

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. Lacey Weekes, Vice-Chair Mrs. Cindy Anderson (virtually) Mrs. Tracey McMurchy	Mr. Brandon-Shea Mutala Mrs. Sarah Cummings Truszkowski
Administration Present	Mr. Mark Haarmann, Director of Education/CEO Mr. Barry Lacey, Deputy Director of Division Services/CFO Mr. Rick Steciuk, Deputy Director of Student Achievement/School Services	

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

In the absence of Chairperson Adam Hicks, Vice-Chairperson Lacey Weekes chaired the meeting. She called the meeting to order and asked for a motion to adopt the agenda.

Adoption of Agenda	<u>Motion by Brandon-Shea Mutala:</u> That the agenda be adopted as prepared.	Motion Carried.
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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 March 18, 2025. <u>Motion by Sarah Cummings Truszkowski:</u> That the minutes of the Board meeting of March 18, 2025, be approved as distributed. Motion Carried.
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Bisons for Change	Lori Daelick, Superintendent of Student Achievement/School Services, introduced students from École Wascana Plains School who are part of a group called Bisons for Change. Two students, along with specialist teacher, Daya Madhur, presented to the Board, noting that Bisons for Change is about spreading kindness, celebrating cultural diversity, and speaking on social issues around the community. As one student noted, “we cannot combat hate, but we can educate ignorance.” They presented a video showcasing more of what Bisons for Change is about and what they do in the community and city-wide. The students responded to questions relative to their favourite projects, and feedback they receive from students and community members. Board members thanked the students for being leaders in their school and in their community.
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Chair	CFO

Transportation Safety Ashley Kuntz, Superintendent of Business Services, introduced members of the Regina Schools Pedestrian Traffic Safety Committee, Hillary Ibbott Neiszner, Principal of Ethel Milliken School, Angel Blair, Manager of Communications, Public Affairs and Safety Patrol Coordinator with CAA, and Charlen Miller, Manager of Transportation, as well as Harry, a safety patrol captain and grade 7 student at Ethel Milliken School. The group presented a slideshow outlining the work of the committee. They advised that the committee is made up of a variety of agencies directly involved with ensuring safety in our school zones and promoting pedestrian and traffic safety, including the City of Regina, CAA, Regina Public Schools, Regina Catholic Schools, Regina Police Service, SGI, and the Saskatchewan Safety Council. The committee meets monthly to engage in planning and discuss initiatives. They outlined a few of the initiatives, including: traffic cones that are used to clearly mark no stopping and no parking zones and improve sight lines for enhanced student safety in school zones; school zone safety/traffic audits to investigate and respond to requests for assessments to examine traffic related concerns like pedestrian crosswalks, signage, speeding, and parking violations; First Ride, a collaboration to provide school bus experience to incoming kindergarten students in August; and the Speed Backpack campaign to encourage drivers to pay better attention to their speeds in school zones. They outlined SGI's support of traffic safety with activity books on pedestrian and bike safety, providing community grants to support traffic safety related activities, and supporting SADD chapters in Regina high schools. Harry shared information about a grant received at Ethel Milliken School and how the funds were used. They also spoke of the CAA Safety Patrol Program. The group responded to questions relative to encouraging safety patrol programs in schools, current patrollers mentoring other students to get involved in safety patrol, and statistics on slower speeds in school zones. Board members expressed appreciation for the presentation and the program.

Director's Report Mark Haarmann, Director of Education/CEO, presented his monthly standing report, first by mentioning some important holidays and Holy days being celebrated by our stakeholders, wishing Ramadam Mubarak to those who celebrated Eid Ul Fitr at the end of March, Chag Pesach Sameach to those who celebrate Passover from April 12 to 20, Happy Baisakhi to those who celebrate Vaisakhi on April 14, Happy Easter to those who celebrate Easter and Orthodox Easter on April 20. Regina Public Schools is honoured to work with students, families and staff who have roots all around the globe. He noted that the diversity inside our classrooms reflects the diversity seen in our communities and, although we cannot mention all the many holidays and days of worship and devotion each month, we can honour our students, their families and our employees in all their wonderful diversity. On behalf of his colleagues at Division Office, he wished students, staff and families a restful and safe spring break starting next week. He outlined a few notable events in March and April, including the Youth for Change Conference held on March 6, that saw grades 7-12 students and staff facilitators from five schools, and Equity and Anti-Racism Coordinator Maxine McKenzie Cox, gather to learn and engage in conversations about identity and anti-racism. He noted that Regina Public Schools has renewed and will continue to develop its focus on the basics of reading, writing and numeracy, but impressed upon the Board the importance of educating the whole student, meeting their creative, expressive and recreational needs in addition to the basics, which is why the Division supports co-curricular and extracurricular activities when they coincide with our shared values. He commented on the band program as an example and advised that the Optimist Club of Regina sponsored a full-day professional learning opportunity for band teachers during the last Teachers' Convention. He also noted that students from 31 Regina Public school bands, along with other area bands, participated in the Optimist Band Festival at the Conexus Arts Centre. Similarly, he advised that physical fitness and sports activities help build student memories, provide positive experiences and help students learn when they return to the classroom. He spoke of the indoor soccer league that includes players from 19 Regina

