

Regina, Saskatchewan
June 16, 2020

At a meeting of the Board of Education of the Regina School Division No. 4 of Saskatchewan, held via teleconference at 1600 4th Avenue.

Members Present
Mrs. Katherine Gagne, Chair
Mr. Adam Hicks, Vice-Chair
Mrs. Cindy Anderson
Dr. Jane Ekong
Mrs. Tanya Foster
Mr. Jay Kasperski
Ms. Aleana Young

Administration Present
Mr. Greg Enion, Director of Education
Ms. Naomi Mellor, Deputy Director, Division Services/CFO
Mr. Darren Boldt, Deputy Director, Student Achievement

Mrs. T. Foster 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. It was requested that the following item be added: *Letter of Advocacy*.

Adoption of Agenda
Motion by Mrs. C. Anderson:

That, with the addition requested, the agenda be adopted.

Motion Carried.

Declaration of Any Conflicts
The Chairperson asked if there were any conflicts of interest to be declared. Ms. A. Young declared a conflict of interest with respect to the Labour Relations Update.

Approving of Minutes
The Chairperson then asked for a motion to approve the minutes of the meeting held on May 26, 2020.

Motion by Mr. J. Kasperski:

That the minutes of the Board meeting of May 26, 2020, be approved as distributed.

Motion Carried.

Special Committee for Diversity
Information regarding the Special Committee for Diversity's report and recommendations had been distributed. Mr. Jason Coleman, Superintendent, Student Achievement, outlined the formation of the Committee, its terms of reference and membership. He advised that the Committee used the Comprehensive School Community Health model of effective policy, family and community engagement, high quality teaching and learning, and healthy physical and social environments, to shape the Committee's report structure to

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include building understanding and inclusion, effective communication, continuing focus, and procedural foundations. He highlighted that, as part of its mandate, the Committee has recommended 15 actions to guide continued support for the diverse population served by Regina Public Schools, with those recommendations covering the five areas of Acknowledgment and Recognition, Policies and Administrative Procedures, Creation of Committees, Administrative Procedure 138 – Display of Flags, and Division-Endorsed Activities, and provided Board members with a summary of those recommendations. He concluded his presentation by thanking the Committee members for all their commitment, candor and hard work, and for representing the community and the School Division. He noted that diversity makes our community stronger, and that the Committee’s recommendations establish a solid foundation to create, build and foster inclusiveness. Mr. Coleman responded to questions relative to membership on the new committees. Board members expressed appreciation for the report and for the work of the Committee.

COVID-19
Pandemic
Response
Update

Mr. Greg Enion, Director of Education, provided Board members with an update regarding Division and sector responses to the COVID-19 pandemic from May 27th to present. He advised that the Supplemental Learning officially ended today, noting that teachers will continue to have work available for students, but that work will not be evaluated or assessed for the final report card. He further advised that teachers are preparing report cards and will be contacting every student their parents/guardians for a year-end conference. He also commented that a survey on the Supplemental Learning will be offered for any students, parents or staff that wish to provide feedback. He pointed out that some staff have returned to schools and that in-school administrators have been working on schedules and ensuring that physical distancing and other safety precautions are taking place, as some staff have returned to schools, and general cleanup and organizing is transpiring. He highlighted the government’s announcement that school will resume in the Fall, and that the Administration anxiously awaits the guidelines from the Provincial Response Planning Team and the Saskatchewan Health Authority, that should be received within a week. He advised that the Division Management Team had a session with Mr. Kevin Cameron today on the traumatic impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, and problem-solving on how we can prepare schools, staff and students moving in the Fall. He suggested that Mr. Cameron could be available to present to the Board during one of its August update meetings. He emphasized the importance of having the necessary supports in place as the Division transitions to back-to-school. He outlined discussions with the Sun West School Division to partner with Regina Public Schools on distance learning course packages. He underlined the importance of this for two reasons—for students who are not comfortable returning to their physical classroom in the Fall, and also for if there is a resurgence of COVID-19 in the future and schools are shut down. He did note that the course packages do not include French Immersion, so Division personnel will have some additional work over the Summer to assemble French Immersion course packages. Mr. Enion and Board members responded to a question relative to sessions with Mr. Cameron offered through the SSBA over the past few months. Mr. Enion and Mr. Darren Boldt, Deputy Director, Student Achievement, also responded to a question relative to the feasibility of engaging parents relative to planning for a different learning approach in the Fall.

