

Regina, Saskatchewan  
May 8, 2012

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	Ms. Julie MacRae, Director of Education Ms. Debra Burnett, Deputy Director, Division Services, & Secretary-Treasurer Mr. Mike Walter, Deputy Director, Instruction and School Services	
Opening Remarks	Mrs. K. Gagne, 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. Mrs. K. Gagne was nominated by Ms. Paula Hesselink. Mr. Rene Dumont was nominated by Ms. Trish Elliott.	
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Motion by Mr. Luc Lerminiaux:

That nominations cease.

Motion Carried.

Following a vote by show of hands, Mr. Rene Dumont was declared elected to serve as Chairperson of the Annual Meeting of Electors.

Chair	S/T

Election of Secretary for the Meeting

Mr. Rene Dumont, 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. Bruce Baldwin.

Motion by Mr. Greg Enion:

That nominations cease.

Motion Carried.

Ms. Debra 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. Darren Boldt:

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 2011 Annual Meeting of Electors.

Motion by Ms. Morgan Reed:

That we dispense with the reading of the minutes of the 2011 Annual Meeting of Electors and that they be approved as circulated.

Motion Carried.

Chairperson's Report

Mrs. K. Gagne addressed the meeting, thanking the attendees for their interest in and commitment to public education. She quoted the notable Wendell Phillips, "Responsibility Educates," in describing the responsibilities undertaken by the Board members and the Administration. She advised that the theme for this year's annual meeting was "Celebrating Student Success," and acknowledged the students and staff in attendance, including those from Argyle, Centennial, Dr. George Ferguson, Wilfred Hunt, Kitchener, Gladys McDonald, Ethel Milliken, and Wascana Elementary Schools, and Balfour, Scott and Thom Collegiates.

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She highlighted that the annual meeting will continue in the tradition of showcasing some of the endeavours that make for great public education. She pointed to the colourful displays around the room, chosen to reflect the diversity of students served in the Division and to demonstrate the wide range of learning programs and services the Division has to offer.

Mrs. Gagne highlighted a list of accomplishments in the 2010-11 school year, including but not limited to:

- the establishment of a further 18 schools as Structural Innovation sites, bringing the total to 32;
- the continued welcoming of many new students to the school division, with 36.5 teachers now employed to meet the needs of students who are not proficient in English;
- the ongoing construction of the new Arcola Community School and Douglas Park School, which will be LEEDS Silver Certified;
- the continuation of work with community partners to develop programs and finalize the design for the new Learning Across the Community shared facility at Scott Collegiate; and
- the substantial progress on the improvements to the foundation at Campbell Collegiate.

She noted that, in furtherance of the Board's obligations to deliver quality education and be fiscally responsible, the Board made the difficult decision to close Athabasca School at the end of the 2010-11 school year.

Mrs. Gagne outlined that one of the challenges the Board faces is ensuring that it continues to be relevant, accountable and transparent to all its ratepayers. She noted that, during the 2010-11 school year, Board members met with every School Community Council, and conducted a High School Leadership Forum to discuss with students their needs, their interests and their ambitions. She advised that these ongoing discussions with stakeholders will continue in order to assist Board members in understanding what is important at the school level so that informed governance decisions can be made. She pointed to the introduction of the Board's new website as an improvement to overall communication with the public.

Mrs. Gagne advised that Ms. Julie MacRae was welcomed into the position of Director of Education at the beginning of the current school year. Mrs. Gagne noted that Ms. MacRae brings with her a wealth of experience in education as well as an unrelenting focus on the success of students.

In closing, Mrs. Gagne urged ratepayers and stakeholders to review the Division's Continuous Improvement Report, available on the Division's website, and at every Regina public school.

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Director’s Report

Ms. Julie MacRae, Director of Education, outlined efforts focused on advancing the priorities of the Continuous Improvement Plan. She highlighted outcomes set out in the Continuous Improvement Report, including graduation and transition rates, and literacy and numeracy assessment results.

She noted the Shared Values Recognition Program and the employees recognized for their embodiment of the Division’s shared values of I Belong, I Respect, I am Responsible, and I Want to Know.

