

**FEBRUARY 2013**



**From:** Katherine Gagne  
**To:** [carlabeck@sasktel.net](mailto:carlabeck@sasktel.net); "Julie MacRae"  
**Subject:** RE: Provost complaint  
**Date:** Tuesday, February 05, 2013 9:31:53 AM

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Not aware.  
Katherine

-----Original Message-----

From: [carlabeck@sasktel.net](mailto:carlabeck@sasktel.net) [<mailto:carlabeck@sasktel.net>]  
Sent: February-05-13 9:02 AM  
To: Julie MacRae; Katherine Gagne  
Subject: Provost complaint

Good morning.

I received an email from Trish Elliott yesterday stating that a "representative from the Board office" had made a complaint to the UofR provost with regard to Trish and Florence Stratton and their actions at the AGM.

Were either of you aware of this? I understand that there will be at least two interpretations of this but feel it merits further inquiry.

Any light you could shed on this would be appreciated. Enjoy the day.

Carla

PS -- interesting article in the LP re: the Catholic AGM Sent from my BlackBerryR wireless handheld

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No virus found in this message.

Checked by AVG - [www.avg.com](http://www.avg.com)

Version: 10.0.1430 / Virus Database: 2639/5583 - Release Date: 02/05/13





**From:** Julie MacRae  
**To:** Carla Beck; Katherine Gagne  
**Subject:** Re: Provost complaint  
**Date:** Tuesday, February 05, 2013 9:32:04 AM

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I have no knowledge of any such complaint. J  
Director of Education  
Regina Public Schools  
Email: Julie.MacRae@rbe.sk.ca  
Telephone: 306 523 3010

"Never underestimate the power of one person to make a difference: indeed it is the only thing that ever has!". Margaret Wheatley

----- Original Message -----

From: carlabeck@sasktel.net [mailto:carlabeck@sasktel.net]  
Sent: Tuesday, February 05, 2013 09:01 AM  
To: Julie MacRae; Katherine Gagne  
Subject: Provost complaint

Good morning.

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Carla

PS -- interesting article in the LP re: the Catholic AGM  
Sent from my BlackBerry® wireless handheld



## Alma Tholl

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**From:** RealRenewal <realrenewal@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, February 08, 2013 8:21 AM  
**To:** Julie MacRae  
**Subject:** Electors' AGM  
**Attachments:** Resolutions with notes.doc

Electors' AGM

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Dear Trustees,

Attached are copies of resolutions put forward by members of RealRenewal to the electors, with a few brief notes on the background/rationale for each. Gathered directly from our 199 members and the general public, these ideas represent some positive avenues for working directly with community members on pressing issues.

Thank you for facilitating our electors' AGM. There may have been a few bumps in the road with parliamentary procedure, but we appreciate progress made in affording direct public input in a democratic forum. We did hope for some more discussion or questions on the resolutions than occurred, which is why we attach the versions that have our members' discussion notes included.

If you have any further questions or wish to work together with community members on moving these ideas forward, please don't hesitate to contact us.

Sincerely,  
Trish Elliott  
for RealRenewal



Motions presented to the Regina Public School Board Annual Meeting of Electors, Jan. 29, 2013.  
*These motions were developed based on input received from RealRenewal members and supporters.*

### **First Nations, Métis and Inuit Education**

**WHEREAS** the board's Continuous Improvement Plan Report indicates First Nations and Métis students have experienced a widening achievement gap under the current education model;

**AND WHEREAS** the aspirations of First Nations, Métis and Inuit people to create a better world for all have reached a critical turning point, as evidenced by the Idle No More Movement;

**AND WHEREAS** we have a broad community of experience, expertise and enthusiasm to draw on that currently sits outside the halls of decision-making;

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that a special Action Committee be created by this assembly to address First Nations, Métis and Inuit concerns regarding public education in Regina, which would include majority representation from the Aboriginal community in Regina and majority representation from non-board personnel, and be chaired by a person of Aboriginal ancestry;

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that Action Committee members be selected through an open and fully transparent public nomination process, within 30 days of this date;

**AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that this Action Committee be empowered to explore and facilitate advocacy for necessary changes and to develop binding recommendations for further action.

### **Rationale / Background**

Despite best intentions over the years, the board and the province continue to struggle with substantially improving the learning environment for First Nations and Métis students.

There have been some good initiatives by the board that could now use some additional traction. It is time to reach out to the community and to First Nations people to tackle these issues, because that is where needed knowledge and expertise lies.

In the Continuous Improvement Plan Report, the board stated its desire to develop an Action Plan to address the achievement gap that is already widening by Grade 2.

Therefore we propose creating a community-based, First Nations-led Action Committee to lead the way, which includes investing it with the power to make a difference.

### **Powers of School Community Councils**

**WHEREAS** Policy 18 of the Regina Board of Education cites the Duties of School Community Councils as stated in the Education Act Regulations, Part II, 2, 3.9.2;



**AND WHEREAS** Policy 18 is silent on the Powers of School Community Councils as stated in the Education Act Regulations, Part II, 2, 3.9.3;

**BE IT RESOLVED** that the Powers of the School Community Councils be added to Policy 18 and quoted in future board communications dealing with SCC roles and responsibilities, specifically:

“A School Community Council may:

- (a) provide advice and recommendations to the board of education respecting policies, programs and educational service delivery, including fundraising, school fees, pupil code of conduct, grade discontinuance, school closure, religious instruction, and language of instruction but not including educational service delivery by a specific teacher;
- (b) provide advice to the school staff respecting school programs; and
- (c) provide advice to other organizations, agencies and governments on the learning needs and well-being of pupils (Education Act Regulations Part II, 2, 3.9.3)”

### **Rationale / Background**

When one speaks of responsibilities under law, it is important to also speak of rights.

Whether the topic is school closures or Ministry policies, SCCs are routinely advised that they have no mandate to address issues that directly affect their children and communities.

Quoting the Education Act Regulations clarifies that SCCs have a voice at all levels of society and government, and that they have a right to exercise that voice.

The power to speak to others about “the learning needs and well-being of pupils” should be broadly interpreted because:

- “Learning needs” are supported by a full roster of educational and social policies and programs, and;
- “Well-being” extends to the health of the community and social supports for children.

