

Regina, Saskatchewan
December 13, 2022

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

Members Present	Ms. Tara Molson, Chair Mrs. Sarah Cummings Truszkowski, Vice Chair Mrs. Cindy Anderson (virtually)	Mr. Adam Hicks Mr. Ted Jaleta Mrs. Tracey McMurchy Ms. Lacey Weekes (virtually)
Administration Present	Mr. Darren Boldt, Director of Education Ms. Naomi Mellor, Deputy Director, Division Services/CFO Mr. Rick Steciuk, Acting 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. It was requested that the following items be added: *Celebration, Personal Matter and Question for Director.*

Adoption of Agenda	<u>Motion by Mr. Ted Jaleta:</u> That, with the additions 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.
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Approving of Minutes	The Chairperson then asked for a motion to approve the minutes of the meeting held on November 22, 2022.
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<u>Motion by Mr. Adam Hicks:</u> That the minutes of the Board meeting of November 22, 2022, be approved as distributed.	Motion Carried.
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Celebration	Mr. Adam Hicks advised that a plaque in the main area outside the Board room states that 40 years ago the Board held its first meeting in this Board room.
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École Centennial Land-Based Learning Program	Ms. Frankie Pelletier, Principal, Ms. Kara Shabatoski, Vice Principal, and teachers, Ms. Kim Tessier and Ms. Larissa Garner, provided Board members with information regarding the land-based learning program at École Centennial Community School. They shared that the school staff are committed to reconciliation and recognize the need for all people to learn about Indigenous
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cultures and ways of knowing. They responded to questions from Board members relative to program funding, program grants, teacher qualifications, transportation, sites inside and outside of the City, grades, and model scalability. Mr. Jeff Cappo, Indigenous Education Coordinator, provided additional information regarding Elders and Knowledge Keepers involved in the program. Board members expressed appreciation for the presentation.

2022 Summer Success Camp Report

Information regarding the 2022 Summer Success camps had been distributed. Ms. Cori Knelsen, Literacy/EAL/Social Science Coordinator, advised that, in July 2022, Mosaic and United Way Regina partnered with Regina Public Schools to host 17 camps at nine locations, with the focus of helping students maintain or improve their literacy skills. She highlighted that the camps: promoted learning retention over the Summer; had low student to teacher ratio; featured reading activities, games and nutritious food; provided students with one-on-one reading support; and provided students with a book each day to build their home library. She reported that 209 students participated in the camps. In the eight Kindergarten Camps, she noted that 84 students demonstrated new literacy skills. In the primary and middle years, she advised that 89% maintained or improved their reading levels. Of the 14 students that attended the Senior Camp held at mâmawêyatâñ centre, all Indigenous students maintained or improved their reading levels. In closing, Ms. Knelsen advised that many students and families benefitted from the generosity of United Way Regina and the hard work of Regina Public Schools staff and volunteers. She advised that the percentage of students with measurably maintained or improved reading benchmark results was the highest since the inception of the program. She responded to questions relative to student demographics, collaboration, program scalability, consideration of a fee for service camp, and COVID hesitancy. Board members expressed appreciation for the presentation.

Director's Report

Mr. Darren Boldt, Director of Education/CEO, advised that, for the first three months of this school year, student attendance was 87% compared to 91% last year. Relative to staff attendance, he noted that Human Resources continues to track attendance to better understand and plan for replacements. He noted that there has been an increase in staff absences over the last two years of the pandemic, including for sick, emergent, compassionate, and quarantine leave, etc., and that it varies among the employee groups. He advised that year-to-date tracking shows a 2% increase in staff absences compared to the same time last year. He noted that there has been progress in overall fill rates, but the Division continues to face challenges in filling Educational Assistant and Facilities staff positions. He announced that Ms. Keilyn Howie, teacher at Thomson Community School was recently featured in the Saskatchewan Teachers' Federation's Bulletin for the great work she is doing. He commented that he had the pleasure of hearing Chief Cadmus Delorme speak to elementary students on truth and reconciliation. He advised that the Division received confirmation from the Ministry of Education of a 2022-2023 operating grant increase based on enrolment increases. On that topic, he noted that the enrolment projection process for 2023-2024 is underway, with estimates due to the Ministry in January. He advised that the Division recently received funding for French Immersion that will allow for enhancements to professional development. The Public Health Agency of Canada is creating *Pride Guide: Youth Strategies*, and he was happy to note that Winston Knoll Collegiate was one of the schools that participated. He noted that the RHSAA has not had any difficulties with extra-curricular programming this year and that student participation has increased post-COVID. Relative to the SRO review, he reported that Praxis completed two student focus groups in December at Scott and Campbell Collegiates, with another one scheduled for Michael A. Riffel High School in December. He announced that, in partnership with the University of Regina and the First Nations University of Canada, the Division is working towards a dual credit

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land-based program at Campus Regina Public. He further advised that the OurSCHOOL surveys are now complete, and Elementary report cards are now open so teachers can start reporting progress. He also noted that Board members spent a day with Ms. Vanéa Cyr, Supervisor, Indigenous Education, learning about and making ribbon skirts and shirts. He confirmed dates of two School Community Council events—a cyber safety presentation at Campus Regina Public on January 26, 7:00 PM, and a joint conference at Division Office on March 4, 9:00 AM. With orientation and onboarding a main focus of Human Resources this year, he advised that four orientation sessions have been held to date. He also advised that Facilities staff have held meetings with Head Facility Technicians to share information and promote two-way conversation. Mr. Boldt responded to questions relative to the SRO review focus groups.

