

Regina, Saskatchewan
January 29, 2013

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 Dr. Jane Ekong Mrs. Katherine Gagne	Dr. Kathleen O'Reilly Mr. Dale West Miss Aleana Young
Administration Present	Ms. Julie MacRae, Director of Education Ms. Debra Burnett, Deputy Director, Division Services, & Secretary-Treasurer Mr. Greg Enion, Deputy Director, Student Achievement	
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.	

Three students from École W. S. Hawrylak School, Gianna Trogi, Lauren Laschuk and Ryan Ramsay, along with their teacher, Ms. Sharon Meredith, 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. Ms. C. Beck was nominated by Mr. Ron Christie. Mr. René Dumont was nominated by Ms. Trish Elliott.
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Motion by Ms. Laurie Gatzke:

That nominations cease.

Motion Carried.

Following a vote by show of hands, Ms. C. Beck was declared elected to serve as Chairperson of the Annual Meeting of Electors.

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Election of
Secretary for
the Meeting

Ms. C. Beck, 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 Ms. Reneé Stephan.

Motion by Mr. Gary Halbert:

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 Juanita Redekopp-McKeown:

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 2012 Annual Meeting of Electors.

Motion by Mr. Mark Whiting:

That we dispense with the reading of the minutes of the 2012 Annual Meeting of Electors and that they be approved as circulated.

Motion Carried.

Chairperson's
Report

Mrs. K. Gagne delivered the Chairperson's Report. She highlighted the new Arcola and Douglas Park School designs, incorporating the tenants of Structural Innovation, namely flexible teaching arrangements and instructional groupings, teacher collaboration, interdisciplinary and inquiry-based teaching and learning, and inclusive practices.

She remarked on the identified gap in the outcomes between all Regina Public students and those of First Nations and Métis ancestry and how that gap is being addressed.

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Mrs. Gagne advised that the Annual Meeting had been moved from May to January in order to report the results contained in the Continuous Improvement Report, published in December, in a more timely and relevant manner.

At the Board level, Mrs. Gagne noted a number of changes that have occurred over the year, including the welcoming of three new trustees to the Board, and the election of Ms. C. Beck as Vice-Chairperson. She referenced the Continuous Improvement Report for 2011-12 and the Board's operating budget of \$196 Million. She assured electors that the Board of Education takes the responsibility associated with the prudent and accountable management of these funds very seriously.

Mrs. Gagne advised that the Board welcomes concerns and compliments, both at regular Board meetings and at the individual trustee level. She further encouraged participation in local School Community Councils.

In closing, Mrs. Gagne expressed thanks for the support of public education in the City of Regina and reiterated that the Board of Education is eager to listen and help, but that it be understood that it serves a governance function; and it is the teachers, principals and administration that have direct responsibility for the day-to-day operations in schools.

Director's Report

Ms. Julie MacRae, Director of Education, thanked everyone in attendance for their support and interest in Regina Public Schools. She acknowledged the many professionals whose commitment allows students to work in safe, healthy, happy, and supportive learning environments.

Ms. MacRae advised that the chief mechanism by which the Board of Education is held accountable for improving the achievement and life-chances for students is through the Continuous Improvement Framework, mandated by the Ministry of Education. She outlined efforts focused on advancing the priorities of the Continuous Improvement Plan, and highlighted outcomes set out in the Continuous Improvement Report, including literacy and numeracy assessment results, graduation and transition rates, and an increased emphasis on moving beyond cultural awareness to incorporating new ways of learning to advance the outcomes of First Nations and Métis students.

Moving forward into 2012-13, Ms. MacRae highlighted critical actions embarked upon to improve the learning environment and outcomes for students, including: implementing a leveled literacy intervention program across the Division; supporting new ways of integrating Aboriginal content into literacy and numeracy instruction; the hiring of a Transitions Coordinator with specific responsibility for ensuring successful transitions for First Nations and Métis students; working with elders regarding First Nations and Métis student

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self-identification; continuing work on a value-added student assessment agenda to provide teachers, students and parents with measures of progress for all students; expanding Pre-Kindergarten programming; providing additional English as an Additional Language teachers; establishing and opening Campus Regina Public, Douglas Park and Arcola Schools; continuing work in partnership with other community agencies through the Regina Regional Intersectoral Committee to identify and address the needs of students and their families; developing a Leadership Competencies Framework for principals and vice-principals; involving teachers and principals directly in planning and dialogue about how to align resources to meet achievement targets through Results Teams; and participating in the Ministry of Education LEAN processes to ensure more effective and efficient use of resources.

