

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
Ms. Lacey Weekes, Vice-Chair
Mrs. Cindy Anderson
Mr. Ted Jaleta
Mrs. Tracey McMurchy
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

Ted Jaleta 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 January 16, 2024.

Motion by Lacey Weekes:

That the minutes of the Board meeting of January 16, 2024, be approved as distributed.

Motion Carried.

Balfour Arts Collective Balfour Art Collective (BAC) staff members, Janeen Clark, Catrina Hunter, and Will Whitten provided a brief overview of the BAC program, highlighting that it's the first of its kind in Saskatchewan, with over 190 students enrolled from across the city. Ms. Hunter noted that the program fosters a sense of belonging, engagement, and success, and that no previous skills or training are required. Ms. Clark advised that students are given time, space, and resources to explore their creative and artistic skills, and that the diverse population of BAC students feel supported by the teachers and their fellow students. Mr. Whitten provided an overview of the program, noting that, in 2019, its first year, there were approximately 70 Grade 9 and Grade 10 students enrolled in the Collective, compared to almost 200 this year. He outlined the excellent credit attainment percentages in English, Health, Wellness and Physical Education, and Arts Education. Ms. Clark further noted that students are encouraged to take risks

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and gain confidence, and they actively see growth actualized in the personal and social lives and academic skills of these students. She advised that graduates of the program have embraced many creative opportunities while some have moved into post-secondary or have entered other employment fields. She highlighted partnerships with the Dunlop and McKenzie Art Galleries, the RCMP Heritage Centre, the Saskatchewan Arts Board, and SaskTel. BAC students, Eisha Thakurdeen and Kyrrah Hicks summarized their experiences in the program, noting a sense of belonging and of respect, both socially and academically. They said the program's safe and open-minded environment has taught them to be independent and responsible while also creating a bond among students and staff. The presenters responded to a question relative to how students are chosen for the program. Board members expressed appreciation for the presentation and for the program.

Director's Report

Darren Boldt, Director of Education/CEO, provided his standing report, advising that February is a busy month. February is African Canadian Black History Month, Indigenous Storytelling Month, and Inclusive Education Month, and the month began with French Second Language Education Week and Saskatchewan International Language Day. He advised that, on February 28th, schools will recognize Pink Shirt Day, a day to raise awareness, stand up to bullying, and foster healthy self-esteem for all students, and gives schools a chance to honour, celebrate and learn about the important and diverse cultures that make up our classrooms and communities. He advised that it is currently Staff Appreciation Week with the theme of "Shaping the Future Together." He thanked all the employees that work in our schools and all of our offices, including Division Office. He advised that Trustees, Division Management, and Elders were invited to a blanket exercise on March 5th to provide Trustees with this vital training simulation. He reported that the Division's Annual Feast and Round Dance is scheduled for March 7th at Campbell Collegiate, noting that Campbell and the feeder elementary schools are well underway in planning this exciting event. Looking back on January, he advised that the Division hosted a Diversity, Equity and Inclusion workshop at Division Office for settlement support workers in our schools and other Regina Open Door Society staff. He thanked Kyla Christiansen, Maxine McKenzie-Cox and Gisele Carlson for organizing this workshop. He extended special thanks and recognition to several Regina Public students who spoke at the two-day event about their individual experiences in our schools. He urged that, as with the other celebrations he noted, we take the time to reflect and honour our diversity and our collective histories every day. He reported that over 26,000 students have received their academic results for the first term, including elementary term one reports cards and high school final grades. He stated that this remarkable achievement reflects the hard work and dedication of our teachers and staff who have ensured that the assessments and reporting process are done efficiently and on time. Sharing these results with students and families is important to celebrate their learning progress, provide feedback, and identify areas for improvement, and he urged to continue to strive for excellence in the next term. As part of the Division's continued commitment to the mental health and well-being of our students and staff, Mr. Boldt advised that Mental Health First Aid continues to be offered for adults who interact with youth. He noted that the most recent session was held February 5th and 6th for a group of 19 participants from various roles in the Division. He outlined that mental health first aid is the help provided to a person developing a mental health problem or in a mental health crisis, and the first aid is given until appropriate professional treatment is received or until the crisis is resolved, and that mental health first aid teaches people to recognize the symptoms of mental health problems, provide initial help, and guide a person towards appropriate professional help.

