

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. Tara Molson, Vice-Chair  
Mrs. Cindy Anderson  
Mr. Ted Jaleta  
Mrs. Elizabeth Strom  
Mrs. Sarah Cummings Truszkowski  
Ms. Lacey Weekes

Administration Present  
Mr. Greg Enion, Director of Education  
Ms. Naomi Mellor, Deputy Director, Division Services/CFO  
Mr. Darren Boldt, Deputy Director, Student Achievement

Mrs. Cindy Anderson 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 Mr. Ted Jaleta:  
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 12, 2021.

Motion by Ms. Lacey Weekes:  
That the minutes of the Board meeting of January 12, 2021, be approved as distributed.

Motion Carried.

Update on COVID-19  
Mr. Greg Enion, Director of Education, provided an update on the Division's COVID-19 plan. He first acknowledged the hard work and dedication of all School Division employees, not just during Staff Appreciation Week, but throughout what has been a very challenging school year during the pandemic. He advised that he was part of a meeting earlier in the day with potential community partners, relative to conducting outdoor high school graduations, noting that further information would be forthcoming. He also advised that Division and School Administrators are currently working on guidelines for Grade 8 Farewell Celebrations.

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Mr. Darren Boldt, Deputy Director, Student Achievement, advised that schools are still experiencing both student and staff COVID-19 cases regularly, but was happy to report that the Division is not seeing transmission within the schools.

Mr. Enion further advised that the Provincial Response Planning Team (RPT) is now recommending the wearing of face shields and eye protection, and that the Division will be encouraging all staff to partake in the training webinar regarding same.

Information relative to feedback from the Student/Parent/Guardian and Staff Temporary Remote Learning Surveys had been distributed. Mr. Erik Van Dusen, Supervisor, Assessment, provided additional information, outlining response percentages of the multiple choice questions and response themes relative to the open item questions. He advised that, generally speaking, the responses in favour of the December and January temporary remote learning were positive. Mr. Van Dusen responded to questions relative to the decision to not collect identifying information, responses from students, advocacy for future child care funding options during remote learning, and further breakdown of technology responses. Mr. Enion advised that the survey information will be posted on the Division’s website tomorrow. Board members expressed appreciation for the presentation and the quick turnaround time in order to provide the results in a timely manner.

Presentation to Dr. Jane Ekong, former Trustee

Mr. Adam Hicks made a presentation to former trustee, Dr. Jane Ekong, for her years of distinguished and dedicated service to Regina Public Schools. Current trustees highlighted the accomplishments of Dr. Ekong and expressed appreciation for her hard work and dedication to public education. Dr. Ekong expressed appreciation for the Shared Values plaque and extended good wishes to the current Board.

Student Achievement Results 2019-2020

Information regarding 2019-2020 achievement data and results had been distributed. Mr. Darren Boldt, Deputy Director, Student Achievement, advised that this presentation is relative to results that are priorities outlined in the Education Sector Strategic Plan as well as in the School Division’s Strategic Plan. He noted that the assessment results in the 2019-20 school year are incomplete because of the pause from March to June due to the pandemic, and many post assessments were unable to be conducted.

Mr. Erik Van Dusen, Supervisor, Assessment, outlined achievement data in the following areas of Education Delivery, COVID-19 Adjustments, Early Years, Grade 3 Reading, Grades 4, 7 and 9 Writing, Grades 2, 5, and 8 Math, and Grade 9 to 10 Transitions.

Mr. Boldt outlined achievement data in the areas of Credit Attainment, and On-Time and Extended-Time Graduation Rates. In summary, he noted that the Division: a) continues to use data to inform actions and improve results on all measure of student achievement; b) is prepared to focus on achievement data to identify and address gaps in learning caused by the anticipated impact of COVID-19; c) is maintaining results in many student achievement measures despite experiencing significant enrolment growth and increased student diversity; and d) is committed to reducing the achievement gap between non-FNMI and FNMI students.