In closing, Ms. MacRae reiterated her appreciation to electors, parents and community members for their commitment to public education, to Regina Public Schools' staff members for their leadership and dedication, and to the Trustees for their direction and oversight that is so critical in the successful operation of a public school division.

“Learning for
the 21st
Century”
Displays and
Discussion

Board members introduced display stations located throughout the meeting area relative to the following projects:

- Seven Stones Community School
- McLurg School
- North Central Shared Facility
- Campus Regina Public
- Douglas Park School
- Arcola Community School

(Attendees were provided the opportunity to visit the display stations.)

Comments
and/or
Questions from
Regina
Ratepayers and
from Others

Mrs. Sheila Brass arose and shared numerous personal stories in support of the following motion.

Motion by Mrs. Sheila Brass; seconded by Ms. Trish Elliott:

WHEREAS the board's Continuous Improvement Plan Report indicates First Nations and Métis students have experienced a widening achievement gap under the current education model;

AND WHEREAS the aspirations of First Nations, Métis and Inuit people to create a better world for all have reached a critical turning point, as evidenced by the Idle No More Movement;

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AND WHEREAS we have a broad community of experience, expertise and enthusiasm to draw on that currently sits outside the halls of decision-making;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that a special Action Committee be created by this assembly to address First Nations, Métis and Inuit concerns regarding public education in Regina, which would include majority representation from the Aboriginal community in Regina and majority representation from non-board personnel, and be chaired by a person of Aboriginal ancestry;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Action Committee members be selected through an open and fully transparent public nomination process, within 30 days of this date;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this Action Committee be empowered to explore and facilitate advocacy for necessary changes and to develop binding recommendations for further action.

Motion Defeated.

In discussion, Mr. Richard Shackleton agreed with the concept of an action committee but suggested that the committee membership be broadened beyond those of Aboriginal ancestry. Ms. Trish Elliott clarified that the intention of the motion was for a majority of committee members and the committee chair to be of Aboriginal ancestry.

Mr. Terry Chadwick arose and advised that he had two children in the public school system, and inquired as to the Board's practice with respect to providing funding to associate schools. Mrs. K. Gagne advised that the level of associate school funding is determined by the Ministry of Education. Mr. Chadwick then asked if the Ministry was mandating that public funds be directed to non-secular educational institutions, which Mrs. Gagne affirmed.

Ms. Trish Elliott arose, welcomed Trustees and employees to the Annual Meeting of Electors, and spoke in favour of amendments to the Board's Policy 18, *School Community Councils*.

Motion by Ms. Trish Elliott; seconded by Mr. René Dumont:

WHEREAS Policy 18 of the Regina Board of Education cites the Duties of School Community Councils as stated in the Education Act Regulations, Part II, 2, 3.9.2;

AND WHEREAS Policy 18 is silent on the Powers of School Community Councils as stated in the Education Act Regulations, Part II, 2, 3.9.3;

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BE IT RESOLVED that the Powers of the School Community Councils be added to Policy 18 and quoted in future board communications dealing with SCC roles and responsibilities, specifically:

“A School Community Council may:

- (a) provide advice and recommendations to the board of education respecting policies, programs and educational service delivery, including fundraising, school fees, pupil code of conduct, grade discontinuance, school closure, religious instruction, and language of instruction but not including educational service delivery by a specific teacher;
- (b) provide advice to the school staff respecting school programs; and
- (c) provide advice to other organizations, agencies and governments on the learning needs and well-being of pupils. (Education Act Regulations, Part II, 2, 3.9.3)”

A point of order was raised by an elector and clarification was sought relative to who was chairing the Annual Meeting of Electors. Ms. Debra Burnett, Deputy Director, Division Services, and Secretary-Treasurer, advised that Ms. C. Beck had been elected chair of the Annual Meeting of Electors but had conceded the fielding of questions during this portion of the meeting to the Board Chairperson, Mrs. K. Gagne. At this point, Ms. C. Beck agreed to resume the position of meeting chair.

Motion by Mrs. Katherine Gagne; seconded by Mr. Bruce Baldwin:

That the above-noted motion be tabled for Board consideration.

Motion to Table Carried.

Clarification was requested on whether the motion was being tabled until the next Annual Meeting of Electors or tabled for the Board to deal with the matter in the intervening period. Ms. Elliott advised that the motion was requesting an update to the wording of Policy 18, and that if same did not occur, she would have the option to bring the motion forward again at the next Annual Meeting of Electors. Ms. C. Beck advised that the Board would appreciate time to discuss the matter and to review the relevant provisions of The Education Act, 1995.

Ms. Florence Stratton approached the microphone and advised that she had attended Davin School and that her mother had attended Connaught School. She expressed the view that both schools should be designated as heritage properties.