### **Designation of Heritage Property**

WHEREAS Davin School, constructed in 1929, was successfully placed on the Regina Municipal Heritage Holding Bylaw List, with the support of Regina Public Schools, in honour of its 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 1989, and subsequently went on to win a 2004 City of Regina Heritage Award;

AND WHEREAS Connaught School, constructed in 1912, is an equally valuable heritage asset owned by Regina Public, as identified by Regina Public's heritage consultant report and having been recognized as one of Heritage Canada's Top 10 Canadian Endangered Heritage Sites in 2012;

AND WHEREAS heritage schools are recognized around the world as uniquely valuable



contributors to 21st Century education and to history of place;

**BE IT RESOLVED** THAT Regina Public seek Municipal Heritage Holding Bylaw status for Connaught School to honour its 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary, and as a first step toward potentially accessing federal-provincial grants for repairs to recognized heritage properties, including new grant initiatives for heritage buildings being launched in advance of Canada's 150th anniversary.

### **Rationale / Background**

This resolution offers the board an opportunity to stop viewing its historic properties as liabilities that must be gotten rid of under the direction of the provincial government – instead of as valuable assets that offer unique opportunities in financing and community engagement.

The Heritage Holding Bylaw does not hold the board to any specific course of action regarding the future of a building. But it does open doors to cost sharing programs for repairs, safety improvements, maintenance and even major renovations, doors that would otherwise be shut.

The federal government has announced its intention to increase funding for heritage renovations in the coming years. This includes historic schools, particularly when they are partnered with community groups.

This in turn opens the door to community engagement in fundraising, grant writing and sweat equity. There is tremendous community expertise and enthusiasm to be tapped in a neighbourhood that has excelled in giving robust second life to buildings deemed unfixable at some point in their lives (including Davin School, which was once given two months to live).

Being on the Heritage Holding Bylaw list is not something to be feared. It has not hurt Davin School, and won't hurt Connaught – but it might be helpful down the road. RealRenewal can recommend heritage experts, who trustees can sit down with to learn how to take full advantage of heritage properties as some of their most valuable assets.

### **Determining school population**

**WHEREAS** support for holistic, cohesive communities plays a beneficial role in student achievement and community well-being;

**AND WHEREAS** school community members perceive themselves as a holistic entity;

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that Regina Public's school enrolment counts include all Ministry of Education-funded students;

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that English and French programs situated in the same school building be counted together as a single school population.

### **Background / Rationale**

In school closure discussions, too many students are left out of the equation, including special needs students and pre-k students who are the future of the school.

As well, French and English students are counted as separate, unrelated schools.

When families see their children excluded from enrolment counts, they feel excluded in general.

While dividing up school populations may make sense from a bureaucratic perspective, it makes no sense whatsoever from a community perspective.

School communities regard themselves as one family – whatever their level of need.

Ministry funding recognizes and counts all students in a school – so should the school division.

### **Employee bargaining**

**WHEREAS** the Education Act identifies boards of education as employers;

**AND WHEREAS** for the purposes of adequate public representation it is important for trustees to be well informed of bargaining processes;

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that any bargaining group can request the presence of a school trustee during contract negotiations;

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that, in the absence of any compelling circumstances otherwise, every effort will be made to meet that request.

### **Rationale / Background**

As citizens, we elect trustees to take a front seat, not a back seat, in the running of our schools.

This includes observing contract negotiations to ensure the public interest is being upheld and that our school employees are being treated fairly and respectfully.

Our trustees are our elected ears, eyes and voices – they must be present and accountable for these important discussions.

## Alma Tholl

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**From:** carlabeck@sasktel.net  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 20, 2013 4:08 PM  
**To:** Katherine Gagne; Julie MacRae  
**Subject:** Re: Topic for Board Discussion

Hey Katherine,

This is a bit different than I remember the conversation going. I do not recall coming to a consensus on the matter.

I do remember that we agreed to discuss the concern as a Board.

My issue continues to be that the reason the provost spoke with Trish was based on the call claiming to be from RPS/RBE.

Carla

-----Original Message-----

**From:** Katherine Gagne  
**To:** 'Kathleen O'Reilly'  
**To:** 'carla beck'  
**Subject:** RE: Topic for Board Discussion  
**Sent:** Feb 20, 2013 2:50 PM

Kathleen,

Carla and I discussed this with Julie at our board agenda planning meeting and we are satisfied that nothing came from anyone in any official RPS capacity.

I will make the board aware, at our next meeting, of this concern raised by Trish however we will not involving ourselves in another organizations personnel matters by sending a letter or anything further.

Thank you.

Katherine

-----Original Message-----

**From:** Kathleen O'Reilly [<mailto:kathleenoreilly@sasktel.net>]  
**Sent:** February-15-13 6:59 AM  
**To:** [gagne@accesscomm.ca](mailto:gagne@accesscomm.ca); carla beck  
**Subject:** Topic for Board Discussion

Hi Carla and Katherine,

I would like to request that we, as a Board, discuss the issue of someone who (falsely) claimed to represent RPS calling the Provost at the University of Regina to lodge a complaint about Trish Elliott.

I believe that we need to send a letter to the Provost saying that the complainant did not represent the views of the Board or RPS.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Kathleen

Dr. Kathleen O'Reilly

Regina's Public School Board Trustee, Subdivision 7 Quality Public Education Benefits Us All

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No virus found in this message.

Checked by AVG - [www.avg.com](http://www.avg.com)

Version: 10.0.1430 / Virus Database: 2639/5604 - Release Date: 02/14/13

Sent from my BlackBerry® wireless handheld



## Alma Tholl

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**From:** Trish Elliott <pellott@accesscomm.ca>  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 21, 2013 12:55 PM  
**To:** Julie MacRae  
**Subject:** Re: Tuesday board meeting

I Cc'd Carla because she is my trustee, not because she is vice chair, in case you were wondering why she is on the cc

Sent from my iPhone

On 2013-02-21, at 12:29 PM, "Julie MacRae" <[julie.macrae@rbe.sk.ca](mailto:julie.macrae@rbe.sk.ca)> wrote:

Hi Trish;

The Board will be considering three property matters on Tuesday evening involving Glen Elm, Connaught, and Imperial McDermid. This is a followup to the Stage One studies presented to the Board in June. The Board must make motions to move the projects along through the capital approval process in the Ministry.

The Board does not provide Notice of Motion on routine business matters, nor is it required to. Notice of Motion is a mechanism that allows individual trustees to provide notice of their intent to their elected colleagues to bring a new item forward.

The decision to waive the two week notice provision in order to hear a delegation is not mine to make. By copy of this email I am informing our Board Chair of your request, as I note you have already cc'd the Vice Chair.

Either Katherine or I will get back to you once a decision has been made.

