

Regina, Saskatchewan  
March 19, 2024

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. Adam Hicks Mr. Ted Jaleta Mrs. Tracey McMurchy Ms. Tara Molson
Administration Present	Mr. Darren Boldt, Director of Education Mr. Rick Steciuk, Deputy Director, Student Achievement/School Services	

Tracey McMurchy acknowledged the location of every Regina Public School and the School Division Office on Treaty 4 land.

Prior to calling the meeting to order, Sarah Cummings Truskowski made the following comments:

Before we get into this meeting, I wanted to take a minute to speak to the outpouring of emails from hundreds of concerned people in Saskatchewan regarding publicly funded education in this province. This past month, I received 1,769 emails through the STF Tell Them Tuesday campaign. I want you to know that I have heard your voices and I know the frustration you are experiencing. To be honest, I am experiencing great frustration too. I know there are critical issues in our schools that need to be addressed that affect students, teachers, and staff every day. Our Board of Education has long advocated for unconditional, sustainable, adequate, increased, and predictable operating funding and timely capital approvals, and we will not stop this important work.

On a personal note, to clarify who I am, I am a parent with three children in Regina Public Schools. My kids and I know, first-hand, how overcrowded the classes are and how there are real and present challenges that happen in schools. It is also true that this Board doesn't always have the supports we need. We also know how incredible teachers are. We all have many friends who are teachers. My mother was a teacher her whole life, I am a certified teacher, and my daughter, who is in grade 12, wants to become a teacher one day too. The teaching profession and the state of education, not only in our Division but in the province as well, is something that is very near to my – and our – hearts. This Board cares about you, our staff and our teachers, and we care about public education. Please know that we hear you, and we are doing everything we can to support, to build, and to lift up public education.

The Chairperson then called the meeting to order and asked for a motion to adopt the agenda.

Adoption of Agenda      Motion by Lacey Weekes:  
That the agenda be adopted as prepared.

Motion Carried.

Chair	CEO

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 February 13, 2024.

Motion by Cindy Anderson:

That the minutes of the Board meeting of February 13, 2024, be approved as distributed.

Motion Carried.

Director’s Report      Darren Boldt, Director of Education/CEO, provided his standing report, advising that several notable milestones and activities occurred in February that deserve mention, including the 100th birthday of Elsie Mironuck, celebrated with family, friends and former colleagues and students on February 4th. Miss Mironuck worked for Regina Public Schools for 39 years, including more than a decade at Sherwood School which was renamed in her honour at her retirement in 1987. He thanked Pam Korczak, Kyla Christiansen and the Mental Health and Wellness Committee for holding a two-day mental health first aid training session in February for 19 employees. Starting in February and continuing into March, he advised that all high schools are hosting open houses for potential students and their families to visit and explore the campuses. He also noted that pre-registration for the new Martin Collegiate Youth Academy began in early March, explaining that this elementary-focused version of the very successful Martin Academy is for Grades 6 to 8 and may include hockey, ringette, baseball, and softball. He is hopeful that pre-registration will support this program going forward. On March 7th, he advised that the Regina Public Schools held its annual Feast and Round Dance at Campbell Collegiate, hosted by Campbell and its feeder elementary schools. He thanked the staff and students for making it another memorable event. He reminded Board members about the First Nations University Pow Wow on April 20th and 21st and Regina Public Schools will once again sponsor the Tiny Tot Dancers. He encouraged Board members and senior management to dance in the grand entry at noon and 7:00 PM on the Saturday and Sunday. He announced that Arcola Community School was chosen as one of eight Saskatchewan schools to pilot specialized support programs made possible by a Government investment of \$3.6M. he advised that Arcola’s program will focus on teaching students self-regulation strategies, stress management, and how to de-escalate when facing triggering situations, and will be led by the current Grades 1/2 and Grades 5/6 teachers with two new-to-Arcola teachers to take over their classrooms. The pilot began on March 18th and will continue until the end of the 2024/25 school year. He further reported that the School Division recently launched its 16th Shared Values Recognition Program, with nominations due by April 19th. Looking ahead, he advised that the School Division will again be hosting a GSA Summit on May 4th for interested students and staff and noted that Board members are welcome to attend. He outlined that the budget process for the 2024/25 school year is underway, and he is hopeful to see a provincial budget on March 20th that not only recognizes the Division’s growth but also helps with budget challenges faced over the last few years. As we continue to see disruptions to school and school activities due to job action, he recognized the supportive and respectful teamwork that all employees have demonstrated, including STF staff, to minimize the disruption to student learning. He expressed hope that a resolution to the collective bargaining can be found for the benefit of all students, school families and teachers. He advised that Spring break is the first week of April and wished all employees and school families a restful break. Lastly, he noted that, from March 11th to April 10th, many Regina Public students, employees

Chair	CEO

and their families may be fasting for Ramadan and, for those who observe and celebrate it, Ramadan Kareem!

