

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	Mr. Adam Hicks Mr. Ted Jaleta Mrs. Tracey McMurchy Ms. Lacey Weekes
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Administration Present	Mr. Darren Boldt, Director of Education Ms. Naomi Mellor, Deputy Director, Division Services/CFO Mr. Rick Steciuk, Deputy Director, Student Achievement/School Services
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Tracey McMurchy 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 Cindy Anderson:</u> That the agenda be adopted as prepared.
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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 meetings held on June 13 and June 27, 2023.
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Motion by Lacey Weekes:

That the minutes of the Board meetings of June 13 and June 27, 2023, be approved as distributed.

Motion Carried.

Regina Food For Learning Presentation and Nutrition Programming and Partnerships	Information regarding Regina Public Schools' nutrition programming and partnerships had been distributed. Lin Gennutt, Executive Director of Regina Food For Learning (RFFL), provided information on the organization's mission, goals, programs, nutritional requirements, staff and volunteers, and funding. Mike Tomchuk, Superintendent, Student Achievement/School Services, provided information on nutrition programming in Regina Public Schools and its various partnerships. Mr. Tomchuk and Naomi Mellor, Deputy Director, Division Services/CFO, responded to a question relative to funding allocations. Ms. Gennett responded to questions relative to program demands, space availability, and determining school partners. Board members expressed appreciation for the presentation. On behalf of the School Division, Darren Boldt, Director of Education/CEO, thanked Ms. Gennett for the RFFL partnership.
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Chair	CFO

Director’s Report

Darren Boldt, Director of Education/CEO, provided his standing report, advising that staff returned to schools on August 29th and participated in in-school activities and Division-wide training on Neurodiversity and Cyber security. Students returned to school on September 5th. He noted that enrolment is being tracked daily, and that the Newcomer Welcome Centre has registered over 550 students since June. Due to enrolments fluctuations, some staffing components may need rearranging to manage pupil-teacher ratios. With budget development for 2023/24 posed many challenges, he was pleased to note that some key priorities were addressed such as targeted early years intensive supports and literacy initiatives that form key elements of the new strategic plan. He pointed to the new four-year strategic plan that will be introduced this year. In alignment with the Province’s Education Plan, he outlined that the Division will implement specific actions and operational plans with the imperative on student achievement and student experience. With September 30th falling on a Saturday this year, schools will be closed on October 2nd to allow for employees, students and families to recognize the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation. He noted that the Treaty 4 Flag will be raised at Argyle School later in the week, resulting in Treaty 4 Flags raised at every Regina Public school and Division Office. On September 7th, groups from both Regina Public and Catholic school divisions gathered to bless the new site where the North Regina joint-use school will be located. He also pointed to the grand opening of the new Argyle/St. Pius X joint-use School at the end of September. On September 26th, the Board and School Division will honour 11 Shared Values Recognition Program award recipients at a special event at the Conexus Arts Centre. He expressed appreciation to the Facilities staff for ensuring that schools were prepared for the return of staff and students. He also outlined the many facility projects completed during the Summer at Campbell, Thom, Martin and Sheldon-Williams Collegiates, and Dr. A.E. Perry and The Crescents Schools. He thanked the IT, Human Resources and Business Services departments for their continued work in deploying technology, filling vacancies with new hires, and completing year-end financials. He announced that, at the beginning of September, the Division launched nēwo, the new employee staff portal. Nēwo is Cree for the number four, which is meaningful as Regina Public is School Division No. 4, we have four shared values, we are on Treaty 4 territory, and this facility is located on 4th Avenue. He acknowledged all those who played a part in designing and creating the content for nēwo.

Strategic Engagement and Advocacy Committee

Ted Jaleta advised that the minutes of the September 5, 2023 Strategic Engagement and Advocacy Committee meeting are included in the Board agenda package. He outlined the agenda items discussed, including: a Committee Work Plan from the Board Work Plan, meetings with MLAs, an update on the Committee Newsletter, an update on the Volunteer Recognition Program, and a discussion regarding the SCC Forum.

2023/24 Budget Final Estimates

Information relative to approval by the Minister of Education of the Board’s 2023-2024 revenue and expenditure estimates submission, as detailed at the June 27, 2023 Board meeting, had been distributed. Naomi Mellor, Deputy Director, Division Services/CFO, noted that the Ministry approved the estimates with minor modifications and that final Board approval of the 2023-2024 estimates would be in order.

Motion by Adam Hicks:

That the 2023-2024 estimated revenues and expenditures, as submitted to and approved by the Ministry of Education, be adopted as the final budget for the 2023-2024 fiscal year.