Julie

Director of Education  
Regina Public Schools  
Email: [Julie.MacRae@rbe.sk.ca](mailto:Julie.MacRae@rbe.sk.ca)  
Telephone: 306 523 3010

"Never underestimate the power of one person to make a difference: indeed it is the only thing that ever has!". Margaret Wheatley

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**From:** Patricia Elliott [<mailto:pellott@accesscomm.ca>]  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 21, 2013 12:14 PM  
**To:** Julie MacRae  
**Cc:** Carla Beck  
**Subject:** Tuesday board meeting

Dear Julie,

I happened to call Suzanne Shuba this morning because the Connaught school community is receiving a City of Regina heritage award on Monday evening, and it was on my mind that there has been a long silence on the school's future. I guess my timing was good, or guided by

dumb luck, because Suzanne said there is some type of decision-making item related to Connaught on this Tuesday's agenda, although she said she could not provide any details.

What I would like to know is if this is a notice of motion, as per usual board process, or an actual decision. There are doubtless many people who would like the opportunity to speak before the board on this issue, which according to board policy requires a request to present two weeks prior and a written presentation on the Thursday before the board meeting. This is presumably why things come forward as a notice of motion first, as the Friday agendas come out too late to accommodate public input. I am assuming some kind of notice in advance of decision making will be provided, but would like to be sure, hopefully sooner rather than later.

If there is to be no notice of motion, then I would respectfully like to request that normal presentation procedure be waived, so that RealRenewal can at least speak to the process and request tabling of the motion (if there is one) so that adequate public notice can be provided. I realize there was a public consultation back in the spring, but that process did not allow community members to present information in any detail, or to address members of the board.

Thanks very much for your assistance.

Sincerely,  
Trish Elliott



**From:** Julie MacRae  
**To:** [pellott@accesscomm.ca](mailto:pellott@accesscomm.ca)  
**Cc:** Carla Beck; Katherine Gagne  
**Subject:** Re: Tuesday board meeting  
**Date:** Thursday, February 21, 2013 2:24:39 PM

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Trish;

I am not yet at liberty to share them publicly as the Board members have not yet seen them. They will be in tomorrow's agenda package on the website.

Julie

Director of Education  
Regina Public Schools  
Email: [Julie.MacRae@rbe.sk.ca](mailto:Julie.MacRae@rbe.sk.ca)  
Telephone: 306 523 3010

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**From:** Patricia Elliott [<mailto:pellott@accesscomm.ca>]  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 21, 2013 02:19 PM  
**To:** Julie MacRae  
**Cc:** Carla Beck; Katherine Gagne  
**Subject:** Re: Tuesday board meeting

Can our community at least know what the motion is? This doesn't shed very much light on what should ideally be a public discussion about public assets.

----- Original Message -----

**From:** Julie MacRae  
**To:** [pellott@accesscomm.ca](mailto:pellott@accesscomm.ca)  
**Cc:** Carla Beck ; Katherine Gagne  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 21, 2013 12:29 PM  
**Subject:** Re: Tuesday board meeting

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Either Katherine or I will get back to you once a decision has been made.

Julie

Director of Education  
Regina Public Schools  
Email: Julie.MacRae@rbe.sk.ca  
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Thanks very much for your assistance.

Sincerely,  
Trish Elliott

**From:** [Julie MacRae](#)  
**To:** [pellott@accesscomm.ca](mailto:pellott@accesscomm.ca)  
**Cc:** [Carla Beck](#); [Katherine Gagne](#); [Suzanne Shuba](#)  
**Subject:** Re: Tuesday board meeting  
**Date:** Friday, February 22, 2013 10:46:52 AM

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Hello Trish:

Chairperson Gagne has asked me to advise you that the Board will hear your delegation on February 26th. Since there is already a fairly full agenda, your presentation time will be limited to 10 min. If you can provide advance copies of your presentation on Monday so that they can be distributed to Board, it would be appreciated.

Julie MacRae  
Director of Education  
Regina Public Schools  
Email: [Julie.MacRae@rbe.sk.ca](mailto:Julie.MacRae@rbe.sk.ca)  
Telephone: 306 523 3010

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**To:** [pellott@accesscomm.ca](mailto:pellott@accesscomm.ca)  
**Cc:** [Carla Beck](#) ; [Katherine Gagne](#)  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 21, 2013 12:29 PM  
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Director of Education  
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Email: Julie.MacRae@rbe.sk.ca  
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**Cc:** Carla Beck  
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Thanks very much for your assistance.

Sincerely,  
Trish Elliott



Cindy Anderson &lt;cindyandersonrps@gmail.com&gt;

**Ecole Connaught Community School's potential destruction/reconstruction**

1 message

Sat, Feb 23, 2013 at 6:54 PM

To: gagne@accesscomm.ca, kathleenoreilly@sasktel.net, cindyandersonrps@gmail.com, Carla Beck <carlabeck@sasktel.net>, ekong2012@hotmail.com, aleana.m.young@gmail.com, Julie.MacRae@rbe.sk.ca  
Cc: [REDACTED]

Dear Board Members,

I have lived in the Cathedral Village for more than 25 years. My husband and I purchased our first house within walking distance of Ecole Connaught Community School so that when we had children, they could easily walk to school. And they did. In fact, our second house was directly across the street from the school and I loved looking out our front window to see the brick building with its strong heritage standing there. I loved spending time in the school. As a parent active in my children's education, I volunteered on the Parent Council, incorporated the Connaught Community Playground Project, and gave free writing workshops in various classrooms over the years. To hear that this beautiful building, an icon of our Cathedral Community, is being considered for demolition hurts deeply.

I want it to be known to all and on the public record that I am in complete opposition to this plan. My "baker's dozen" worth of questions in regard to the recommendation being considered at your Tuesday night meeting follow:

That, in order to satisfy the Ministry of Education's requirements for advancing to Stage 2/3 in the provincial capital planning process, and based upon the information and options outlined in the State 1 Facility Study (dated May 31, 2012) and in consideration of the Ministry directive to provide "the most economically viable long term solution that is equitable and ensures the provision of sustainable educational programming and infrastructure in the neighbourhood," the Ministry of Education be advised of the Board's preference to pursue the rebuild of École Connaught Community School (incorporating major heritage elements from the existing building) on either the current site or, dependent upon current site limitations, on an alternate suitable site located in the École Connaught Community School attendance area.

First, that a decision is being made about a major public asset without serious study of alternatives, or consideration of the value of historic schools to student learning and community cohesion demonstrates not only ignorance of, but also total disregard for, the community in which the school is situated. A decision to demolish or significantly alter a nationally significant historical site and highly regarded learning/community space should not be made in haste with insufficient information. New rebuilds are not suitable for all kids,



especially kids with learning difficulties. The kids like their school! Why are you doing this to us? More importantly, why are you considering doing this to them?

Second, last May, the board's engineering consultant wrote, "prior to any decision regarding proceeding with a renewal process, we recommend that a more detailed investigation program be undertaken to assess the condition of the building structure." Has that investigation taken place? If so, where is it? If not, why not?

