

At the Annual Meeting of Electors of the Board of Education of the Regina School Division No. 4 of Saskatchewan, held at 1100 McIntosh Street.

Members Present	Mrs. Cindy Anderson	Dr. Kathleen O'Reilly
	Ms. Carla Beck	Mr. Dale West
	Dr. Jane Ekong	Miss Aleana Young
	Mrs. Katherine Gagne	
Administration Present	Mr. Greg Enion, Director of Education	
	Ms. Debra Burnett, Deputy Director, Division Services, & Secretary-Treasurer	
	Mr. Darren Boldt, Deputy Director, Student Achievement	
	Mr. Mike Walter, Deputy Director, School Services	

Call to Order	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.
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The Martin Collegiate Band led in the singing of *O Canada*. The Martin Drum Group then performed an Honour Song.

Opening Remarks	Mrs. K. Gagne then introduced the Board members and senior administration.
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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. Paula Hesselink.
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Motion by Mr. Dave Bryanton:

That nominations cease.

Motion Carried.

Mr. D. West was declared elected by acclamation to serve as Chairperson of the Annual Meeting of Electors.

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 Ms. Laurie Gatzke.
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Motion by Ms. Renee Stephan:

That nominations cease.

Motion Carried.

Ms. Debra Burnett was declared elected by acclamation to serve as Secretary of the Annual Meeting of Electors.

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Adoption of Agenda

The Chairperson then asked for a motion to adopt the agenda that was prepared for the meeting. Mrs. Verda Petry requested that a discussion regarding the International Baccalaureate (IB) Program be added to the agenda.

Motion by Mr. Luc Lermينياux:

That the agenda for the meeting be adopted as amended.

Motion Carried.

The Chairperson advised that the added agenda item would fall under the Comments and/or Questions period of the meeting.

Approving of Minutes

The next item of business was the reading of the minutes of the 2015 Annual Meeting of Electors.

Motion by Ms. Lois Herridge:

That we dispense with the reading of the minutes of the 2015 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 and thanked them for their ongoing commitment to public education. She noted that the meeting was being held at Martin Collegiate to reach out to parents and the community and to also showcase the Division’s innovative programs such as Martin Academy and the Family of Neighbourhood Schools Model that has created more equitable learning environments throughout the School Division. She noted, quoting American philosopher, psychologist and educational reformer, John Dewey: “Education is not preparation for life; education is life,” that, for students throughout Regina Public Schools, education is their everyday life which is enriched and made more interesting and memorable by the efforts of the Board, Administration and Staff. Mrs. Gagne acknowledged the current Director of Education, Mr. Greg Enion, and his predecessor, Ms. Julie MacRae. She extended appreciation to Ms. MacRae for her leadership, dedication and service to public education in Regina. She also expressed gratitude to Mr. Ernie Cychmistruk who served as interim Director of Education from March to July, 2015. Mrs. Gagne highlighted some of the School Division’s accomplishments for 2014-15, including: the opening of Seven Stones Community School, the opening of Martin Academy, the Provincial Government’s announcement of three new joint-use schools in Rosewood Park, Greens on Gardiner and Harbour Landing, the continued construction of the North Central Shared Facility (now known as the Mâdawêyatitân Centre), and the continued work on the design of the new École Connaught Community School. She outlined that it is important for the Board of Education to ensure that the Division works with its communities, not only in the schools but also by partnering with groups, organizations and other Government Ministries to support the needs of students. Mrs. Gagne advised that a detailed financial overview, including revenues and expenditures for 2014-15 is included in the Annual Report.

Director’s Report

Mr. Greg Enion, Director of Education, outlined efforts focused on advancing the strategies contained in the Division’s Strategic Plan, including improving First Nations/Métis/Inuit achievement results, improving graduation rates, improving grade-level reading, writing and math results, and improving

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grade-to-grade transition rates. He highlighted actions initiated and partnerships launched to improve learning environments and outcomes for all students. Mr. Enion expressed appreciation for the welcome and support he has received as the new Director of Education. He emphasized the Board’s commitment to meet the needs of all students. With no new funding being advanced with the arrival of the Syrian refugees, he stressed the importance of finding a balance between being fiscally prudent while not hindering the success of students and also allowing staff to continue to be effective in their positions. In closing, Mr. Enion reminded everyone of the “Name Your School” campaign, noting the desire for school names that will resonate today and for many decades to come.

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. David Evans arose and submitted a resolution relative to the International Baccalaureate program.

Motion by Mr. David Evans; seconded by Mr. Jonah Toth:

WHEREAS:

- The Regina Public Board of Education has decided to discontinue the International Baccalaureate (IB) program at Campbell and Thom Collegiates,
- The program has been highly successful for the past 30 years,
- There are many benefits to be derived from this program,

For students:

- Access to a rich and rigorous academic program
- The acquisition of advanced creative and critical thinking skills which are highly valued in current academic, employment and cultural environments
- The ability to be independent lifelong learners
- The community service component teaches compassion and an understanding of diverse needs and abilities of others
- The international nature of the curriculum equips students to study in most universities in the world
- A requirement for students to be bilingual gives them an advantage in a global context
- Grade 12 graduates can enter most second year university classes

For the school system:

- Specially trained highly professional teachers who share best practices with colleagues
- A scholarly environment enriches the entire student body and produces an academic ethos in the school
- Most cities of the world provide the IB option for high school students; Regina should be a member of this highly respected educational community.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Regina Public Board of Education reverse its decision to discontinue the International Baccalaureate program, AND FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED THAT the program be explained and promoted in all elementary schools in the system at the end of Grade VIII so that interested students can elect to attend a high school offering the IB program.

