

Regina, Saskatchewan
January 28, 2014

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.

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| 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 Mr. Mike Walter, Deputy Director, 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, welcomed all in attendance, and introduced the Board members and senior administration. | |

Mr. Neil Child and Ms. Whitney Sauder led in the singing of *O Canada*.

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| 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. Mr. D. West was nominated by Ms. Morgan Reed. Mr. René Dumont was nominated by Mr. Nathaniel Cole. |
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Motion by Mr. Luc Lermينياux:

That nominations cease.

Motion Carried.

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

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Election of
Secretary for
the Meeting

Mr. D. West, 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. Justin Arendt.

Motion by Mr. Ron Christie:

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 advised that, given the presence of students, it was recommended to move the Campus Regina Public Presentation and Tours to immediately prior to the Question and Comment period and asked for a motion to adopt the agenda for the meeting with that amendment.

Motion by Ms. Starla Nistor:

That the agenda for the meeting be adopted with the exception that the Campus Regina Public Presentation and Tours be placed immediately prior to the Question and Comment period.

Motion Carried.

Approving of
Minutes

The next item of business was the reading of the minutes of the 2013 Annual Meeting of Electors.

Motion by Ms. Terri Baldwin:

That we dispense with the reading of the minutes of the 2013 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 welcomed all in attendance. She noted that the meeting was being held at Campus Regina Public, Cochrane Campus, to reach out to parents and the community and make the annual meeting accessible to all by going out into the community, while also showcasing the Division's newest program—Campus Regina Public. She

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thanked the teachers and students in attendance from Campus Regina Public for participating in the tours and demonstration later in the program. Considering the targets and goals of the Division, she quoted Martin Luther King, Jr., “The function of education is to teach one to think intensively and to think critically. Intelligence plus character—that is the goal of true education.” She advised that the Annual Report reflects the work of the Division for the 2012-2013 year. Mrs. Gagne highlighted accomplishments of the Division during that time, including the opening of the rebuilt Douglas Park and Arcola Schools, and the launch of the Campus Regina Public program. She pointed to improved outcomes of elementary students, including those facing socio-economic challenges. She mentioned the focus on self-declaration by Aboriginal students, allowing for the collection of data to improve responses to Aboriginal achievement data. She was pleased to advise that there was a 30% increase in self-declared students in 2012-2013.

Ms. Julie MacRae, Director of Education, provided an overview of achievement results in literacy and numeracy. She advised that the Division is seeing some improvement in both literacy and numeracy achievement. She assured that Regina Public Schools is committed to working at demonstrating more tangible achievement outcomes in literacy and math, putting key resources in schools to enhance achievement. She next highlighted improved transition and graduation rates.

Mr. D. West advised that, in addition to being the Vice-Chair of the Board, he is the Chairperson of the Audit and Policy Review Committee, and provided an outline of the finances of the Division. He further highlighted Educational Facilities detail, noting that physical surroundings have a significant impact on student achievement and on the provision of equitable opportunities for learning and effective educational program delivery. He concluded by providing data relative to student transportation arrangement.

Dr. J. Ekong highlighted the work of the Division in the community. She noted a continuation of significant improvement in orientation, training development and networking for School Community Councils members. She was pleased to report that Regina Public School Community Councils are 5% above the provincial average in developing Learning Improvement Plans. She concluded by speaking of the strong partnerships with many government, non-government and community organizations, a crucial component in efforts to support student learning and the successful transition into and through the school system.

Dr. K. O'Reilly noted that Regina Public Schools is one of the largest urban school divisions in the province, serving more than 20,000 students from 41 elementary schools and nine high schools. She highlighted that the Division operates 37 Prekindergarten programs in 24 school communities, has 13 community elementary schools and four community high schools, and is affiliated with three associate schools that offer faith-based programming. With the recent increase in the number of new Canadians whose first language is not

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English, she advised that, in 2012-2013, the Division provided support for over 1,500 English as an Additional Language (EAL) students. Dr. O'Reilly outlined that the Division employs over 2,000 full-time equivalent staff members, and works collaboratively with a number of employee groups. She concluded by highlighting the Employment Equity Plan administered by the Division in an effort to ensure a representative work force.

