

JANUARY 2013

From: **Julie MacRae** <julie.macrae@rbe.sk.ca>
Date: Wed, Jan 30, 2013 at 11:06 AM
Subject: FW: Leader Post coverage.
To: RBE <RBE@rbe.sk.ca>

You may be interested in this if you have not already seen it....Julie




From: Terry Lazarou
Sent: January-30-13 10:06 AM
To: Julie MacRae; Debra Burnett
Subject: Leader Post coverage.

Here is the LP article.

I'm working on finding video.

Terry Lazarou

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Schools AGM leads to larger discussion

By Emma Graney, Leader-Post January 30, 2013

From establishing a committee for First Nations and Metis education to cementing the powers of School Community Councils (SCCs) and designating Connaught school as a heritage property, it was a night of far-reaching discussion at Tuesday's Regina Public Schools annual meeting of electors.

In the end, none of the five resolutions tabled by members of the public were passed by voters, but parent and RealRenewal spokeswoman Trish Elliott, who tabled the lion's share of the motions, said her group would continue to push the board on new ideas.

"I think they were voted down only because there were a lot of people here representing the board, who felt they had to vote against everything ... and I don't think they gave it good consideration," Elliott said following the meeting.

"I think the board needs to sit back and think 'Okay, maybe people are really trying to give us helpful information and are trying to find ways we can deal with these issues in our schools,' and maybe instead of knee jerk reactions rejecting everything from parents, give it consideration."

Board chair Katherine Gagne, though, said it was likely some of the proposed resolutions would make it to the board table for further discussion.

"We bring many different things to the board table for consideration and, when the public speaks, we want to listen and be responsive," she said.

Part of that responsive attitude has resulted in the board holding more meetings in public spaces; Tuesday night's annual meeting, for example, was one of the first held in a school, and the board recently held a meeting at Douglas Park School.

"We've made a very conscious decision to get out in front of the public, whether that be in front of SCCs or just with more public meetings," Gagne said.

This year's annual meeting of electors was held earlier than usual to give timely feedback about the division's continuous improvement report.

The five resolutions voted on at the meeting revolved around clarifying the powers of SCCs; establishing a First Nations and Metis education action committee to deal with low graduation rates among those communities; designating Connaught Community School as a heritage building; changing the way school enrolments are counted, particularly when it comes to potential school closures; and allowing bargaining groups to request the presence of school trustees during contract negotiations.

Other issues discussed at the meeting included the funding of associate schools and concerns about whether they're held to the same enrolment requirements as public schools.

In her report, Director of Education Julie MacRae said the board and division are committed to "equitable opportunities and outcomes for all students."

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