

Motion regarding P3 Schools

Annual Meeting of Electors of the Regina Public School Board, January 28, 2014

WHEREAS the provincial government has announced its intention to build nine joint-use P3 (public-private partnership) schools in the province, including three in Regina; and,

WHEREAS the provincial government has not duly consulted the people of Saskatchewan about P3 schools; and

WHEREAS the experience of P3 schools in other provinces such as Nova Scotia and Alberta has shown that P3 schools cost more, increase long-term debt, do not provide flexibility in design, do not meet community needs, squeeze out local contractors and reduce public control and accountability,

WE THE ELECTORS of the Regina Public School Division No. 4 call on the Regina Public School Board to seek answers from the province on the questions listed below and to hold a special public meeting on P3 schools within two (2) months of the electors annual meeting to discuss whatever information the board has gathered on these questions.

1. What is the comparison of costs to build schools in Regina through public financing or a P3 model? Specifically, provide a comparison of private vs public borrowing costs and interest rates, transaction costs, amortization period, the private sector profit or return on equity, and an annual schedule of payments under the private or public model. Will payments be back-end loaded pushing the higher proportion of cost into the future?
2. Who will own the new schools? Who will have the title to the school and carry the mortgage? Who will be responsible for insurance and maintenance costs? Who is responsible for monitoring the company and the contract? If the company hires sub-contractors, who is responsible for monitoring them?
3. Will the P3 company or consortium have a long-term operation and/or maintenance contract? If yes, what will happen to existing maintenance and caretaking staff? Will the school division need permission from the company to modify the structure or hang any items such as bulletin boards on the walls? Will timely repairs and maintenance be delayed until the company can respond? Will school divisions have to pay for specific repairs and maintenance while also paying for a long-term operations and maintenance contract?
4. Will the school design be flexible enough to accommodate local community needs? Will the community and/or their local governments be expected to pay for the building and maintenance of community space? Will students, staff and the general public continue to have access to schools or will that access be restricted or come with extra charges? Will the design include innovative green technologies and renovation and retrofitting of existing facilities wherever possible?
5. Will local contractors, suppliers and workers benefit from the construction process under the P3 model as they have under the current model for building public schools?

APPROVED