Mr. Boldt and Mr. Van Dusen responded to questions relative to self-identification, Indigenous Advocates, online learning for Adult Campus and Victoria Campus, and recruitment of Indigenous teachers. Mr. Greg Enion, Director of Education, advised of the significant team work of all high school principals, with the Credit Recovery Program, and the Triple 8 Strategy. He also reiterated the effect of reading at or above grade level by the end of Grade 3

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on future successes. As the Graduation Outcome Leader on the Education Council, Mr. Enion commended the work of the Regina Public School Division. Board members expressed appreciation for the presentation.

Organizational Culture and Diversity Committee

Information from the January 19, 2021 Organizational Culture and Diversity Committee meeting had been distributed. Ms. Lacey Weekes provided a brief summary of the meeting discussions, noting that Ms. Glenna Curry, Consultant for Mental Health and Wellness, reported on the work being done by the Mental Health and Wellness Advisory Committee, including training currently being offered to all Division staff, continued review of Administrative Procedures (AP), and the potential for a staff survey upon completion of the rollout of the 13 psychosocial factors. She further advised that Mr. Jason Coleman, Superintendent, Student Achievement, provided an update on the work of the Special Committee on Diversity, including the formation of a gender and sexual diversity sub-committee and a multicultural sub-committee, and the continued review of APs. She summarized conversations regarding updating the Shared Values Guide, content of Black history within the Ministry curriculum, SafeSchools training available to Division staff, police presence in schools, and forwarding equity and inclusion and whistleblower policy recommendations to the Policy, Governance and Sustainability Planning Committee. In closing, she advised of a discussion regarding a Board diversity statement for consideration at tonight’s meeting.

Mr. Adam Hicks suggested that Ms. Weekes email the two draft versions of the statement to Board members, that the Board receive the remaining Standing Committee reports, and then return to this matter later in the meeting.

Strategic Engagement and Advocacy Committee

Information from the January 26, 2021 Strategic Engagement and Advocacy Committee meeting had been distributed. Mrs. Elizabeth Strom provided a synopsis of the meeting discussions, including: a review of the Committee’s terms of reference; a review of the draft 2019-2020 Advocacy Plan, with plans for a new one to be developed; the potential for a Board Newsletter; a review of a list of existing Division planning issues, including the Major Capital Project Funding Application, and partnership conversations with Eden Care Communities; and government advocacy in the form of meetings with both the Saskatchewan Party and the NDP Regina-area MLAs. She advised that the Committee selected its top three priorities, 1) Vaccinations, 2) Technology, and 3) Learning Gaps. She commented on the Committee’s 5-month plan, including holding stakeholder meetings, and continued work with School Community Councils (SCCs), as well as reviving the Creating Successful Outcomes Recognition Program for the 2021-2022 school year. She advised that the Committee will work together to finalize the Advocacy Planning Template for the next Committee meeting. She also noted that Mr. Greg Enion, Director of Education, would look into the possibility of launching a thank you on social media during Staff Appreciation Week. Mrs. Strom concluded by reporting agreement of the Committee to be supportive if a group of community partners approach the Division regarding a Public Schools Foundation, but noted that such a program cannot be run by Division Administration.

Mr. Adam Hicks advised that he has had a follow-up conversation with the Chair of Eden Care Communities, that meetings are being scheduled with the Saskatchewan Party and NDP Regina-area MLAs, and that a letter was sent to the Ministers of Health and Education relative to vaccination priority for school staff. He further thanked Mrs. Strom for her advocacy work with SaskTel during the temporary remote learning period.