Policy,  
Governance and  
Sustainability  
Planning  
Committee

Lacey Weekes advised that the minutes of the February 27, 2024 Policy, Governance and Sustainability Planning Committee meeting are included in the Board agenda package. She outlined the agenda items discussed, including: proposed revisions to Policy 1 *Divisional Foundational Statements*, Policy 4 *Trustee Code of Conduct*, Policy 19 *Board Elections, Contributions and Expenses*, Policy 3 *Role of the Trustee*, Policy 13 *Appeals and Hearing Regarding Student Matters*, and Policy 14 *Sustainability*; a preliminary draft of a new Equity Diversity and Inclusion Policy; proposed deletions of Policy 15 *Facility Program Review* and Policy 16 *Recruitment and Selection of Administrative Personnel*; and an update on the Energy Sustainability Plan. Ms. Weekes and Sarah Cummings Truskowski confirmed which policy revisions were coming forward for approval at the current meeting. Adam Hicks requested that marked up versions of the policies be included in the Board agenda package going forward.

Motion by Tara Molson:

That the proposed revisions to Policy 1 *Division Foundational Statements* be approved as presented.

Motion Carried.  
(Unanimously)

Motion by Cindy Anderson:

That the proposed revisions to Policy 3 *Role of the Trustee* be approved as presented.

Motion Carried.

[Cindy Anderson, Tara Molson, Tracey McMurchy, Lacey Weekes, Sarah Cummings Truskowski, and Adam Hicks supported the motion; Ted Jaleta opposed the motion.]

Motion by Tara Molson:

That the proposed revisions to Policy 13 *Appeals and Hearings Regarding Student Matters* be approved as presented.

Motion Carried.  
(Unanimously)

Motion by Cindy Anderson:

That the proposed revisions to Policy 14 *Sustainability* be approved as presented.

Motion Carried.  
(Unanimously)

Motion by Cindy Anderson:

That the proposed revisions to Policy 19, *Board Elections, Contributions and Expenses*, be approved as presented.

Motion Carried.  
(Unanimously)

Chair	CEO

Motion by Tara Molson:

That deletion of Policy 15 *Facility Program Review*, after adding the current process of completing boundary changes and school consolidations to Administrative Procedure 310 *School Attendance Areas*, be approved.

Motion Carried.  
(Unanimously)

Motion by Cindy Anderson:

That deletion of Policy 16 *Recruitment and Selection of Administrative Personnel*, after moving a reference from section 4 where a trustee is appointed to a selection committee to recruit and select new Deputy Directors to section 5 of Policy 2, *Role of the Board*, be approved.

Motion Carried.  
(Unanimously)

Strategic  
Engagement  
and Advocacy  
Committee

Tracey McMurchy advised that the minutes of the March 12, 2024 Strategic Engagement and Advocacy Committee meeting are included in the Board agenda package. She outlined the agenda items discussed, including: School Community Council Forum proposal; Student Forum proposal; a debrief of advocacy work to date; upcoming advocacy planning; a Federal advocacy opportunity relative to support of Bill C 322, National School Food Policy and Program; a School Community Council Summit; Trustee Highlights and Volunteer Spotlights; and Trustee/Senior Administration/Union Executive get-togethers. Cindy Anderson suggested the proposed date of May 21st for the SCC Forum is right after the long weekend, so the May 28th date might be a better choice.

Public Section  
Update

Ted Jaleta provided an update of the February 15, 2024 Public Section meeting that he attended virtually with Darren Boldt, Director of Education/CEO, and Sarah Cummings Truszkowski. He advised that an agreement with the SSBA was reached for funding to be restored retroactively. He further advised of a discussion to advocate for a Public Section representative on the SSBA Board. As this would require changes to the current by-law, a discussion about introducing a motion relative to same was held, including determining the best time to introduce said motion. It was agreed to wait until the Fall of 2025. He advised that the winners of the Student’s Citizenship Awards will be announced at the June 6-7, 2024 general meeting in Saskatoon. He also noted that an invitation to join the Public Section is being sent to the Ile-a-la-Crosse School Division and a future face-to-face meeting is being scheduled.

