

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

Members Present
Mr. Adam Hicks, Chair
Ms. Tara Molson, Vice-Chair
Mrs. Cindy Anderson
Mr. Ted Jaleta
Mrs. Elizabeth Strom
Mrs. Sarah Cummings Truszkowski
Ms. Lacey Weekes

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

Mrs. E. Strom 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: *Discussion re: 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. None were reported.

Approving of Minutes
The Chairperson then asked for a motion to approve the minutes of the meeting held on December 8, 2020.

Motion by Mrs. E. Strom:

That the minutes of the Board meeting of December 8, 2020, be approved as distributed.

Motion Carried.

Update on COVID-19
Mr. Greg Enion, Director of Education, provided an update on the Division's COVID-19 plan. He noted that, starting January 11th, students returned to the classroom, after a week of remote learning following the Winter break. He advised that he participated in a Provincial conference call this morning wherein the topic of vaccinations was raised with the Chief Medical Officer (CMO). As there was no mention during the call that educators would be included in earlier vaccinations, and with many Division staff members expressing interest in getting vaccinated sooner, he urged Board members to continue advocating for same. As well, with some parents/guardians inquiring on the decision to return to in-classroom learning, he pointed to a survey, to be discussed further in

Chair	CFO

closed session, that will be promoted later this week, with the results of same to be reported publicly. Mr. Enion highlighted direction received during the morning’s conference call to start pre-planning for Grade 12 graduation and Grade 8 farewell ceremonies. He advised that the Executive Team and Superintendents have begun initial planning of what ceremonies might resemble. He noted that the CMO expressed certainty that no large indoor functions will be allowed by June. He further noted discussions with Regina Catholic Schools’ Director on potential joint planning. He advised that a report would be brought to an upcoming Board meeting.

Mr. Darren Boldt, Deputy Director, Student Achievement, advised that, with the average number of staff absences leading up to December 11th due to positive COVID-19 cases or close contacts, the decision to move to remote learning for the weeks of December 14-18, 2020, and January 4-8, 2021, had a significant positive impact on learning and staffing, translating into continuous education for students. He highlighted that there were 48 school outbreaks in the Province during those two weeks of remote learning, and Regina Public had zero. He further advised that an unintended outcome of the move to remote learning was a restful break for families, staff members and Division Office personnel, and he thanked the Board members for their continued support.

Ms. Naomi Mellor, Deputy Director, Division Services/CFO, advised on the procuring and distribution of medical grade disposable masks for all staff. She referenced the email communication to staff from Mr. Enion on the previous Friday noting how medical grade masks can provide significantly improved protection against contracting COVID-19. She advised that the Division procured sufficient medical grade masks in December to distribute to staff and students. She also noted that the Division expects to receive the first of the Ministry of Education’s supply of masks this week, which will include child-sized masks. She further noted that the masks will be available to bus drivers, and Warner and Division Office personnel. She provided an update on maintaining other personal protective equipment supplies, and the installation of water bottle fillers and air purifier units, expressing appreciation to the Facilities personnel for same.

Mr. Enion, Mr. Boldt and Ms. Mellor responded to questions relative to the potential for reduction in close contacts with the use of medical grade masks; how families can obtain medical grade masks; messaging to be included on the Division website regarding air purifier installations; encouraging COVID-19 testing; a potential threshold to return to remote learning; the timeframe for families to move students to eSchool if interested; plans to bridge the gap in learning due to challenges such as English as an Additional Language, students not engaged, lack of technology, etc.; plans to manage social and emotional challenges; measuring outcomes in eSchool vs. in-class learning; and PISA annual results. Mrs. C. Anderson noted that COVID-19 is global, and students around the world are struggling during the pandemic. She expressed appreciation for the Administrative Team for planning long-term solutions to assist students in getting to where they need to be in their education.

French
Immersion
Programming

Information relative to French Immersion programming in Regina Public Schools had been distributed. Ms. Isabelle Campeau, Coordinator, French Immersion and Languages, provided an overview of the programming. She advised that the Division offers Type B French Immersion. She referenced early French Immersion (Kindergarten-Grade 12), with registration occurring in Kindergarten or Grade 1, with the goal that the student will be functionally bilingual by the end of Grade 12. She noted that previous French language experience is not required by a student, and that parent/guardian French language experience is not required to enroll their child in French Immersion. Ms. Jeannette Revet, Principal, École Wascana Plains School, provided a subject

Chair	CFO

and language breakdown for elementary schools, noting that, from Kindergarten to Grade 2, all subjects are taught in French, if staffing allows. In Grade 3, she advised that English Languages Arts is introduced, with French language instruction decreasing to 80%. She further advised that, from Grades 4 to 8, French language instruction is between 70-80%, and English between 20-30%, with fluctuations depending on staffing availability. Ms. Campeau provided a subject and language breakdown for high schools, noting that, in the bilingual program, Grade 9 students see 60% French language instruction and 40% English instruction, and Grade 10 and 11 students receive 50-60% French language instruction and 40-50% English instruction. For a Grade 12 Diploma Bilingual Mention, she advised that a minimum of 12 classes completed in French language instruction is needed. Mr. Darren Boldt, Deputy Director, Student Achievement, added that Advanced Placement exams can be completed in French. Mr. Mike Tomchuk, Superintendent, Student Achievement, provided a summary of eSchool and Home-based Education enrolments. Ms. Lisa Frei, Superintendent, Student Achievement, outlined the elementary and high schools offering French Immersion, either as a French Centre or a dual track, and the enrolments in same. She referenced the graph in the PowerPoint presentation illustrating the increased French Immersion enrolment projections to 2034. She then pointed to the City map showing the locations of the schools offering French Immersion programming, noting that, given the larger French Immersion boundary areas, transportation is provided to students based on Administrative Procedure requirements, and those transported students are exempted from paying lunchroom fees. Ms. Lois Herridge, Superintendent, Student Achievement, explained future implications for French Immersion programming, including increased enrolment, space availability in schools, and a shortage of French Immersion teachers and high school subject specific qualifications. Ms. Revet highlighted that there are bilingual administrators and bilingual teacher-librarians in most French Immersion schools, with library collections in both languages. Ms. Campeau concluded the presentation by noting that the Division staffs a French Immersion Learning Resource Teacher in each French Centre or dual track school, at least one bilingual Itinerant teacher in each French Immersion school, and has a French Immersion Coordinator. She also commented on the French Language Bursary Award for 3rd and 4th year French-speaking Education students at the University of Regina, with a provision of employment upon completion of their degree, highlighting that two such bursaries were awarded in 2020.

