

At a meeting of the Board of Education of the Regina School Division No. 4 of Saskatchewan, held at 1600 4th Avenue.

Members Present	Mrs. Katherine Gagne, Chair	Dr. Jane Ekong
	Mr. Dale West, Vice-Chair	Dr. Kathleen O'Reilly
	Mrs. Cindy Anderson	Miss Aleana Young
	Ms. Carla Beck	
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	

The Chairperson called the meeting to order and asked for a motion to adopt the agenda.

Adoption of Agenda	<u>Motion by Miss A. Young:</u>
	That the agenda be adopted as prepared.

Motion Carried.

Approving of Minutes	The Chairperson then asked for a motion to approve the minutes of the meetings held on March 4 and March 20, 2014.
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	<u>Motion by Mrs. C. Anderson:</u>
	That the minutes of the Board meetings of March 4 and March 20, 2014, be approved as distributed.
	Motion Carried.

Public Presentations	The Board received a presentation from Dr. Susanne Arndt and Mr. Rene Dumont, on behalf of Save Our Connaught Heritage. They shared a video from the Connaught Centennial Celebration. Dr. Arndt presented a petition to the Chairperson, calling for the Board “to work in cooperation with the Save Our Connaught Heritage Committee, on behalf of the community members, to develop a sound, affordable renovation plan that will support the current École Connaught Community School building as a 21st Century learning environment, while respecting community values and preserving the heritage value of the nationally recognized historic school.” She asserted that members of the community are not worried about the safety of the building as there has not been enough corroborative evidence to convince them otherwise. She urged the Board to seek a second opinion on the condition of the facility.

The Board received a presentation from Ms. Patricia Elliott relative to École Connaught Community School. Ms. Elliott stated that she had been prepared to speak about public engagement in decision-making, but felt the need to speak instead in support of keeping École Connaught Community School open. She

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appealed to the Board to go back to the table with its administrators, lawyer, engineer, insurance agency and school community to develop a plan to keep the school open. She urged the Board to intervene on behalf of the Connaught community, and to start understanding that people want the school to open its doors come September. She advanced that there are many ideas that could be explored, and that the Board could learn from the Connaught community how to be different and inventive, and how to hold a community together.

The Board received a presentation from Ms. Kate Smart relative to École Connaught Community School. Ms. Smart advised that she, along with other community members, is fundraising to support the repairs needed to allow for the school to remain open for another year, or longer if possible. She noted that \$9,000 has been raised and offered a cheque to the Board if it was willing to sign an agreement stating that the funds would be used for repairs to keep the facility open for the 2014-15 school year. She advanced that if the engineer’s assessment that the school is unsafe without major structural upgrades is trusted, then his assessment that certain repairs would make it safe for occupancy for another year must also be trusted. She pointed, as an example, to the underpinning of Davin School. She further promoted Moose Jaw’s restored heritage schools and asked if the Board would consider contacting the Prairie South School Division to learn from its experiences. She expressed concern regarding the construction schedule associated with the new building and the potential for declining enrolment, loss of staff and loss of parent and community volunteers. She questioned the commitment of provincial funding to bring the project to completion. Ms. Smart urged the Board to pursue repairs and to keep École Connaught Community School open for at least one more year.

The Board received a presentation from Mr. Brent Kramer, on behalf of the Cathedral Area Community Association. Mr. Kramer noted that a motion was passed at the Association’s annual general meeting to request that École Connaught Community School remain open for a minimum of one year and that a dual-track school be maintained in the community. He invited the Board to sit down with the community to develop a mutually acceptable plan for the future of the school. He advised that the Cathedral Area Neighbourhood Plan recognizes the school as a significant heritage asset and that renovation should be a first choice. He further urged the Board and Ministry of Education to ensure that a dual-track school remains within the boundaries of the Cathedral neighbourhood.

The Board received a presentation from Mr. Peter Joyce. Mr. Joyce stated that he was speaking on behalf of a delegation of parents concerned about the closure of the school, including First Nations and Métis families, parents of children with special needs, families that depend on the Wise Owl Child Care Centre, families with children in the French Immersion program, and those who have returned to the area so their children can attend École Connaught Community School. He advanced that the proposed closure is premature and puts the children’s well-being and learning experience at risk. As a parent and a taxpayer, he expressed concern regarding continued provincial funding, and urged the Board to keep the school open for another year to ensure there is a clear plan and commitment from the province in next year’s budget for construction. Mr. Joyce asked the Board to engage with parents, families, teachers and community stakeholders to find a mutually acceptable solution that would meet the needs of all the children.

