

Regina Catholic Schools



Public Board Meeting

Tue Sep 5, 2023 5:00 PM - 7:30 PM CST

TRUSTEES PRESENT: Shauna Weninger (Board Chair), Ryan Bast (Deputy Chair), Vicky Bonnell, Rob Bresciani, Bob Kowalchuk, Darren Wilcox

STAFF PRESENT: Sean Chase (Director), Josh Kramer (CFO), Kelley Ehman, Stacey Gherasim, Heidi Hildebrand, Joanna Landry, Dave Magnusson, Doug Sears, Jill Hrynkiw (Recorder)

1. Land Acknowledgement

S. Weninger: I wish to acknowledge that we are on Treaty 4 territory, the unceded lands of the nêhiyawak, nahkawé, Nakota, and homeland of the Métis, Lakota, and Dakota. As a settler I am committed to acknowledging the truth, working toward intentional and meaningful reconciliation in my personal and professional life and encouraging those around me to move forward in their journey of truth and reconciliation.

2. Opening Prayer

V. Bonnell opened the meeting with a prayer.

3. Consent Items

S. Weninger: The following consent items have been received as information. Do any of the trustees want to move a consent item to discussion?

Items i. Student Enrolment and xi. 2022-23 Quarter 3 Forecast moved to Discussion.

i. Student Enrolment - August 31, 2023

Moved to Discussion Item (b).

ii. Staffing Report - June 1 - August 31, 2023

iii. RCSD Board of Trustees Update - September 2023

iv. Asset Protection Hotline Report

v. Saskatchewan Distance Learning Corporation (Sask DLC)

vi. Knights of Columbus Free Throw Event Letter of Appreciation

vii. Business Application - Liquor Store Permit

viii. Decision of City Council - Use of Alcohol in City of Regina Parks

ix. Preventative Maintenance & Renewal Plan Approval

x. 2022-23 Governance Budget Summary Report & Trustee Remuneration and Expense Allowance - Quarter 3

xi. 2022-23 Quarter 3 Forecast

Moved to Discussion Item (c).

xii. Transportation Report - March 1 - June 30, 2023

xiii. RCSD Pension Analysis

xiv. SSBA Response to Minister's August 22, 2023 Directive - New Parental Inclusion and Consent Policies

xv. Home Fire Affordable Housing Development Project Updates

4. 13933. Adoption of Agenda

B. KOWALCHUK: That the agenda be adopted.

CARRIED

5. Conflict of Interest

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

6. 13934. Adoption of Minutes

V. BONNELL: That the minutes of the June 26, 2023 Public Board Meeting be adopted.

CARRIED

7. Decision Items

a. 13935. Temporary Reduction of Members of the Regina Roman Catholic Separate School Division No. 81 Board

R. BRESCIANI: That the Board operate with six rather than seven trustees until the next election in Fall 2024 with approval by the Ministry.

CARRIED

b. 13936. Computer Lease vs. Purchase

D. WILCOX: That the Board approve utilizing \$975,000 from Information Technology (IT) Internally Restricted Reserves for the 2022-23 fiscal year to purchase computer hardware and transition from leasing to ownership.

CARRIED

c. 13937. Saskatchewan Catholic School Board Association (SCSBA) Board Nomination

R. BAST: That the Board nominate Trustee Vicky Bonnell to continue in her second year in the position of SCSBA Vice-President for the October 21, 2023 SCSBA Annual General Meeting.

☑ Send SCSBA Board nomination from minutes to Tom Fortosky at SCSBA.
Assigned to: Jill Hrynkiw

CARRIED

d. 13938. 2023-24 Board of Trustee Goals

V. BONNELL: That the Board approve the 2023-24 Board of Trustees Goals as presented.

CARRIED

e. 13939. Policy 1 - Division Foundational Commitments & Strategic Plan (2023-24)

B. KOWALCHUK: That the Board approve the amendment to Policy 1 - Division Foundational Commitments & Strategic Plan (2023-2024).

f. 13940. DRAFT 2023-2026 RCSD Strategic Plan

D. WILCOX: That the Board approve the 3-year 2023-26 RCSD Strategic Plan as presented.

CARRIED

g. 13941. Policy 8 - Board Operations Appendix B - Schedule of Remunerations and Expense Allowances

R. BRESCIANI: That the Board approve the amendment to Policy 8 - Board Operations - Appendix B - Schedule of Remunerations and Expense Allowances as presented.

h. 13942. 2023-24 Board Annual Work Plan and Events Schedule

The Board Annual Work Plan working document now includes the Board Activity Schedule as one document. The combined document is now named *Board Annual Work Plan and Events Schedule*. We have adjusted all further agendas to reflect this change.

