

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  
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/School Services

Ms. Lacey Weekes 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  
Motion by Mrs. Sarah Cummings Truszkowski:

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 2, 2021.

Motion by Mrs. Elizabeth Strom:

That the minutes of the Board meeting of March 2, 2021, be approved as distributed.

Motion Carried.

École Wascana Plains School Community Council Presentation  
Mr. Alvin Yau, École Wascana Plains School Community Council President, had requested the opportunity to make a statement to the Board relative to the upcoming Wascana Plains boundary changes. He noted the diverging views and opinions of the boundary changes, but also stated that the status quo is not tenable. He commented that some parents are anxious about their children being bussed, while others are disconcerted that this will be their second move. Given the stress already caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, he emphasized the need for stability. He urged the Division to keep parents involved during the transition, and advised of the willingness of the School Community Council to advocate with the Board for a new school build in southeast. Mr. Yau responded to questions relative to short-term ideas and transportation concerns. Mr. Greg Enion, Director of Education, thanked Mr. Yau for sharing valuable

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observations from the community. He assured him that the School Division will resolve to ensure a smooth transition process. He advised that Ms. Jeannette Revet, Principal of École Wascana Plains Schools, has already been in contact with many of the families impacted by the change. Board members also expressed appreciation for Mr. Yau’s comments.

Indigenous Education

Information relative to Indigenous Education in Regina Public Schools had been distributed. Ms. Vanea Cyr, Supervisor, Indigenous Education, and Mr. Jeffery Cappo, Cultural Liaison, provided additional information, beginning with the land acknowledgment in Cree. Ms. Cyr provided the names of the Elders Advisory Council, noting that the Elders look forward to virtually meeting with the Trustees in the near future. She further advised that the School Division has 11 Elders/Knowledge Keepers, who provide traditional teachings, guidance and a sense of belonging to approximately 30 schools on a regular basis, noting that other schools not assigned an Elder can apply for a resource person or Elder based on need. She outlined the seven high school and four elementary school Indigenous Advocates, who provide student support and guidance in addition to their teaching component, building relationships with Indigenous students and the community. Ms. Cyr and Mr. Cappo summarized their roles as Supervisor of Indigenous Education and Cultural Liaison. Ms. Cyr described some of the current partnerships, including Métis-Nation Saskatchewan, 4 Seasons and First Nations University of Canada, and the Regina Public Library, and noted that Indigenous Education is an integral piece in all facets of education. She pointed out Board Policy 17, *Indigenous Education*, and Administrative Procedure 139, *Smudging*. Mr. Cappo provided further detail on smudging in schools. Ms. Cyr and Mr. Cappo responded to questions relative to land-based education, Jordan’s Principle, Indigenous language teachings, the Métis Early Learning Pilot Project, re-engagement, graduation rates, advocating for compulsory Native Studies course in high school, and Indigenous Advocates. It was requested that Trustees participate in a smudging when COVID restrictions allow, and that Feast and Round Dance protocol be added to next Indigenous Education Advisory Council meeting agenda. Board members expressed appreciation for the presentation.

COVID-19 Update

Mr. Greg Enion, Director of Education, provided an update on the Division’s COVID-19 plan. He noted that a letter was sent out to parents on March 22nd, outlining the decision to move to remote learning prior to the Spring break. He further commented on additional documents outlining guidelines for staff to work from home, including expectations, technology and privacy. He advised that, with a flexible framework provided by the Student Achievement team, principals are preparing plans that meet the needs of their schools. He advised that staff have been notified on how to access leave to obtain their COVID vaccination. He noted that pre-planning is underway with Medical Health Officers relative to the use of rapid testing kits following the Spring break. Mr. Darren Boldt, Deputy Director, Student Achievement/School Services, outlined recent case numbers in schools, including numbers of those who, as close contacts, are required to self-isolate. He advised of a recent Saskatchewan Health Authority protocol change that now does not eliminate individuals as close contacts if they were wearing medical grade personal protective equipment. He noted that this change in protocol has increased the number of close contacts exponentially. Looking to the 2021/22 school year, Mr. Boldt advised registrations for eSchool will be collected in the near future, and will continue to be housed at Campus Regina Public. Mr. Enion and Mr. Boldt responded to questions relative to day camps, expectations of teachers during remote learning, technology and internet access availability, intensive supports, families pulling students prior to the start of remote learning, options for printed materials, and rapid test kit responsibilities.