2024-2025  
School Year  
Calendars

Proposed elementary and high school calendars for the 2024/2025 school year had been distributed. Mr. Mike Tomchuk, Superintendent of Student Achievement/School Services, advised that the calendars were developed in collaboration with the Regina Public School Teachers’ Association, CUPE 3766 and other stakeholders, and that all legislative requirements have been met, with 180 instructional days for elementary students and 179 instructional days for high school students to accommodate for semester turn-around. Ted Jaleta and Adam Hicks recalled a parent presentation from a few years ago and questioned if the school hours truly calculate to what is presented based on contact time during three-way conference days. Darren Boldt, Director of Education/CEO, advised that, following the said parent presentation, the question of contact time was presented to the Ministry of Education and the Ministry assured the Division that the guidelines are being followed and that we are 10 hours over the

Chair	CEO

950-hour minimum of contact time. Questions were raised about going beyond contractual instructional and workdays for staff, as well as the implications of adding minutes to days or additional days within the school year. It was suggested that Trustees evaluate potential advocacy relative to this matter.

Motion by Cindy Anderson:

That the 2024/2025 school year calendars be approved as presented, subject to review by the Ministry of Education.

Motion Carried.  
(Unanimously)

Planned Agenda Items For Board member information, the Chairperson noted the planned agenda items currently set for the April 16, 2024 Board meeting, including Director’s Report, Policy, Governance and Sustainability Planning Committee Board Policy on Diversity, Quarterly Finance Accountability Report, Quarterly Transportation Accountability Report, Long Service Reception Duties, SSBA Spring General Assembly Summary, 2024/25 Budget Development Update (closed session), and Succession Planning Committee Update (closed session).

Agenda Requests Cindy Anderson requested that Student Celebration in the Event of a Teachers’ Strike be included in closed session for the April meeting.

Information The Chairperson advised that the Biannual Administrative Procedures (APs) Update was included in the Board agenda package for information. Darren Boldt, Director of Education/CEO, and Rick Steciuk, Deputy Director of Student Achievement/School Services, provided clarification relative to AP 264 *Volunteerism Credit*. Board members also expressed appreciation for AP 332 *Accessible Menstrual Products in Schools*, and for the wording in AP 206 *Parent-Requested Exemptions from Instruction* that discriminatory views towards others based on prohibited grounds in human rights legislation will not be tolerated. Board members requested an update at the next meeting relative to the timeline for gender-neutral washrooms to be in all schools.

Information – Subdivision Reports Tracey McMurchy noted that, at the SCC meetings she has attended, there is disbelief that we are already into March and looking ahead with not many months left in the school year. With High School open houses being a success so far, she advised that schools are now busy planning graduations for Grades 8 and 12 students. Relative to school visits, she commented on how students are so respectful, polite, chatty, and remember her when they see her. They have thanked her for coming to their classes, recommended movies and books to her, and have even taught her some words in French. She explained that these examples show engagement; students are engaged and love school. She expressed appreciation for and the great energy that was at the Feast and Round Dance at Campbell Collegiate, noting how the students all worked so hard to put it together with the staff. She concluded by noting upcoming 3-way conferences, school dances, sports activities, band concerts, and more. She also complimented Balfour’s Bear Den and Campbell’s McTavish’s for their great food.

Adam Hicks advised that he had attended a few open houses and was impressed by the teachers’ devotion to education.

Sarah Cummings Truskowski advised that she attended the February 6th SCC meeting at École Connaught Community School where, this Spring, they will be

Chair	CEO

hosting their first community barbecue in several years, which she’s really looking forward to. On February 7th, she attended The Crescents SCC meeting, and the biggest concerns there are around the recess schedule, as students have not had regular recesses breaking up the day for the past few years. Darren Boldt, Director of Education/CEO, confirmed that they are now having regular recess breaks again. At the Walker SCC meeting on February 26th, she advised that they organized a Free Chili Night for 500 people. At the Seven Stones SCC meeting on February 29th, she noted their concerns with all the changes and challenges due to job action. She noted that communicating with parents can sometimes be difficult for the Seven Stones team. She also expressed appreciation for the Feast and Round Dance at Campbell Collegiate.

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.

Closed Session Motion by Tara Molson:

That we go into closed session to consider 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 recommended to the Board:

Meeting  
Adjournment  
Time

- 1) That the March 19, 2024 Board meeting be authorized to continue beyond the 8:30 p.m. presumptive adjournment time.

Motion by Lacey Weekes:

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

Motion Carried.

At the conclusion of closed session, the Committee of the Whole reported progress with respect to consideration of *2024/25 Budget Development, Student Suspension Report, SSBA Membership, 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*.]

Chair	CEO

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 9:19 p.m.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Chairperson

\_\_\_\_\_  
Chief Executive Officer