

Regina, Saskatchewan
May 13, 2025

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

Members Present	Mr. Adam Hicks, Chair Ms. Lacey Weekes, Vice-Chair Mrs. Cindy Anderson	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.

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 April 8, 2025.
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Motion by Cindy Anderson:

That the minutes of the Board meeting of April 8, 2025, be approved as distributed.

Motion Carried.

Mental Health Capacity Building at Balfour Collegiate	Karla Howat, Superintendent of Student Achievement/School Services, introduced Balfour Collegiate staff, Mikaela Wentzell, Mental Health Capacity Building (MHCB) Coordinator, and Kate Harvey, MHCB Wellness Promoter, who provided background information on the provincial initiative. They explained that the coordinator's role is to create and organize initiatives, schedule classroom presentations, connect with community agencies, and complete reporting documents, and that the promoter's role is more front line, doing the classroom presentations, creating the content for social media, and running the programs. They explained that the program promotes positive mental health and well-being, which encompasses a wide range of feelings, thoughts, and actions that help people experience enjoyment in life and perform well. When speaking of the range of feelings, thoughts and actions, these can
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include having the ability to cope with life’s normal challenges, as well as functioning well mentally, being optimistic, having a support network, and maintaining one’s physical health. The program supports mental health and well-being by enhancing people’s knowledge of protective factors like nutrition, physical activity, sleep, and supportive relationships, as well as working to reduce preventable risk factors for mental illness. They outlined the formal objectives of the program: Utilizing Comprehensive School Community Health to promote mental health; using innovative and evidence-based programming to strengthen students’ and parents’ awareness, knowledge, skills, and confidence regarding mental health; building capacity of school staff through professional development that enhances mental health literacy, reduces stigma, and supports curricular outcomes; supporting early interventions and facilitating access to supports for students and families experiencing or at risk of experiencing mental health concerns; and developing a network of participating MHCB schools to support program delivery and implementation. They further explained that the program is considered a Tier 1 support, with the focus on mental health promotion and education. Their target audience is every student, teacher and family. They outlined current initiatives, including: Colouring and Coping; Board Games and Bonding; Fidget Kits for Classrooms; Weekly Wellness Tips on Instagram; Soothing Space; and high school class presentations and elementary stress lessons. They also outlined future initiatives in progress, including some during the summer. They responded to questions relative to the number of students and number of returnees who attend the noon hour initiatives, suicide intervention information, and guidance counsellor and other resources. Board members expressed appreciation for the presentation and the work being done through this program.

Board and Director Evaluation Planning Discussion

Information regarding Board and Director Evaluation Planning had been distributed. Ted Amendt, SSBA Director of Board Development and Indigenous Education, discussed the approach the Board wanted to take with the Director evaluation, including a feedback survey and interviews. Mr. Amendt also discussed the board self-evaluation process. Board members provided input and discussed timelines in June with the final meeting to be held in late August or early September. Chair Adam Hicks and Mark Haarmann, Director of Education/CEO, agreed to work on the list of interviewees and quality indicators.

Director’s Report

Mark Haarmann, Director of Education/CEO, presented his monthly standing report. He highlighted that May is Asian Heritage Month and is an opportunity for us to learn more about the many achievements and contributions of Canadians of Asian heritage who, throughout history, have done so much to make Canada the country we know and love. The theme for Asian Heritage Month 2025 is “Unity in Diversity: The Impact of Asian Communities in Shaping Canadian Identity.” This theme acknowledges the abundance of diversity present among Asian Canadian communities, and how this richness has contributed to building a unifying Canadian identity. The diverse nature of Asian Canadian communities is considered a strength, just as it is in our Canadian identity, and it is something we see in our schools daily. He noted that May is also Early Childhood Education Month and Regina Public Schools very much supports Early Years Growth. All month, Juanita Redekopp-McKeown, Supervisor of Instruction, and her team have been and will continue sharing early learning strategies and tips with our families and our employees. These will also be shared on the Division’s social media. These tips include helpful information for families with infants, toddlers, preschool-age children, and with children already in school. As evidence of our success in early learning, on May 7th, Vice Chair Weekes and he had the pleasure of watching McLurg School’s kindergarten class present a 30 minute, 5 Act musical called “Pajama Party.” He thanked Mrs. Melnechenko and Ms. Dobrowolski for the great work with