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Audit and Risk Management Committee

Information from the February 2, 2021 Audit and Risk Management Committee meeting had been distributed. Mr. Ted Jaleta apprised the Board of meeting discussions, noting that Mr. Rod Sieffert, the External Auditor from MNP LLP, was in attendance to summarize the audit services provided relative to the School Division’s financial statements. He advised that Ms. Naomi Mellor, Deputy Director, Division Services/CFO, provided information on a special audit conducted by MNP’s Edmonton office, and outlined the Division’s improvement plans relative to project planning, contract signing authority, asset disposal, and internal reporting of fraud and loss. He advised that Committee members considered the current Risk Registry and suggested the inclusion of operating funding reductions and cyber threats. He also noted that the Committee discussed holding a separate meeting to focus solely on developing the Risk Registry. A professional development (PD) request from a Trustee had been reviewed, and he advised that Committee members confirmed that Trustee PD is \$2,000 per Trustee per calendar year. He reported that the Committee’s terms of reference and work plan were considered, and that the continued work on the reserve fund planning was recommended as an additional priority. He concluded by advising that Committee members recommended the Board, at a future Whiteboard Session, have presentations on financial literacy and enterprise risk management.

Mr. Adam Hicks requested that it be clarified in the Committee meeting minutes that he excused himself during the discussion on Trustee PD.

Update on Regina Public/ Regina Catholic Joint Board Meeting

Mr. Adam Hicks noted the Regina Public/ Regina Catholic Joint Board meeting that was held on January 19, 2021, outlining discussions held relative to elementary and high school calendars, COVID-19 response, shared services (joint transportation), city bus transportation for high school students, Southeast high school and joint school builds, French Immersion challenges, and joint advocacy initiatives. He acknowledged the continued focus on building a strong relationship with the Regina Catholic School Division.

Organizational Culture and Diversity Committee

Ms. Lacey Weekes had emailed the two draft versions of a Diversity Statement to the Board members. She and Ms. Tara Molson responded to a question as to why the Canadian Chart of Rights and Freedoms was not included in the statement. Board members discussed the two draft versions.

Motion by Ms. Lacey Weekes:

That the following statement be read at the conclusion of the public portion of every Board meeting by the Board member who also reads the Land Acknowledgment at the beginning of the meeting:

The Regina Board of Education recognizes 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. Diversity makes us stronger.

Motion Carried.  
(Unanimously)

Major Capital Project Funding Application

Information regarding the Ministry of Education’s Major Capital Projects Funding Program had been distributed. Ms. Delaine Clyne, Supervisor, Policy, Planning and Research, and Mr. Dan Van Buekenhout, Manager, Capital Planning, provided additional information, noting that school divisions have been requested to identify their top capital project priorities for the 2022-2023 budget year for Ministry consideration. Ms. Clyne advised that the Division’s priority list retains the new school in the Towns, Balfour Collegiate rebuild or

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re-life, and the new Southeast Joint-Use High School, but modifies last year’s request by including a new school consolidating Coronation Park and Gladys McDonald Schools, and funding for a long-term Capital Plan for the existing school inventory. Mr. Greg Enion, Director of Education, advised that, during a conversation with the Ministry of Education, he, Mr. Adam Hicks and Ms. Tara Molson encouraged the Ministry to reconsider removing St. Peter School from the Imperial/McDermid/St. Michael rebuild and adding it to the Coronation Park/Gladys McDonald request.

Motion by Mrs. Cindy Anderson:

That the following priority projects to be submitted to the Ministry of Education for the 2022-2023 Major Capital Submission:

- Priority #1 – New School in The Towns
- Priority #2 – New Southeast Joint-Use High School
- Priority #3 – Consolidation – Coronation Park School and Gladys McDonald School
- Priority #4 – Rebuild or Re-Life Balfour Collegiate
- Priority #5 – Long-Term Capital Plan for the existing school inventory.

Motion Carried.  
(Unanimously)

French  
Immersion  
Designations  
2021/22

Information regarding 2021-22 French Immersion Designations had been distributed. Mr. Darren Boldt, Deputy Director, Student Achievement, provided additional information, noting that the only change from the current school year is the inclusion of Grade 6 at Dr. A. E. Perry School.

Motion by Mr. Ted Jaleta:

That the 2021-2022 French Immersion Program Designation be approved, as presented, for submission to the Ministry of Education.