Strategic Engagement and Advocacy Committee

Mr. Ted Jaleta advised that the minutes of the November 29, 2022 Strategic Engagement and Advocacy Committee meeting are included in the Board agenda package. He outlined the agenda items discussed, including: a Review of the Committee's Terms of Reference; Student Voice; Meetings with MLAs; School Tours for Minister Dustin Duncan; Student Forum; and the Committee's Objectives for 2022-2023.

Appointment of Auditors

Information regarding the appointment of auditors had been distributed. Ms. Naomi Mellor, Deputy Director, Division Services/CFO, advised that a Request for Proposals was issued for audit services in 2019, and MNP LLP was selected as the School Division's auditors for a 5-year term, with a possible 3-year extension to be determined next year. With the completion of the 2021-2022 audit, she noted that the appointment of an auditor to conduct the 2022-2023 audit was in order.

Motion by Mr. Adam Hicks:

That, subject to submission of an acceptable audit plan (including fee schedule) to the Audit and Risk Management Committee, MNP LLP be appointed auditors for the Regina School Division No. 4 of Saskatchewan for the 2022-2023 fiscal year.

Motion Carried.
(Unanimously)

Land-Based Learning Programming

Ms. Lacey Weekes presented the motion of which she and Mr. Adam Hicks had given notice at the November 22, 2022 Board meeting.

Motion by Ms. Lacey Weekes:

WHEREAS Regina Public Schools' mission is to instill the value of knowledge, the dignity of effort, and the worth of the individual; and

WHEREAS Regina Public Schools' Interim Strategic Plan priority Wahkotowin Division action states to implement and support land-based learning resources to schools; and

WHEREAS land-based learning programs directly align with the goals of Inspiring Success: First Nations and Métis Pre-K Education Policy Framework; and

WHEREAS self-identified Indigenous students graduate at a rate of less than 50%; and

WHEREAS Regina Public Schools recognizes that all students deserve the opportunity to graduate; and

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WHEREAS there are unique opportunities that can engage students and build on the sense of belonging;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Regina Public School Board prioritize land-based learning programming during the 2023-24 strategic planning and budget development processes.

Motion Carried.
(Unanimously)

In support of the motion, Mr. Hicks pointed to the rationale distributed with the meeting agenda. He noted that Indigenous students are struggling to graduate and that there are positive programs that can make a difference. He further acknowledged that the original motion stated a dollar figure which would fall outside of the normal budget process, hence the change in wording. He stressed the need for sustainable funding for land-based learning programming.

Associate Schools Agreements

Information on the current agreements with three Associate Schools had been distributed. Ms. Tara Molson advised that these agreements were first put in place in 2003 and revised in 2012. Mr. Darren Boldt, Director of Education/CEO, advised that periodic reviews of such agreements ensure that services align with the values of Regina Public Schools and, given that the agreements were last revised 10 years ago, recommended that a review be undertaken.

Motion by Mrs. Sarah Cummings Truszkowski:

That Administration examine the terms of each associate school agreement, evaluate current practices, and assess the alignment of associate schools with the values and priorities of Regina Public Schools.

Motion Carried.
(Unanimously)

New School Naming Process

Information on the proposed naming process and communication strategy for the North Regina Joint-Use School had been distributed. Mr. Terry Lazarou, Supervisor, Communications, provided additional information, noting that it is critical to honour the McDermid and Imperial school communities and the residents that it will serve. He outlined the “Name Your School Campaign” that will be launched in early March, culminating in the formal announcement of the new school name in October 2023. Mr. Adam Hicks suggested that naming an area or room in the new facility “Imperial” and “McDermid” could also preserve those names. Mr. Lazarou responded to a question relative to naming facilities after individuals. Mrs. Cindy Anderson provided some historical information on why the Board moved away from naming schools after individuals.