Third, in a report titled "Initial Assessment" the board's heritage consultant recommended a "full heritage conservation plan" be completed to allow rational decision-making about the future of the school. Has that plan been created? If so, where is it? If not, why not?

Fourth, in April the Connaught School Community Council asked the board for a decision flowchart that "included major decision points and major consultation opportunities." Why did the board carry on discussions behind the scenes, and hide the most major decision item of all until the last possible minute? What does the board have against community involvement in discussions about the school in which their children are educated?

Fifth, according to best practice guidelines laid out by the U.S. National Trust, a feasibility study on school renovation/reconstruction should never be led by a firm that might bid on the project. Has this board done that? If so, where is it? If not, why not? Where is our independent audit of construction and design estimates?

Sixth, community members have called for a non-market valuation of the existing building, including calculation of heritage value. The heritage consultant also recommended this in a meeting with the school council. Has this important study been done? If so, where is it? If not, why not?

Seventh, community members called for a full costing of environmental impacts and down-loaded costs such as city landfill stress. Has this environmental assessment been done? Has the cost accounting of this footprint been conducted? If so, where is it? If not, why not?

Eighth, the consultant's report said Connaught performs poorly as a modern learning environment. That's hilarious, actually! Both my children are gainfully employed and one is studying for a bilingual degree in Canadian Studies. So, where is the research base for this statement? Where is the research base to support open concept schools and 'learning communities' of up to 100 students sharing a single space, as proposed in new school designs?

Ninth, for the 25+ years I've lived in the Cathedral Village, Ecole Community School has been a stable fixture in the community. Why are new school buildings designed to be portable, and what does this mean for community stability and the continued presence of a school?

Tenth, in meetings, community members expressed an overwhelming preference for a respectful, intelligent renovation of the building as it is, with some upgrades. This does not square with the options put forward for either new construction, or a renovation that guts the entire building, hiking up costs. Why was no mid-range, sensible option prepared?

Eleventh, the heritage assessment identified the major character-defining elements as: wide, spacious hallways; terrazzo floors with marble baseboards; oak and wrought iron



staircases; original beam and plaster ceiling, and; the manner in which the building is situated in its surrounding environment. In other words, not cornices or gargoyles, but the total essence of the building. How can these key features possibly be retained as "major heritage elements" in either a new building or a renovation that demolishes these elements? What does removal or destruction of major heritage elements mean for adaptive re-use? Is adaptive re-use even on the horizon if the school is shuttered, or will the City want the property cleared for sale (a very likely scenario)?

Twelfth, regarding renovation versus new construction the report notes that, typically, renovation costs are determined at 70 per cent of new builds. But not in this case.

Renovation estimate: \$23,194,580

New build estimate: \$18,880,064

The new build estimate does not include land purchase if the school is built elsewhere. The 'renovation' estimate includes \$440,000 for the demolition of 4,000 m<sup>2</sup> – which is almost the entirety of a 4,452 m<sup>2</sup> building. What kind of 'renovation' is that? Where is the sensible, mid-scale renovation people wanted?

Furthermore, the estimate adds a 10 per cent contingency (cost overrun) on top of the structural repair estimate, even though the repair estimate already had a 25 per cent contingency cost built in. This ups the structural repair budget by 35 per cent. Meanwhile, the new build contingency cost adds an extra 5 per cent, below the norm of 10 per cent for Canadian school construction. What is going on here? Are numbers being fudged to fit some predetermined plan?

Thirteenth, was the community involvement in the consultation process really meant to gather our concerns? Or, was it gathered as a means to determine what arguments you might come up against in your battle to destroy our community icon, as it now appears?

I eagerly await your responses to my questions.

Sincerely,





**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [carla beck](#)  
**Subject:** Re: School Board meeting next Tuesday ?  
**Date:** Monday, February 25, 2013 12:08:19 PM

---

Carla;

Thanks very much for the info.

Without wanting to insult anyone in particular, the timelines for sending a request to present to the Board is completely goofy. How could anyone possibly submit a request to make a presentation on an Agenda item that they don't know will be happening until the meeting Agenda is released two days later ? I think this may be at least one of the reasons why the School Board gets a bad rap from some quarters about its public accountability.

In any case, since last Wednesday is clearly over, if the Community Association did want to make a presentation to the RPS Board meeting tomorrow evening would you recommend that we just show up ? Or would you suggest that we contact someone at the Board office ahead of time, and who should we contact ?

[REDACTED]

P.S. May I share your comments about possible alternate sites for Connaught with the Community Association Board.

----- Original Message -----

**From:** [carla beck](#)  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Sunday, February 24, 2013 9:51 PM  
**Subject:** RE: School Board meeting next Tuesday ?

Hi [REDACTED]

This link outlines the attendance area  
[http://www.rbe.sk.ca/sites/default/files/elementary\\_boundaries\\_for\\_2012-13.pdf](http://www.rbe.sk.ca/sites/default/files/elementary_boundaries_for_2012-13.pdf)

The discussions about other sites have been preliminary and I have not been privy to the details. One possible site mentioned is the area around the Balkwill Centre. The only other one I have heard mentioned even in passing is the area by the lawn bowling area on Victoria, although it seems awfully small.

Usually, requests to present to the Board need to be made prior to the Board planning meeting (usually held the Wednesday before the Board meeting).

However, the policy also has provision for the Board to accept requests made later:

" Individuals or groups who appear at a meeting of the Board without making prior arrangements and who wish to speak may do so at the discretion of the Board."

(see Policy 7; 9.12 on the [rbe.sk.ca](http://www.rbe.sk.ca) site under Board policies)

Trish (RealRenewal) has a place on the agenda.

Again, please let me know if you have any questions.



From: **Julie MacRae** <[julie.macrae@rbe.sk.ca](mailto:julie.macrae@rbe.sk.ca)>  
Date: Mon, Feb 25, 2013 at 2:59 PM  
Subject: RE: Ecole Connaught Community School's potential destruction/reconstruction  
To: [REDACTED]  
Cc: Katherine Gagne <[gagne@accesscomm.ca](mailto:gagne@accesscomm.ca)>, Aleana Young <[aleana.m.young@gmail.com](mailto:aleana.m.young@gmail.com)>, Carla Beck <[carlabeck@sasktel.net](mailto:carlabeck@sasktel.net)>, Cindy Anderson <[cindyandersonrps@gmail.com](mailto:cindyandersonrps@gmail.com)>, Dale West <[kennethdwest@gmail.com](mailto:kennethdwest@gmail.com)>, Jane Ekong <[ekong2012@hotmail.com](mailto:ekong2012@hotmail.com)>, Kathleen O'Reilly <[kathleenoreilly@sasktel.net](mailto:kathleenoreilly@sasktel.net)>

Thank you for your recent email expressing your views about the proposed motions being considered by the Regina Board of Education on February 26<sup>th</sup>, 2013. The Board will factor in your communication in their deliberations tomorrow evening.