Motion Carried.  
(Unanimously)

Observing  
Black History  
Month

A draft motion, and supportive rationale, in support of Anti-Oppressive Practice and Diversity Training had been distributed by Mr. Ted Jaleta and Ms. Lacey Weekes. In support of the motion, Mr. Jaleta advised that the School Division is committed to the value of equality of people of all races, cultures, abilities, genders, and sexuality. He further noted that education is a primary tool to achieve equality, and the Board seeks to provide ongoing opportunities to ensure appropriate education is available to all its constituents. He quoted a recommendation contained in the Report from the Regina Black-African Canadian Community that, “the RPSB provide teachers and other school support staff with proper cross-cultural and anti-racism training, and also training to improve their awareness and ability to recognize, identify and quell all forms of racism, discrimination and injustice.” He further recommended that all students, staff and community members be encouraged to participate in Anti-Oppressive Practice and Diversity training, and that ample time be provided for staff to participate to avoid undue stress. He advised that the motion aligns with the terms of reference of the Organizational Culture and Diversity Committee to assist the Board on matters pertaining to training and adequate support for all staff. He referenced that the Black and Indigenous Lives Matter movements highlighted the need for all, especially the education sector, to find ways to understand and eradicate racism, and that Regina Public Schools can play an important role in confronting racism.

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All Board members spoke in favour of the motion.

Motion by Ms. Tara Molson:

That the first sentence of the rationale included with the motion be amended to include the word “sexuality,” so as to read: “The Regina Public School Division is committed to the value of equality of people of all races, cultures, abilities, genders, and sexuality.”

Motion Carried.  
(Unanimously)

Mr. Jaleta provided closing comments on the importance of such training.

Motion by Mr. Ted Jaleta:

WHEREAS Regina Public School’s mission is to instill the value of knowledge, the dignity of effort, and the worth of the individual; and

WHEREAS our shared value statements unite us: I belong, I want to know, I am responsible, and I respect;

BE IT RESOLVED that Regina Public Schools observe February as Black History Month; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Regina Public Schools ask the School Division Diversity Committee to review options for Anti-Oppressive Practice and Diversity training for all staff across the School Division, including the Board of Education and Senior Leadership.

Motion Carried.  
(Unanimously)

SSBA Training Seminars Mr. Adam Hicks advised that there have been 20 training sessions offered over the past month by the Saskatchewan School Boards Association, noting that a number of the Board members had attended many of the sessions. He encouraged Board members to complete the survey regarding same.

Planned Agenda Items for March 2, 2021 Board meeting For Board member information, Mr. Adam Hicks noted the planned agenda items currently set for the March 2, 2021 Board meeting, including Regina Police Service Presentation, Second Quarter Financial Report, Second Quarter Transportation Report, Operating and Capital Funding, and 2021/22 Budget Development.

Agenda Requests Mrs. Elizabeth Strom requested information on the role of the Provincial Ombudsman.

Information Mr. Adam Hicks advised that the January 30, 2021 Enrolment Report and the letter from the Board Chair to the Ministers of Health and Education relative to vaccinations were included in the Board agenda package for information.

Information – Subdivision Reports Mrs. Cindy Anderson expressed appreciation for Ms. Tara Nordin, Administrative Assistant at Imperial Community School, for going above and beyond to assist in finding a student that had gone missing in the community.

Mrs. Elizabeth Strom advised that she attended a School Community Council meeting at Balfour Collegiate, and thanked the Principal, Vice-Principal and

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entire staff for the great results being achieved since the switch to the quint system.

Ms. Tara Molson gave a shout out to the Henry Janzen School Community Council for their excellent work.

Closed Session Motion by Mrs. Sarah Cummings Truskowski:

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 Mrs. Elizabeth Strom:

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 February 9, 2021 Board meeting be authorized to continue beyond the 8:30 p.m. presumptive adjournment time.

Motion by Mrs. Cindy Anderson:

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 *Wascana Plains Boundary Change* and *COVID-19 Contact Tracing*. 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 Ms. Lacey Weekes:

That the meeting adjourn.

Motion Carried.

Time of meeting: 5:30 to 8:44 p.m.

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Chairperson

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Chief Financial Officer