

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	Mr. Adam Hicks
	Dr. Jane Ekong	Mr. Jay Kasperski
	Mrs. Tanya Foster	Ms. 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 and welcomed all in attendance.
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Ms. Melanie Little, Principal, Gladys McDonald School, on piano, led in the singing of *O Canada*.

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. Ms. A. Young was nominated by Mr. Erik Van Dusen.
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Motion by Mr. Aaron Baumgartner:

That nominations cease.

Motion Carried.

Ms. A. Young was declared elected by acclamation to serve as Chairperson of the Annual Meeting of Electors.

Election of Secretary for the Meeting	Ms. A. Young, 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. Paula Hesselink.
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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.

Chair	S/T

Adoption of Agenda

The Chairperson then asked for a motion to adopt the agenda that was prepared for the meeting.

Motion by Ms. 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 2016 Annual Meeting of Electors.

Motion by Ms. Linda Mitchell:

That we dispense with the reading of the minutes of the 2016 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 everyone in attendance and thanked them for their ongoing commitment to public education. She noted that the 2015-16 school year saw the foundation of change on the horizon with regard to education in Saskatchewan, with the final impacts still largely unknown. She assured that the Board of Education continues to strive to support excellent outcomes for all students, quoting John F. Kennedy, “Change is the law of life, and those who look only to the past or present are certain to miss the future.” She acknowledged the Board’s preparedness for adapting, growing and becoming better with the upcoming required changes, while always advocating for improved student achievement. Mrs. Gagne outlined some of the School Division’s accomplishments for 2015-16, highlighting the eagerly anticipated September 2017 openings of Scott Collegiate in the Mâdawêyatitân Centre, École Connaught Community School, and the three new joint-use schools, École Harbour Landing School, École Wascana Plains School and Plainsview School. She further underscored the enrolment increase experienced, most notably the increase in the number of new Canadians and Syrian refugees in Regina Public schools. She highlighted other areas of significance, including support for English as an Additional Language students, and student transportation statistics. Mrs. Gagne advised that a detailed financial overview, including revenues and expenditures for 2015-16, is included in the Annual Report.

Director’s Report

Mr. Greg Enion, Director of Education, outlined efforts focused on propelling the strategies contained in the School Division’s Strategic Plan forward; namely, increasing attendance, improving graduation rates, improving First Nations/Métis/Inuit achievement results, and improving reading, writing and math results. He reiterated Mrs. Gagne’s comments on the unprecedented level of change being experienced by the Division and the entire education sector in the province. He highlighted the Division’s aim to build clearer, more transparent communication with all stakeholders. He noted the development of nine recommendations designed to address teacher workload intensification. He drew attention to continuing partnerships and Division initiatives to improve the learning climate and outcomes for all students, as well as achieving process and procedure efficiencies. He pointed to the excitement of having five facilities opening in the Fall of 2017, and highlighted the successes being seen at the

Chair	S/T

Martin Academy. In closing, Mr. Enion stressed that, regardless of upcoming provincially-directed changes for school divisions, the Board remains committed to meeting the needs of all students.

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

Comments  
and/or  
Questions from  
Regina  
Ratepayers and  
from Others

Ms. Shelley Johnson expressed concerns relative to the Division’s transportation policy and the long distances young children have to walk to school. Mrs. K. Gagne and Mr. Greg Enion, Director of Education, provided clarification, noting that the transportation procedure is reviewed annually, and that the Board is awaiting the announcement from the Provincial Government regarding the level of funding that will be available for the coming school year. Ms. Johnson also asked about decreases in the number of Educational Assistants, as well as the need for more Speech Language Pathologists. Mr. Enion advised that the Division has increased the number of Educational Assistants in the last two years, and acknowledged the demand for Speech Language Pathologists. He encouraged Ms. Johnson to speak with her MLA to advocate for increased funding in these areas. He confirmed a partnership with the Regina Qu’Appelle Health Region, but noted that it has also experienced funding cuts. Ms. Johnson congratulated the Board for providing Cree Language classes and books, and expressed appreciation for the work being done in the Division.

Mr. Nathaniel Cole congratulated the Board members on their election. He sought clarification on the accommodations being made for LGBTQ students, including gender-neutral washrooms. Mr. Enion confirmed that gender-neutral washrooms will be provided in all new school facilities, and that the Division is committed to moving in the direction of including same in existing facilities when renovation funding is available. Mr. Cole expressed concern relative to the name of Davin School and inquired about any reconciliation actions being considered. Mr. Enion provided information on discussions and events that have already taken place and that will continue until a resolution is determined. Mrs. Gagne noted that the Board has also solicited input from the Elders Advisory Council. Mr. Cole complimented the Board for the work they doing.

Mr. Dennis Fudge inquired why transportation services are not provided for high school students. Mr. Enion advised that there is no consideration being given at this time to provide high school transportation. He assured Mr. Fudge that the Board continues to have discussions with the City of Regina regarding city bus subsidies for high school students.

Ms. Shelley Johnson expressed concern regarding the lack of affordable transportation options available to high school students. Ms. A. Young acknowledged that the Board is aware of the burdens faced by some students. Mrs. Gagne encouraged Ms. Johnson to continue to voice her concerns with government and city officials. She advised that the Board meets regularly with City Council, and transportation is a matter that is regularly discussed.

Chair	S/T

Adjournment        Ms. A. Young thanked everyone for attending and then called for a motion to adjourn the meeting.

Motion by Ms. Cara Riddell:

That the meeting adjourn.

Motion Carried.

Time of meeting: 7:00 to 8:01 p.m.

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Chairperson

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Secretary-Treasurer