*Julie MacRae*

Director of Education

Regina Public Schools

1600 4<sup>th</sup> Avenue

Regina, SK

Email: [Julie.MacRae@rbe.sk.ca](mailto:Julie.MacRae@rbe.sk.ca)

1-306-523-3010

“Never underestimate the ability of one person to make a difference: it is the only thing that ever has!”

*Margaret Wheatley*



**From:** [REDACTED]

**Sent:** Saturday, February 23, 2013 6:54 PM

**To:** Katherine Gagne; Kathleen O'Reilly; Cindy Anderson; Carla Beck; Jane Ekong; Aleana Young; Julie MacRae

**Cc:** [REDACTED]

**Subject:** Ecole Connaught Community School's potential destruction/reconstruction

Dear Board Members,

I have lived in the Cathedral Village for more than 25 years. My husband and I purchased our first house within walking distance of Ecole Connaught Community School so that when we had children, they could easily walk to school. And they did. In fact, our second house was directly across the street from the school and I loved looking out our front window to see the brick building with its strong heritage standing there. I loved spending time in the school. As a parent active in my children's education, I volunteered on the Parent Council, incorporated the Connaught Community Playground Project, and gave free writing workshops in various classrooms over the years. To hear that this beautiful building, an icon of our Cathedral Community, is being considered for demolition hurts deeply.

I want it to be known to all and on the public record that I am in complete opposition to this plan. My "baker's dozen" worth of questions in regard to the recommendation being considered at your Tuesday night meeting follow:

That, in order to satisfy the Ministry of Education's requirements for advancing to Stage 2/3 in the provincial capital planning process, and based upon the information and options outlined in the State 1 Facility Study (dated May 31, 2012) and in consideration of the Ministry directive to provide "the most economically viable long term solution that is equitable and ensures the provision of sustainable educational programming and infrastructure in the neighbourhood," the Ministry of Education be advised of the Board's preference to pursue the rebuild of École Connaught Community School (incorporating major heritage elements from the existing building) on either the current site or, dependent upon current site limitations, on an alternate suitable site located in the École Connaught Community School attendance area.

First, that a decision is being made about a major public asset without serious study of alternatives, or consideration of the value of historic schools to student learning and community cohesion demonstrates not only ignorance of, but also total disregard for, the community in which the school is situated. A decision to demolish or significantly alter a nationally significant historical site and highly regarded learning/community space should not be made in haste with insufficient information. New rebuilds are not suitable for all kids, especially kids with learning difficulties. The kids like their school! Why are you doing this to us? More importantly, why are you considering doing this to them?

Second, last May, the board's engineering consultant wrote, "prior to any decision regarding proceeding with a renewal process, we recommend that a more detailed investigation program be undertaken to assess the condition of the building structure."



Has that investigation taken place? If so, where is it? If not, why not?

Third, in a report titled "Initial Assessment" the board's heritage consultant recommended a "full heritage conservation plan" be completed to allow rational decision-making about the future of the school. Has that plan been created? If so, where is it? If not, why not?

Fourth, in April the Connaught School Community Council asked the board for a decision flowchart that "included major decision points and major consultation opportunities." Why did the board carry on discussions behind the scenes, and hide the most major decision item of all until the last possible minute? What does the board have against community involvement in discussions about the school in which their children are educated?

Fifth, according to best practice guidelines laid out by the U.S. National Trust, a feasibility study on school renovation/reconstruction should never be led by a firm that might bid on the project. Has this board done that? If so, where is it? If not, why not? Where is our independent audit of construction and design estimates?

Sixth, community members have called for a non-market valuation of the existing building, including calculation of heritage value. The heritage consultant also recommended this in a meeting with the school council. Has this important study been done?

If so, where is it? If not, why not?

Seventh, community members called for a full costing of environmental impacts and down-loaded costs such as city landfill stress. Has this environmental assessment been done? Has the cost accounting of this footprint been conducted? If so, where is it? If not, why not?

Eighth, the consultant's report said Connaught performs poorly as a modern learning environment. That's hilarious, actually! Both my children are gainfully employed and one is studying for a bilingual degree in Canadian Studies. So, where is the research base for this statement? Where is the research base to support open concept schools and 'learning communities' of up to 100 students sharing a single space, as proposed in new school designs?

Ninth, for the 25+ years I've lived in the Cathedral Village, Ecole Community School has been a stable fixture in the community. Why are new school buildings designed to be portable, and what does this mean for community stability and the continued presence of a school?

Tenth, in meetings, community members expressed an overwhelming preference for a respectful, intelligent renovation of the building as it is, with some upgrades. This

does not square with the options put forward for either new construction, or a renovation that guts the entire building, hiking up costs. Why was no mid-range, sensible option prepared?

Eleventh, the heritage assessment identified the major character-defining elements as: wide, spacious hallways; terrazzo floors with marble baseboards; oak and wrought iron staircases; original beam and plaster ceiling, and; the manner in which the building is situated in its surrounding environment. In other words, not cornices or a gargoyles, but the total essence of the building. How can these key features possibly be retained as "major heritage elements" in either a new building or a renovation that demolishes these elements? What does removal or destruction of major heritage elements mean for adaptive re-use? Is adaptive re-use even on the horizon if the school is shuttered, or will the City want the property cleared for sale (a very likely scenario)?

Twelfth, regarding renovation versus new construction the report notes that, typically, renovation costs are determined at 70 per cent of new builds. But not in this case.

Renovation estimate: \$23,194,580

New build estimate: \$18,880,064

The new build estimate does not include land purchase if the school is built elsewhere. The 'renovation' estimate includes \$440,000 for the demolition of 4,000 m<sup>2</sup> – which is almost the entirety of a 4,452 m<sup>2</sup> building. What kind of 'renovation' is that? Where is the sensible, mid-scale renovation people wanted?

Furthermore, the estimate adds a 10 per cent contingency (cost overrun) on top of the structural repair estimate, even though the repair estimate already had a 25 per cent contingency cost built in. This ups the structural repair budget by 35 per cent. Meanwhile, the new build contingency cost adds an extra 5 per cent, below the norm of 10 per cent for Canadian school construction. What is going on here? Are numbers being fudged to fit some predetermined plan?

Thirteenth, was the community involvement in the consultation process really meant to gather our concerns? Or, was it gathered as a means to determine what arguments you might come up against in your battle to destroy our community icon, as it now appears?

I eagerly await your responses to my questions.