The Board received a presentation from Ms. Leslie Charlton. Ms. Charlton advised that she is not only a Connaught parent but also a local business owner and a board member of the Cathedral Village Business Association. She

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expressed concern that a mixed-use neighbourhood, like Cathedral, is becoming endangered in modern society. She voiced unease that promises may not come to fruition and that the area would be left without a neighbourhood school. She presented possible options for consideration, including locating the school within the area but away from the traffic associated with 13th Avenue and Elphinstone Street, and selling the facility to a buyer who will commit to keeping the building intact. She urged the Board to spend a portion of the money, that would otherwise be spent on transportation arrangements, to undertake immediate repairs to the facility and to house the students there until a new school is built.

Mrs. K. Gagne, on behalf of the Board, expressed appreciation for the presentations.

École
Connaught
Community
School

Information relative to École Connaught Community School had been distributed. Ms. Julie MacRae, Director of Education, provided additional information, noting that, in light of the report of J.C. Kenyon and Associates Inc., dated February 7, 2014, the Board and administration have carefully considered many aspects relative thereto, including duty of care and liability matters, occupational health and safety requirements, insurance coverage issues, survey responses and proposed temporary relocation options. She advised that, based on survey responses received, three preferences emerged: to keep the school open to June 2015; to keep the community together; and, to remain in the Cathedral area. She further reported that the Board has been advised by its insurer that it will not provide insurance coverage for the facility beyond July 13, 2014, and, therefore, pursuant to the provisions of *The Education Act, 1995*, the Board cannot legally continue to operate the school during the 2014-15 school year. She outlined relocation options explored by the administration that would meet the other two preferences: 1) moving the entire school to the Wascana School building; or 2) moving Pre-K to Grade 6 to the Sikh Temple (former Athabasca School), and Grades 7-8 to Sheldon-Williams Collegiate. It was noted that both options could accommodate the relocation of the Wise Owl Child Care Centre subject to negotiation with the Centre and Ministry approval. She provided further analysis relative to each option. Ms. MacRae recommended that the students and staff of École Connaught Community School be temporarily relocated (pending construction of a new facility) to the premises located at 4210 4th Avenue (currently Wascana School), effective with the end of the 2013-14 school year, with all Kindergarten to Grade 8 pupils residing in the existing École Connaught Community School attendance areas eligible for transportation (in accordance with established procedures) to said location.

Ms. C. Beck presented the motion of which she had given notice at the March 4, 2014, Board meeting, with certain adjustments thereto. In support of the motion, Ms. Beck said that, while it may be difficult to secure insurance coverage, she is not yet prepared to give up on École Connaught Community School. She acknowledged the hard feelings and questioning of motives and intelligence associated with the issue. She expressed concern relative to the assurance of a new school in the area regardless of enrolment figures. She suggested the Board accept the community’s invitation to meet and develop solutions to allow for the school to remain open for another year.

Motion by Ms. C. Beck:

WHEREAS in light of the fact that the Regina Board of Education has been advised it cannot access funds from the Ministry of Education’s emergency fund for capital projects;

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BE IT RESOLVED that, on the understanding that insurance on the building can be secured, the Regina Board of Education seek adequate funds elsewhere in order to make repairs as proposed by the structural engineer, J. C. Kenyon, to allow École Connaught Community School to remain open until June, 2015.

Motion Defeated.

Motion by Mr. D. West:

That the students and staff of École Connaught Community School be temporarily relocated (pending construction of a new facility) to the premises located at 4210 4th Avenue, Regina, effective with the end of the 2013-14 school year, with all Kindergarten to Grade 8 pupils residing in the existing École Connaught Community School attendance areas eligible for transportation (in accordance with established procedures) to said location.

Motion Carried.

Mrs. K. Gagne announced that the Board would recess at which time she would respond to any questions from attendees. The Board reconvened in the Board room at 8:55 p.m.

Upon reconvening, members in the gallery interjected, posing a number of questions. Mrs. K. Gagne advised that she had not been approached by anyone during the recess but would allow for a five-minute question period, noting that the Board had other business matters on the meeting agenda to deal with.

One individual asked why the Board would not allow for a second opinion on the facility. Mrs. Gagne advised that the Board had previously discussed and determined that the data in its possession was accurate and sufficient for decision-making purposes. Another attendee asked who insures the Board's facilities. Ms. Julie MacRae, Director of Education, advised that the Board participates in a group plan that covers all school division facilities in the province and is administered through the Saskatchewan School Boards Association. She further advised that there have been several conversations between the Saskatchewan School Boards Association and the insurance company and that confirmation of the insurer's decision was received March 24, 2014. Ms. Amy Petrovitch asked why the two final options presented were not discussed with parents before a decision was made. Mrs. Gagne noted that, aside from keeping the school open, the top priority identified in the survey responses was to keep the school community together. Ms. Patricia Elliott noted that parents may see the Sikh Temple/Sheldon-Williams option as also keeping the community together. Mrs. Gagne affirmed that the Board members were elected to make such decisions. Ms. Petrovitch argued that Board members are paid with tax dollars to support the public, but were not supporting the taxpayers in the Cathedral area. Ms. Elliott further questioned why money would be spent on upgrading Wascana School for the temporary relocation of students instead of being spent on renovating Connaught. Mrs. Gagne closed the question period.

