

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 Ms. Aleana Young, Vice-Chair Mrs. Cindy Anderson Dr. Jane Ekong	Mrs. Tanya Foster Mr. Adam Hicks Mr. Jay Kasperski
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	
<p>The Chairperson acknowledged the location of every Regina Public School and the School Division Office on Treaty 4 land.</p> <p>The Chairperson called the meeting to order and asked for a motion to adopt the agenda.</p>		
Adoption of Agenda	<u>Motion by Mr. A. Hicks:</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.	
Approving of Minutes	The Chairperson then asked for a motion to approve the minutes of the meeting held on March 7, 2017. <u>Motion by Dr. J. Ekong:</u> That the minutes of the Board meeting of March 7, 2017, be approved as distributed. Motion Carried.	
Cree Language Program	Information regarding the Cree Language Program had been distributed. Ms. Sarah Longman, Supervisor, Indigenous Education, provided additional information, highlighting the three major themes that emerged from a 2014 review of the program; namely that the program is valuable, vulnerable, and that its viability needs to be ensured. She noted the areas of focus: 1) providing professional development and networking opportunities; 2) aligning resources; 3) increasing fluency and confidence; and 4) emphasizing the Plains Cree	

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dialect. She highlighted the Sturgeon Lake Cree Immersion Camp where teachers spent a week on the land, fully immersed in the Cree language. She noted the need for locally developed Cree resources and up-to-date student resources that are relevant, attractive and speak to urban dwellers. She pointed to the Buffalo Books that were recently translated into Cree, as well as other Cree language resources being used. She outlined the partnership with First Nations University of Canada and the offering of a Certificate of Extended Studies in First Nations Language (CESFNL). Ms. Longman responded to questions relative to teacher interest in pursuing the CESFNL, use of applications, and the Buffalo Books.

Audit and
Compliance
Committee

Mr. J. Kasperski provided a brief summary of the Audit and Compliance Committee meeting held March 21, 2017, noting the expected results of the March 31, 2017 subsequent events audit, with the only items identified for reporting being: 1) restatement of information included in the Board’s Audited Financial Statements to conform to the Province’s fiscal year; 2) amounts received from the Ministry of Education in the form of capital grants; and 3) capital construction payments. It was also noted that an additional subsequent events audit will be required for the period between April 1, 2017, and June 2017. He advised that Mr. Bruce Lipinski, Superintendent, Business Affairs, then reviewed with the Committee the Second Quarter Financial Results for the 6-month period ended February 28, 2017. It was noted that, on a PSAB basis, actual expenses are approximately \$5 million higher than revenues, while on a cash basis, actual expenses are \$12 million higher than revenues at this point in time due to the nature of the School Division’s cash flows. Mr. Lipinski then reviewed with the Committee the Second Quarter Transportation Performance Report for the 6-month period ended February 28, 2017. Mr. Kasperski highlighted the proposed 2016-17 Audit Service Plan submitted by Meyers Norris Penny LLP, which was approved by the Committee, and the Audit Involvement Memorandum provided by the Provincial Auditor. He concluded by noting that Committee members had the opportunity to meet with the Auditors in the absence of members of the Administration.

Cree Language
Program
(continued)

Following some technical difficulties, Mr. Aaron Warner, Grade 7/8 teacher at Douglas Park School, provided information on a class initiative, 100 Days of Cree. He indicated that he was inspired by the words of Justice Murray Sinclair, (paraphrasing) “if all Canadians committed to meeting just one of the TRC Calls to Action, imagine the type of change that could occur.” He decided to empower his students to be agents of change, and focus on Call to Action #14, the preservation, revitalization, and strengthening of Aboriginal languages and cultures. Using Neal McLeod’s book, *100 Days of Cree*, as a guide, he outlined how he and his students focus on daily key conversation words and phrases and the sharing of their learnings with others. He spoke of the conversations sparked by this exercise, leading to a deeper understanding of truth and reconciliation, treaties, education, language, culture, history, and Indigenous world view. He concluded by sharing a video of his students participating in a Cree “Guesstures” game. Mr. Warner responded to a question relative to family and community feedback. Lastly, he taught Board members how to say “hello” in Cree—tānisi (tahn-say). Board members expressed appreciation for the presentation and for Mr. Warner’s dedication and commitment.

Indigenous
Education
Advisory
Council

Mrs. K. Gagne provided a brief summary of the Indigenous Education Advisory Council meeting held March 1, 2017, highlighting the discussion on the linguistic use of “Aboriginal” and “Indigenous.” It was agreed that the Division would adopt the use of the word “Indigenous” rather than “Aboriginal,” but

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where “First Nations, Métis and Inuit” is used, the wording would remain unchanged. She advised that Ms. Sarah Longman, Supervisor, Indigenous Education, presented data on the graduation rates of Indigenous and non-Indigenous students. Further, Mr. Russell Paskimen and Mr. Peter Turner, Indigenous Advocate Teachers, presented an outline of the work done by Advocate teachers and the successes resulting from the program. It was noted that, with the successes seen in the high school Indigenous Advocate Teacher program, a 30-week pilot project would be undertaken at Kitchener Community School. Mrs. Gagne concluded by noting a brief discussion regarding student promotion and student reading levels and that it was agreed that the topic would be placed on a future committee meeting agenda.

