Board received a presentation from Dr. Rick Hesch. Dr. Hesch raised concerns relative to standardized testing, student achievement, and the impact of school closures. He recommended that the Board: 1) advertise for full-time community school coordinator positions at any schools currently lacking them; and 2) include in community school coordinator job descriptions a mandate to facilitate local community organizing. Dr. Hesch responded to questions relative to the elimination of the First Nations, Métis, and Community Education Branch of the Ministry of Education. Board members expressed appreciation for the presentation.

Audit and Policy Review Committee

Mr. D. West provided a summary of the Audit and Policy Review Committee meeting held September 13, 2011, noting a discussion relative to potential changes to the electoral subdivision boundaries. The Committee had determined that, given the continued variation in voter numbers between subdivisions, it would be prudent to await release of the 2011 Census data.

Motion by Mr. D. West:

That any changes to the current electoral subdivision boundaries for Regina Public Schools be deferred for review prior to the 2016 civic election, to allow for reference to 2011 Census data.

Motion Carried.

Renewal Plan Biennial Review 2011-12 and 2012-13 Recommendations

Information relative to and recommendations from the Renewal Plan Biennial Review 2011-13 had been distributed. Ms. Julie MacRae, Director of Education, provided a brief background on the renewal process and rationale for the recommendations contained in the Review. Members of the Board presented their general views with respect to the proposed Dieppe School closure and attendance area merger, the proposed Haultain School closure and attendance area merger, the initiation of a High School Facility Study aligned with the Campus Regina Public Concept Plan, and the initiation of an Attendance Area Study focused on elementary school programs with enrolment projections beyond 520 students. Dr. Young noted that, in accordance with established practice, motions would be introduced by the Vice-Chairperson and discussed by Board members, with voting thereon to follow.

Motion by Mrs. K. Gagne:

- 1) That, in consideration of the enrolment projections and program delivery models contained in the 2011-13 Biennial Review, and provided that enrolments remain within the confidence band on a go-forward basis, the RPS Renewal Plan be adjusted so that Gladys McDonald and Coronation Park Schools are considered as receiving schools or continue operating as individual schools.

Motion Carried.

Motion by Mrs. K. Gagne:

- 2) That Dieppe School be considered for closure effective June 30, 2012, and its attendance area combined with that of McLurg School, with parental

Chair	S/T

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 decision with respect to this matter on or before January 15, 2012.

Motion Carried.

Motion by Mrs. K. Gagne:

- 3) That Haultain School be considered for closure effective June 30, 2012, and its attendance area combined with that of Glen Elm School, with parental choice for student attendance at Glen Elm, McDermid or Imperial Schools; and that the proposed facility closure and attendance area merger be carried forward for consultation with the Haultain School Community Council and other interested parties, with the Board to make its decision with respect to this matter on or before January 15, 2012.

Motion Carried.

Motion by Mrs. K. Gagne:

- 4) That site selection discussions associated with a future proposed merger of McDermid and Imperial attendance areas be commenced with both schools to continue operating as individual facilities pending approval of planning for construction of a new facility by the provincial government.

Motion Carried.

Motion by Mrs. K. Gagne:

- 5) That discussions and planning for the construction of a high school facility located in Southeast Regina be initiated as part of a High School Facility Study that aligns with the Campus Regina Public Concept Plan.

Motion Carried.

Motion by Mrs. K. Gagne:

- 6) That consideration of the possible closure of the Martin Collegiate facility be deferred pending completion of the High School Facility Study referenced in #5 above.

Motion Carried.

Motion by Mrs. K. Gagne:

- 7) That an Attendance Area Study focused on elementary school programs with enrolment projections beyond 520 students (through to 2018) be undertaken during 2011-12.

Motion Carried.

Budget 2011-12
Final Estimates

Information relative to the approval by the Ministry of Education of the Board's 2011-12 revenue and expenditure estimates submission (as detailed at the June 7, 2011, Board meeting) had been distributed. Ms. Debra Burnett, Deputy Director, Division Services, noted that, following said approval, The Education Act, 1995 requires the Board to approve the final 2011-12 estimates.

Chair	S/T

Motion by Mrs. K. Gagne:

That the 2011-12 estimated revenues and expenditures, as submitted to and approved by the Minister of Education, be adopted as the final statement for the 2011-12 fiscal year.

Motion Carried.

Properties

Ms. C. Beck presented the motion of which she had given notice at the June 21, 2011, Board meeting. Ms. Beck acknowledged the community’s desire to have future input into the disposition of the property. She noted that the Board’s Policy 15 “Facility Requirements and School Closures” does not outline a timeline for property disposition. She quoted the B.C. Ministry of Education’s policy on school building closure and disposal: “School buildings and property are also valuable public assets that can become centres for delivering education and community services that meet the vital needs of the community. Available school space should be available for alternative community use; for example, early learning, child care services, adult and industry training education programs, family resource centres, seniors’ centres, public libraries, health care and therapy services, local social services, community recreation programs.” She further quoted from the same B.C. Ministry of Education policy: “School property disposed of to: another board (including the Conseil scolaire francophone) or independent school for educational purposes; or local government or community organization for alternative community use, may be sold at less than market value.” Ms. Beck pointed to the delay in the sale of Robert Usher Collegiate, and the Board’s ability to rent out or use the space at Athabasca School for storage during the year. Board members expressed concern that a Committee had not been struck relative to the Athabasca property, clarified the timeline for the sale of Robert Usher Collegiate to the Conseil des écoles fransaskoises, and stressed that the process in place would allow for submission of proposals by all interested parties.

Motion by Ms. C. Beck:

RESOLVED that Regina Public School Board delay the disposition of Athabasca School and surrounding property for a period of one year from June 21, 2011.

Motion Defeated.

Closed Session

Motion by Mrs. C. Anderson:

That we go into closed session.

Motion Carried.

Motion by Mrs. A. Fraser:

That we rise and report.

Motion Carried.

Chair	S/T

At the conclusion of closed session, the Committee of the Whole recommended to the Board:

Meeting
Adjournment
Time

- 1) That the September 20, 2011, Board meeting be authorized to continue beyond the 9:30 p.m. presumptive adjournment time.

Motion by Mr. D. West:

That recommendation No. 1 (above) from the Committee of the Whole be approved.

Motion Carried.

At the conclusion of closed session, the Committee of the Whole reported progress with respect to consideration of *Communications Workshop* and *Joint Meeting with Regina Catholic School Board*. 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 Mrs. K. Gagne:

That the meeting adjourn.

Motion Carried.

Time of meeting: 7:00 to 9:34 p.m.

Chairperson

Secretary-Treasurer