Ms. C. Beck outlined the area of Equitable Opportunities and Student Supports. She pointed to the extensive range of supportive programs and services available for students and their families. She highlighted the intensive programs offered for students with intellectual and/or physical challenges, and noted that, in 2012-2013, there were 24 programs with 31.5 teachers and 51 educational assistants working with 290 students. She further noted 11 programs with 15 teachers and 22 educational assistants working with 112 students with behavioral issues, and 11 teachers and eight educational assistants working with 105 at-risk youth. Relative to the EAL programs and teachers, as outlined by Dr. O'Reilly, Ms. Beck advised that the Division works closely with the Regina Newcomer Welcome Centre and has increased the number of staff trained in EAL programming to provide the much needed supports to students and school staff to ensure equitable instruction for all students.

Miss A. Young provided an update on Higher Literacy and Achievement at Regina Public Schools. She highlighted the that the Division's graduation rate for all students has improved slightly to 72.3% and that the graduation rate for First Nations and Métis students has increased steadily over the past three years and matched the provincial rate in 2012-2013. She noted that some students need more time to graduate, staying in school more than three years after beginning Grade 10, and that, in 2012-2013, there was a 5% increase in the Division's overall graduation rate when the timeline from Grade 10 to Graduation is lengthened to five years, demonstrating that a greater number of students are graduating and successfully transitioning to adult life, than is immediately apparent.

In closing, Mrs. K. Gagne noted that, as a result of a number of issues raised at the 2013 Annual Meeting of Electors, the Board reviewed a number of policies over the past year, including revisions to Policy 17, *Aboriginal Education*, and Policy 18, *School Community Councils*. She concluded by thanking those in attendance for their contributions and commitment to public education, and conveyed, on behalf of all the Board members, the honour it is to serve as the Board of Education for Regina Public Schools.

Director's
Report and
Capital Project
Update

At the request of the École Connaught School Community Council, Ms. Julie MacRae, Director of Education, provided an update on the progress of the Division's capital projects. Ms. MacRae drew attention to the Facilities section on page 26 of the Annual Report. She further outlined the Ministerial process

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for approving capital projects. She advised that Douglas Park and Arcola Schools as well as Phase 1 of the underpinning of Campbell Collegiate were completed. She reported that Seven Stones Elementary School is under construction and would be ready for occupancy in September, 2014, and that the North Central Shared Facility (Scott Collegiate) is near completion of the design stage. She advised that rebuilds for École Connaught, Glen Elm/Haultain, and Imperial/McDermid Schools have been requested and are pending Ministry of Education approval. Relative to projects approved outside the usual process, Ms. MacRae highlighted the announcement made by Premier Brad Wall in October, 2013, that three new joint elementary schools would be located in Harbour Landing, southeast Regina, and northwest Regina. She advised that these schools (along with those in Saskatoon, Warman and Martensville) are to be bundled for design, construction and funding. She further outlined that government officials will be undertaking Value For Money analyses to determine if the Public-Private Partnership model (P3s) would be the most cost effective way to fund these new joint schools. She concluded by advising of two additional projects undertaken by the Board, namely a joint endeavour with Regina Catholic Schools to determine the feasibility of a joint high school in southeast Regina, and the revitalization of Cochrane High School into Campus Regina Public.

(Campus Regina Public staff and students made a presentation and provided attendees with an opportunity to tour the Cochrane Campus.)

Sign-up sheets for addressing the Board during the Comments/Questions period were provided.

Comments
and/or
Questions from
Regina
Ratepayers and
from Others

Mr. Darcy Moen asked if the Campbell Collegiate boundaries are going to be permanently closed. Mrs. K. Gagne advised that the Board has tasked the administration with monitoring high school enrolments, specifically Campbell and Winston Knoll Collegiates, and that registrations for those two high schools are being accepted up to April 15, 2014, at which time further review will be conducted and a decision made regarding boundary closures.

Mr. Tom Wright, a resident of North Central Regina, questioned Ms. Julie MacRae's comment regarding the tentative 2016 completion date for the North Central Shared Facility and inquired when the public can anticipate more detailed information on its progress. Ms. MacRae replied that her hesitation in giving a date was due, in part, to the knowledge that the project will not be tendered in February, 2014. She noted the integrated nature of the project, with

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multiple partners, and the associated complexity of contractual arrangements. She advised that the current target is for a 2016 opening but that matters beyond the control of the Board could arise and impede progress. Mrs. K. Gagne further noted that, with the opening of Seven Stones Elementary School in September, 2014, there continues to be significant interest and investment in the North Central neighbourhood.