Chair	CFO

Public elementary schools. He gave a shoutout to Dr. A.E. Perry School staff and students who held their annual Willow Awards, with books selected and read by mystery readers and students choosing their favourite – a fun way to build literacy and a love of reading. Following a presentation by Campbell’s Robotics team at the last Board meeting, he advised that 40 Regina Public high school students traveled to Saskatoon for a competition, showcasing their skills in a variety of event categories, and 17 students earned bronze, silver and gold medals. The gold medalists will move on to compete in the Skills Canada National Competition held in Regina on May 29 and 30. He noted that the Tim Horton’s Foundation Camps held their classroom program at McDermid and Imperial schools during the last week of March, a perfect way to bring together grades 6-7 students from the two schools to create the new tawâw school community. He concluded by commenting on the many good things he hears about student participation and achievements every day and that a daily director’s report would be needed to document it all. He thanked Regina Public Schools’ staff who make it all possible. He also highlighted the Division’s prime focus on teaching reading, writing and numeracy skills and graduating students on time and ready for the next phase of their lives. He advised that this part of our work, led by staff in schools and supported by staff at Division Office, is going exceptionally well and a variety of data, which will, in time, be shared with Board, confirms our success in the areas of teaching and learning. He stated that those who argue for a back-to-basics approach need to realize Regina Public Schools is very good and continuously getting better at delivering the basics, and that we will continue to move forward with a ‘basics plus more’ approach.

Priorities,
Planning and
Policy
Committee

Sarah Cummings Truszkowski advised that the minutes of the March 25, 2025 Priorities, Planning and Policy Committee meeting are included in the Board agenda package. She outlined the agenda items, including an excellent presentation from Student Achievement Coordinator Gisele Carlson and EAL teachers Sarah Baumgartner and Heather Hedin on English as an Additional Language in our schools, and discussions regarding future committees and advisory committees, Indigenous education planning, Principal data relative to SCCs, boundary changes, and the posting of a draft Administrative Procedure for feedback.

Agreement with
Cowessess First
Nation

Information regarding a Treaty Land Entitlement (TLE) Agreement Cowessess First Nation had been distributed. Barry Lacey, Deputy Director of Division Services/CFO, provided additional information, noting that the proposed tax loss compensation agreement will provide a lump sum compensation payment of five years’ worth of property taxes in exchange for discharging the First Nation from the requirement to pay any additional or future amounts of education property tax on the land in question. Mr. Lacey and Mark Haarmann, Director of Education/CEO, responded to questions relative to the process and the approximate amount of yearly taxes for that property.

Motion by Sarah Cummings Truszkowski:

That the tax loss compensation agreement between Cowessess First Nation, the Board of Education of the Regina School Division No. 4 and the Board of Education of the Regina Roman Catholic Separate School Division No. 81 be approved, and that the appropriate officers and the Board Chair be authorized to execute the final agreement on behalf of the Board upon approval by the Lieutenant Governor.

Motion Carried.
(Unanimously)