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Policy,  
Governance and  
Sustainability  
Planning  
Committee

Mrs. Cindy Anderson provided a brief summary of the March 9, 2021 Policy, Governance and Sustainability Planning Committee meeting. Due to current administrative workload caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, she noted that a report on sustainability would be held in abeyance until more time can be dedicated to it. She advised that Ms. Delaine Clyne, Supervisor, Policy, Planning and Research, provided the Committee with information on whistleblower policies. It was pointed out that, although Saskatchewan has *The Public Interest Disclosure Act* for public sector employees, school divisions are not covered under that Act. Processes available to school divisions under other Federal and Provincial legislation were outlined, as well as the Board’s Policy 4, *Trustee Code of Conduct*, and Administrative Procedures 404, 126, and 108. It was agreed that Ms. Clyne draft some examples to bring forward to the June Committee meeting for further review. Ms. Clyne also provided the Committee with information on the Provincial Education Plan (PEP), noting that the Division’s next Strategic Plan will follow the overarching direction contained in the PEP. It was noted that the PEP was put on pause due to the pandemic and is scheduled to be completed by Winter 2021/22. Interim plans to respond to pressures resulting from the pandemic were outlined, with priorities in learning response-reading, learning response, and mental health and well-being. Mr. Greg Enion, Director of Education, then discussed strategies the Division is currently focusing on, specifically students with interrupted learning due to the pandemic, and outlined potential summer camp programs, as well as resources that will be needed for the start of the 2021/22 school year. A strategic planning session with the Board has been scheduled for mid-April. Regarding outdated wording in Policies 8, 9 and 17, it was confirmed that all the policies posted on the website are up-to-date. The Committee was then advised that the Board’s most important responsibility in the next three years is the hiring of a new Director, and it was recommended that all Trustees familiarize themselves with Policy 16, *Recruitment and Selection of Administrative Personnel*. The SSBA’s *Evaluating School Community Councils* 2018 research paper had been distributed, and Committee members agreed to send their feedback to Ms. Suzanne Shuba, Executive Assistant, for compilation and submission to the SSBA prior to the end of April. Lastly, Mrs. Anderson advised Committee members of agenda items for the June Committee meeting, and Mr. Adam Hicks requested that a full list of policies be included so that a review schedule can be set.

Organizational  
Culture and  
Diversity  
Committee

Ms. Lacey Weekes provided a brief summary of the Organizational Culture and Diversity Committee meeting, held virtually on March 16, 2021. She advised that Ms. Glenna Curry, Consultant, updated the Committee on the work of the Mental Health and Wellness Working Group, including training of staff in Mental Health First Aid, updates to the website, messaging, reviews and updates to Administrative Procedures, and the compilation of a list of what the Division is doing relative to Mental Health and Wellness for staff and students, and outlined various resources available to students in both elementary and high schools. Ms. Weekes advised that Mr. Jason Coleman, Superintendent, Student Achievement/School Services, updated the Committee on work being done by the Special Committee for Diversity, with a list of priorities identified as “now” items having been developed, including training of staff, communication to all staff on the expectations of training, and updating of Administrative Procedures. Mr. Coleman also advised on the possibility of messages being sent out to the Division from both the Director of Education and the Board of Trustees. It was noted that Expressions of Interest would be circulated in the near future for individuals interested in both the Gender and Sexual Diversity and the Multicultural/Anti-Racist/Anti-Oppressive subcommittees. Relative to Pride events in June, Mr. Coleman noted that Principals have received information and materials and more communication will be sent to schools prior to June. Mr. Greg Enion, Director of Education, also suggested that both the Mental Health and Wellness and Diversity strategy be embedded into the Division’s and individual schools’ strategic plans. Ms. Weekes outlined that the Committee