Mr. Sean Wilson advised that he is a university student and finds the new math curriculum, Math Makes Sense, confusing, and asked why it was chosen and what plans are in place for the future. Mrs. K. Gagne acknowledged Mr. Wilson's frustration, but affirmed that the curriculum decisions are made at the provincial level. She advised that the plan is to stay the course for the time being and review later if deemed advisable. Ms. Julie MacRae further advised that it is the program used in the four western provinces, and that the philosophy of the program is to develop a constructivist approach to learning rather than relying on memorization skills.

Mr. Chris Worby echoed Mr. Wilson's concerns with the Math Makes Sense curriculum. He advanced that the provinces of British Columbia, Manitoba and Alberta were changing math curriculum and expressed worry that Saskatchewan was not following suit. With PISA results remaining the same and with an influx of new citizens, he asserted that Regina could be a leader in advocating for changing math curriculum to produce better outcomes. He asked how parents could become involved to affect such change. Mrs. K. Gagne observed that parents' involvement in their children's education is paramount and raises their awareness of curriculum concerns.

Ms. Juanita Sotkoway inquired about Board transportation procedures, particularly for students in wheelchairs, given the recent extremely frigid temperatures. Ms. Julie MacRae reported that the administration is currently developing, in consultation with the Regina Catholic School Board, common guidelines for such occurrences, and that the cut-off point being considered is -45C (combination of temperature and wind chill factor). She further advised that the Division is working on a communication strategy to notify parents that buses would not be running on any particular day.

Mr. Nathaniel Cole noted the longest one-way bus ride time is 67.5 minutes. He requested detail on whether bus rides are becoming longer or shorter, and

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asked how many students are riding more than one hour one-way, and if they are older or younger students. Mrs. K. Gagne advised that the administration would have to gather that specific information. She did report, though, that the average bus ride time is 28 minutes. Ms. Julie MacRae offered that the longer time would be an exception rather than the rule.

Mr. Steven Lloyd inquired as to percentage breakdown of the \$8.2 million dollar transportation budget between bussing and taxi service costs respectively. Ms. Debra Burnett, Deputy Director, Division Services, advised that she did not have those percentages at hand. In response to an inquiry regarding payments to bus transportation vendors, she indicated that total busing costs included both fleet and staffing costs. Mr. Lloyd further inquired whether employing more buses rather than taxis had been explored. Ms. Julie MacRae noted that the Division is awaiting a Ministry of Education transportation review, and once the new rules are in place, the Division would analyze current transportation services. In response to a request for comparative costs from previous years and to other school Divisions, Ms. Burnett noted that transportation in a large urban centre is difficult to compare to transportation in rural centres.

Ms. Catherine Gibson arose and submitted a resolution relative to public-private partnership schools.

Motion by Ms. Catherine Gibson; seconded by Mr. Nathaniel Cole:

WHEREAS the provincial government has announced its intention to build nine joint-use P3 (public-private partnership) schools in the province, including three in Regina; and,

WHEREAS the provincial government has not duly consulted the people of Saskatchewan about P3 schools; and

WHEREAS the experience of P3 schools in other provinces such as Nova Scotia and Alberta has shown that P3 schools cost more, increase long-term debt, do not provide flexibility in design, do not meet community needs, squeeze out local contractors and reduce public control and accountability,

WE THE ELECTORS of the Regina Public School Division No. 4 call on the Regina Public School Board to seek answers from the province on the questions listed below and to hold a special public meeting on P3 schools within two (2) months of the electors annual meeting to discuss whatever information the board has gathered on these questions.

1. What is the comparison of costs to build schools in Regina through public financing or a P3 model? Specifically, provide a comparison of

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private vs public borrowing costs and interest rates, transaction cost, amortization period, the private sector profit or return on equity, and an annual schedule of payments under the private or public model. Will payments be back-end loaded pushing the higher proportion of cost into the future?

2. Who will own the new schools? Who will have the title to the school and carry the mortgage? Who will be responsible for insurance and maintenance costs? Who is responsible for monitoring the company and the contract? If the company hires sub-contractors, who is responsible for monitoring them?
3. Will the P3 company or consortium have a long-term operation and/or maintenance contract? If yes, what will happen to existing maintenance and caretaking staff? Will the school division need permission from the company to modify the structure or hang any items such as bulletin boards on the walls? Will timely repairs and maintenance be delayed until the company can respond? Will school divisions have to pay for specific repairs and maintenance while also paying for a long-term operations and maintenance contract?
4. Will the school design be flexible enough to accommodate local community needs? Will the community and/or their local governments be expected to pay for the building and maintenance of community space? Will students, staff and the general public continue to have access to schools or will that access be restricted or come with extra charges? Will the design include innovative green technologies and renovation and retrofitting of existing facilities wherever possible?
5. Will local contractors, suppliers and workers benefit from the construction process under the P3 model as they have under the current model for building public schools?