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]





# CONNAUGHT COMMUNITY SCHOOL

2124 Elphinstone Street, Regina, Saskatchewan S4T 3N6

Tel: (306) 791-8620 Fax: 751-2113

February 25, 2013

*This message is sent on behalf of Mrs. Katherine Gagne, Chair, Regina Board of Education.*

To: SCC Chairs of Connaught, Glen Elm, Imperial and McDermid Schools

Mrs. Gagne wishes to notify you that at the Tuesday, February 26, 2013, regular meeting of the Board of Education, the Board will be considering motions related to capital projects with respect to Connaught, Glen Elm and McDermid/Imperial Schools. The meeting will be held in the Board Room, Regina Public Schools Division Office, 1600 4<sup>th</sup> Avenue, commencing at 7:00 p.m.

*Linda Hecker*  
Executive Assistant to the Director  
Regina Public Schools  
Tel (306) 523-3017



REGINA PUBLIC SCHOOLS



**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [carlabeck@sasktel.net](mailto:carlabeck@sasktel.net)  
**Subject:** Tuesday's Board meeting  
**Date:** Monday, February 25, 2013 12:32:12 PM

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Dear Carla:

This is just a note to let you know that I sincerely sympathize with the position you find yourself in, vis-a-vis the vote on the future of Connaught Community School. Tuesday's meeting will likely be the toughest you'll have to face as a RBE Trustee, and I don't doubt for a moment that you've given the issues long and thorough consideration.

I say "long", because, with all due respect, the Cathedral neighbourhood, Real Renewal, and you yourself have known for years that this day might come. I say "thorough", because as an elected official, you've had to weigh the benefits of retrofit vs. rebuild, knowing that the Board is severely handicapped by no longer having control over the mill rate and by being in stiff competition with every other school division in terms of construction or renovation. You have also had to consider the impact, whatever your decision, on your prospects, should you choose to run for re-election in 2016. As a Connaught parent, too, you will be a beneficiary of the Board's decision on Tuesday, whatever it may be, and this raises the issue to the moral plane. I won't read you a lecture on the Trustee Code of Conduct - not you, who have conscientiously recused yourself from discussions and votes on employee-group contracts, because of your husband's position with CUPE. I will simply say that you tread a finer ethical line than most, and that I'm sure you are aware of that.

In my opinion, to vote to table the motion in re: Connaught would be to delay unconscionably a decision that must be made, and to ensure that future action will be more expensive. That's my opinion. Whatever your vote, I for one will not judge you.

Best of luck.

Yours sincerely,  
[REDACTED]





Dale West <kennethdwest@gmail.com>

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**AV Needs for Presentation**

1 message

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**Julie MacRae** <julie.macrae@rbe.sk.ca>  
To: [realrenewal@gmail.com](mailto:realrenewal@gmail.com)  
Cc: RBE <RBE@rbe.sk.ca>

Mon, Feb 25, 2013 at 9:12 PM

Trish,

Thanks for the information. There is a screen and projector available in the Board room. I suggest you bring your presentation on a stick and use the Board laptop to present it. Internet connection is erratic in that room so i would recommend you not count on having it given the short time allotted for your presentation.

Julie MacRae  
Director of Education  
Regina Public Schools  
Email: [Julie.MacRae@rbe.sk.ca](mailto:Julie.MacRae@rbe.sk.ca)  
Telephone: 306 523 3010

"Never underestimate the power of one person to make a difference: indeed it is the only thing that ever has!". Margaret Wheatley

## Mark Whiting

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**From:** Terry Lazarou  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 26, 2013 1:33 PM  
**To:** Mark Whiting  
**Subject:** FW: 48 Hours to Save Connaught... much less now.

fyi

Terry Lazarou  
☐ please consider the environment before printing this e-mail.

-----Original Message-----

**From:** Chris Keyes  
**Sent:** February-26-13 1:16 PM  
**To:** Julie MacRae; Terry Lazarou  
**Subject:** FW: 48 Hours to Save Connaught... much less now.

Just in case you are a little bored, here is some interesting reading that seems to be circulating around the community. It was forwarded to one of the teachers at Connaught.

-----Original Message-----

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Tue 2/26/2013 11:52 AM  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** FW: 48 Hours to Save Connaught... much less now.

**Date:** Tue, 26 Feb 2013 11:24:32 -0600  
**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Fwd: 48 Hours to Save Connaught

>>> RealRenewal <realrenewal@gmail.com> 02/24/13 6:52 PM >>>

Real Renewal . org :: Working for Positive Change      48 Hours to Save Connaught    Urgent action One of Canada's most historic public schools - Connaught School, located in the heart of Regina's Cathedral Village - is facing demolition and replacement with a 'modern' open concept school.

The public school board kept the recommendation hidden from public view until Friday at 4:30 p.m., when it appeared on the agenda for their next Tuesday board meeting - leaving just a few days for the public to know what the plan is.

We have 48 hours to convince the board to stop their headlong rush to the wrecking ball. Here's what you can do:

1. Today: Bombard the trustees and director of education with emails demanding the motion be tabled for further study of alternative options. Write a letter to the editor while you're at it. Put kids interests front and centre - they like the school, and the alternatives are untried. See background points and contact information below.
2. Monday: Turn the Regina Heritage Award presentation to the Connaught Centennial Committee into an impromptu rally. Wear your Connaught gear (we still have centennial t-shirts for sale), stand and cheer. 5:30 p.m., City Hall.
3. Tuesday: Regina Public School Board Meeting, 7 p.m., School Board Office, 1600-4th Ave. RealRenewal will make a presentation asking for the recommendation to be tabled, to allow time for actual research and consultation. Be there to show you care. Make some noise to back up the presenters. Speak to media who will be present.

The recommendation being considered:

That, in order to satisfy the Ministry of Education's requirements for advancing to Stage 2/3 in the provincial capital planning process, and based upon the information and options outlined in the State 1 Facility Study (dated May 31, 2012) and in consideration of the Ministry directive to provide "the most economically viable long term solution that is equitable and ensures the provision of sustainable educational programming and infrastructure in the neighbourhood," the Ministry of Education be advised of the Board's preference to pursue the rebuild of École Connaught Community School (incorporating major heritage elements from the existing building) on either the current site or, dependent upon current site limitations, on an alternate suitable site located in the École Connaught Community School attendance area."

The main concern:

Basically, a decision is being made about a major public asset without serious study of alternatives, or consideration of the value of historic schools to student learning and community cohesion. A decision to demolish or significantly alter a nationally significant historical site and highly regarded learning/community space should not be made in haste with insufficient information. New rebuilds are not suitable for all kids, especially kids with learning difficulties. The kids like their school!