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their students. By focusing on early childhood education, we are again stressing the basics of good educational practice by setting up our youngest citizens for learning success before they even enter kindergarten. Regina Public Schools is first and foremost a teaching and learning organization and is moving forward with the implementation of the very latest research-based teaching and learning strategies in literacy and numeracy. To that end, he had the opportunity, on April 30th, to share a draft of a strategic plan implementation framework with principals for their feedback. With provincial assessments on the horizon, good pedagogical practice will need to be our focus. Numerous positive changes, based on system feedback, are coming and will see the start of the transformation of this organization into one that centres the student experience and embraces its primary function of teaching and learning more than ever. To further support this evolution, on May 6th, Student Achievement hosted a professional development session for coordinators and supervisors at Division Office. He thanked Deputy Director Rick Steciuk for his leadership and the Student Achievement team for their engagement, as this session gave the Division Office Student Achievement team a better sense of Regina Public Schools' direction for the next few years and how we will be leading the Division going forward. The change will be centred on three main tenets: 1) A focus on being all about people; 2) An organizational centering of the student experience, making sure all in the organization support the moment when adult interacts with student and learning occurs; and 3) Granting autonomy with parameters, so our talented staff can truly use their skills to help students learn, because student learning is our product, learning is the only outcome that really matters for a school division. In April, he had the opportunity to observe a literacy lesson in Ms. Bechard's grade 1/2 class at Dr. A.E. Perry School that utilized the latest research and resources in reading and writing instruction; this kind of pedagogy is our future, and it will be a future that sees our students graduating with basic skills that exceed those of most in this province, if not country. Learning does take place outside of academics as well. To that end, on May 5th, he had the honour and privilege of being part of the Red Dress Day Walk hosted by Scott Collegiate. After the walk, students, staff and community members heard stories of the lives of missing Indigenous women. It was a sobering and very important event that demonstrates how our schools are integrated with the communities they serve. He thanked Principal Rhonda Haus and the Scott Collegiate team for hosting such an important event. To further support the Division's developing support of Indigenous education, on May 7th, Vanéa Cyr, Supervisor of Indigenous Education, and Jeff Cappel, Indigenous Education Coordinator, hosted the High School Indigenous Student Forum at māmawêyatitân centre. The event included Indigenous students in Grades 9-12 from across the Division. The forum also featured a career fair with a number of local and provincial prospective employers offering summer employment and discussing career paths, both academic and in the trades. He expressed appreciation to all those involved with organizing, supporting and attending this important event. On May 8th, the Wascana Plains Bisons for Change, who previously presented to the Board, hosted the Youth for Change Inspire Conference. The Passion to Action Connect Group at Wascana Plains School was instrumental in making this event a success. He thanked Principal Jeannette Revet and her team and the students for bringing their passion to action alive for the benefit of others. On May 10th, he had the pleasure of speaking at Regina Public Schools' GSA Summit, an event that brought together students and supervising staff from dozens of our schools to find joy and positivity in inclusion. He expressed appreciation to the leader organizers, Kari Nagel and Regan Williams, GSD Coordinator Kyla Christiansen, and Principal Krystal McPherson for hosting the event. He also thanked all of the GSA supervisors, supporting staff and parents who attended. He noted that, during the month, Division personnel are working on several Administrative Procedures (APs), including AP 354 *School Washroom and Change Room Accessibility*. He advised that the Division met government directives and requirements in soliciting feedback from staff, students, parents and other caregivers on the content of the AP, and completion and

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implementation of the AP will proceed as part of the established AP approval and implementation process and will conclude as directed by the Ministry of Education. On May 16th, all staff across the Division will participate in a mental health and wellness professional development session. He thanked Pamela Korczak, Mental Health and Wellness Coordinator, and her team for organizing this very important PD session. He had the privilege of producing some brief video content for this PD session, featuring our Division’s commitment to mental health and wellbeing. It also includes visits to several schools where we learn what Regina Public Schools’ people do to promote mental health and wellness in and out of the classroom. A focus on people and on our mental health and wellbeing will continue to be an area of focus, particularly during these turbulent times in which we live. He responded to a question relative to the name change of the Student Achievement department.