Chair	CFO

Quarterly Finance Accountability Report	<p>The Second Quarter Financial Report, for the 6-month period ended February 28, 2025, had been distributed. Ashley Kuntz, Superintendent of Business Services, advised that, based on Quarter two forecasted results, the Statement of Operations shows an operating deficit on a cash basis of \$4.1M, approximately \$3.4M higher than the \$709K budgeted cash deficit, mainly due to: planned spending down of reserves for the French Language grant, the Arcola Specialized Classroom Pilot Project grant, Preventive Maintenance Renewal, and Division Office renovations; projected higher salary costs due to additional FTEs for enrolment growth and continued higher than budgeted salaries and benefits, substitute, casual and supervision costs; 2024-25 opening costs for tawâw school not included in the budget; higher projected costs for Sask Distance Learning courses than budgeted; additional operating grant funding for the December 2024 recalculation; lower than budgeted tuition revenue for international students; lower than budgeted revenue for noon supervision fees; and higher projected interest income. She outlined identified risk areas, including capital grants, supervision costs, substitute staff costs, Sask Distance Learning costs, utilities, insurance and other premiums, and inflation. She further pointed out that successive deficits mean that reserves are being depleted, leaving the Division with less room to absorb the financial impacts of higher than budgeted spending or lower than budgeted revenues. Without sufficient reserves to act as a shock absorber and, if faced with higher costs or lower funding, the Division will need to adjust operations and spending in-year. She responded to a question relative to savings with the elimination of the carbon tax.</p>
Quarterly Transportation Accountability Report	<p>The Second Quarter Transportation Report for the 6-month period ended February 28, 2025, had been distributed. Ashley Kuntz, Superintendent of Business Services, advised that the report shows an increase of 54 students being transported, a 4.9% increase from May 2024. She further advised that the number of bus routes has increased by one due to a double run becoming two single runs, and light vehicle transportation has increased by two vehicles. She advised that the Division continues to monitor compliance with agreements for both the school bus contractor and light vehicle transportation contractors, and all are complying. She responded to a question relative to bus accidents.</p>
Long Service Reception Duties	<p>Board members discussed which presentation roles they would assume at the Long Service Reception to be held June 12, 2025. Adam Hicks had previously commented that he would be fine with another Trustee being Master of Ceremonies. Cindy Anderson offered to take on that role. It was agreed that any remaining duties would be discussed privately, and Lacey Weekes would email the names to Executive Assistant Suzanne Shuba.</p>
SSBA Spring General Assembly Summary	<p>Brandon-Shea Mutala provided a summary of the SSBA Spring General Assembly attended by him, and Trustees Adam Hicks, Tracey McMurchy, Cindy Anderson, Sarah Cummings Truszkowski, and Director of Education/CEO Mark Haarmann, on April 3-4, 2025 in Saskatoon. He reported that, at the Public Section meeting, there was discussion on the failed resolution for a public representative on the SSBA Board. He noted an interesting presentation on the pros and cons of AI.</p>
Planned Agenda Items	<p>For Board member information, the Chairperson noted the planned agenda items currently set for the May 13, 2025 Board meeting, including Mental Health Capacity Building at Balfour Collegiate Celebration, Director’s Report, Audit and Risk Management Committee, Indigenous Education Advisory Council, Preventive Maintenance and Renewal Plan, Annual Facilities Accountability</p>

Chair	CFO

Report and Capital Projects Update, Shared Values Recognition Program Voting Protocol and Process, 2024/25 OurSCHOOL Student Survey Results (in closed), and 2025/26 Budget Development Update (in closed).

Information –
Subdivision
Reports

Cindy Anderson commented on the Tim Horton’s Foundation Day Camps held at Imperial and McDermid Schools. She thanked Principal Danielle Istace for her hard work in preparing these schools for the merge to tawâw school this Fall.

Tracey McMurchy advised that she had a tour of the Shirley Schneider Support Centre and MacKenzie Infant Care Centre at Balfour Collegiate. She noted that, in addition to curriculum, the program provides essential services such as free childcare, parenting support, academic counselling, and access to community resources, helping students balance the demands of school and parenthood, enabling young parents to complete their education, pursue meaningful careers, and provide brighter futures for their families. She further advised that she attended the Campbell and Balfour open houses last month, and learned of the Vocational Alternative Program and the Mental Health and Capacity Building Program at Balfour Collegiate. She expressed appreciation for Dianna Pelletier for leading Following Their Voices, education that promotes accelerated learning for First Nations, Métis and Inuit students.

Lacey Weekes advised that she attended a few student and family engagement sessions—one at Plainsview School where they did a play on March Madness with a numeracy event, and one at MacNeill School with Director of Education/CEO Mark Haarmann where they did a March Madness with a book competition. She also attended a Ruth M. Buck School Community Council meeting, where she learned of a creative fundraiser that had every student draw a portrait of themselves and they were all put on a tea towel.

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 Sarah Cummings Truszkowski:

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

Motion Carried.

Motion by Brandon-Shea Mutala:

That we rise and report.

Motion Carried.

Chair	CFO

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

- Meeting
Adjournment
Time
- 1) That the April 8, 2025 Board meeting be authorized to continue beyond the 8:30 p.m. presumptive adjournment time.

Motion by Sarah Cummings Truszkowski:

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 *2025/26 Budget Development Update, Fundraising, the 2023-2027 Strategic Plan, and Rebranding*. The progress reports were accepted.

- 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 8:38 p.m.

Chairperson

Chief Financial Officer