

Regina, Saskatchewan
March 2, 2021

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/School Services

Ms. Tara Molson 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. It was requested that the following item be added: *Diversity Discussion*.

Adoption of Agenda Motion by Mrs. Cindy Anderson:

That, with the addition requested, the agenda be adopted.

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 February 9, 2021.

Motion by Mrs. Sarah Cummings Truszkowski:

That the minutes of the Board meeting of February 9, 2021, be approved as distributed.

Motion Carried.

Recognition of Jay Kasperski, former Regina Board of Education Trustee Mr. Adam Hicks made a presentation to former trustee, Mr. Jay Kasperski, for his four years of conscientious and purposeful service to Regina Public Schools. Mrs. Cindy Anderson and Mr. Hicks expressed appreciation for Mr. Kasperski's hard work and dedication to public education. Mr. Kasperski expressed appreciation for the Shared Values plaque and extended good wishes to the current Board.

Chair	CFO

School Resource Officer Program

Regina Police Chief, Evan Bray, and Ms. Lorilee Davies, Superintendent of Community Services Division, provided the Board members with information relative to the School Officer Resource program. Ms. Davies noted that the SRO unit is currently comprised of 13 Constables, one Corporal and one Sergeant. They outlined that the program predominantly focuses on crime prevention, education, and relationship building with children and youth in the schools. They provided additional information on the program, including officer skill-set; regular presentations provided such as social media and internet safety and cyber-bullying; and collaborations such as Violent Threat Risk Assessments, Student Police Academy, CAA Safety Patrol, CopShop, Positive Ticketing of Teen Drivers, Day of Pink Rally, Safe Driving Water Bottle Drive, and Leadership Luncheons. In March, 2020, due to COVID-19 restrictions, they outlined the re-deployment of the SRO officers to Patrol duty, and advised that a decision was made in January, 2021, to continue using SRO officers in a Patrol capacity during the summer months moving forward. They provided information on the Law, Public Safety and Security (LPSS) Program for Grades 11 and 12 students, that began in 2013, highlighting the increased student engagement in the program. They further provided details on the Scott Police Academy, that began with Grade 9 students in September, 2020, noting that the program is designed to attract motivated students who are interested in the fields of justice, law, and other leadership-based professions. They were pleased to report a 90% attendance rate in the first year, with 30% of the class achieving honour roll status. They concluded their presentation by summarizing noticed trends in the community, including an increase in electronics and social media, and issues that can accompany the ever-changing social media platforms; an increase in acute critical, violent and/or weapons incidents; and an increase in drug-related activity. Chief Bray commented that SRO programs exist in many communities, but advised that the Regina program is based more in proactive approaches and community-based policing, with opportunities to provide wrap-around services. He also spoke of recent conversations with SROs relative to the uniform being a barrier and how they will switch between wearing the uniform and wearing a hoodie and jeans, depending on the work they are doing or the school they are attending.

Chief Bray, Superintendent Davies, and Mr. Greg Enion, Director of Education, responded to questions relative to Indigenous and new Canadian students and/or families being fearful of police and how to respond to the perception that the police are not just protecting citizens, but are also repressing them; qualifications for SRO applicants; the reasoning behind locating the Police Academy at Scott Collegiate; mental health training requirements; and concerns relative to drugs and gang activity. Mrs. Cindy Anderson expressed appreciation for the work of the SROs and the Regina Police Service, noting that, at a past Student/Trustee forum, students declared they felt much safer in schools with the SROs, particularly during lockdown drills. Mr. Enion expressed gratitude on behalf of all in-school administration and staff for the work and positive partnership Regina Public Schools has with the Regina Police Service in keeping students and staff safe, highlighting the immense value of the SRO program. Ms. Tara Molson expressed appreciation for the presentation, and recommended that the Organizational Culture and Diversity Committee commit to further discussions and reflection on the SRO program.