Audit and Risk Management Committee

Tracey McMurchy advised that the minutes of the April 29, 2025, Audit and Risk Management Committee meeting are included in the Board agenda package. She outlined the agenda items, including: the 2024-2025 Audit Service Plan presented by MNP, which was approved by the Committee; the Planned Involvement Letter from the Provincial Auditor of Saskatchewan; and School Community Council Financials. She responded to a question on the noted work of an Administrative Procedure for SCC fundraising, noting it is a set of guidelines and not an Administrative Procedure. It was requested that the committee meeting minutes be revised to reflect that.

Indigenous Education Advisory Council

Lacey Weekes advised that the minutes of the May 6, 2025, Indigenous Education Advisory Council meeting are included in the Board agenda package. She outlined the agenda items, including: an update on a TRC and Indigenous Education Activity; an update on the Amisewaciy Visit; an update on the Land-based Program; an update on the First Nations University Pow Wow Sponsorship; an update on the Indigenous High School Student Forum; Art Selection for the Cultural/Physical Audit of Division Office; and an activity seeking Elders input on revising the purpose and structure of the Indigenous Education Advisory Council.

Preventive Maintenance and Renewal

Information regarding the Ministry of Education’s Preventive Maintenance and Renewal Program had been distributed. Scott Saxby, Superintendent of Facilities, highlighted amendments to the 2025-26 plan and outlined plans between 2026-27 to 2028-29, with a focus on heating system upgrades, intensive support programs, and accessibility projects. Mr. Saxby responded to questions relative to asbestos removal, radon testing, prioritizing the lists, and preferred vendors. Adam Hicks asked Board members if he could refrain from relinquishing the chair to share an opinion, and Board members agreed. Mr. Hicks questioned allocating approximately \$2M over the next two years to underpinning Lakeview School with the school currently part of the Division’s Major Capital Projects top priorities list submitted to the Ministry of Education. Mr. Saxby confirmed that a further review by the structural engineer will be undertaken in September to determine if the repairs can be deferred.

Motion by Tracey McMurchy:

That the amended 2025-26 Preventive Maintenance and Renewal Plan and the 2026-27 to 2028-29 Preventive Maintenance and Renewal Plan be approved for submission to the Ministry of Education.

Motion Carried.
(Unanimously)

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Annual
Facilities
Accountability
Report and
Capital Projects
Update

Scott Saxby, Superintendent of Facilities, presented the annual Facilities Accountability Report for 2024/25. He advised that the Facilities Department has set a multi-year agenda to improve the quality, sustainability and performance of Regina Public school buildings, and pointed to the report in the Board agenda package that outlines the actions from the Division’s 2023-27 Strategic Plan. He highlighted performance measures, including Facility Service Requests and Scheduled Preventive Maintenance projects. He commented on the Intensive Supports Study and advised that the departments are working together to identify areas of concern and to plan future projects. He advised that the department is working on a Request for Proposals (RFP) for the development of long-term capital planning for the Division. He noted that a SASBO working group is currently developing a provincial framework for school divisions to use for the development and implementation of a Division-wide accessibility plan. He also highlighted capital project updates included in the material distributed with the agenda, including the September scheduled opening of tawâw school, the construction tender review for the Harbour Landing West joint-use school, and the current Design RFP for the East Regina joint-use elementary school. He responded to questions relative to service requests and play structures for elementary schools with no School Community Council.

Planned Agenda
Items

For Board member information, the Chairperson noted the planned agenda items currently set for the June 10, 2025 Board meeting, including Equity and Inclusion Month Celebration, Scott mamawicafe Celebration, Director’s Report, Priorities, Planning and Policy Committee, Destruction of Public Documents, Quarterly Finance Accountability Report, Quarterly Transportation Accountability Report, Biannual Human Resources Accountability Report, SRO Program Progress Update, and Shared Values Recognition Program Award Recipients (in closed).

Information –
Subdivision
Reports

Cindy Anderson congratulated Ashley Peterson’s Grade 1/2 class for their literacy accomplishments. She attended a School Community Council potluck gathering at Imperial School on April 30th to introduce the SCCs and new members from both Imperial and McDermid Schools, and to unveil the new team name, the tawâw turtles. On May 1st, she attended at the Northeast Community Centre in Imperial School and made a presentation on public education and the new tawâw school, and she thanked Principal Danielle Istace for her support.