Ms. MacRae highlighted the capital projects undertaken over the past year, noting that the projects contributed approximately \$53,000,000 to the local economy as well as improving the learning environments for students. She advised that the Board is also investing significant resources in North Central Regina, including planning for the construction of the new Seven Stones Community School, and the Learning Across the Community project at Scott Collegiate.

She outlined that, with an operating budget of \$192.3 million, the Annual Audit Report commended the Board and Administration team for their fiscal responsibility. She further noted that work is currently underway to improve on the identified areas of security measures and business continuity planning.

Ms. MacRae advised that the Board continues to develop and monitor an Annual Work Plan, emphasizing the mandates of the Board’s four standing committees. She summarized projects and initiatives undertaken and/or completed, including the Biennial Review of the Renewal Plan, and meetings with all School Community Councils.

In closing, Ms. MacRae reiterated her appreciation to Regina Board of Education employees for the work they do every day to support students, and for the tremendous welcome and support she has received from the school communities and the community at large.

Prior to introducing the Student Displays, Mr. Dumont wanted to acknowledge that the meeting was being held on Treaty 4 territory.

Celebrating Student Success Displays and Discussion

Board members introduced student display stations located throughout the meeting area:

Mrs. A. Fraser introduced the junior FIAP classroom from École Centennial Community School.

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Dr. B. Young introduced the Social Justice and the Storytelling Units from Balfour Collegiate.

Ms. C. Beck introduced the Digital Media Projects from Scott Collegiate, the Explore+4 Structure from Kitchener School, and Wascana School’s use of iPads in Grades 6-8 Indigenous Studies.

Mrs. C. Anderson introduced the Literacy Learning Journey from Gladys McDonald School, and the Technology Catalyst Team from Thom Collegiate.

Mr. D. West introduced the Shared Planning Network from Argyle, Wilfred Hunt and Ethel Milliken Schools.

Mr. T. Stobbs introduced students from Grades 5-8 from Dr. George Ferguson School, who, individually or in small groups, represented various cultures through either poetry, dance or song.

(Attendees were provided the opportunity to visit the Student Display stations.)

Comments  
and/or  
Questions from  
Regina  
Ratepayers and  
from Others

Ms. Connie Deiter addressed the Board, requesting that the name of the new elementary school “Seven Stones Community School” be changed, as it is an Anishinabe/Ojibwa name and, therefore, offensive to the Plains Cree people of Saskatchewan. She requested an opportunity to make a presentation to the Board in the near future on the topic. Ms. Julie MacRae, Director of Education, advised that a meeting would be arranged. Mrs. K. Gagne provided information on the Board’s process for the naming of a school and advised that the process included input from the Elders Advisory Council. Ms. Deiter further requested information on the process for choosing Elders for the Elders Advisory Council.

Ms. Irene Jacques addressed the Board, reiterating Ms. Deiter’s comments.

Mr. Bob Hughes addressed the Board, stating that he is a grandparent currently raising five grandchildren who need the assistance of Educational Assistants. He encouraged the Board to treat all professional staff fairly. Mrs. Gagne advised that it is not the Board’s practice to discuss negotiations in a public forum. She further advised that the support staff in question have access to a bargaining process, which is currently underway.

Mr. Larry Hubich addressed the Board, stating that, as someone who contributes to and values Regina Public Schools, he was concerned that the Board has a group of workers who are being asked to accept less than what has been provided to others in the Board’s employ, specifically teachers and non-union staff. He encouraged the Board to direct those who bargain on its behalf to put a fair offer on the table. He requested further clarification regarding comments in

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a letter from the Director of Education that referenced comparable settlements. He pointed to a recent news release from Advanced Education, Employment and Immigration Department that referenced the rise in Saskatchewan's average weekly earnings. Mrs. Gagne reiterated that the Board's collective agreement negotiations were not for public debate.

Ms. Florence Stratton addressed the Board, asking what steps the Board intends to take to ensure that no more schools are closed. She encouraged the Board to keep schools open. Mrs. Gagne pointed to the Biennial Review of the Renewal Plan and the High School Facilities Review currently underway. She further noted that enrolment trends and population growth are regularly monitored and consistently form part of Board discussions when determining how best to meet the needs of students.