Motion Carried.  
(Unanimously)

Chair	CFO

Quarterly Finance Accountability Report The Fourth Quarter Financial Report, for the 12-month period ended August 31, 2023, had been distributed. Ashley Kuntz, Superintendent, Business Services, advised that, Based on the fourth quarter forecast, the Statement of Operations shows an operating deficit on a cash basis of \$10M, approximately \$7.5M higher than the \$2.5M budgeted cash deficit, mainly due to: an increase in the operating grant for September 30, 2022 actual enrolments and other grants; an increase in estimated interest income; projected higher salary costs; projected higher costs for bus and light vehicle transportation due to enrolment growth; planned spending down of the Preventive Maintenance and Renewal reserve; projected higher costs for utilities; and higher Governance costs due to October 2022 by-election and school resource officer review. She further advised that tangible capital assets as at August 31, 2023 are forecast to be under budget due to continued delays in construction of the second Harbour Landing school. She noted that the Division will manage the expense increases incurred this year through the use of reserve funds.

Quarterly Transportation Accountability Report The Fourth Quarter Transportation Report for the 12-month period ended August 31, 2023, had been distributed. Ashley Kuntz, Superintendent, Business Services, advised that the report shows an increase in ridership by 1.5% since May 2023. She noted that the Division will continue to monitor performance indicators, and the Transportation Manager will review to determine if more routes are needed. She highlighted that the Division, along with Regina Catholic Schools, held a First Ride Program for new Kindergarten students on August 16th, which was well received. Ms. Kuntz responded to a question relative to ride time data.

2023 SSBA Annual General Meeting: Position Statements Tara Molson noted the Saskatchewan School Boards Association information on Position Statements that was circulated in August, which will be voted on at the Fall Assembly in November. She reminded Board members that they can submit comments regarding same.

2023 SSBA Annual General Meeting: Submission of Bylaw Amendments and Resolutions Tara Molson advised that the deadline for submission of resolutions to the Saskatchewan School Boards Association is October 12th and, to date, two potential resolutions have been presented for Board endorsement. Adam Hicks suggested that the cost associated with resolution relative to a universal cost-shared school food program be changed from low to high.

Motion by Cindy Anderson:

That the following resolutions and associated rationales be approved for submission to the Saskatchewan School Boards Association for presentation at the 2023 Annual Convention:

- 1) BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Saskatchewan School Boards Association advocate provincially and nationally with the Canadian School Boards Association for the development of a healthy, universal, cost-shared school food program funded by the federal and provincial governments in partnership with school boards.
- 2) BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Saskatchewan School Boards Association advocate to secure Ministry of Education commitment to additional/incremental funding for school divisions that experience increases in student enrolments between September 30 and January 30.

Motion Carried.  
(Unanimously)

Chair	CFO

**Planned Agenda Items** For Board member information, the Chairperson noted the planned agenda items currently set for the October 17, 2023 Board meeting, including First Ride Program, Regina Public Schools Energy Sustainability Report, Director's Report, Indigenous Education Advisory Council, Policy, Governance and Sustainability Planning Committee, Appointment of Standing Committee Members, Appointment of Board Representatives, 2023-2027 Strategic Plan, 2023 SSBA Annual General Meeting Appointment of Voting Delegates and Vote Distribution, North Regina Joint-Use School Presentation and School Name, Enrolment Report, and Biannual Administrative Procedures Update.

**Information – Subdivision Reports** Ted Jaleta advised that he attended the Jack MacKenzie SCC meeting on September 6th, noting that the school's enrolment is growing and currently sits at 481.

Sarah Cummings Truskowski advised that, during the last few weeks, she has helped at a Welcome Back barbecue at The Crescents School, and two Unpack Your Backpack Nights at Rosemont Community School and Walker School. She also attended a Walker SCC meeting on September 11th, and congratulated that SCC and its volunteers for securing \$18K in grants. She recognized the many orange shirts and orange pins being worn in honour of survivors of residential schools and to acknowledge that every child matters.

Cindy Anderson expressed appreciation to her fellow Board members for visiting schools in the Spring to discuss the budget shortfall with their SCCs. She thanked the SCCs for their work in advocating for education funding.

Adam Hicks advised that he attended a recent Sheldon-Williams SCC meeting and was excited to share that it was the largest turnout of parents in years, mainly parents of elementary students moving into high school.

On behalf of the Board of Education, Tracey McMurchy 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.

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

Motion by Tracey McMurchy:

That the meeting adjourn.

Motion Carried.

Time of meeting: 5:30 to 6:27 p.m.

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Chairperson

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Chief Financial Officer