Sarah Cummings Truszkowski advised that she attended the First Nations University of Regina Pow Wow on April 19th and walked in the Grand Entry with Vanéa Cyr, Supervisor of Indigenous Education. She attended the April 30th Seven Stones SCC meeting; they are very happy there is an Early Years Intervention Team now housed in their school to help support K-3 students. Seven Stones School is also one of six schools that has been selected to have a Specialized Support Classroom for 2025/26. She attended the Connaught SCC meeting on May 6th. She highlighted the “Grateful for Grownups” picnic they hosted this month along with a GSA Summit. She attended the GSA Summit for Grades 5-8 on May 10th with Trustees McMurchy and Mutala and attended the morning session for adults while the students participated in fun activities. The session, led by Mark Haarmann, Director of Education/CEO, was about human rights, discrimination, and a lot of great information for adults on 2SLGBTQIA+.

Brandon-Shea Mutala advised that he attended a Public Section meeting via Zoom in early April where the candidate for Executive Director was recommended and unanimously approved. He too spoke about attending the GSA Summit on May 10th. He attended a tour of Thom Collegiate on May 9th.

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During the tour, he visited a Grade 11 English class, where they were shown technology used to spot potential AI-generated content in students’ papers, the VAP classroom, and the Grade 9 Music Rotation, where students were learning the acoustic guitar. After the classroom visits, there were two sessions with students and staff to discuss successes and challenges and areas that need improvement.

Tracey McMurchy advised that she also attended the tour of Thom Collegiate and appreciated the classroom visits and being able to listen to groups of students and staff discuss successes and challenges at the school. She noted that Massey School is celebrating its 65th anniversary with a dance-a-thon on May 15th to raise funds for a library renewal project. She further advised that there were some elementary school band concerts last week and high school ensembles will be celebrated this week. On June 4th there will also be the Swing into Spring concert. She visited the Regina Early Learning Centre and learned about their mandate and the valuable work they do with our early years team to give children a strong start before kindergarten. She attended the High School Indigenous Student Forum at Scott Collegiate and expressed appreciation to the staff for organizing a meaningful event where students have a voice in education and feel valued in our schools and community. She noted that elementary school students had the opportunity to participate in a Campus Regina Public rotation for a couple of weeks and discover potential passions and skills. She also highlighted an example of the work and impact of SCCs—the Campbell SCC contributed funds to purchase furniture and sensory equipment for the FIAP program and was presented with art signed by all the FIAP students and a presentation on how meaningful the funds were to their program.

Adam Hicks advised that he attended a School Boards/City Council Liaison Committee meeting earlier in the day. He noted that Mark Haarmann, Director of Education/CEO, invited Danielle Istace, Principal of the new tawâw school, to the meeting, and she spoke to the committee about safety concerns. He also attended a Public Education Forum where there was open conversation about advocating for and celebrating public education. He attended an excellent performance of the Lion King at Ethel Milliken School. He also attended a School Community Council appreciation supper at Harbour Landing School, funded by staff. He also saw the announcement of the new mascot for Harbour Landing School.

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 Brandon-Shea Mutala:

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

Motion Carried.

Motion by Tracey McMurchy:

That we rise and report.

Motion Carried.

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

Tentative
Collective
Agreement –
Regina Public
School
Teachers'
Association

Meeting
Adjournment
Time

- 1) That the Memorandum of Settlement between the Board of Education of the Regina School Division No. 4 of Saskatchewan and Regina Public School Teachers' Association, effective July 1, 2024 to June 30, 2028, be approved, and that the Director of Education or designate be authorized to execute the agreement on behalf of the Board.
- 2) That the May 13, 2025 Board meeting be authorized to continue beyond the 8:30 p.m. presumptive adjournment time.

Motion by Cindy Anderson:

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

Motion Carried.
(Unanimously)

Motion by Cindy Anderson:

That recommendation No. 2 (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 OurSCHOOL Student Survey Results*, *2025/26 Budget Development Update*, and *Additional Budget Meeting Dates*. 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 Lacey Weekes:

That the meeting adjourn.

Motion Carried.

Time of meeting: 5:30 to 9:22 p.m.

Chairperson

Chief Financial Officer