The presentation team responded to questions relative to the French Immersion Administrative Procedure, the Grade 12 Bilingual Mention, opportunities for non-French-speaking in-school administrators to take French classes, French Immersion students enrolled in eSchool, opportunities for student bilingual exchanges, partnerships or long-term plans relative to recruitment of French-speaking educators, home-based education, and different strategies moving forward. Board members expressed appreciation for the presentation.

Public Section Update

Mrs. S. Cummings Truszkowski provided a brief summary of the Public Section meeting with Mr. Norm Dray, Executive Director, and Ms. Colleen MacPherson, Chair, held on January 11, 2021. She advised that she is the Public Section representative for Regina Public Schools, one of 15 Saskatchewan public school boards represented by Public Section. She highlighted the new Student Citizenship Award to recognize public school student groups or classes that support citizenship or character building within their schools or community, highlighted the April 15th application deadline. She further referenced the Theodore case, and advised that Public Section is currently seeking leave to appeal the decision of the Saskatchewan Court of Appeal to the Supreme Court of Canada.

Chair	CFO

SSBA Facilities Funding Draft Position Statement Feedback Request A draft Position Statement, relative to facilities funding, had been distributed. Mr. A. Hicks advised that the Saskatchewan School Boards Association (SSBA) was soliciting feedback from all boards. Board members offered the following seven suggestions: 1) adding a reference to accessible playgrounds in paragraph 2g; 2) adding a statement to clearly state the sector’s expectation that funding for new schools include sufficient ongoing operating funding for acceptable class sizes; 3) enhancing the reference to a criteria-based major capital priority list, in paragraph 2a, by setting an expectation that the Ministry of Education share its decision-making criteria and process for developing the annual priority list with school divisions; 4) adding specific targets and/or goals instead of using words such as ‘sufficient’ and ‘adequate’; 5) adding a sentence in paragraph 2f relative to ensuring schools are sized correspondingly based on enrolment projections of each school division; 6) adding a reference for the need of distinct, continuous funding for energy efficiency upgrades for schools; and 7) adding a statement in support of community partnerships with public sector agencies and community-based organizations.

Agenda Items for January 19, 2021 Joint Regina Public/ Regina Catholic Board Meeting Mr. Greg Enion, Director of Education, advised that common agenda items for meetings with the Regina Catholic School Board include those relative to joint initiatives, such as advocacy or transportation. Mr. A. Hicks inquired if Board members had any other topics they would like added to the January 19th meeting agenda. Board members suggested discussions relative to COVID-19; joint builds; French Immersion; and joint advocacy initiatives, including free student City bus passes for high school students, and early vaccinations for teachers and school staff.

Planned Agenda Items for February 9, 2021 Board meeting For Board member information, Mr. A. Hicks noted the planned agenda items currently set for the February 9, 2021 Board meeting, including Major Capital Project Funding Application, French Immersion Designations 2021/22, Enrolment Report, Student Achievement Results 2019/20, Indigenous Education Programming, and Wascana Plains Boundary.

Information – Subdivision Reports Mrs. S. Cummings Truszkowski advised that she attended her first School Community Council meeting at The Crescents School. She also advised that she heard Holy Rosary School, a Regina Catholic school in her subdivision, is currently under review.

Mr. T. Jaleta advised that he attended a School Community Council meeting at École W. S. Hawrylak School. He further commented that the majority of parents he has spoken with were pleased with the move to remote learning for the weeks before and after the Winter break, noting the only concerns raised were relative to child care.

Ms. T. Molson advised that she had a positive conversation with the Chair of the Dr. L. M. Hanna School Community Council relative to the move to remote learning. She noted that the SCC is pleased it will not have to pay for the rebuilding of the play structure that burned down in November. She further advised that a student had reached out to her relative to water bottle filling stations at Winston Knoll Collegiate, and that Ms. Naomi Mellor, Deputy Director, Division Services/CFO, assisted her in responding.

Mr. A. Hicks advised that, in his new role as Chair, his attendance at School Community Council meetings has decreased, but that he is still willing to attend as many meetings as he can.

Chair	CFO

Closed Session Motion by Mrs. C. Anderson:

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 Ms. L. Weekes:

That we rise and report.

Motion Carried.

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

Meeting
Adjournment
Time

- 1) That the January 12, 2021 Board meeting be authorized to continue beyond the 8:30 p.m. presumptive adjournment time.

Motion by Mrs. S. Cummings Truskowski:

That recommendation No. 1 (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 *Capacity and Capital Planning, Board Standing Committees – Protocols and Processes, Temporary Remote Learning Parent and Staff Surveys, and Discussion re: Advocacy*. 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. C. Anderson:

That the meeting adjourn.

Motion Carried.

Time of meeting: 5:30 to 9:34 p.m.

Chairperson

Chief Financial Officer