R. BAST: That the 2023-24 Board Annual Work Plan and Events Schedule be approved as presented.

☑ CARRIED

8. Discussion

a. 2023 Audit Engagement Letter

Trustees reviewed and completed the audit questionnaire and all six Trustees signed the Audit Engagement Letter.

b. Student Enrolment - August 31, 2023

- Enrolment continues to grow at an unprecedented rate.
- A form has been created for school Administration to fill out mid-year to request additional staffing including teachers and support staff. Requests will be weighted based on their level of emergency.
- A plan to address mid-year funding has not been announced by the Ministry at this point. We will continue our advocacy efforts.
- Current enrolment head-count is already above what was budgeted.

- Executive Council is already looking at enrolment "hot-spots" and proactively prepping and visiting sites early to make sure any permits required to add additional relocatables are in place. Possible challenges are property lines and new building codes.

- Multilingual and Multicultural Services has pulled several EAL teachers from schools to assist with newcomer assessments in order to get students/families off the assessment waiting list and into schools.

c. 2022-23 Quarter 3 Forecast

The Division is forecasting a deficit of \$8.141 million. After approved use of reserves, we are forecasting to be in a deficit position of \$874 thousand. Spending has been halted on some items to bring this deficit down.

Financial Pressures leading the deficit:

- Enrolments after September 30th lead to over 600 unfunded students in the 2022-23 school year. It is essential to receive mid-year funding in order to not remain in a deficit-free situation.

- Salaries: Current accounting software does not accurately track salary step increases. The Division will need to consider updated software in order to get proper salary tracking.

9. Governance

a. Ministry Meeting Request - August 22, 2023 Directives

- S. Chase and S. Weninger sent a letter to Jeremy Cockrill, Minister of Education regarding the concerns and consequences that the August 22 Ministry Directives will have on The Regina Catholic School Division.

- The Board shared it was important that the letter be shared publicly to show the concerns the division has with the directives.

- S. Weninger shared that there was no consultation with the school division from the Ministry on the directives.

- S. Weninger shared the timing of the directive announcement days prior to the start of the new school year was harmful, as there was no time for the division to thoughtfully process and plan for the changes and responses required of the division to meet the directives.

- Regina Catholic is dedicated to our commitment of 'Safer Spaces' putting students and families first.

b. SSBA Submission of Bylaw Amendments Memo

Deadline for submission of bylaw amendments is 4:30 pm, September 27, 2023.

Deadline for submission of resolutions is 4:30 pm, October 12, 2023.

10. Reports

a. Chair's Report

S. Weninger's reported on:

- The Board's many end of year and summer activities including the celebration of RCSD's Grade 12 graduates;

- The Board's appreciation for the sense of belonging and community-like feeling throughout many events and activities such as track and field, spirit days and school visits;
- Engaged staff at staff and Trustee professional development opportunities;
- Feeling of pride in seeing the DRAFT RCSD Strategic Plan come to fruition throughout the past meetings;
- Appreciation for Trustee Juliet Bushi who has resigned from her position.

b. Trustee Reports / Committee Chair Reports

V. Bonnell thanked the Board for the nomination to continue in her second year as SCSBA Vice President.

V. Bonnell shared her appreciation for the Canadian School Boards Association (CSBA) Congress held on July 3-5, 2023 which gave trustees an opportunity to receive professional development on topics such as Diversity, Equity & Inclusion and Indigenous Education.

B. Kowalchuk commented on the Trustees activity log highlighting the many activities/events trustees participate in.

c. Director's Report

The Director's Report included the following updates:

Smooth Student Transitions - Aligned with the new Provincial Education Plan priority; RCSD Opening Mass and Faith Formation; Catholic Leaders' Annual System Seminar (CLASS) 2023; Student Enrolment vs. Projection.

11. Community Linkage

None to report.

12. Correspondence

a. Ministry of Education Approval of 2023-24 Budget

Provided as information.

13. 13942. Move in to Closed Session

R. BAST: hat the Board move in to Closed Session

CARRIED

14. 13943. Move out of Closed Session

R. BRESCIANI: That the Board move out of Closed Session.

CARRIED

15. Items for Future Agenda

16. 13944. Adjournment

B. KOWALCHUK: That the meeting be adjourned.

CARRIED

17. Closing Prayer

R. Bresciani closed the meeting with a prayer.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Shauna Weninger'.

Shauna Weninger, Board Chair
CFO

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Josh Kramer'.

Josh Kramer,