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discussed the search process for a new Director, and agreed that a Succession Planning Committee needs to be formed, and that Ms. Delaine Clyne, Supervisor of Policy, Planning and Research, will draft Terms of Reference for that Committee. Relative to a review of the School Resource Officer (SRO) program, she noted that Committee members agreed to having a survey developed for staff and students, as well as a student forum, to gather feedback on the program, with the Committee further agreeing that a third party review of the program be done in conjunction with the Regina Police Service and possibly the Regina Catholic School Division. The potential for a student forum was discussed, and it was agreed that student forums be planned once students are fully back to school. She noted that agenda items 7 and 8, Review of Language in Curriculum, and Recruitment Practices for French Teachers, were tabled until the next meeting, and that the update of the Land Acknowledgment was discussed and revised the Board’s OneNote document. She concluded by advising that Committee members were to review the document, Shared Values – A Guide for Creating an Inclusive School Environment, and provided feedback to Mr. Enion. Mr. Adam Hicks noted that, relative to the SRO program survey, the Committee discussed the potential for a broader survey to encompass other issues, instead of one specific topic. Ms. Weekes and Mr. Enion responded to questions relative to the tabled item, Review of Language in Curriculum, survey distribution, and the Expression of Interest circulation date.

Wascana Plains  
Boundary  
Changes

Information relative to the École Wascana Plains School boundary changes had been distributed. Ms. Delaine Clyne, Supervisor, Policy, Planning and Research, provided additional information, noting that, based on the current capacity of 650 students, the school is at 123% utilization and over capacity by 151 students. She further advised that, due to the growth in the southeast area of the city and the population demographics of the catchment area, the forecasted enrolment indicates the school will be over capacity by 565 students by 2025. She outlined the boundary changes for the French Immersion and English program. She further noted the consultation and feedback process, and advised that Administration acknowledged there will be family circumstances that may warrant exemptions. Ms. Clyne, Mr. Greg Enion, Director of Education, Ms. Jeannette Revet, Principal, École Wascana Plains School, and Ms. Naomi Mellor, Deputy Director, Division Services/CFO, responded to questions relative to grandfathering, exemptions, phased-in approaches, future planning, school resources, and renovation funding. Mr. Enion reiterated the Divisions commitment for a smooth transition for all. All Board members confirmed their support of the boundary changes.

Second Quarter  
Financial  
Report

The Second Quarter Financial update, for the 6-month period ended February 28, 2021, had been distributed. Mr. Bruce Lipinski, Superintendent, Business Affairs, advised that half-way through the 2020/2021 fiscal year, both revenues and expenses are projected to be higher than in the 2020/2021 budget, but the bottom line remains on track with the original budget plan. He noted that increased revenues are attributable mainly to Phase 1 and 2 COVID-related funding from the federal and provincial governments, less than estimated tuition revenues, less investment income, less due to a timing difference in the sale of school buses, and an increase in grant funding for the Michif Early Learning Program. He explained that increased expenses are attributable mainly to additional COVID-related costs, such as eSchool, air filtration systems, personal protective equipment, additional technology and learning resources. In addition, he noted that the transportation budget is projected to overspend by \$568K due to higher than budgeted light vehicle costs and reduced revenue from bus charters, which is offset by various under-expenditures, including substitute and supervision staff, utilities, travel, professional development and salary accounts, due in part to impacts of the pandemic. He outlined other significant areas of

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overspending that are offset by reserve funds, including school-based spending of accumulated carry overs in operations budgets, additional Preventive Maintenance and Renewal project spending, maintenance vehicle renewals, and underpinning at Balfour Collegiate. Mr. Lipinski, Ms. Naomi Mellor, Deputy Director, Division Services/CFO, and Ms. Delaine Clyne, Supervisor, Policy, Planning and Research, responded to questions relative to Balfour underpinning, Climate Action Incentive Fund, charter buses, and Harbour Landing East.

