

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. Ted Jaleta Mrs. Tracey McMurchy
	Ms. Lacey Weekes, Vice-Chair	Ms. Tara Molson
	Mr. Adam Hicks	

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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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	<u>Motion by Tracey McMurchy:</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 meeting held on December 12, 2023.
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Motion by Lacey Weekes:

That the minutes of the Board meeting of December 12, 2023, be approved as distributed.

Motion Carried.

Targeted Educational Assistants	Angie Balkwill, Supervisor of Intensive Supports, provided a summary of the conditional funding for targeted support, noting that the funding provided in the 2022-2023 school year was used to employ approximately 27 full-time equivalent (FTE) Educational Assistants (EAs). She advised that the current data highlighted four areas that could benefit from extra supports: self-regulation, transitions, communication, and language acquisition. She outlined that Speech-Language Pathologists and Occupational Therapists became the champions of this initiative and, together with the EAs, a plan was put in place with a minimum of one six-week intervention block for every elementary school, not including Associate Schools. She highlighted that over 1,000 students received access to that intervention and approximately 80% of those students had shown an increase in at least one area of achievement, and
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attendance had increased as well. She also commented that the funding supported the Division's sponsorship of the Regina Trades and Skills Centre's EA Course, exposing those enrolled to curriculum that is aligned with how the Division supports learners, who then go on to become part of the Division's casual EA pool, with the possibility of moving into temporary or continuing EA positions. For the 2023-2024 school year, Ms. Balkwill advised that, with ongoing feedback and a review of the 2022-2023 data, some adjustments were made, including school teams taking a more active role in determining the intervention strategy; EAs now either in one school for the full year or split between two schools for the year; and some schools may be allocated support for the year while other schools will receive one five-month consecutive block of support, resulting in fewer transitions for targeted EAs and providing enhanced relationships with students, school communities and staff. She responded to questions relative to the number of EAs hired in both years, the impact on Prekindergarten enrolments, and sharing the success of the program with the Ministry of Education in the hope that funding will continue.

Director's
Report

Darren Boldt, Director of Education/CEO, provided his standing report, advising that, in December, many schools participated in activities, volunteerism, charitable endeavors, and celebrations in anticipation of the holiday season. The spirit of giving, sharing, and belonging was very evident in December when he visited many of the schools. He noted that Winter carnivals are part of the Grade 5 French Immersion curriculum, and the Regina Exhibition Association (REAL) provided an immersive French experience for our students by giving all Grade 5s (including 4/5 and 5/6 split classes) free tickets and reimbursement for transportation to the Frost Festival. He acknowledged Erika Baldo, Languages Coordinator, who has been instrumental in incorporating French language into this experience. To date, there are 23 French Immersion classes attending the Frost Festival. He advised that, on January 8th, the Government of Saskatchewan announced a new Specialized Support Classroom pilot in eight school divisions, including Regina Public, with \$3.6M being allocated to fund the project that will begin in February and run until the end of the 2024-2025 school year. He further advised that, on January 10th, the Government announced a Teacher Innovation and Support Fund pilot to foster local, teacher-led solutions, while addressing classroom and student needs. Teachers are requested to submit applications, and teachers will work with their school divisions and school administrations on the project. The \$2.5M initiative will see individual teacher projects receive up to \$75,000 in funding, and the pilot will run until the end of the 2024-2025 school year. He also noted that, on January 11th, the Government announced the signing of a servicing agreement for the new Harbour Landing West joint-use school project, a crucial step in getting a new school built in the area. Regarding construction, he pointed to the work that has started on the new joint-use school behind the current Imperial School. Excavation and construction progress was helped by the warm November and December weather. He reminded Board members that the new joint-use school is scheduled to open in 2025. He advised that, on January 11th, the Saskatchewan Teachers' Federation (STF) announced a one-day strike to be held on January 16th. He noted that the Division informed families and staff several times and in a variety of ways between January 11th and today. He further advised that no issues were reported in the schools today and the day went smoothly for support staff who were in all the facilities. He confirmed that the Division will respond to any further job action in a similar fashion by enacting contingency plans to ensure all students can continue to learn and attend school safely even if it may look slightly different given the circumstance we are presented with at the time. He acknowledged that Administration understands any change to the operation of schools or learning programs is disruptive to families and hopes that, with open, regular communication, we can help families plan and make alternative arrangements for their children, as necessary. Turning to weather-related issues, he advised that, on January 12th, due to a windchill of -42C, for the first time this school year the Division

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cancelled transportation for students requiring specialized vehicles, such as those with wheelchair lifts. He reminded Board members of the Division’s cold weather procedure—cancelling some student transportation at -40C windchill and cancelling all student transportation at -45C windchill, as measured by Environment Canada at 6:00AM. He noted that, while cancelling transportation is disruptive to families, the Division focuses on the safety of students. Mr. Boldt concluded his report by officially announcing his retirement in July of this year, concluding a 34-year career with Regina Public Schools as a teacher, in-school Administrator and, for the last 17 years, a Division Office Administrator. He expressed honour in finishing his time as Director of Education/CEO and noted many amazing experiences in his 34 years as well as working with many incredible people who have dedicated themselves to making Regina Public Schools a great place to learn, work, and feel a sense of belonging.

