

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

Adam Hicks 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 Lacey Weekes:  
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 March 19, 2024.

Motion by Tara Molson:

That the minutes of the Board meeting of March 19, 2024, be approved as distributed.

Motion Carried.

Director's Report Darren Boldt, Director of Education/CEO, provided his standing report, advising that this year's United Way campaign raised \$44,753.59 through various fundraising activities. Regina Public Schools will receive funding from the United Way to support the Campaign for Grade-Level Reading this summer at Albert, Arcola, Connaught, Coronation Park, Imperial, Kitchener, Seven Stones, and Thomson Schools. He further advised that the Division sponsors the Tiny Tot dancing category, ages 0-5, at the First Nations University pow wow that will take place April 20th and 21st. Division Management and Board members have been invited to take part in the grand entry at 12:00 PM and 7:00 PM at the Brandt Centre. The grand entry is when all sponsors and dancers are acknowledged in the dancing circle and the pow wow celebration. He encouraged everyone to bring their families to enjoy the colourful display of

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Indigenous culture, song and dance. With Arcola Community School having the program for students with visual impairments, he advised that, in February, the program hosted the second annual Regional Braille Challenge, run by the Braille Institute of America. Students from Saskatoon Public School Division, Dr. George Ferguson School, and Arcola Community School participated in the preliminary challenge that included a variety of timed challenges such as reading comprehension, spelling, braille speed and accuracy, proofreading, and charts and graphs. He extended thanks to the participants, the braillists, and the staff at Arcola. He noted that the deadline for nominations for the 16th annual Shared Values Recognition Program is this Friday, April 19th. With the release of the Provincial Budget on March 20th, he noted that Education saw a healthy increase to operating budgets and supports for classroom complexity, and further advised that Regina Public Schools’ funding increased by close to 3% from last year, which means the Division can generally manage its projected enrolment growth next year as well as provide some needed supports for complexity in the classroom within an essentially status quo budget. The Division is now preparing for next year and starting the staffing processes. Looking ahead, he commented that Regina Public Schools is hopeful that, with the return to the bargaining table, our teachers can once again return to planning and working on the many activities, outings and events that everyone in the Division looks forward to in May and June. He outlined that the Division was selected for an audit by the Provincial Auditor of Saskatchewan about delivering prekindergarten programming. The audit was conducted from November to April and a final report will be made public in June. He further noted that Early Years Evaluation post-assessment is now underway, allowing Kindergarten teachers the opportunity to re-assess students who were progressing toward age-level expectations when assessed in November and, when the results are returned to teachers in May, they will be able to report to parents on growth and decide on next steps for assisting students transitioning into Grade 1. He advised that the OurSchool surveys are now open, targeted at Grades 4, 7, 9 and 11 students, the data from which will identify strengths and opportunities to improve the overall experience of students. He reported that Martin Collegiate has been randomly selected to participate in field testing a new iteration of the PISA assessment, with a sample size of students to be involved in the assessment during the month of April. With the Division’s continued commitment to the mental health and well-being of students and staff, Mr. Boldt concluded his report by reporting a variety of professional development opportunities that have recently been facilitated, including VTRA Level 2 training on March 21st and 22nd, and Mental Health First Aid for Adults who Interact with Youth on April 16th and 17th.

Policy,  
Governance and  
Sustainability  
Planning  
Committee

A draft of a new Board Policy entitled *Equity, Diversity and Inclusion* had been distributed. Lacey Weekes advised that, at its February 27th meeting, the Policy, Governance and Sustainability Planning Committee requested the Diversity Office to review the draft. A revised draft was then circulated to the Committee Chair and presented to the Board this evening for approval. Adam Hicks requested that a reference to this Policy be inserted into Policy 3 as it relates to the role and responsibility of a trustee. Tara Molson further noted that it could also be mentioned in Policy 4 Trustee Code of Conduct. Sarah Cummings Truszkowski advised that a review of Policies 3 and 4 would be added to the next agenda of the Policy, Governance and Sustainability Planning Committee.

Motion by Cindy Anderson:

That the new Board Policy 16 *Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion* be approved as presented.

Motion Carried.  
(Unanimously)

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Quarterly  
Finance  
Accountability  
Report

The Second Quarter Financial Report, for the 6-month period ended February 29, 2024, had been distributed. Ashley Kuntz, Superintendent of Business Services, advised that, based on the second quarter forecast, the Statement of Operations shows an operating surplus on a cash basis of \$1.1M, approximately \$1.6M higher than the \$565K budgeted cash deficit, mainly due to: higher than budgeted French Language grant; lower tuition revenue for international students; lower revenues from noon supervision fees; lower operating grant for the Division due to lower student enrolment than projected; an operating grant increased for Associate Schools; salary savings due to STF job action; planned spending down of the Preventive Maintenance and Renewal reserve; higher than projected expenses for caretaking supplies and contracted services; higher than budgeted expenses for transportation; higher than budgeted expenses relating to substitute costs and supervision; and higher than budgeted expenses for the fall 2024 election. She advised that, while the Division is forecasting to be under budget, this is due to STF strike day salary savings that the Division is not permitted to re-direct to other areas of expense pressure. She outlined identified risk areas, including capital grants, noon supervision revenue, supervision costs, substitute staff costs, transportation, and utilities. She further pointed out that successive deficits mean that reserves are depleted and the Division has less room to absorb financial impacts of higher than budgeted spending or lower than budgeted revenues and, 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 questions relative to increases in building supply costs and how that will impact capital grants, Associate School enrolments, the potential for a grant claw back for STF strike days, timing of construction for the new Harbour Landing school, and fall election expenses. With the continuing rise in construction costs, Adam Hicks recommended future advocacy for capital grants to match those increases.

