

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	
The Chairperson acknowledged the location of every Regina Public School and the School Division Office on Treaty 4 land.		
The Chairperson called the meeting to order and asked for a motion to adopt the agenda.		
Adoption of Agenda	<u>Motion by Mrs. T. Foster:</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 28, 2017. <u>Motion by Dr. J. Ekong:</u> That the minutes of the Board meeting of March 28, 2017, be approved as distributed.	
Motion Carried.		
2017-2018 School Year Calendars	Information regarding a proposed revision to the 2017-2018 School Year Calendars had been distributed. Mr. Mike Walter, Deputy Director, School Services, provided additional information, noting that Mr. Jeff Perry, President of the Regina Public School Teachers’ Association, had requested that the date for the Teacher Convention, which was previously approved for March 9, 2018, be moved due to a scheduling conflict. He advised that, in discussion with the	

Chair	S/T

RPSTA and Regina Catholic Schools’ Administration, it was agreed that the Teacher Convention be moved to February 16, 2018.

Motion by Mrs. C. Anderson:

That the revised 2017-2018 school year calendars be approved as presented.

Motion Carried.

2017-2018
Budget
Deliberations

Information relative to 2017-2018 Budget Deliberations had been distributed. Mr. Greg Enion, Director of Education, noted that the Provincial Budget was released on March 22, 2017, and that Regina Public Schools will see an operating funding decrease of 2.5% (\$5.7 million) in 2017-18. He noted that, in addition to the funding reduction, the Division is estimating enrolment growth of approximately 575 students, and is opening three new joint-use schools in the Fall of 2017. He advised that budget planning is underway, but because some operational changes contemplated will impact families directly, they are being communicated at this time to allow families time to prepare for the new school year.

Mr. Darren Boldt, Deputy Director, Student Achievement, outlined current programming options for 3- and 4-year-olds in the Division: 41 Ministry-designated Prekindergarten programs; and non-Ministry designated programs, including Discovery Preschool (DPS), Communication Preschool (CPS), and SCEP Centre (a third party provider). He noted that closure of all non-Ministry designated DPS and CPS programs would result in a savings of \$1.54 million, and a phase-out solution resulting in closure of DPS and CPS programs in 2018-19, and no new admissions in 2017-18 would reduce these savings to \$1.29 million, with transportation services no longer provided. He further noted that a phase-out of tuition payable to SCEP Centre would result in savings of \$87,520, with transportation services no longer provided.

Regarding Kindergarten programming, Mr. Mike Walter, Deputy Director, School Services, outlined the current program structure with students attending half days, five days a week. He presented the proposed new structure, commencing with the 2017-18 school year, where all Regina Public elementary schools’ Kindergarten programs would be scheduled for a full day on alternate days based on the established 5-Day Calendar. He noted that instructional minutes would not change with the new structure, that there would be increased opportunity to schedule large blocks of uninterrupted instructional time, and that reduced transportation costs would be partially offset by increased supervision costs for an estimated net savings of \$446,070 per year.

Relative to the provision of Transportation Services, Ms. Debra Burnett, Deputy Director, Division Services, noted the transportation funding provided by the Ministry of Education in 2016-17 at \$8.98 million in comparison to the Division’s 2016-17 budgeted transportation expenditures of \$9.84 million. She further noted that transportation funding to be provided in 2017-18 is being reduced to \$7.4 million due to implementation of changes to the Funding Distribution Model. She further explained the current transportation model, and presented the proposed new model that would align more closely with the new Ministry criteria for Kindergarten-Grade 8 transportation funding. She noted that the new model would see “Transportation Zones” created within school attendance areas, with a projected annual savings of \$1.35 million. She further indicated that, under the new model, approximately 1,100 students currently receiving Board provided transportation services would no longer be eligible for these services. Mr. Mark Whiting, Supervisor, Policy, Planning and Research, provided more detailed information regarding the proposed Transportation Zones.

Chair	S/T

Mrs. C. Anderson expressed agreement with the proposed recommendations. She noted that the phasing out of Non-Ministry Designated Prekindergarten programs was a very difficult decision to make but the Board could no longer sustain programs that are not funded by the Ministry of Education. With regard to the other recommendations, she observed that many school divisions already operate successful full-day Kindergarten programs, and that the Minister of Education has made it clear to boards that changes need to be made relative to the provision of transportation services. She expressed appreciation to the members of the Administration and for the work they have done, to date, during this difficult budgeting process. Mr. A. Hicks indicated his agreement with the recommendations, and expressed appreciation to the Administration for their hard work.

Motion by Mrs. C. Anderson:

That programming for 3- and 4-year-olds in Non-Ministry Designated programs be phased out by the 2018-19 school year with no new registrations accepted in the 2017-18 school year.

Motion Carried.

Motion by Mr. J. Kasperski:

That, effective with the 2017-2018 school year, Kindergarten programming be offered full days on alternate school days, based on the 5-Day Calendar.

Motion Carried.

Motion by Mr. A. Hicks:

That, effective with the 2017-2018 school year, student transportation services be provided in accordance with the “Transportation Zone” model as presented.

Motion Carried.

On behalf of the Board members, Mrs. K. Gagne noted that the decision of the Trustees to vote in favour of the foregoing recommendations were based on consideration of what the Ministry of Education is willing to fund, and reiterated Mrs. Anderson’s comment that the Board can no longer sustain programs that are not funded. She noted that the Board members do not take these decisions lightly and without considerable contemplation. She, too, expressed appreciation for the hard work of the Administration during these budget deliberations.

Closed
Session

Motion by Mr. A. Hicks:

That we go into closed session.

Motion Carried.

[Ms. A. Young joined the meeting at 4:59 PM.]

[Mr. A. Hicks left the meeting at 6:50 PM.]

Chair	S/T

Motion by Mrs. T. Foster:

That we rise and report.

Motion Carried.

At the conclusion of closed session, the Committee of the Whole reported progress with respect to consideration of *2017-2018 Budget Deliberations*. The progress report was accepted.

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

Motion by Dr. J. Ekong:

That the meeting adjourn.

Motion Carried.

Time of meeting: 4:00 to 7:02 p.m.

Chairperson

Secretary-Treasurer