Motion Defeated.

In discussion relative to the motion, Mr. Evans, Mr. Toth, Ms. Sonia Kalburgi, Ms. Yuanyl Song, Dr. Roger Petry, and Mrs. Verda Petry provided further information and examples of the positive benefits of the IB program and why

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the discontinuance of same would be detrimental to the Division and to the many students involved in the program. Mr. Darren Boldt, Deputy Director, Student Achievement, and Mr. Greg Enion, Director of Education, responded to questions relative to program fees, and the provision of equitable opportunities for all students. Mrs. K. Gagne expressed appreciation for the presentations made, and reminded those in attendance that program decisions are made by the Administration.

Ms. Patricia Elliott expressed concern regarding the introduction of a registration fee for lunch room supervision in 2016-17 as she feels it will negatively impact families that are least able to afford it. She urged the Board to find the funds necessary to provide a free lunch room supervision program and to press the Provincial Government for the resources required to fund such a program. Regarding indigenous education, Ms. Elliott requested assurance that the Division has done its homework in studying the critiques of New Zealand’s *Te Kotahitanga* project. She reminded the Board of a motion that was brought forward to the 2013 Annual Meeting of Electors asking that a special action committee be created to address First Nations, Métis and Inuit concerns regarding public education in Regina and inquired what plans the Division had to expand consultation on the program. Lastly, Ms. Elliott asked for reassurance that the Advanced Placement program would be in place at every public high school in Regina within a year. Mr. Greg Enion, Director of Education, provided clarification on the lunch room supervision program and assured Ms. Elliott that students will not be turned away. He noted that the *Following Their Voices* initiative was endorsed by the 28 school divisions across the province and that Scott Collegiate was chosen as one of the eight pilot sites in the province. He noted that stakeholder groups will have an opportunity to discuss the expansion of the model. He further advised that Regina Public Schools and its high school principals have made the commitment to providing enriched programming and that Advanced Placement will be offered in every public high school in Regina.

Dr. Roger Petry requested clarification relative to the Board entering into a 32-year P3 partnership agreement with the Province regarding the three new joint-use schools. He expressed concern that such lease agreements always cost more, thereby placing a burden on future ratepayers. He asserted that P3 partnerships are brokered by large companies, cutting out local companies, and that any benefit of such an agreement is in favour of the company, not the school division. He asked if the Board voted and approved entering into said agreement, what the final vote count was, and if the Provincial Government pressured the Board to enter into said agreement. Mrs. K. Gagne advised that the Provincial Government did not pressure school divisions. Ms. Debra Burnett, Deputy Director, Division Services, provided additional information, noting that the 32-year term is structured over the 2-year construction period followed by a 30-year operating period during which the school will be maintained by the contractor and at the expiry of which the school will be turned over to the School Division. Mr. Greg Enion, Director of Education, advised that Board discussions on the topic would be reflected in the Board minutes.

Ms. Patricia Elliott stated that the Board made the right decision when it voted for a free universal lunch room supervision program in 2008 and it is the right decision to continue to do the same today. She asserted that Board members are elected to “go to bat” regarding such issues and demand that education be adequately funded. Mr. D. West reminded Ms. Elliott that the Board had the ability to raise taxes in 2008 to fund such programs, but that Saskatchewan school boards no longer have taxing authority.

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Dr. Robert Petry advised that he sent a letter to the Board several months ago relative to the military training program. He expressed concerns relative to liability and finances. He asserted that there exists the real potential for injury or trauma now that students are being trained in the use of firearms, and inquired if the Board purchased additional insurance to mitigate any possible risk, and asked for the cost of that extra insurance. He also inquired when the Board voted for this program. Dr. K. O'Reilly advised that there was no vote by the Board relative to the program. Mr. Greg Enion, Director of Education, provided additional information, noting that programming is approved by the Administration and that all students in the military training program are accepted as members of the Canadian Armed Forces and all training takes place in a building of the Armed Forces, with a teacher on site to deliver the Canadian Studies 30 class. He advised that the Board's insurance company was made aware of the program and ensured that the Board's current liability insurance coverage is sufficient. He reiterated that Regina Public Schools delivers the Canadian Studies 30 curriculum to these students but does not deliver the military training.

Ms. Tara Dryburgh expressed appreciation for the military training program. She advised that her son was a student in the program and that he gained much from the program, including learning life skills, safety, first aid, personal fitness, strategy, and teamwork. She further noted that the training involving weapons is focused on weapons safety and is taught in a properly equipped facility. She commented that the students are provided with secondary opportunities, and it is a program that engages students who may not be comfortable in the regular classroom setting. She explained that her son was an unmotivated student, but excelled throughout the military training program and plans to continue on with the reserves, joining the Armed Forces to protect our country and our rights and freedoms.

Adjournment Mr. D. West thanked everyone for attending and then called for a motion to adjourn the meeting.

Motion by Ms. Morgan Reed:

That the meeting adjourn.

Motion Carried.

Time of meeting: 7:00 to 8:40 p.m.

Chairperson

Secretary-Treasurer