Ms. Jeannie Mah addressed the Board, expressing concern that, with school closures, the enrolments at receiving schools would become too high. She further noted the history of the buildings being closed, and that it would be more environmentally friendly to use what is already in existence. Mrs. Gagne reiterated the strength of the Biennial Review process, further noting that the Board cannot control where citizens take up residence and where parents choose to send their children to school. She stressed that the Board must look at providing students with the best educational opportunities and outcomes.

Ms. Trish Elliott expressed appreciation to Board members for their service over the past three years. She then addressed the Board, seeking clarification on whether the community school designation of Haultain School would be transferred to Glen Elm School and on the future funding of community schools and community schools' school community councils. She further pointed to the success of smaller schools and asserted that Professional Learning Communities can exist in any size of school. Mrs. Gagne advised that all Regina public schools are moving to the Structural Innovation model. She further advised that, although the Ministry of Education moved away from community school designations, Regina Public Schools is committed to its students and resources will be provided to students as required. Ms. Julie MacRae, Director of Education, advised that Haultain's community school designation will transfer to Glen Elm School. She further noted that the Board is currently reviewing its budget for the 2012-13 school year and that, at this point, there is no change to the level of support for School Community Councils subject to the Board's final budget decision. As for school size, Ms. MacRae advised that staffing is tied to the level of enrolment to provide the proper services to students.

Ms. Kathleen O'Reilly asked what the Board is doing with the results of standardized tests. She expressed concern that the most vulnerable students are being penalized by a reduction in Education Assistants. Ms. MacRae advised that the Division uses a number of different assessments and that results are provided to principals to use with staff in improving student achievement

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and teaching practices. She further advised that, with the reduction of para-professionals, there was an increase in the number of ancillary professional staff.

Ms. Elliott again addressed the Board advocating in favour of more Educational Assistants and Community Coordinators. She expressed concern regarding the ongoing bargaining with support staff, and the levels of stress experienced by teachers and students. Mrs. Gagne advised that Board members continually seek input from ratepayers and students, which informs their decision-making. She reiterated that negotiations will not be discussed in public.

Ms. Maureen Eckstein referred to Board Policy 7 that provides that Board members' remuneration is tied to the annual provincial average rate of increase in salaries payable to teachers, and questioned why a similar policy does not exist for support staff. Mrs. Gagne again reiterated that bargaining will not be discussed in a public forum.

Mr. Hubich again addressed the Board, challenging Mrs. Gagne's comments that the process "is working," and urging the Board to provide a fair offer to its support staff. Mrs. Gagne clarified that her comment was relative to the negotiation process, noting that if there is a breakdown occurring, it may be attributable to attempts to negotiate in public.

Ms. Elliott stepped forward again and advised that School Community Councils are to be provided with certain documents two weeks prior to the Board's annual general meetings and are to be consulted regarding the meeting agenda. She urged the Board to ensure the legislated distribution of materials in the future.

Ms. Eckstein again addressed the Board, stating that the Board's mission statement includes "equity and inclusion," and questioned how these principles were being applied in the context of CUPE negotiations.

Mr. Rick Hesch addressed the Board, stating that there are notions of horizontal and vertical equity, and wondered whether disruption to the lives of students in schools being closed had been considered. He asked Ms. MacRae if value-added assessments were being utilized in the school system, to which Ms. MacRae responded in the affirmative. Mr. Hesch further asked what criteria will be used to select students to attend the new Campus Regina Public courses in the next year. Mrs. Gagne advised that smooth transitions into and through the system is a key priority of the Board, and that many events and activities are held to ensure smooth transitioning from closed to receiving schools. Ms. MacRae advised that opportunities to take courses at the new Campus Regina Public will be available to students at all Regina Public high schools. In response to further questioning from Mr. Hesch, Ms. MacRae was not readily able to respond to how Associate Schools differ from Chartered Schools, given the differing definitions of the latter term, but did offer that Regina Public Schools would support the establishment of a First Nations School if Ministry of Education requirements were met.

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Adjournment      Mr. Dumont called for a motion to adjourn the meeting.

Motion by Ms. Starla Nistor:

That the meeting adjourn.

Motion Carried.

Time of meeting: 7:00 to 9:26 p.m.

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Chairperson

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Secretary-Treasurer