Motion Carried.

In discussion, Mr. D. West questioned why the resolution was being presented to the Board of Education and Ms. Gibson advised that the motion is for the Board to seek answers from the provincial government on behalf of the electors. Mrs. K. Gagne advised that the Board and administration continue to have meetings with the government regarding this matter and that these questions are being asked. Ms. Gibson noted that the resolution also asks for a special meeting to be held to report back to the electors. Mr. Chris Worby arose, speaking against the motion, asserting that a referendum cannot be held every time there is a change in process and that, as the Board is already asking these questions of the government, this resolution is another means of delaying progress. Mr. Nathaniel Cole contested Mr. Worby's comments and further raised a point of order at which point Chairperson West ruled him out of order for interrupting while Mr. Worby had the floor. Mr. Cole appealed the decision

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of the Chairperson. The question of whether the decision of the Chairperson should be sustained was asked of the attendees, and the decision of the Chairperson was sustained by those assembled. Mr. Cole was then recognized by Chairperson West and conveyed his support for the resolution, submitting that there are numerous failed examples of public-private partnerships. He noted that posing the aforementioned questions to the Minister of Education would be a worthwhile exercise to reassure that taxes are being spent wisely, while also being a mechanism for ratepayers to obtain answers to their questions.

Mr. David Weir arose and submitted a resolution relative to the school bundle planning process.

Motion by Mr. David Weir; seconded by Ms. Debbie Mihial:

We the electors call on the board to put in place a process of consultation and full transparency with the public during every stage of discussion and planning in regards to P3 schools. Given the potential impacts on the whole education system, and on budgets and planning at all levels of government, this process should not be confined to individual school communities, but should seek to inform and involve all Regina ratepayers.

Motion Carried.

In discussion, Mr. D. West queried whether this resolution was repetitive given the previously-approved resolution. Mr. Weir proffered that the intent of this resolution was to put in place a process of consultation and full transparency involving all Regina ratepayers. He pointed to the discussion and outcome of the City's waste water treatment plant as an example, and submitted that this Board must commit to transparency and consultation, particularly given that, once a veil of confidentiality is erected, ratepayers would have no means of obtaining information. Ms. Mihial reiterated that the first resolution spoke to a set of questions to be answered, whereas this resolution speaks to the process as a whole.

Mr. Andrew Loewen arose and submitted a resolution in opposition to P3 schools.

Motion by Mr. Andrew Loewen; seconded by Ms. Janet Szliske:

Because nothing is more important than our children's education and safety, and because public education is the foundation of a democratic society, we oppose

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attempts to privatize elements of Saskatchewan's public education system, including the financing, maintenance, and operation of our public schools.

We as parents, educators, and electors oppose P3 schools and affirm education as a fundamental public good. We affirm that no part of our public school system should be handed over for private profit and corporate control.

Motion Defeated.

[Upon announcement of the initial results, Mr. Nathaniel Cole requested a standing recount. The recount confirmed that the motion was defeated with 53 in favour and 60 opposed to the resolution.]

In discussion, a gentleman spoke against the resolution, contending that the subject resolution, as well as the previous resolutions, are a means by which the electorate is attempting to prevent the elected Board members from performing the duties they were elected to carry out. Mr. Mike Schenher also opposed the resolution, questioning how the public can request consultation in the first two resolutions, and then oppose the process as a whole with this resolution. Ms. Trish Elliott provided clarification relative to the resolution, noting that it does not provide direction to the Board but rather is a statement of the position of the electorate. Ms. Szliske affirmed that the resolution is a value statement of the importance of public education.

Ms. Tammi Morash and Ms. Greta Lange, representing the Marion McVeety School Community Council, expressed concern over the reduction of teachers and, specifically, educational assistants, which has negatively impacted all the students at Marion McVeety School, particularly those with intensive needs. Mrs. K. Gagne noted that she had received a letter from Ms. Lange. Ms. Lange stated that the letter in question was an official appeal, that she has yet to receive a response, and inquired when she might receive same. Mrs. Gagne asserted that the matter would be reviewed. Ms. Morash inquired if the needs of the entire school would be considered, advancing that 1.5 educational assistants for the entire school is not acceptable. Mrs. Gagne acknowledged the urgency of the matter and affirmed the Board's commitment to review the matter in a timely manner.