Community
Relations
Committee

A Community Relations Plan, developed by the Community Relations Committee, had been distributed. Mrs. T. Foster advised that the Committee will ask the newly formed RP-PAC to provide input into the Plan.

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Motion by Mrs. T. Foster:

That the Community Relations Plan be approved as presented.

Motion Carried.
(Unanimously)

2020-2021
Budget
Submission

Copies of the 2020-2021 Budget Submission had been distributed. Ms. Naomi Mellor, Deputy Director, Division Services/CFO, provided additional information, noting that operating funding for school divisions has increased by \$42.1M or 2.2%, including increases for enrolment growth and inflation and the settlement of the provincial teachers’ collective bargaining agreement. She also advised that the budget included \$70K for intensive needs Prekindergarten programs, \$8.5M in infrastructure planning funding for various projects, a reduction of \$5M for Preventative Maintenance and Renewal, four new relocatable classrooms for École Wascana Plains, and \$1.4M under the Climate Action Incentive Fund. She outlined the budget priorities, including: maintaining classroom pupil-teacher ratios and address the impacts of growth on specialized programs and supports; supporting staff in their day-to-day work and building system capacity through focused professional growth and development; developing sustainable, multi-year infrastructure (building, equipment, text book/learning resources) plans to maintain, refresh and modernize; and developing a multi-year financial plan that directs resources to areas of highest priority and strategic use of reserve funds. She advised that revenues from all sources are estimated at \$255.9M, an increase of 4.6% over 2019-20 levels, and total expenses are estimated at \$261.7M, representing a 3.5% increase over 2019-20 budgeted expenditures. She summarized that the PSAB-compliant budget projects a deficit of \$5.8M and that, on a cash basis, a deficit of \$1.8M is estimated, which will be funded from reserves. She noted that the budget includes an increase of 52 full-time equivalent positions, 31 of which are teachers. In conclusion, Ms. Mellor acknowledged the collaborative effort put into the 2020-2021 budget, that provides for continued stability in educational programming and staffing, targeted enhancements based on Board and staff priorities, contingencies to respond to the uncertainty of the Fall return to school, significant progress on major capital priorities, and long-term financial sustainability. She responded to questions relative to intensive needs Prekindergarten program funding, Argyle/St. Pius joint-use school funding, tracking on assumptions, and Balfour Collegiate repairs. Mr. Greg Enion, Director of Education, responded to a question relative to funding for assessment of the current state of high schools and determining future high school needs in east Regina.

Motion by Dr. J. Ekong:

That the 2020-2021 budget be approved in the required form for submission to the Ministry of Education, pending final adjustments approved by the Director of Education.

Motion Carried.
(Unanimously)

2020-2021
School Year
Calendars

Information regarding proposed revisions to the 2020-2021 School Year Calendars had been distributed. Mr. Darren Boldt, Deputy Director, Student Achievement, provided additional information, noting that the Regina Public School Teachers’ Association requested the date of the Teacher Convention, previously scheduled for October 2, 2020, be moved to March 5, 2021. He further advised that the provincial government requesting all school divisions

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change their calendars to make October 26th a “non-instructional” day for schools to be available as polling stations for the provincial election. He noted that this would mean changing the October professional development day from October 23rd to October 26th. Ms. Naomi Mellor, Deputy Director, Division Services/CFO, responded to a question relative to any similar requests from the City of Regina relative to the municipal election in November.

Motion by Mrs. C. Anderson:

That the revised 2020-2021 school year calendars be approved as presented.