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Indigenous Education Advisory Council Tara Molson advised that the minutes of the January 23, 2024 Indigenous Education Advisory Council meeting are included in the Board agenda package. She outlined the agenda items discussed, including: an Indigenous Data Presentation from Erik Van Dusen, Supervisor of Assessment; an update on the Land-Based Learning Program; an update on holding a Blanket Exercise, which has now been set for Tuesday, March 5th; an update on a physical audit of Division Office; an invitation to the Feast and Round Dance at Campbell Collegiate on March 7th; and information regarding five bursaries for third and fourth year university education students.

Major and Minor Capital Project Funding Submission 2025-2026 Information regarding the Ministry of Education’s Major and Minor Capital Projects Funding Programs had been distributed. Delaine Clyne, Supervisor of Strategic Supports, provided additional information, noting that the Ministry of Education allows the Division to annually submit five priority projects for Major Capital funding and two priority projects for Minor Capital funding, that the same capital project/school cannot be submitted through both funding programs, and that only one school (unless it involves a school amalgamation) may be submitted per application. It was further noted that projects eligible for Major Capital funding have costs estimated to be more than \$10M and include large renovations/re-life projects and new schools, while projects eligible for Minor Capital funding are those involving structural renovations, additions, and/or demolition ranging in cost from \$1-10M that are completed within a two-year timeframe. Using utilization, geographic balance of facilities, and facility condition as prioritization factors, they outlined the recommended 2025-26 Major Capital Projects: Priority #1 – New Southeast Joint-Use Elementary School; Priority #2 – New Southeast Joint-Use High School; Priority #3 – Lakeview School Re-Life; Priority #4 – Rebuild or Re-Life Balfour Collegiate; and Priority #5 – New School – Consolidation of Rosemont and Walker Schools. They further outlined the recommended 2025-26 Minor Capital Projects: Priority #1 – Coronation Park School Basement Project; and Priority #2 – Marion McVeety School Basement Project. Ms. Clyne, Scott Saxby, Superintendent of Facilities, Dan Van Buekenhout, Supervisor of Capital Planning, and Naomi Mellor, Deputy Director of Division Services/CFO, responded to questions relative to increased capacity at the new Harbour Landing West school, the City’s population projections, potential future grouping requests, mobility issues in a 3-story school, regular monitoring of Balfour Collegiate, and the potential impacts a Southeast joint-use high school might have on existing high schools.

Motion by Cindy Anderson:

That the following priority projects to be submitted to the Ministry of Education for the 2025/26 Major Capital Submission:

- Priority #1 – New Southeast Joint-Use Elementary School
- Priority #2 – New Southeast Joint-Use High School
- Priority #3 – Lakeview School Re-Life
- Priority #4 – Rebuild or Re-Life Balfour Collegiate
- Priority #5 – New School – Consolidation of Rosemont and Walker Schools

and that the following priority projects to be submitted to the Ministry of Education for the 2025/26 Minor Capital Submission:

- Priority #1 – Coronation Park School Basement Project
- Priority #2 – Marion McVeety School Basement Project.

Motion Carried.
(Unanimously)