Some good questions:

Last May, the board's engineering consultant wrote, "prior to any decision regarding proceeding with a renewal process, we recommend that a more detailed investigation program be undertaken to assess the condition of the building structure." Where is the investigation?

In a report titled Initial Assessment (note the word 'initial') the board's heritage consultant recommended a "full heritage conservation plan" be completed to allow rational decision-making about the future of the school. Where is the plan?

In April the Connaught School Community Council asked the board for a decision flowchart that "included major decision points and major consultation opportunities." Why did the board carry on discussions behind the scenes, and hide the most major decision item of all until the last possible minute?

According to best practice guidelines laid out by the U.S. National Trust, a feasibility study on school renovation/reconstruction should never be led by a firm that might bid on the project. Where is our independent audit of construction and design estimates?



Community members have called for a non-market valuation of the existing building, including calculation of heritage value. The heritage consultant also recommended this in a meeting with the school council. Why has this important study not been done?

Community members called for a full costing of environmental impacts and down-loaded costs such as city landfill stress. Where is the cost accounting of this footprint?

The consultant's report said Connaught performs poorly as a modern learning environment. Where is the research base for this statement? Where is the research base to support open concept schools and 'learning communities' of up to 100 students sharing a single space, as proposed in new school designs?

Why are new school buildings designed to be portable, and what does this mean for community stability and the continued presence of a school?

In meetings, community members expressed an overwhelming preference for a respectful, intelligent renovation of the building as it is, with some upgrades. This does not square with the options put forward for either new construction, or a renovation that guts the entire building, hiking up costs. Why was no mid-range, sensible option prepared?

In written submissions and conversations, it's clear kids like their unique school and think of it as a good place to learn.

Some of the things people said they do want: a breakfast program, smaller class sizes, more daycare options, cultural sensitivity, freedom for teachers to teach creatively. Where is the concern for these priorities?

The heritage assessment identified the major character-defining elements as: wide, spacious hallways; terrazzo floors with marble baseboards; oak and wrought iron staircases; original beam and plaster ceiling, and; the manner in which the building is situated in its surrounding environment. In other words, not cornices or gargoyles, but the total essence of the building. How can these key features possibly be retained as "major heritage elements" in either a new building or a renovation that demolishes these elements? What does removal or destruction of major heritage elements mean for adaptive re-use? Is adaptive re-use even on the horizon if the school is shuttered, or will the City want the property cleared for sale (a very likely scenario)?

#### Renovation versus new construction

As the report notes, typically renovation costs are determined at 70 per cent of new builds. But not in this case.

Renovation estimate: \$23,194,580

New build estimate: \$18,880,064

The new build estimate does not include land purchase if the school is built elsewhere.

The 'renovation' estimate includes \$440,000 for the demolition of 4,000 m<sup>2</sup> - which is almost the entirety of a 4,452 m<sup>2</sup> building. What kind of 'renovation' is that? Where is the sensible, mid-scale renovation people wanted?

Minus the needed structural repairs estimated at \$6.25 million, there is nearly \$17 million of adjustable budget space to reduce the renovation budget by devising a more modest plan that keeps the integrity of the building. Budget anomalies, such as the double-counting of contingency costs for a renovation, when adjusted for bring the cost of reno versus new build within \$500,000 of one another. Further information:

A repository of related documents and articles about school architecture can be found [here](#)

Some recent articles on the style of school to replace Connaught:

School House Consulting:

The Globe and Mail

Contact: Board of Education Trustees contact info

Director of Education: [Julie.MacRae@rbe.sk.ca](mailto:Julie.MacRae@rbe.sk.ca)

RealRenewal.org 2008

From: **carla beck** <[carlabeck@sasktel.net](mailto:carlabeck@sasktel.net)>  
Date: Tue, Feb 26, 2013 at 4:31 PM  
Subject: RE: Tuesday presentation  
To: a young <[aleana.m.young@gmail.com](mailto:aleana.m.young@gmail.com)>

Thanks again Aleana. I am trying.

Carla

**From:** a young [<mailto:aleana.m.young@gmail.com>]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 26, 2013 1:13 PM  
**To:** carla beck  
**Subject:** Re: Tuesday presentation

Thank you for letting us know Carla. You're a good person and a very good trustee. I respect your integrity so much. I hope you're doing OK.

Aleana

On Tue, Feb 26, 2013 at 11:51 AM, carla beck <[carlabeck@sasktel.net](mailto:carlabeck@sasktel.net)> wrote:

I believe that I owe it to you all to let you know of my intention to make a motion to table the discussion/motion on Connaught to the next Board meeting or, if one can be facilitated, a special meeting of the Board prior to the next Board meeting. I will discuss my rationale tonight.

I will also be requesting a meeting be facilitated with the SCC to give them all of the information we can with regard to the condition of the building and the limited option we face.

Please know that I do not intend to sling mud and will keep my comments respectful and factual. You are the only people that are aware of this intention. I have not discussed it with any group or individual.

Carla

**From:** Julie MacRae [<mailto:julie.macrae@rbe.sk.ca>]  
**Sent:** Monday, February 25, 2013 9:04 PM  
**To:** Aleana Young; Carla Beck; Cindy Anderson; Jane Ekong; Katherine Gagne; Kathleen O'Reilly; Dale West  
**Subject:** Fw: Tuesday presentation



Here is the info from Real Renewal regarding their presentation tomorrow evening.

Julie  
Director of Education  
Regina Public Schools  
Email: [Julie.MacRae@rbe.sk.ca](mailto:Julie.MacRae@rbe.sk.ca)  
Telephone: [306 523 3010](tel:3065233010)

"Never underestimate the power of one person to make a difference: indeed it is the only thing that ever has!". Margaret Wheatley

**From:** Suzanne Shuba  
**Sent:** Monday, February 25, 2013 04:25 PM  
**To:** Julie MacRae  
**Subject:** FW: Tuesday presentation

*Suzanne Shuba*  
Executive Assistant  
Division Services  
Regina Public Schools  
T: [306.523.3018](tel:306.523.3018)  
F: [306.523.3157](tel:306.523.3157)  
[suzanne.shuba@rbe.sk.ca](mailto:suzanne.shuba@rbe.sk.ca)

*The future depends on what we do in the present. ~Mahatma Gandhi*

**From:** Real Renewal [<mailto:realrenewal@gmail.com>]  
**Sent:** Monday, February 25, 2013 4:24 PM  
**To:** Debra Burnett; Suzanne Shuba  
**Subject:** Tuesday presentation

Hi,

I'm not sure who this is supposed to go to, but here are my presentation notes for tomorrow. Let me know if I should email them directly to the trustees as well, or if it is supposed to come thru the board office.

Will there be a powerpoint available, and do you know if there is an Internet connection? I'd like to show a short YouTube video.