Quarterly  
Transportation  
Accountability  
Report

The Second Quarter Transportation Report for the 6-month period ended February 29, 2024, had been distributed. Ashley Kuntz, Superintendent of Business Services, advised that the report shows a decrease of 80 students being transported due to them leaving the Division or no longer requiring the services, but the Division still has an overall increase of 79 students being transported compared to the end of the 2022/23 school year. She further advised that the number of bus routes has remained the same this quarter and light vehicles have increased by two. With the STF job sanctions, she reported that there were no transportation services on the full strike days, and transportation services were altered to an early dismissal on the days where noon supervision was withdrawn. She further noted two cancellations due to severe weather conditions. 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. Ms. Kuntz responded to questions relative to difficulty for drivers during alternate schedules, the possibility of purposing more vans, student ride times, and the update of the database.

Long Service  
Reception  
Duties

Board members determined which presentation roles they would assume at the Long Service Reception to be held June 13, 2024.

SSBA Spring  
General  
Assembly  
Summary

Sarah Cummings Truskowski provided a summary of the SSBA Spring General Assembly attended by her, Trustees Cindy Anderson and Tracey McMurchy, and Director of Education/CEO Darren Boldt on April 11-12, 2024 in Saskatoon. She reported that she attended Board Chairs Council meetings where collective bargaining was discussed. She advised that the Minister of Education spoke and brought greetings from the province, and Murray Mandryk

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was the Keynote speaker, speaking about the relationships between politics, journalism, and education in Saskatchewan. She noted that there were presentations by Saskatchewan Broadband Action Committee, Saskatchewan Human Rights Commission regarding equitable education for students with reading disabilities, and Dr. Rachel Engler-Stringer regarding school food programs in Canada and a Saskatchewan research perspective. In this last presentation, she commented that per student funding for nutrition and food in school in Saskatchewan in the last few years is last in all of Canada, with students funded at approximately 3¢ per student per day. She expressed hope that the Provincial and Federal Governments will work together to bring more funding to Saskatchewan students through the newly announced National School Food Program.

**Planned Agenda Items** For Board member information, the Chairperson noted the planned agenda items currently set for the May 14, 2024 Board meeting, including Director’s Report, Organizational Culture and Diversity Committee, Audit and Risk Management Committee, Indigenous Education Advisory Council, Preventive Maintenance and Renewal Plan, Succession Planning Committee, Annual Facilities Accountability Report and Capital Projects Update, Shared Values Recognition Program Voting Protocol and Process, 2023/24 OurSCHOOL Student Survey Results (closed session), and 2024/25 Budget Development Update (closed session).

**Notices of Motion** Ted Jaleta gave notice of his intention to present the following motion at the May 14, 2024 meeting of the Board:

*WHEREAS the Regina Public School Division has been member of Saskatchewan School Board Association (SSBA) since 1915;*

*WHEREAS the formal goals of the SSBA is to function as a democratic and voluntary organization, and to ensure advocacy, leadership and support for member boards of education by speaking as the voice of publicly funded education, offering opportunities for board development and providing information and services;*

*WHEREAS the cumulative total amount of annual cost of membership for the Regina Public School Board is estimated \$220,000.00 a year;*

*WHEREAS the SSBA has made public statements on policies and STF negotiations without formally engaging with local school boards;*

*THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Regina Public School Division Board directs the Director of Education to conduct a review to assess the value of the SSBA membership and Regina Public School Division expenditure and provide recommendations to the Board.*

**Information – Subdivision Reports** Cindy Anderson advised that she and Sarah Cummings Truszkowski attended Henry Braun School on March 25th with the Minister of Agriculture for a presentation on agriculture across Canada. She thanked Ms. Leach for the invitation.

Tracey McMurchy advised that last month the Campbell Collegiate hockey team captured the City Championship with an overtime win. She further noted that the Campbell Concert Band performed at the Optimist Band Festival. She advised that Thomson School had a Let’s Speak Cree competition this afternoon. She highlighted that the school received a donation of sports equipment from the owners of the Elphinstone Dairy Queen and expressed

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appreciation for community support of our schools. On March 11th, she advised that staff at École Massey School held a workshop on culturally responsive teaching, a great opportunity to continue learning how to best support diverse learners and their families. With Earth Day approaching, she reported that Douglas Park School is holding a Readcycle Book Swap on April 22nd where students can bring books to drop off and shop for a “new to them” book over the lunch hour.

Tara Molson advised that she and Mrs. McMurchy were invited by City Counselor Dan Leblanc to support the Safe Pathways Project this Thursday evening at 7:30PM, with community members advocating for a safer pathway behind Balfour Collegiate for the many area residents who walk through the area to get to the grocery store, etc.

Adam Hicks commented that most people are not aware that teachers who document 125 hours of extracurricular assistance get a day off. He noted that so many teachers go above and beyond their teaching contract with extracurricular activities. He further noted that Do It With Class made it possible for 10,000 students to attend a performance put on by their peers.

On behalf of the Board of Education, Adam Hicks 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 Cindy Anderson:

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

Motion Carried.

Motion by Adam Hicks:

That we rise and report.

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 Celebrations in the Event of a Teachers’ Strike, Communication to Board Chairs, 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*.]

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

Motion by Cindy Anderson:

That the meeting adjourn.

Motion Carried.

Time of meeting: 5:30 to 7:17 p.m.

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Chairperson

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Chief Financial Officer