



Board Public Meeting

Mon Apr 7, 2025 5:00 PM - 7:30 PM CST

TRUSTEES PRESENT: Ryan Bast (Board Chair), Vicky Bonnell (Co-Deputy Chair), Bob Kowalchuk (Co-Deputy Chair) (MS Teams), Rob Bresciani (MS Teams), Greg Fischer, Shauna Weninger, Darren Wilcox

STAFF PRESENT: Sean Chase (Director), Josh Kramer (CFO), Kelley Ehman, Stacey Gherasim, Heidi Hildebrand, Joanna Landry, Dave Magnusson, Ryan Robinson, Twylla West, Ryan Schmidt, Tyler Wright, Jill Hrynkiw (Recorder)

PRESENTERS PRESENT: Brooklyn Czinka, Megyn Verbeek

R. Bast called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m.

1. Opening Prayer

D. Wilcox opened the meeting with a prayer.

2. RCSD Vision Statement

R. Bast: To provide a quality Catholic education that is faith-based, student-centered, and results-oriented.

3. Land Acknowledgement

R. Bast: I/We are blessed to serve, live and learn on Treaty 4 territory, traditional lands of the nêhiyawak (neh HEY o wuk), nahkawé (NUK ah way), Nakota, and homeland of the Métis, Lakota, and Dakota. Collectively, we are committed to seeking the Truth and taking intentional steps toward Reconciliation with Indigenous Peoples in our communities.

R. Bast shared the meeting may be recorded.

4. The following consent items have been received as information. Do any of the trustees want to move a consent item to discussion? No Trustees responded.

i. RCSD Board of Trustees Update - April 2025

ii. Student Enrolment - March 31, 2025

iii. Staffing Report - February 25 - March 31, 2025

iv. Downtown Express - March & April

v. 2024-25 Governance Budget Summary and Trustee Remuneration and Expense Allowances December 1, 2024 to February 28, 2025

vi. 2025-26 School Year Calendars

vii. Division Spring Institute - May 15, 2025

Trustees requested to be invited to participate in Division Institute activities.

- ☑ J. Hrynkiw to create Boardable invite to invite Trustees for Institute.

Assigned to: Jill Hrynkiw

viii. Transportation Report - Dec 1, 2024 – Feb 28, 2025

ix. Investments Update

5. 14109: Adoption of Agenda

G. FISCHER: That the agenda be adopted.

 CARRIED

6. Conflict of Interest

R. Bast: Do any of the trustees have a conflict of interest based on the agenda they need to declare? No Trustees responded.

7. 14110: Adoption of Minutes

S. WENINGER: That the minutes of the March 3, 2025 Public Board Meeting be adopted.

 CARRIED

8. Presentation

a. Student Trustees (STRIVE) - Michael A. Riffel Catholic High School

Brooklyn Czinka & Megyn Verbeek, Grade 12 STRIVE students presented an overview of student life at Michael A. Riffel High School. The presentation highlighted achievements in academics and programming, school culture, Catholic education, advanced placement exams, extracurriculars, inclusive programming, and SRC activities and events. Trustees expressed their appreciation for the students' thoughtful and enthusiastic representation.

9. Decision Items

a. 14111: 2025 Education Property Tax Mill Rates

B. KOWALCHUK: That the Board of Education for the Regina R.C.S.S.D. No. 81 exercise its constitutional right to levy education property tax and set its education property tax mill rates, and in so doing the Regina R.C.S.S.D. No. 81 hereby sets education property tax mill rates as follows: By adopting the provincial education property tax mill rates as set by the Lieutenant Governor in Council for the 2025 taxation year.

 CARRIED

b. 14112: 2024-25 Board Self-Evaluation

V. BONNELL: That the 2024-25 Board Self-Evaluation be approved and filed.

 CARRIED

- c. 14113: Education Property Tax Loss Agreement Cowessess FN RCSD RPSD**
D. WILCOX: That the Board approve the Draft Education Tax Loss Agreement between Cowessess First Nation, Regina Catholic School Division and Regina Public School Division for the land locations listed below. • Blk/Par V Plan No 102443745 Extension 0 (Surface Parcel 204123080)

 CARRIED

- d. 14114: Graton vs. Gratton**

The Board reviewed historical documentation concerning the original spelling of the name “Graton,” after Fr. Damien Graton, for whom the original school division—Graton Roman Catholic Separate School District No. 13—was named. Evidence from multiple archival sources, including cemetery records, the 1899 minutes book, and official Ministry documents, confirmed the correct spelling is Graton with one “T.”