Director of Education Succession Planning

Sarah Cummings Truszkowski expressed appreciation for Darren Boldt’s extensive experience and knowledge of Regina Public Schools and the communities we serve, his dedication to students, and his calm leadership approach during some challenging times. She congratulated him on his retirement and on 34 years of service to Regina Public Schools as a teacher, department head, Vice Principal, Principal, Superintendent, Deputy Director of Student Achievement and, most recently, Director of Education/CEO and, on behalf of the Board, wished him all the best for a healthy and happy retirement.

Mrs. Cummings Truszkowski advised that the Board has established a Succession Planning Committee consisting of herself, Lacey Weekes, Cindy Anderson, and Ted Jaleta, and the committee has met once to plan out an open, competitive process to hire the next Director of Education/CEO effective for the 2024-25 school year, with more information to follow in the coming months.

Motion by Tara Molson:

That the resignation of Darren Boldt, Director of Education/CEO, effective July 31, 2024, be accepted with regret.

Motion Carried.
(Unanimously)

2024/25 French Immersion Designations

Information regarding 2024-2025 French Immersion Designations had been distributed. Rick Steciuk, Deputy Director of Student Achievement/School Services, provided additional information, noting no changes from the previous year. Darren Boldt, Director of Education/CEO, responded to a question relative to determining which schools will be French Centres.

Motion by Ted Jaleta:

That the 2024-2025 French Immersion Program Designation be approved, as presented, for submission to the Ministry of Education.

Motion Carried.
(Unanimously)

2024 School Board Election Planning

Information regarding planning for the 2024 School Board Election had been distributed. Naomi Mellor, Deputy Director of Division Services/CFO, advised that the Elections Regina office is requested direction from the Board on two Public School Board candidate issues: requiring a criminal records check (CRC) with vulnerable sector query for candidates, and requiring the occupation of candidates to be included on nomination papers and ballots. She responded to

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questions relative to the Board’s practice for the 2020 School Board elections, and if current Board members who run again are required to produce a new CRC.

Motion by Adam Hicks:

That the Regina Public School Board require a criminal record check with vulnerable sector query to accompany all nomination papers for the 2024 school board election.

Motion Carried.
(Unanimously)

Biannual
Human
Resources
Accountability
Report

Information regarding the biannual Human Resources Accountability Report had been distributed. Reagan Lowe, Superintendent of Human Resources, provided highlights from August to December 2023, noting the continued focus on aligning work plan actions with the Division’s new Strategic Plan. She outlined the following outcomes achieved in the first part of the school year: Targeted Educational Assistant Strategy, grievance mitigation and resolution, collective bargaining (CUPE 650 negotiations), contingency planning, strengthening relationships and engagement with educational institutions, engagement at the Provincial level, and support for the Diversity Steering Committee and Mental Health Working Committee. She advised that the Human Resources Strategic Plan for the 2023-2024 school year is centered on three key areas: Equitable and Safe Environments, Healthy and Skilled Employees, and Sustainable and Accountable Operations. She provided a brief summary of the Division’s workforce demographics, as well as labour and employee relations, and safety management. She and Naomi Mellor, Deputy Director of Division Services/CFO, responded to questions relative to representative workforce thresholds and retention, and the Leadership Development Program. Adam Hicks requested more historical data be included in future reports. Board members expressed appreciation for the work of the Human Resources department.

Planned Agenda
Items

For Board member information, the Chairperson noted the planned agenda items currently set for the February 13, 2024 Board meeting, including Director’s Report, Indigenous Education Advisory Council, Major Capital Project Funding Application, Annual Information Technology Services Accountability Report, SRO Review Update, CUPE 650 Grievance 06-2023 (closed session), 2023/24 Board and Director Evaluation Process (closed session), and 2024/25 Budget Development (closed session).

Agenda
Requests

Adam Hicks requested information on the 2022 Programme for International Student Assessment (PISA) results.

Information –
Subdivision
Reports

Tracey McMurchy advised that, since the December Board meeting, she attended and participated in many holiday events at schools in her subdivision, including collection of food for hampers, Winter carnivals, holiday concerts, and choir and band concerts. She noted that she was even able to practice her French at a school Carnivale. She expressed appreciation to REAL for allowing 23 French Immersion classes to experience the Frost Festival, and thanked Erika Baldo, Languages Coordinator, for all her work. She attended a holiday lunch potluck with Grade 8 students and staff at École Massey School. She recognized the schools that collected warm clothing to donate to those in need. She advised that she attended some SCC meetings. She noted that the École Massey Leadership Council is collecting food for the community fridge drive

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and are also holding a Hot Chocolate, or Chocolat Chaud, fundraiser to support Teddy Bears Anonymous and Telemiracle. With Literacy Week and Education Staff Appreciation Week coming up, she commented that there are a lot of plans to celebrate reading and acknowledge the excellent staff in our Division. She noted that many SCCs have asked about another SCC Forum and advised that being a part of a School Community Council is not just about fundraising; it is about having meaningful conversations with the goal of enhancing school experiences for students. She advised that, to do this, we need engagement and participation of people in the community.

On behalf of the Board of Education, 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 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.

Motion by Lacey Weekes:

That we rise and report.

Motion Carried.

At the conclusion of closed session, the Committee of the Whole reported progress with respect to consideration of *Labour Relations Update*. 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 Adam Hicks:

That the meeting adjourn.

Motion Carried.

Time of meeting: 5:30 to 7:04 p.m.

Chairperson

Chief Financial Officer