

Regina, Saskatchewan
December 12, 2023

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

Members Present Mrs. Sarah Cummings Truskowski, Chair
Mr. Adam Hicks
Mr. Ted Jaleta
Ms. Lacey Weekes, Vice-Chair
Mrs. Tracey McMurchy
Mrs. Cindy Anderson
Ms. Tara Molson

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

Tara Molson 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 Cindy Anderson:
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 November 21, 2023.

Motion by Tara Molson:

That the minutes of the Board meeting of November 21, 2023, be approved as distributed.

Motion Carried.

Newcomer Welcome Centre Gisèle Carlson, Student Achievement Coordinator for English as an Additional Language (EAL) and International Students, provided a summary of the Newcomer Welcome Centre (NWC), a partnership between the three Regina school divisions and the Regina Open Door Society (RODS), to support newcomer families in settling into Regina, including school registration for school-aged children. She advised that the NWC has two full-time teachers who work with one family at a time. As the EAL Coordinator, she advised that she supports the teacher assessors and the administrative assistant and facilitate communication with Regina Open Door and the other Regina school divisions, as well as making alternate arrangements during the busiest times so that students start school in a timely manner. She noted that registrations at the NWC have steadily increased over the past 10 years, except for the two years

Chair	CFO

where immigration was affected by the pandemic. Based on registrations this school year, she commented that we are on track to continue the pattern by exceeding last year’s registrations by approximately 10%. She outlined the various countries from which the students are immigrating and their Canadian status. She also provided data on how many students require EAL support, noting that support is determined by each student’s level of English proficiency as determined by their Common Framework of Reference for Languages (CFR) level. She and Darren Boldt, Director of Education/CEO, responded to questions relative to accessing assistance through RODS, CFR levels, assessment delays, how the NWC deals with a sudden influx of registrations, International Student Program enrolment, and use of interpreters. Board members expressed appreciation for the presentation.

Director’s Report

Darren Boldt, Director of Education/CEO, provided his standing report, advising how many schools honoured Métis Week (November 12-18) and Louis Riel Day (November 16). He noted that many schools participated in Terry Fox fundraising activities and highlighted that MacNeill School raised \$7,000. On November 9th, F.W. Johnson Collegiate held a Post-Graduation Fair, with 60 in- and out-of-province community organizations and groups participating. The University of Regina and Regina Public Schools also donated bursaries that were used in a draw. He noted that, in November, the Government announced the 12 students who will serve on the 2023/24 Youth Council, and was pleased to advise that Sahaab Javaid, a Grade 12 student from Campbell Collegiate is one of the Youth Council members. In a continuing effort to attract excellent teaching staff to meet the needs of our diverse and evolving school communities, he spoke of five \$2,000 bursaries offered to Indigenous University of Regina education students and five \$2,000 bursaries offered to French speaking University of Regina education students, with the recipients expected to accept employment as teachers with Regina Public Schools. He did note that filling staff vacancies over the past month has become increasingly challenging with the increase of seasonal illnesses, resulting in staff shortages on some days in some schools, despite a robust substitute list. As a proactive measure, he advised of the cancellation of some professional development scheduled for December. In terms of enrolment, he commented that, although at a slower pace than this time last year, numbers continue to increase month over month, but our September 30th enrolments fell short of our projections. He advised that there are currently 100 students in Grades 9 and 10 who have chosen to attend the STEAM Academy at F.W. Johnson Collegiate and noted that registration for the 2024/25 school year will begin in January. With one of the Campaign for Grade-Level Reading strategies being to support attendance, he advised that Dilawri provided a vehicle last year for the Attendance Matters initiative and, although Dilawri was unable to continue in this partnership, thanks to the work of Charlen Miller, Manager of Transportation, we secured a new partnership with Warner Industries, and are excited to get this support rolling in January so we can help remove a transportation barrier for our students. To further support students, he commented on the partnership with Breakfast Clubs of Canada wherein approximately 7,000 yogurt cups are donated every month and will be shared among seven schools. Breakfast Clubs of Canada also purchased a commercial refrigerator to appropriately house the yogurt until schools are able to pick up their allotment. He expressed appreciation for the positive impact Breakfast Clubs of Canada is making on students with this substantial bi-weekly donation.

Organizational Culture and Diversity Committee

Cindy Anderson advised that the minutes of the December 5, 2023 Organizational Culture and Diversity Committee meeting are included in the Board agenda package. She outlined the agenda items discussed, including: French Immersion Teacher Recruitment, Human Resources Report, Diversity in Religions and Education, Mental Health Update, Diversity and Equity Office

Chair	CFO

Update. It had been requested that the Diversity, Equity and Inclusion messages shared with staff through the weekly information communications be posted on the Board of Education’s Portal. Sarah Cummings Truskowski requested that the Board’s belief statements be posted as soon as possible in the new year.