Motion Carried.
(Unanimously)

Central
Collegiate Land
Exchange

Information relative to an agreement with the City of Regina for the acquisition of land in association with the former Central Collegiate high school had been distributed. Mr. Mark Whiting, Consultant, provided additional information, noting that, after lengthy negotiations with civic administrators to ensure the suitability of the land transfers for both organizations, a proposed list of land transfers was being incorporated into a Letter of Understanding. He advised that the finalized list of lands are adjustments to existing school sites that will provide greater flexibility for the Division when assessing future expansion and/or use of the sites. He further advised that the actual formal exchange process will require a variety of regulatory processes/steps at the City of Regina to execute, and this will take place over the next year. He noted that the Division will need to consider any costs associated with the regulatory process, which will become more apparent as the required processes are better defined. He summarized that all future finalized land exchange agreements will be brought to the Board for approval as they reach completion. He responded to a question relative to land selection.

Motion by Mr. A. Hicks:

That the Letter of Understanding with the City of Regina be approved, as presented.

Motion Carried.
(Unanimously)

Capital Projects
Update

An update on current and future capital projects had been distribution. Mr. Dan Van Buekenhout, Manager, Capital Projects, provided information on and responded to questions relative to the planned underpinning of Balfour Collegiate. Ms. Delaine Clyne, Supervisor, Policy, Planning and Research, provided additional information on the Argyle/St. Pius joint-use school project, the Imperial/St. Peter/St. Michael joint-use project business case, the Harbour Landing West joint-use school, the South East joint-use facility, and the École Wascana Plains School relocatables. Board members expressed appreciation for the update. Mrs. C. Anderson commented on the plan to include McDermid School with the Imperial/St. Peter/St. Michael joint-use project, and commended the plans for consultation with the school communities and other stakeholders. Dr. J. Ekong encouraged advocacy for appropriate school sizing relative to a new joint-use school in Harbour Landing West, with Mr. A. Hicks echoed her comments.

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2019-2020
Third Quarter
Financial
Update

Financial results for the 9-month period ended May 31, 2020, had been distributed. Mr. Bruce Lipinski, Superintendent, Business Affairs, provided additional information, noting that an increase in revenues of \$1.7M is attributable to the December 2019 Ministry of Education operating grant adjustment to reflect September 2019 enrolments, additional Ministry funding in February 2020 for Preventative Maintenance and Renewal (PMR) projects, higher than estimated international students, and higher miscellaneous revenues. He advised that the Ministry requires the Division to provide its total in COVID-19 savings and a plan for how it will be spent before the end of the year. He further advised that principals have been asked to prepare one-time spending plans to use their remaining 2019-20 school operating budgets. He spoke on the allocation of \$1.3M through the Climate Action Incentive Fund. He also commented on how the use of forecasting is assisting in providing a multi-year plan. Mr. Lipinski responded to a question relative to spending of COVID-19 savings. Ms. Naomi Mellor, Deputy Director, Division Services/CFO, responded to a question relative to safety precaution funding.

Letter of
Advocacy

Mrs. C. Anderson asked that a letter be sent to the Minister of Education advocating for the inclusion of McDermid School in the plans for the Imperial/St. Peter/St. Michael join-use project. Mr. Greg Enion, Director of Education, advised that a letter would be drafted for the Chairperson’s signature.

For 2019-2020 school year, and particularly during the COVID-19 pandemic, Ms. K. Gagne, on behalf of the Board, extended appreciation to all employees of Regina Public Schools for their dedication, and to the Administrative team for their leadership.

Closed Session

Motion by Dr. J. Ekong:

That we go into closed session in order to consider those matters identified on the meeting agenda for referral to said session.

Motion Carried.

Motion by Mrs. C. Anderson:

That we rise and report.

Motion Carried.

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

Labour
Relations
Update

- 1) That, subject to ratification by the CUPE Local 3766 membership, the attached Memorandum of Settlement between the Board of Education of the Regina School Division No. 4 of Saskatchewan and the Canadian Union of Public Employees Local 3766, effective September 1, 2016 to August 31, 2021, be approved, and that the Director of Education be authorized to finalize the terms and execute the agreement on behalf of the Board.

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Motion by Dr. J. Ekong:

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

Motion Carried.
(Unanimously)

[Ms. A. Young absented herself from discussion and voting with respect to Labour Relations Update.]

At the conclusion of closed session, the Committee of the Whole reported progress with respect to consideration of *Community Relations Committee, 4 Seasons of Reconciliation Online Professional Development Program*, and *Public Section Update*. 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: 5:30 to 7:50 p.m.

Chairperson

Secretary-Treasurer