It was noted that the current naming of the “Gratton Room” at the Catholic Education Centre (CEC) includes a second “T,” which is historically inaccurate. Administration is recommending to correct the name Gratton Room to Graton Room, to properly reflect the legacy of Fr. Damien Graton and the division’s historical origins.

S. WENINGER: That the Board approve the change of the spelling of Gratton Meeting Room to Graton Meeting Room to reflect the original name of the school division - Graton Roman Catholic Separate School District No. 13. which was named after Fr. Damien Graton.

 CARRIED

10. Discussion

- a. Review 2024-25 Board Annual Work Plan and Events Schedule**

Trustees reviewed upcoming February events from the 2024-25 Board Annual Work Plan and Events Schedule.

11. Governance

Chelsie Engdohl joined the meeting.

12. Governance - Executive Council Reporting

- a. Detailed Implementation Plan (DIP) - Indigenous Education**

S. Gherasim & C. Engdohl outlined progress and next steps related to RCSD’s commitment to Indigenous Education with three key focus areas: Indigenous Education for All, Supporting Indigenous Learners, and Truth and Reconciliation.

Highlights include:

Land-Based Learning: Continued integration through our Catholic faith of Indigenous spirituality and ceremonies in schools, with support from Elders and Knowledge Keepers. Programs include pipe ceremonies, smudging, hide tanning, and medicine walks, facilitated by Knowledge Keepers, Elders and our Métis Land-Based Learning Specialist.

Support for Indigenous Learners: Transition initiatives from elementary to high school, enhanced engagement with families, and the expansion of the Michif Language Early Learning Initiative in PreK and Kindergarten.

Truth and Reconciliation: All Grade 10 students will participate in the Blanket Exercise. The Indigenous Education Responsibility Framework (IERF) is a guide to assess classroom implementation, with plans for wider rollout in Fall 2025.

The division continues to focus on relationship building, language revitalization, professional development, and aligning assessment tools with Indigenous education goals.

Chelsie Engdohl left the meeting.

b. 2024-25 Quarter 2 - Forecast (Quarterly Financial Report) - September 1, 2024 - February 28, 2025

J. Kramer shared the 2024-25 Quarter 2 - Forecast outlining updated revenue and expense projections as of February 28, 2025, as required by the Ministry of Education and RCSD Board policy.

Highlights include:

1. Revenues have increased by \$21.9 million over the original budget, mainly due to \$4M in new Operating Grants, \$16M in Capital Grants for 24 new relocatable classrooms, \$250K in additional Complementary Services (20 new ELIS spaces), \$1.25M in land prep costs for West Harbour Landing Joint-Use School (City of Regina).
2. Expenses increased by \$1.1 million due to new superintendent staffing, higher instructional salaries, additional costs for setup of relocatables, expanded ELIS programming and Family Resource Centre costs, Surplus Forecast: Originally budgeted as a \$1.5M deficit, the Q2 forecast now projects a \$1.943M surplus, after capital adjustments.
3. Risks & Sensitivities include unconfirmed retro pay for teachers and ESPs, pending LINC and CUPE negotiations, rising costs (e.g., tariffs, relocatables), project uncertainties (e.g., Holy Beans Café, CEC 2.0 renovations).

13. Reports

a. Chair's Report

Board Chair Ryan Bast provided an update highlighting recent governance, school, and community engagement activities. Key items included attendance at the SSBA Spring Assembly and Budget Day proceedings, participation in a CSCC linkage meeting with CEC 2.0 tour, and school visits to École St. Pius X, St. Matthew, Sacred Heart, and St. Michael. Trustees also supported events such as the St. Dominic Math Fair and Heritage Fairs at St. Catherine and St. Augustine. Faith life and student achievement were celebrated through

b. Committee Chair Reports

i. AGM & Conference-Provincial Reports-Toonies For Tuition

Trustees discussed the continued importance of the Toonies for Tuition campaign, which supports Catholic education in provinces where tuition must be paid as it is not publicly funded. The second annual Toonies for Tuition Day will be recognized on April 30, 2025. RCSD will not mandate a specific fundraising event on that date, as schools have been encouraged to target Catholic Education Week to raise funds.

Trustees suggested exploring opportunities to engage clergy and other key stakeholders to help match fundraising efforts in support of Catholic education initiatives.

The Canadian Catholic School Trustees' Association (CCSTA) Convention and AGM will be held in June 2025. Open positions include President and Vice-President. It was also shared that Patrick Daly has assumed the role of Executive Director of CCSTA.