Appointment of Auditor Information regarding the appointment of auditors had been distributed. Naomi Mellor, Deputy Director of Division Services/CFO, advised that, with the conclusion of the audit for the 2022-23 fiscal year, the Board’s contract with MNP LLP is complete. She noted that the Board may decide either to reappoint MNP LLP for up to three years or to publicly tender for audit services. Adam Hicks commented that it is best practice to change auditors every 10 years but, with everything happening in the education sector and the work of the Administration, he suggested continuing with MNP LLP.

Motion by 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 for the 2023-24 fiscal year.

Motion Carried.
(Unanimously)

Board Committee on Associate Schools Review To facilitate efficient Board involvement in the Associate Schools Review process, Sarah Cummings Truskowski proposed establishing an ad hoc Board Committee on Associate Schools Agreements. Ted Jaleta requested clarification relative to all major decisions coming back to the Board for final approval.

Motion by Cindy Anderson:

That the Board establish an ad hoc Committee on Associate School Agreements to oversee discussions and development of updated agreements and appoint the following Trustees to the Committee: Lacey Weekes, Cindy Anderson, Tara Molson, and Sarah Cummings Truskowski.

Motion Carried.
(Unanimously)

Quarterly Finance Accountability Report The First Quarter Financial Report, for the 3-month period ended November 30, 2023, had been distributed. Ashley Kuntz, Superintendent of Business Services, advised that, based on quarter one forecasted results, the Statement of Operations shows an operating deficit on a cash basis of \$783K, approximately \$218K higher than the \$565K budgeted cash deficit. She noted that this is due to: planned spending down of the Preventive Maintenance and Renewal reserve; and lower tuition revenue for international students. She pointed out that the September 30 funding recalculation has not yet been received and, therefore, is not incorporated in this forecast. She advised that, as actual September 30 enrolments fell short of projections, a funding claw back is likely, further noting that enrolments at Associate Schools increased and they will receive additional funds. Ms. Kuntz and Naomi Mellor, Deputy Director of Division Services/CFO, responded to questions relative to international student tuition, and the new Harbour Landing School build.

Quarterly Transportation The First Quarter Transportation Report, for the 3-month period ended November 30, 2023, had been distributed. Ashley Kuntz, Superintendent of Business Services, advised that the number of students using transportation

Chair	CFO

Accountability Report services at the end of the first quarter has increased by 60 students from September 6, 2023. She noted that route capacities are being reviewed to determine if additional routes need to be added. She outlined current route lengths. She advised that the Division is in its final year of the 3-year light vehicle agreements and will be commencing the process for renewals and/or tendering. Ms. Kuntz responded to questions relative to route lengths and the Ride 360 app.

Planned Agenda Items For Board member information, the Chairperson noted the planned agenda items currently set for the January 16, 2024 Board meeting, including Celebration – Targeted Educational Assistants, Director’s Report, 2024/25 French Immersion Designations, Biannual Human Resources Accountability Report, and 2023/24 OurSCHOOL Student Survey Results (in closed).

Information – Subdivision Reports Tracey McMurchy advised that she had attended recent School Community Council (SCC) meetings at Marion McVeety School, Thomson School, Douglas Park School, Arcola School, Campbell Collegiate, Massey School, and Grant Road School, noting that schools are gearing up for winter carnivals, concerts, and holiday activities for the next couple of weeks. She further advised that Douglas Park School collected warm clothing for students and families of Albert School, and many schools are gathering donated items and preparing hampers to support families at other schools. She spoke of Thomson School receiving food boxes from 2nd Harvest Food Rescue that are donated to families weekly, and 120 brown bag lunches are provided to students every day from the Salvation Army. The Land-based Learning program at Thomson School learned to scrape moose hide and will next learn about tanning the hide. They recently held a school-wide jigging contest with 68 participants. They also had a Métis dance group perform at Agribition. She noted that Thomson School’s Indigenous Advocate is developing individualized attendance plans for students who attend between 60-70% of the time. Every Tuesday three community members come to read with the Grades 1 and 2 classes, and six more volunteers from Costco will be joining this reading program.

Adam Hicks advised that he attended Agribition and was pleased to see so many students in attendance learning about the farming industry.

Ted Jaleta advised that he had attended a recent SCC meeting at Jack MacKenzie School.

Sarah Cummings Truszkowski advised that she had attended a few mid-year musicals, and expressed appreciation to the staff, students, and parents.

On behalf of the Board of Education, Tara Molson 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 Tara Molson:

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

Motion Carried.

Chair	CFO

Motion by Tara Molson:

That we rise and report.

Motion Carried.

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

At the conclusion of closed session, the Committee of the Whole reported progress with respect to consideration of *Succession Planning*. The progress report was accepted.

Adjournment

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

Motion by Tara Molson:

That the meeting adjourn.

Motion Carried.

Time of meeting: 5:30 to 7:45 p.m.

Chairperson

Chief Financial Officer