First Quarter Financial Report

The First Quarter Financial Report, for the 3-month period ended November 30, 2022, had been distributed. Ms. Ashley Kuntz, Superintendent, Business Services, advised that, based on quarter one forecasted results, the Statement of Operations shows an operating deficit on a cash basis of \$5.4M, approximately \$2.9M higher than the \$2.5M budgeted cash deficit. She noted that this is due to: projected higher salary costs due to additional FTEs relating to enrolment growth and higher than budgeted substitute costs including vacancies due to sick/quarantine leave; projected higher costs for bus transportation due to enrolment growth; projected higher costs for expansion of the Early Learning Intensive Support Program, fully offset by higher grant revenue; planned spending down of the Preventive Maintenance and Renewal reserve; higher Governance costs due to the October 2022 by-election; and partially offset by a

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significant increase in estimated interest income due to higher interest rates. She further noted that the Division anticipates incremental provincial operating grant funding based on September 30 enrolments but has not yet received confirmation of the amount. She advised that Administration continues to monitor spending to identify areas of savings that could potentially be redirected to areas of pressure. Ms. Kuntz responded to questions relative to a point of clarification on capital project amounts, and land for the new Harbour Landing school.

First Quarter Transportation Report

The First Quarter Transportation Report for the 3-month period ended November 30, 2022, had been distributed. Ms. Ashley Kuntz, Superintendent, Business Services, advised that the report shows a slight increase in transported students in the first quarter, which necessitated one more bus to be utilized. She highlighted that, as part of the 2022-2023 budget process and review of efficiencies in light vehicle transportation this school year, the Division implemented a student-centered transportation model where the Division provides transportation to students in Intensive Support Programs. The Division purchased three minivans and she advised that two are currently deployed at Campbell Collegiate providing transportation to their functional transition classroom and functional integrated academic program. Administration is currently working on the deployment of the third minivan. She noted that benefits of this model include student engagement, positive attendance, learning opportunities for students, use of the vehicle during the day for field trips, and cost savings. She further noted that, during the 2021-2022 year, an Exemption Committee was established to develop parameters and processes around exemptions and ensure a fair and transparent approach. She advised that, since the beginning of the school year, the committee has reviewed 57 exemptions and 13 have been approved. Ms. Kuntz responded to questions relative to student ride time, bus driver shortages, and bus capacity.

Planned Agenda Items

For Board member information, the Chairperson noted the planned agenda items currently set for the January 17, 2023 Board meeting, including Celebration of MathUP, Director's Report, 2023-2024 French Immersion Designations, Biannual Human Resources Report, Annual Information Technology Report, Biannual Administrative Procedures Update, and 2022-2023 OurSCHOOL Survey Results.

Information – Subdivision Reports

Mr. Adam Hicks advised that he represented the Board and others as a Trustee on the SSBA Working Advisory Group on the topic of Cyber Risk. There were individuals from every level of school divisions—a Ministry representative, Trustees, Executive, Superintendents, IT leaders, and IT employees. Mr. Hicks noted that this Division's cyber-attack has really helped push the topic at Board tables across the Province.

Mrs. Sarah Cummings Truszkowski advised that Board members spent November 28th sewing Ribbon Skirts and Ribbon Shirts with Ms. Vanéa Cyr, Supervisor of Indigenous Education. She thanked Ms. Cyr for leading this event, which included the history of the skirts and shirts. She attended Martin Collegiate's musical "Annie" on December 9th, and extended congratulations to the staff and students involved. She also attended Campbell Collegiate's musical comedy "The Addams Family" and thanked all the staff who take on these performances.

Mrs. Tracey McMurchy advised that she has spent the first month of her trusteeship connecting with SCCs and Principals. She attended the presentation to Balfour Collegiate students by Cowessess First Nation's Chief Cadmus

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Delorme on life and leadership through an ‘Indigenous worldview’ lens. She also attended a mindfulness presentation at Campbell Collegiate, where presenter Trina Markusson shared tools and information on managing stress and anxiety in our daily lives. She congratulated Balfour Collegiate and Campbell Collegiate on their outstanding musicals, “Shrek the Musical” and “The Addams Family”. She was pleased that some schools in her subdivision were going to benefit from CUPE 3766’s Toy Drive this year. On December 14th she will be assisting at Thomson School, putting together “Family Bags” that will help many families in the school during this time of year. She advised that she was invited to help serve 500 holiday lunches to Arcola School students at Living Hope Alliance Church and noted that the church has been a big supporter of Arcola School for many years. In addition to all the fun holiday events and traditions, she highlighted that schools are collecting food, warm clothing and monetary donations to provide to those in needs, and commented that everyone is doing their best to create a welcoming and supportive community where we help each other.

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 Mrs. Sarah Cummings Truszkowski:

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. Sarah Cummings Truszkowski:

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 December 13, 2022 Board meeting be authorized to continue beyond the 8:30 p.m. presumptive adjournment time.

Motion by Mr. Adam Hicks:

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 *Strategic Plan 2023+ Development Process, Student Suspension Information, and Personal Matter*. 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. Tracey McMurchy:

That the meeting adjourn.

Motion Carried.

Time of meeting: 5:30 to 8:47 p.m.

Chairperson

Chief Financial Officer