COVID-19 Update

Mr. Greg Enion, Director of Education, provided an update on the Division’s COVID-19 plan. He noted that the Provincial Response Planning Team (RPT) will continue to be engaged in discussions relative to potential rapid testing being conducted in schools. He advised that work continues to be undertaken relative to Graduation ceremonies, and that discussions with the Regina Exhibition Association have been initiated relative to potentially holding an outdoor ceremony at Mosaic Stadium.

Chair	CFO

Ms. Naomi Mellor, Deputy Director, Division Services/CFO, advised that the third quarter COVID funding request has been submitted to the Ministry of Education. She advised that the Division is asking for an additional \$1.4M, which includes updated actuals and forecasts for previously approved items, such as eSchool staff, ventilation upgrades, and voice application systems, as well as for plans to commence academic re-engagement of students this Spring and Summer in preparation for the next school year. She further advised that the Ministry required that all technology approved in Phase 2 had to be received by the end of February, and expressed appreciation to Ms. Cara Riddell, Supervisor of Technical Services, and Ms. Ashley Kuntz, Supervisor of Accounting and Purchasing, who diligently expedited the tender and ordered in excess of 4,300 devices for schools, that have helped many students access the curriculum safely. She outlined encouraging data from Human Resources that shows 75% of staff who were in contact with a positive case recently have been considered non-close contacts, revealing that the efforts of staff and the Division in using appropriate personal protective equipment, including medical grade masks and other materials, as well as distancing principles, is having a positive impact in minimizing risk in schools. She further advised that there are similar effective trends in staff absenteeism due to quarantine leave, with December absences averaging 60 per day, compared to an average of 11 absences per day through January.

Mr. Darren Boldt, Deputy Director, Student Achievement/School Services, advised that there has been a slight change in practice as a result of Public Health directive, highlighting that the protocol currently used in elementary schools will now be used in the high schools as well, meaning if there is a positive case in a school, and the positive case was infectious while at the school, the entire class will be considered a close contact and will be required to self-isolate. He did note that, in the last two weeks, over 50% of cases reported to the Division were students or staff members who were not in schools while infectious, reinforcing that people are following best practices, rules and regulations.

Mr. Boldt and Mr. Enion responded to questions relative to reasons for the Public Health protocol changes, the status of extra-curricular activities, sanitization practices when positive cases are confirmed, and communication relative to increased outdoor activities.

Student
Advocacy
Protocol

Further to questions regarding protocols in place relative to student advocacy or parent concerns, Mr. Greg Enion, Director of Education, provided some background information for Board members, and pointed to Board Policy 13, *Appeals and Hearings Regarding Student Matters*. He outlined clauses 5 and 6 of the Policy. He further advised of the processes relative to other student matters, and student suspensions and expulsions. He also advised that the Saskatchewan Advocate for Children and Youth and the Saskatchewan Human Rights Commission are available to families. Mr. Darren Boldt, Deputy Director, Student Achievement/School Services, further noted that high school guidance counsellors, Indigenous Advocates and school counsellors are available to assist students with concerns. Mr. Boldt and Mr. Enion responded to a question relative to counsellor diversity.

Information –
Subdivision
Reports

Mr. Ted Jaleta advised that a virtual meeting was held on March 1st relative to pending Wascana Plains boundary changes. He noted that the majority of parents supported the changes and the reasons for same. Mr. Adam Hicks further noted that it was made clear during the meeting that funding for a new elementary school in the area is imperative, and he advised that the Board is committed to continuing to advocate for a school to be built in The Towns.

Chair	CFO

On behalf of the Board of Education, Ms. Tara Molson 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, stating that diversity makes us stronger.

Closed Session Motion by Mrs. Sarah Cummings Truszkowski:

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 March 2, 2021 Board meeting be authorized to continue beyond the 8:30 p.m. presumptive adjournment time.

Motion by Mrs. Elizabeth Strom:

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 *SSBA 2022 Budget, 2022 Strategic Plan and Other Priorities and Services Review, Public Section Update, Funding and Financial Planning, Media Relations Protocol, and Diversity Discussion*. 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 Mrs. Sarah Cummings Truszkowski:

That the meeting adjourn.

Motion Carried.

Time of meeting: 5:30 to 9:37 p.m.

Chairperson

Chief Financial Officer