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Motion by Ms. Florence Stratton; seconded by Ms. Lauren Numrich:

WHEREAS Davin School, constructed in 1929, was successfully placed on the Regina Municipal Heritage Holding Bylaw List, with the support of Regina Public Schools, in honour of its 60th anniversary in 1989, and subsequently went on to win a 2004 City of Regina Heritage Award;

AND WHEREAS Connaught School, constructed in 1912, is an equally valuable heritage asset owned by Regina Public, as identified by Regina Public's heritage consultant report and having been recognized as one of Heritage Canada's Top 10 Canadian Endangered Heritage Sites in 2012;

AND WHEREAS heritage schools are recognized around the world as uniquely valuable contributors to 21st Century education and to history of place;

BE IT RESOLVED that Regina Public seek Municipal Heritage Holding Bylaw status for Connaught School in honour of its 100th anniversary, and as a first step toward potentially accessing federal-provincial grants for repairs to recognized heritage properties, including new grant initiatives for heritage buildings being launched in advance of Canada's 150th anniversary.

Motion Defeated.

Following on Mr. Terry Chadwick's earlier question, Mr. Don Jedlic approached the microphone and asked if associate schools are subject to the same enrolment constraints as Regina Public Schools. Ms. Julie MacRae, Director of Education, advised that each associate school is governed by its own Board as well as falling under the auspices of Regina Public Schools. Ms. MacRae advised that she is not aware of a minimum enrolment requirement for the operation of associate schools.

Mr. Terry Chadwick again approached and stated that, while a taxpayer has a choice to support a faith-based or non-faith-based school division, in the matter of associate school funding, there is no choice afforded taxpayers. Ms. Helmi Scott asked how many associate schools are affiliated with Regina Public Schools. Mrs. K. Gagne advised that three associate schools have agreements with the Board. She further pointed out that boards of education lost their ability to set mill rates and that all funding now comes from the Province so, effectively, all ratepayers in Saskatchewan contribute to the cost of education in the City of Regina.

Mr. Bill Jones arose and noted that, in reading through the Statement of Proceedings from last year's Annual Meeting of Electors, he felt there was a definite difference in the verbs and adjectives used in describing questions or

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comments from ratepayers as opposed to those used to describe Board member responses. He suggested that there was a difference in tone that could be perceived as political. He offered options for the Secretary to consider in preparing the Statement of Proceedings of this Annual Meeting of Electors, and requested the Board to advise how this matter will be handled in the future. Ms. C. Beck commented that she did not personally notice any difference, but thanked Mr. Jones and advised that his comments had been noted.

Ms. Trish Elliott again approached and advised that she had committed to bringing forward two more resolutions on behalf of other electors.

Motion by Ms. Trish Elliott; seconded by Ms. April Bourgeois:

WHEREAS support for holistic, cohesive communities plays a beneficial role in student achievement and community well-being;

AND WHEREAS school community members perceive themselves as a holistic entity;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that Regina Public's school enrolment counts include all Ministry of Education-funded students;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that English and French programs situated in the same school building be counted together as a single school population.

Motion Defeated.

In discussion, Ms. Lauren Numrich asked how school population is recognized. Ms. Julie MacRae, Director of Education, advised that school divisions use Ministry of Education guidelines and formulas. She noted, firstly, the difference between full-time equivalents and enrolment numbers. She advised that the Board has adopted a model where program enrolments are monitored regularly. Ms. Trish Elliott advised that families are feeling excluded when English and French programs housed in one school are being treated as two separate enrolments. She commented that, from a bureaucratic viewpoint, it may make sense, but, from a community perspective, all students should be counted in a school's enrolment.

Miss Camille Dumont arose and advised that she is a Grade 8 student at École Connaught Community School. She added that she did not expect a response to her comment. She referred to Ms. C. Beck's opening message of maintaining a respectful environment and commented that this was one of the most disrespectful meetings she has ever attended. Ms. Beck communicated that she was sorry that Miss Dumont felt that way.

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Ms. Trish Elliott arose and submitted a final resolution relative to the employee bargaining process.

Motion by Ms. Trish Elliott; seconded by Ms. April Bourgeois:

WHEREAS the Education Act identifies boards of education as employers;

AND WHEREAS for the purposes of adequate public representation it is important for trustees to be well informed of bargaining processes;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that any bargaining group can request the presence of a school trustee during contract negotiations;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that, in the absence of any compelling circumstances otherwise, every effort will be made to meet this request.

Motion Defeated.

Adjournment Ms. C. Beck called for a motion to adjourn the meeting.

Motion by Mr. Bruce Lipinski:

That the meeting adjourn.

Motion Carried.

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

Chairperson

Secretary-Treasurer