

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	Ms. Aleana Young
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	

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

Adoption of Agenda	<u>Motion by Mrs. C. Anderson:</u>
	That the agenda be adopted as prepared.

Motion Carried.

Declaration of Any Conflicts	The Chairperson asked if there were any conflicts of interest to be declared. None were reported.
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Approving of Minutes	The Chairperson then asked for a motion to approve the minutes of the meeting held on September 6, 2016.
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<u>Motion by Dr. K. O'Reilly:</u>
That the minutes of the Board meeting of September 6, 2016, be approved as distributed.

Motion Carried.

2015-2016 Student Achievement Report	Information regarding 2015-2016 achievement data and results had been distributed. Mr. Darren Boldt, Deputy Director, Student Achievement, and Ms. Laurie Gatzke, Supervisor, Assessment, outlined achievement data in the following areas: Early Years Evaluation, Grades 1-3 Reading, Grades 2-3 French Immersion Reading, Grades 4-9 Reading, Grades 1-3 Mathematics, Grades 4-8 Mathematics, 3-year Graduation Rates, 5-year Graduation Rates, Grade 9 to 10 Transitions, and Credit Attainment after First Semester Grade 10. Mr. Boldt noted that data comparisons are also drawn to assist in bridging the achievement gap between the Division's First Nations, Métis and Inuit students and non-FNMI students. Board members expressed appreciation for the presentation.
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Chair	S/T

Submission of
Bylaw
Amendments &
Resolutions for
the 2016
Annual General
Meeting

Four proposed resolutions for presentation at the 2016 Saskatchewan School
Boards Association Annual Convention had been identified.

Motion by Ms. A. Young:
That the following resolutions and associated rationales be approved for
submission to the Saskatchewan School Boards Association for presentation at
the 2016 Annual Convention:

- 1) BE IT RESOLVED that the Saskatchewan School Boards Association
annually report to boards on the level of insurance fund reserves held by
the Association (property, general liability, sexual molestation, and air
quality pools) and potential claims against said loss pools, compare same
against the loss pool levels contemplated in the respective loss pool trust
documentation and best practice, and provide a concrete plan for dealing
with either surplus or deficit situations; the goal being to provide
contributing boards with more meaningful information regarding their
funds, held in trust by the Saskatchewan School Boards Association,
than can be gleaned from a review of the Association’s Audited
Financial Statements.

Rationale:
According to the Saskatchewan School Boards Association’s financial
statements as at December 31, 2015, the Association holds the following
loss pool fund balances:

Property Pool	\$3,020,110
Sexual Molestation Pool	5,464,432
General Liability Pool	7,780,452
Air Quality Pool	3,206,910
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	\$19,471,904

This is the extent of information available to boards regarding these
funds. Boards have no understanding of the potential for claims against
said funds. With a regular reporting mechanism in place, the school
boards for whom the funds are held in trust would be provided with more
meaningful information and the loss pool balances would be regularly
reviewed to ensure that responsible levels are maintained while, at the
same time, turning back excesses on a timely basis when such is
warranted.

- 2) BE IT RESOLVED that the Saskatchewan School Boards Association
consult with the Ministry of Education to review the rationale for and
mechanics of the “social impact bond” recently entered into by the
Government of Saskatchewan with a view to the broader potential
impact on funding for public education in Saskatchewan and the
operation of publicly funded schools.

Rationale:
Reports are that the Mosaic Foundation will give \$1 Million over the
next five years to boost the level of services available to students at
Mother Teresa Middle School, an Associate school. In the event that at
least 82% of the school’s students graduate Grade 12, the Government of
Saskatchewan has agreed to repay the Mosaic Foundation the principal
plus 1.3% annual interest. At a 75% graduation rate, 75% of the
principal will be repaid by the government with no interest. While the
government asserts that higher graduation rates will save it up to \$1.7
Million in reduced economic health and social services, the broader
impact of this unprecedented arrangement requires further study and
analysis. For example, students attending Mother Teresa Middle School
are subject to a rigorous screening process while public schools accept

Chair	S/T

all students. Also, all public schools do not have ready access to benefactors willing to make significant investments in increasing graduation rates. Associate schools receive government funding based on 80% of the average provincial per student funding rate. This level of funding is now supplemented as a result of the social impact bond. At a minimum, the funding principles of equity and transparency are significantly compromised by the government participating in such “one-off” arrangements. The government must fund all schools at a level that facilitates the provision of the additional supports necessary to improve graduation rates.

- 3) BE IT RESOLVED that the Saskatchewan School Boards Association Executive request that the Government of Saskatchewan evaluate the effectiveness of the current School Community Council framework in supporting the educational needs of schools and their communities.

Rationale:

With School Community Councils now in their 10th year, an evaluation of the program and participants should be conducted to ensure that the program is meeting its objectives and is improving access and encouraging participation of parents and community. Schools/students benefit from parents/communities being involved in education. Volunteer time and commitment is a scarce resource. The systems established to support the councils need to provide value both to the school/student and volunteer; they also need to reduce barriers and bureaucracy for participation. The continued success of this program relies on an evaluation of its effectiveness and a plan for the future.

- 4) BE IT RESOLVED that the Saskatchewan School Boards Association urge the Government of Saskatchewan to revise The Education Property Tax Bill to include the establishment of a distinct and separate fund to which education property tax levies would be deposited and payments made to school boards.

Rationale:

The Government of Saskatchewan is planning to introduce The Education Property Tax Bill at the Fall sitting of the legislature. While passage of the bill in its current form would serve to alleviate the administrative challenges certain school divisions face, there are broader, more far-reaching potential implications for boards of education to be considered. Pursuant to the current bill, education property tax levies will be deposited directly to the General Revenue Fund with minimal reporting provided to boards of education. Board funding will take the form of provincial grants exclusively. It is submitted that such a regime stands to compromise the principles of transparency, accountability, and traceability for education property tax revenues. Establishment of a separate fund or foundation strictly for the collection of education property tax levies from municipalities and distribution of same to school boards would address these concerns. In Alberta, the Alberta School Foundation Fund serves this purpose.