2017-2018
Budget
Deliberations

Mr. Greg Enion, Director of Education, provided some information relative to the 2017-18 Provincial Budget that was released on March 22, 2017. He advised that the Board and senior administration are currently working to determine the implications of the provincial budget on School Division operations. He did highlight that the 2017-18 Provincial Budget reported a 1.2% (\$22 million) decrease to school division operational funding, but noted that that percentage is based on the Provincial Government’s fiscal year (April 1, 2017, to March 31, 2018); whereas the fiscal year for school boards is September 1, 2017, to August 31, 2018, resulting in an operational funding decrease for school divisions’ fiscal year of 2.9% (\$54.2 million). He further advised that the Government’s implementation of the recommendations contained in the Report on the Review of the Education PreK-12 Funding Distribution Model will reduce net funding to Regina Public Schools by \$2.5 million and serves to compound the impact of the general decrease in operational funding. He commented further that these funding reductions come in a year where Regina Public Schools is expecting overall enrolment growth of 575 students and is preparing for the opening of three new joint-use schools and two school rebuilds. Mr. Enion outlined that the estimated gap between funding recognition and projected expenses for 2017-18 totals approximately \$9.5 million for Regina Public Schools, and acknowledged that the Board recognizes that this Budget will negatively impact school families and the services provided by the School Division. He confirmed that, once a plan is in place for the coming year, it will be shared with Regina Public school families and staff in order to provide time for any necessary adjustments. He further advised that these key statements would be shared with Regina Public Schools staff and media tomorrow.

Subdivision
Reports

Ms. A. Young expressed appreciation to iQmetrix for its generous donation of books to Arcola School’s “Forever Book Day” for K-2 students. She also offered congratulations to Balfour Collegiate’s Pom and Hip Hop Teams, who placed 1st and 3rd respectively at Provincial Finals. She also extended congratulations to the following 2017 Hoopla winners: Campbell Collegiate 5A Boys (1st place), Campbell Collegiate 5A Girls (1st place Consolation), and Campbell Collegiate Sr. Level 1 Cheer Team (2nd place). She concluded by acknowledging Regina Public Schools’ students for celebrating the International Day for the Elimination of Racism on March 21st.

Mr. A. Hicks advised that he attended We Day in Saskatoon on March 15th, and was amazed at the energy level at the event. He advised that he also attended the Canadian Improv Games Regional Tournament and expressed great appreciation for the talent displayed by the Improv teams. He noted that École Connaught School Community Council has met its fundraising goal for playground equipment to be installed at the new school. He advised that, on March 10th, 750 elementary students had an opportunity to view a screening of

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“Screenagers,” a documentary about the digital age and its impact on teenagers and children, and that approximately 100 people attended a public screening on March 13th. He noted that ATS Traffic sponsored a sign to assist the Argyle School Community Council in its traffic awareness campaign. He concluded by noting that École Harbour Landing School Community Council fundraising for playground equipment is underway with many activities planned.

Mrs. C. Anderson advised that she, Mr. A. Hicks and Dr. J. Ekong attended the sold out Linked In concert at the Conexus Arts Centre on March 10, 2017, where they witnessed performances by the Regina Symphony Orchestra accompanied by Regina Public Schools students. She expressed appreciation to all of those involved in arranging such an inspiring day of music. She also commented on the interesting sessions at the School Community Council Parent Forum held March 14, 2017, and thanked the organizers and all attendees.

Dr. J. Ekong advised that she attended Diversity Day at F. W. Johnson Collegiate on March 21, 2017, that featured dancing as well as a lunch comprised of a variety of foods from diverse cultures. She also highlighted a wall where students posted their biographies, noting students’ pride in their continued successes. She also echoed Mrs. Anderson’s comments on the Linked In concert.

Ms. A. Young also extended congratulations to the Regina Christian 3A Boys and Regina Christian 3A Girls, who placed 1st and 2nd respectively at 2017 Hoopla.

Closed
Session

Motion by Mrs. C. Anderson:

That we go into closed session.

Motion Carried.

Motion by Dr. J. Ekong:

That we rise and report.

Motion Carried.

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

2017-2018
Budget
Deliberations

- 1) That a Board meeting be established for April 4, 2017, commencing at 4:00 p.m. at the Regina School Division Office, 1600 4th Avenue, Regina, in order to consider 2017-18 Budget-related matters.

Motion by Mrs. C. Anderson:

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

Motion Carried.

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At the conclusion of closed session, the Committee of the Whole reported progress with respect to consideration of *Audit and Compliance Committee, 2017-2018 Budget Deliberations, School Naming, and Information Sharing*. 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 Mrs. T. Foster:

That the meeting adjourn.

Motion Carried.

Time of meeting: 7:00 to 9:27 p.m.

Chairperson

Secretary-Treasurer