Mr. Tim Stobbs inquired if the Board members could speculate on the recommendations in the feasibility study undertaken to determine the need for a joint high school in southeast Regina. Mrs. K. Gagne advised that a draft of the study had been received but not yet reviewed. She further outlined that boards are funded according to facility utilization rates, and that many of Regina Public high schools are not utilized to their full capacity.

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Ms. Florence Stratton arose and submitted a resolution relative to the renewal of École Connaught Community School.

Motion by Ms. Florence Stratton; seconded by Ms. Trish Elliott:

WHEREAS the potential uprooting of a school population and destruction of a highly valued heritage school requires evidence-based decision-making;

AND WHEREAS the Regina Board of Education has received reports recommending structural testing be carried out prior to decision-making on Connaught School renewal;

AND WHEREAS the expertise and scientific equipment required to undertake detailed structural testing are available at no cost to the Board of Education;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Education cooperate with Save Our Connaught Heritage and allow specialists to enter Connaught School for the purpose of conducting non-destructive testing;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that when a Request for Proposals is issued for Connaught School renewal, it shall be for both renovation and replacement options.

Motion Defeated.

[Upon announcement of the initial results, Ms. Janet Szliske requested a standing recount. The recount confirmed that the motion was defeated with 58 in favour and 65 opposed to the resolution.]

In discussion, Ms. Stratton noted that, in 2013, the Board had refused to pursue heritage designation for the Connaught building, and that it is now in jeopardy of demolition instead of renovation, with the Board declining to undertake further structural testing. A gentleman questioned the eagerness of ratepayers to replace a domeless football stadium with another domeless football stadium and contested the need to keep every building in the city standing, whether or not structurally sound. Mr. Bob Ivanochko observed that additional structural testing would not cost the Board and would conclusively determine the state of the building's foundation. Ms. Trish Elliott expanded on the type of testing being proposed, including ground-penetrating radar. She reiterated that such testing would provide irrefutable evidence of the building's condition, allowing for evidence-based decision-making. She urged support of the resolution asking the Board to open the doors of the school to the community for further testing. Another community member, and parent, arose to speak in support of the motion. Mrs. K. Gagne advised that more detailed testing had recently been undertaken and that the Board is currently awaiting the report on the findings.

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Mr. Kyall Glennie inquired as to the policies or procedures the Division has in place relative to bullying and also in relation to those who identify as lesbian, gay, bisexual, or transgendered. Ms. Julie MacRae advised that Regina Public Schools has very solid programs and commitments in place regarding anti-bullying on any basis and are always seeking to improve on same. She further advised that a number of Regina Public high schools have LGBT alliance groups.

Mr. Tim Stobbs recommended that the Board consider authorizing the release of draft reports/documents (subject to approval) in order to allow members of the public to more accurately comprehend the work of the Board.

Ms. Bobbi Stadnyk requested that the Board not rush into any decisions relative to the P3 schools, without prior full consultation with the public. She asserted that the cornerstone of accountability is transparency, especially when it involves public-private partnerships. She inquired what the Board intends to do with respect to accountability and confidentiality relative to the P3 schools. Mrs. K. Gagne advised that the Board has not, at this time, entered into any P3 agreements and that the model is currently being considered by the provincial government.

Ms. Beryl Forgay arose and submitted a resolution relative to school closures.

Motion by Ms. Beryl Forgay; seconded by Ms. Maureen Eckstein:

That starting in 2014, there be no more school closures in the Regina Public School Division for the next five years, and that all construction be limited to necessary repairs.

Motion Defeated.

In discussion, Ms. Forgay advanced that Regina continues to grow and questioned why schools are closing.

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Mr. Don Jedlic arose and submitted a resolution relative to provincial bargaining with Saskatchewan teachers.

Motion by Mr. Don Jedlic; seconded by Mr. Bob Ivanochko:

That the Regina Board of Education urge the Ministry of Education to come to a quick and fair agreement with Saskatchewan teachers.

Motion Carried.

Ms. Trish Elliott commented, on behalf of those from the École Connaught School community, that they are not going away or giving up and encouraged people to keep their spirits up. She noted that there are many in the community with great resources, who know how to deal with old facilities.

Adjournment Mr. D. West called for a motion to adjourn the meeting.

Motion by Mr. Darren Boldt:

That the meeting adjourn.

Motion Carried.

Time of meeting: 7:00 to 10:13 p.m.

Chairperson

Secretary-Treasurer