Motion Carried.

Board and
Director
Evaluations

Mrs. K. Gagne outlined the Board’s Positive Path Forward for the 2016-2017 school year, developed during the Board’s Annual Self-Evaluation:
1) The Board will ensure completion of an Orientation Program for newly elected trustees;

Chair	S/T

- 2) The Board will ensure completion of a baseline knowledge and competencies matrix for trustees to inform trustee development activities during the subsequent year;
- 3) The Board will continue advocacy through administrative representation on the Funding Distribution Model;
- 4) The Board will advocate for a School Community Councils review of provincial legislation and policies;
- 5) The Board will ensure development and implementation of a recognition program for School Community Council volunteers;
- 6) The Board will ensure that a school division communication plan strategy is developed and implemented including advocacy and staff engagement plans.

Motion by Mr. D. West:

That the Positive Path Forward be approved as circulated.

Motion Carried.

Relocation and
Renaming of
Adult Campus

Information regarding the relocation and renaming of the Adult Campus had been distributed. Mr. Greg Enion, Director of Education, advised that the Adult Campus location was considered as part of the High School Facility Strategy in 2013, where it was recommended that “the relocation of both the Adult and Victoria Campus programs to existing RPS-owned facilities will be necessary to manage the facility costs for these locations and to assist in rationalizing the utilization factors and funding in existing facilities.” He noted that the Victoria Campus was successfully relocated to the Campus Regina Public Cochrane Campus in 2015, and that, during budget discussions this year, options for relocating the Adult Campus to an existing RPS facility were considered, with a survey also being conducted with staff and students to gain a better understanding of user needs and appropriate relocation considerations. He outlined that, after careful consideration, the former Wascana School building was selected as an appropriate location for the Campus. With the new École Connaught Community School set to open for the 2017-18 school year, he noted that the former Wascana building would be available to house the Adult Campus. He highlighted that the move greatly benefits the students and the School Division—the new location is centrally located and accessible by public transportation, will have ample parking space, will save the Division in annual rent, and will make effective use of surplus space within the Division. He advised that the move from the downtown building location to the new 4th Avenue location will be conducted over the Summer, to create as little disruption to students and staff as possible. Mr. Enion further advised that as part of the discussions and deliberations around the naming of the three new joint schools, a request was received to consider renaming a facility in honour of Allan Blakeney, a former Premier of Saskatchewan. As a result, he noted that, commencing in the 2017-18 school year, the Regina Public Schools Adult Campus will be renamed the Allan Blakeney Adult Campus.

Motion by Dr. K. O’Reilly:

That, effective with the 2017-18 school year, the Regina Public Schools Adult Campus be relocated to 4210 4th Avenue and renamed the Allan Blakeney Adult Campus.

Motion Carried.

Chair	S/T

Meeting of
October 18,
2016

In view of the Board being on target with the goals and actions set out in its 2016-17 Board Work Plan, and with the civic election scheduled for October 26th, consideration was given to cancelling the Board meeting scheduled for October 18, 2016.

Motion by Ms. A. Young:

That the regularly scheduled Board meeting of October 18, 2016, be cancelled.

Motion Carried.

Subdivision
Reports

Mr. D. West advised that, on October 7 and 8, Sheldon-Williams Collegiate will be celebrating its 60th anniversary, and that tickets for the celebration are available through the school office. He further acknowledged Mr. Adam Hicks in the gallery, a candidate for public school board trustee running in subdivision #3.

Mrs. C. Anderson extended a farewell to retiring Trustees, Mr. D. West and Dr. K. O'Reilly. On behalf of the Board, Mrs. K. Gagne wished them both well and thanked them for their contributions to public education. Mr. West thanked the Board and Administration, and advised that, after 31 years of teaching and 10 years as a trustee, he looks forward to hearing more wonderful things about Regina Public Schools. Ms. O'Reilly also expressed appreciation to the Board and Administration, noting that it was an interesting four years as trustee, and that she, too, looks forward to hearing good things about Regina Public Schools.

Closed
Session

Motion by Mr. D. West:

That we go into closed session.

Motion Carried.

Motion by Ms. A. Young:

That we rise and report.

Motion Carried.

At the conclusion of closed session, the Committee of the Whole recommended to the Board:

Transportation
Consortium
Report

1) That the Board receive report prepared by Deloitte LLP and that discussions continue with Regina Catholic Schools during the year with respect to transportation collaboration opportunities, with regular progress reporting to the Board.

Board and
Director
Evaluations

2) That the Director of Education's Performance Review be approved as circulated.

Chair	S/T

- Personnel
Matter
- 3) That the employment arrangements with Mr. Greg Enion, Director of Education, be amended as discussed.

Motion by Mr. D. West:

That recommendation No. 1 (above) from the Committee of the Whole be approved.

Motion Carried.

Motion by Mr. D. West:

That recommendation No. 2 (above) from the Committee of the Whole be approved.

Motion Carried.

Motion by Dr. K. O'Reilly:

That recommendation No. 3 (above) from the Committee of the Whole be approved.

Motion Carried.

At the conclusion of closed session, the Committee of the Whole reported progress with respect to consideration of *SSBA Executive Board Visit and Meeting with Ministry of Education*. The progress reports were accepted.

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

Motion by Mr. D. West:

That the meeting adjourn.

Motion Carried.

Time of meeting: 7:00 to 9:15 p.m.

Chairperson

Secretary-Treasurer