Request for
Policy Review
Report on IT
Strategies

Dr. J. Ekong presented the motion of which she had given notice at the March 4, 2014, Board meeting. In support of the motion, Dr. Ekong reminded Board members of the motion she brought forward on November 26, 2013, that was referred to the Audit and Policy Review Committee, and was making this motion to request that the Committee report on its progress.

Chair	S/T

Motion by Dr. J. Ekong:

WHEREAS a motion requesting that “the Board explore the possibility of increased use of IT strategies by trustees to augment their ability to execute their duties whenever appropriate” was made at the October 15 Board meeting; and

WHEREAS that motion was referred to the Audit and Policy Review Committee for consideration and report back to the Board; and

WHEREAS that committee has not officially reported back to the Board the results of their deliberation;

BE IT RESOLVED that the Board invite the Audit and Policy Review Committee to report on their progress or decisions on this issue at the next Board meeting.

Motion Carried.

Request for
Boundary
Closures
Process

Dr. J. Ekong presented the motion of which she had given notice at the March 4, 2014, Board meeting. In support of the motion, Dr. Ekong noted that she was advised of plans for consultation, but was making the motion to provide scope clarity.

Motion by Dr. J. Ekong:

WHEREAS the Board is considering closing boundaries to some high schools; and

WHEREAS such boundary closures will affect students in different programs differently (e.g. English, IB and French Immersion); and

WHEREAS education is a partnership that involves parents, students, teachers, principals, school boards and the community;

BE IT RESOLVED that the Board:

- 1. Include parents, students and the community in consultations about the boundaries changes, garner their input and consider such input in the final decisions;
- 2. Communicate the final decision clearly to affected stakeholders and communities so that they know how each program is affected; and
- 3. Phase in the new policy over time to enable affected stakeholders the time to adjust to the policy, and make appropriate plans for their children.

Motion Carried.

SAMA Annual
Meeting:
Appointment of
Voting Delegate

Notification of the Annual Meeting of the Saskatchewan Assessment Management Agency, scheduled for April 16, 2014, in Saskatoon, had been distributed. Each Saskatchewan board of education had been invited to appoint one elected member as a voting delegate to attend the annual meeting. Miss A. Young had been appointed as the Board’s representative to SAMA at the Organizational Meeting and confirmed her availability to attend the meeting.

Motion by Mrs. C. Anderson:

That Miss A. Young be appointed as the Board’s voting delegate to the Saskatchewan Assessment Management Agency Annual Meeting to be held April 16, 2014, in Saskatoon.

Motion Carried.

Chair	S/T

Notices of Motion

Mr. D. West gave notice of his intention to present the following motion at a future Board meeting:

WHEREAS there have been ongoing controversies regarding the use of the name “Redmen” by several high schools in the province, including Balfour Collegiate in Regina;

BE IT RESOLVED that we seek to continue the dialogue underway at the school involving students, staff and administration to bring forward a recommendation to the Director.

Dr. K. O’Reilly gave notice of her intention to present the following motion at a future Board meeting:

WHEREAS the Government of Saskatchewan recognizes that “We are all Treaty People;”

BE IT RESOLVED that a Treaty 4 Flag be flown outside every school of Regina Public School Division No. 4.

Subdivision Reports

Mr. D. West advised that he attended a press conference at F. W. Johnson Collegiate relative to this year’s Hoopla tournament. He noted one of the featured athletes was Victoria Gagne, daughter of Chairperson Katherine Gagne. He reported that Hoopla was hosted in four Regina high schools—Miller, Winston Knoll, F. W. Johnson and Sheldon-Williams, and extended congratulations to the Campbell 5A Girls and the Harvest City Christian Academy’s 3A Boys on their championship wins.

Mrs. C. Anderson advised that she would be meeting with Saskatchewan School Boards Association President, Ms. Janet Foord, and Executive Director, Mr. Darren McKee, on April 8, 2014, to be debriefed on a discussion held with Hon. Don Morgan, Minister of Education, and Hon. Dustin Duncan, Minister of Health, relative to the future of the collaborative health policy. She advised that she would report on same at the next Board meeting.

Dr. K. O’Reilly welcomed the Chairperson of the MacNeill School Community Council in attendance.

Adjournment

The Chairperson advised that this concluded the business of the meeting and called for a motion to adjourn.

Motion by Miss A. Young:

That the meeting adjourn.

Motion Carried.

Time of meeting: 7:00 to 9:18 p.m.

Chairperson

Secretary-Treasurer