Second Quarter Transportation Report

The Second Quarter Transportation report for the 6-month period ended February 28, 2021, had been distributed. Mr. Bruce Lipinski, Superintendent, Business Affairs, advised that the number of students using transportation services continues to fluctuate, the reasoning for this being students who have chosen eSchool, and the effects of the pandemic. As in the November report, he reported that this has not changed the number of school buses required. He further advised that the number of vehicles providing transportation to intensive supports students has remained constant even though the number of intensive support students has increased. He outlined that these vehicles tend to be all-day vehicles which can provide service to students at various times during the day and are able to meet the Division’s needs. He commented that Administration continues to monitor bus routes and the intensive supports transportation to sustain service levels and manage within budget. Mr. Lipinski responded to questions relative to parking and pickup difficulties, walking distances, bus stops, and discolouring of clothing.

Planned Agenda Items

For Board member information, Mr. Adam Hicks noted the planned agenda items currently set for the April 13, 2021 Board meeting, including recognition of former Trustee, Mrs. Katherine Gagne (if the Board is back meeting in person), COVID-19 Update, Strategic Engagement and Advocacy Committee, 2021/22 School Year Calendars, and 2021/22 Budget Development.

Notices of Motion

Ms. Lacey Weekes, on behalf of the Organizational Culture and Diversity Committee, gave notice of her intention to present the following motion at the April 13, 2021 meeting of the Board:

WHEREAS Regina Public School’s mission is to instill the value of knowledge, the dignity of effort, and the worth of the individual; and WHEREAS our shared value statements unite us: I belong, I want to know, I am responsible, and I respect;  
BE IT RESOLVED that the Regina Public School Board create a Succession Planning Committee to assist with hiring a new Director of Education.

Mrs. Elizabeth Strom gave notice of her intention to present the following motion at the April 13, 2021 meeting of the Board:

WHEREAS Regina Public School’s mission is to instill the value of knowledge, the dignity of effort, and the worth of the individual; and WHEREAS our shared value statements unite us: I belong, I want to know, I am responsible, and I respect;  
BE IT RESOLVED that Regina Public Schools include a procedure or policy statement as follows: That no Trustee will sit on a Special Board-Appointed Committee, nor will they have any direct influence, discussion or input on any such Committee or its members, unless the Trustee has been specifically invited by the Division Committee and the Trustee has approval from the Board.

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Information –  
Subdivision  
Reports

Mr. Adam Hicks advised that he attended a Sheldon-Williams School Community Council meeting and was impressed with the work they doing with the Cultural Room, and the SCC is supporting it by purchasing a Star Blanket and a leather tool kit/beading board.

Mrs. Sarah Cummings Truskowski advised that she has attended four School Community Council meetings in the last number of weeks. She noted that the Connaught SCC is still experiencing difficulty with parking and drop-off zones. She commented that the Rosemont SCC is very appreciative of the two water bottle filling stations installed at the school. She concluded by highlighting concerns brought forward at the Seven Stones SCC meeting, particularly the severe effect the pandemic has had on families in North Central Regina. She noted that many families are without work, and many students are not participating in any kind of schooling, eSchool or in-person. She advised that the SCC provided suggestions for the 2021/22 school year, for Division consideration, including lower class sizes, Educational Assistants in every classroom, and as many Speech-Language Pathologists as possible, to help with the learning gap.

Mr. Ted Jaleta advised that he had been approached by a School Community Council to provide some track and field coaching, once COVID restrictions are lifted, and asked if that would be something he could do. Mr. Greg Enion, Director of Education, advised that any volunteer coaching would be acceptable once restrictions are lifted.

On behalf of the Board of Education, Ms. Lacey Weekes acknowledged that every student, staff and community member has equal value as prescribed under the United Nations Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the Saskatchewan Human Rights Code, noting that diversity makes us stronger.

Closed Session

Motion by Mr. Ted Jaleta:

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. Elizabeth Strom:

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 March 23, 2021 Board meeting be authorized to continue beyond the 8:30 p.m. presumptive adjournment time.

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Motion by Mrs. Elizabeth Strom:

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 *2021/22 Budget Development, 2021/22 School Year Calendars, and COVID-19 Planning*. 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 Ms. Lacey Weekes:

That the meeting adjourn.

Motion Carried.

Time of meeting: 5:30 to 9:31 p.m.

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Chairperson

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Chief Financial Officer