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Annual Information Technology Services Accountability Report	<p>Information regarding the annual Information Technology (IT) Services Accountability Report had been distributed. Aaron Baumgartner, Superintendent of Information Technology, provided highlights for the year. He noted that Service Desk ticket volumes are showing a steady increase over the last 10 years as the amount of technology increases. He noted a significant spike during the pandemic when staff were working remotely. He advised that with the new FreshService Helpdesk tool, reporting enhancements will continue to be made, including resolution times by level of urgency. He outlined that the Mean Time to Repair (MTTR) is a key performance metric and the current MTTR is approximately 3.5 days to resolve a ticket. He advised that the IT department is focused on getting tickets resolved in a timely manner. He reported that a new Service Desk phone system was launched in November 2023, allowing for improved reporting, monitoring and customer experience. Since its launch, he noted an average of 116 calls per week with an average call wait time of less than one minute. He advised that abandoned calls and average talk times are also being tracked. He commented on the IT Strategic Plan for 2023/24, including service delivery/accountability, hardware/application standards, IT security standards, and improved client service. He highlighted some projects since the last accountability report, including a refresh of high school student technology, a refresh of the copier/printer fleet at all locations, a major upgrade of the Oracle financial application platform, a refresh of Voice over Internet Protocol (VoIP) phones, and eligible upgrades of staff-issued mobile phones. Relative to security, he outlined the implementation of multifactor authentication, the deployment of a vulnerability scanning tool, the deployment of a cybersecurity training platform, discussions with professionals regarding penetration testing to identify potential threats, developing strong and secure configuration standards, the retiring or upgrading of unsupported systems, focusing on account management best practices, moving backup and recovery to new infrastructure, and work on a centralized log collections system. Mr. Baumgartner responded to questions relative to selection of new software and what happens with old/retired technology.</p>
SRO Program Review Update	<p>Information regarding an update on the SRO Program Review had been distributed. Darren Boldt, Director of Education/CEO, outlined follow-up work that is underway in the following specific areas: designing a robust governance model, including a student advisory body; refining the role of SROs, with priority on student relationship building; reviewing and recommending enhancements to SRO recruitment, hiring and training practices; implementing a systematic approach to regularly monitor (at least annually) and evaluating the impacts of the program; and collaborating among DEI leaders in Regina Public Schools, Regina Catholic Schools, and the Regina Police Service, as well as noting that a schedule for full reviews will be determined. Mr. Boldt responded to questions relative to shared mission goals, involvement of community leaders, student advisory committee, recruitment, hiring and training.</p>
Planned Agenda Items	<p>For Board member information, the Chairperson noted the planned agenda items currently set for the March 19, 2024 Board meeting, including Director's Report, Policy, Governance and Sustainability Planning Committee, Strategic Engagement and Advocacy Committee, 2024/25 School Year Calendars, Biannual Administrative Procedures Update, Student Suspension Report (closed session), and Succession Planning Committee Update (closed session).</p>

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Information –
Subdivision
Reports

Lacey Weekes advised that she and Trustees Cummings Truszkowski and Molson attended the West Zone Board annual general meeting on January 29, 2024 and gave an update on Diversity, Equity and Inclusion, Indigenous education, SROs, sustainability, funding, and teacher collective bargaining. She noted that many community associations expressed gratitude for the relationships they have with Regina Public Schools, particularly their use of our facilities for their many activities.

Tracey McMurchy encouraged parents, caregivers and families of students, and school community members to attend School Community Council meetings and become involved in our schools. She advised that a great example of work of the SCCs is happening this week for Staff Appreciation Week, with baked goods and coffee distributed to staff, balloons, treat trollies, cards, catered lunches, and gifts of all kinds. Family Literacy Week was the week of January 22 and there were many activities to encourage the love of reading, and she noted that she and Trustee Jaleta had the honour of reading to students at École Wilfrid Walker School. She further noted that all schools are participating in “One Book—One School” which promotes engagement and excitement for reading. She advised that graduation plans are well underway for Grade 8 and Grade 12 students, and that high school open houses and registration information nights are scheduled, starting tonight for the Balfour Arts Collective, and going to March 21st. She concluded her report by reporting that she was a guest judge at École Massey School for the Grade 8 Grilled Cheese Challenge and congratulated the students for their creativity.

On behalf of the Board of Education, Ted Jaleta 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 Tracey McMurchy:

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 Tara Molson:

That we rise and report.

Motion Carried.

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

CUPE 650
Grievance 06-
2023

1) That, upon consideration of all relevant detail, Grievance #06-2023, submitted by CUPE Local 650, be denied.

Meeting
Adjournment
Time

2) That the February 13, 2024 Board meeting be authorized to continue beyond the 8:30 p.m. presumptive adjournment time.

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Motion by Cindy Anderson:

That recommendation No. 1 (above) from the Committee of the Whole be approved.

Motion Carried.
(Unanimously)

Motion by Lacey Weekes:

That recommendation No. 2 (above) from the Committee of the Whole be approved.

Motion Carried.

At the end of closed session, the Committee of the Whole reported progress regarding consideration of *2023/24 Board and Director Evaluation Process*, *2024/25 Budget Development Process*, and *Succession Planning Committee Update*. The progress reports were accepted.

[Darren Boldt and Rick Steciuk left the meeting prior to the discussion regarding *Succession Planning Committee Update*.]

Adjournment

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

Motion by Ted Jaleta:

That the meeting adjourn.

Motion Carried.

Time of meeting: 5:30 to 8:54 p.m.

Chairperson

Chief Financial Officer