- © S. Chase and J. Hrynkiw to discuss adding opportunities to engage clergy and other key stakeholders to help match fundraising efforts in support of Catholic education initiatives - Toonies for Tuition.

Assigned to: Sean Chase, Jill Hrynkiw

c. Trustee Reports

i. RCSD/PVSD Linkage - April 7, 2025

Board Chair R. Bast shared that Trustees and Directors from Regina Catholic School Division and Prairie Valley School Division met on April 7, 2025 to discuss key topics including SSBA Executive Composition, PVSD student enrollments in RCSD schools and related procedures, and the new Southeast High School. The meeting served as an important opportunity to strengthen relationships and foster collaboration between the two closely connected divisions.

d. Director's Report

Director, S. Chase shared the following updates:

- Lenten Observances: RCSD schools are actively observing Lent through school-based liturgies, reconciliation services, and classroom activities.
- Provincial Education Plan (PEP): RCSD staff continue to engage in the refinement and implementation of the PEP, contributing to the development of provincial assessments.
- Extra-Curricular Activities: A wide range of student opportunities are being led by dedicated RCSD staff and parent volunteers. April highlights include Band Days, elementary badminton championships, and the start of track and field season.
- The provincial Collective Bargaining Agreement was officially signed during the SSBA AGM, which Trustees attended.

fostered meaningful dialogue. Following remarks and a Q&A session, attendees were given a tour of the new Catholic Education Centre.

b. Circle of Voices

The Circle of Voices continues to be a powerful and meaningful venue for sharing, healing, and connection. This gathering provides individuals with the opportunity to speak their truths, share lived experiences, and, in many cases, release trauma in a safe and supportive environment.

A heartfelt thank you and sincere praise to our dedicated staff for embracing the emotional weight and responsibility of facilitating such a deeply impactful meeting. Their compassion, professionalism, and courage in holding space for others are truly commendable. This work is difficult, but incredibly necessary — and we are deeply grateful for their efforts.

c. Clergy Meetings

S. Weninger shared that clergy members have expressed appreciation for the one-on-one outreach by Trustees to connect and build relationships. So far, Trustees have met with Fr. Sami, Fr. Brian, and Fr. Wilfred and Fr. Amedee. These conversations have offered valuable insights and diverse perspectives from within the faith community. Clergy have also affirmed the importance of welcoming non-baptized students who are eager to learn about Catholic teachings. A key message shared by clergy members is that "God is love at the end of everything."

Fr. Warren Dungen is looking to better understand where Ukrainian Catholic students are attending school within RCSD. He has asked for a report identifying the number of Ukrainian Catholic students and the schools they attend. His goal is to focus his pastoral support where there are higher concentrations of students, as he is finding it increasingly challenging to reach every school due to time and capacity constraints.

- ☑ S. Chase and J. Hrynkiw to supply a list of RCSD schools and the Ukrainian Catholic student numbers that attend them.

Assigned to: Sean Chase, Jill Hrynkiw

d. School Events

Trustees had the pleasure of attending recent school events, including the St. Dominic Math Fair and the St. Catherine Community Fair. These gatherings highlighted the remarkable work and creativity of students, and served as wonderful examples of community-building and academic engagement within our schools. Trustees were inspired by the enthusiasm and dedication shown by both students and staff.

15. Correspondence

- a. Harbour Landing West Joint-Use School - Tender Approval Letter
Provided as information.

16. 14115: Move in to Closed Session

G. FISCHER: That the Board move in to Closed Session.

Page 6

 CARRIED

- i. Matters Related Directly or Indirectly to Collective Bargaining
- ii. Litigation Issues
- iii. Negotiations for Purchase, Lease or Other Acquisition or Sale of Property
- iv. Sensitive Matters

17. 14116: Move out of Closed Session

B. KOWALCHUK: That the Board move out of Closed Session.

 CARRIED

18. Items for Future Agenda

19. 14117: Adjournment

R. BRESCIANI: That the meeting be adjourned.

 CARRIED

20. Closing Prayer

S. Weninger closed the meeting with a prayer.

21. 2024-2025 Board of Trustees Goals

- a. Establish the role of the board as it relates to the division.
- b. Create a long-range plan, five to ten years that is sustainable.
- c. Ensure Board/Division culture is maintained.
- d. Continue to support and advocate for Catholic Education and liaise with our Church.
- e. Continue to prepare for the future of the school division through succession planning.



Ryan Bast, Board Chair



Josh Kramer, Chief Financial Officer