Thanks a bunch!

- Trish Elliott



Dale West &lt;kennethdwest@gmail.com&gt;

## Please Save Connaught School

1 message

to: gagne@accesscomm.ca, kathleenoreilly@sasktel.net, cindyandersonrps@gmail.com, carlabeck@sasktel.net, ekong2012@hotmail.com, kennethdwest@gmail.com, aleana.m.young@gmail.com, Julie.MacRae@rbe.sk.ca

Tue, Feb 26, 2013 at 2:07 PM

Dear Board of Education Trustees and Director of Education,

I am deeply concerned by the Board's apparent decision to pursue the demolition and new construction of Connaught School, and hopeful that the Board will reconsider its decision in light of the wishes of the Ecole Connaught Community School community and neighbourhood residents.

**My Connection to Connaught School**

I have resided in the Cathedral Area of Regina for my whole life. I attended the Connaught School French Immersion program from Kindergarten to Grade 7 (1985 - 1992) before moving to Campbell Collegiate for grade 8. I'm now 32 years old and am a parent and homeowner in the Cathedral area. I have a degree in Human Geography, and have worked as a cartographer and early childhood researcher. I have a daughter who will turn 3 this summer, and a baby due in March – both of whom my husband and I have (up until now) planned to send to Connaught School. My daughter would begin Prekindergarten this September.

I only wish that when Davin School's foundation was repaired, that Connaught's had been as well, so that Connaught School, with all its history and community, was not at the mercy of the current Board.

**Renovation vs. Demolition and Rebuilding**

My understanding is that determining whether renovation or demolition & construction will occur is a cost-related decision (with \$23.19 million estimated for renovation; and \$18.88 million for a new build). I have learned that the only 'renovation' option that was given consideration involves demolishing over 80% of the existing building. I fail to understand why a more modest renovation option is not on the table. My understanding is that the structural repairs required for Connaught were estimated at a mere \$6.25 million - why is it not be possible to pursue a renovation that maintains and refurbishes the existing structure in a way that Connaught's school community is in support of?

It seems as though the Board solely considered a large scale renovation to modify the interior to align with Regina Public Schools' latest pedagogical practice of 'Structural Innovation'. I would like to point out that a Connaught School with classrooms has worked wonderfully for 100 years! Students who attended Connaught with me have gone on to become doctors, lawyers, professors, economists, scientists, policy analysts, social workers, teachers and artists. I would also like to point out that most of the world's most brilliant thinkers and visionaries also attended schools with classrooms. Furthermore, every post-secondary institution that I'm aware of also uses classrooms.

As a former Connaught student, I recall using the school's hallways on a regular basis to combine classes, do small group work, etc. (as is promoted through Structural Innovation). It worked wonderfully, and I think using our existing resources in an imaginative way is excellent practice for students – something that they can use throughout their adult lives and careers.

Connaught School has met up to the task of educating children for 100 years already, and its students and their parents don't feel that the school design is failing them. It's only the foundation that is failing. Please, repair the foundation for a much more modest cost, and I am confident that the Connaught school building can serve us well for another 100 years, regardless of the prevailing pedagogy.

**The Well-Being of Our Children**

With the announcement of the Board's motion on Friday, my husband and I both have deep reservations about sending our children to an open-concept designed school, without classrooms. I am aware of research showing flaws in an open-concept design for schools, and I don't want my daughter to be part of a social experiment. From my research, it seems that the open-concept schools built during the late 1960s and 1970s were subsequently retrofitted with classrooms when it was found that children had trouble focusing and learning in that type of environment. Please don't ruin something (i.e. Connaught School) that children and parents feel is working well for them, and leave us with a building that we don't want to send our children to school at. I know that I'm already considering where I'll send my daughter to school if this demolition and rebuild goes ahead – and since I want her to be able to walk to school and to live close to her classmates, Davin School seems the only acceptable choice. Unfortunately, that would mean that she will miss out on French Immersion, a program that I have benefitted from throughout my life.

I know that Structural Innovation has now been rolled out into all schools, but I can't help but imagine that in schools with classrooms, a traditional classroom in which students have a primary relationship with one teacher and with a smaller set of students remains. The idea of students being grouped into 'learning pods' with 125 students from multiple grades on a constant basis is shocking to me. How can teachers be aware of what is going on socially, academically, etc. with that many students? How can children be expected to manage that many social relationships all day? I feel that individual students risk falling through the cracks in that type of structure.

**Connaught at the Heart of Our Community: Its Location and Meaning**

It's amazing how strong the social ties are among students who attended Connaught. I remember when we left Connaught for high school – with students in English going to Sheldon-Williams, and French Immersion students going to Campbell Collegiate – people said that we would lose contact with the people we went to school with. Not so. I can still picture my Grade 5 class, and know where virtually everyone in my class ended up, and am in contact with almost everyone from it. We still talk on the phone and visit former classmates who moved to other provinces.

The Cathedral Area has such strong roots, and Connaught is the heart of this neighbourhood. As a human geographer, its geographic situation strikes me as *perfect*. It is in such a central, and prominent location for the entire neighbourhood. It is easy to walk to. I am very concerned about the Board deciding to move the physical location of the school. With the proper renovations, Connaught's structural problems are a temporary problem. It would be a shame to create a permanent problem for our neighbourhood by moving our beloved school to a less central location.

**Historical Significance**

As a city, Regina has lacked foresight and introspection in retaining and preserving historic architecture. Last night, my family and I attended the City of Regina's Heritage Awards. Councillor Findura's opening speech highlighted the importance of our built heritage in giving us a glimpse into our past, and the importance of preserving historical buildings. The Youth Heritage Award was named in honour of my father-in-law, Keith Knox, who passed away last year. This was the first time the Keith Knox Youth Heritage Award was presented – and it was presented to the students of Ecole Connaught Community School's Grade 7 French Immersion class in honour of their work for



- Please Save Connaught School

Connaught's Centennial. As a historian and dedicated volunteer (including as a 17-year board member on the Municipal Heritage Advisory Committee), I am certain that my Keith would have had words of wisdom and experience that might convince this Board to protect the history that Connaught represents. I have been searching for those words in writing this letter - but I don't have them. I'm speaking with my heart as a parent and as a former student.

#### A Community United

Please respect the wishes of Connaught School's students, parents, and community. Of all the people I've spoken to, I have heard no voices in support of either demolishing and rebuilding Connaught School, or of the type of significant renovations that the Board considered (to create an open concept school design). I was unable to attend the public consultations held at Connaught on April 4 & 26, 2012 as I was caring for my father-in-law who was dying of cancer at the time. Regardless, I'm aware that the community strongly favoured retaining and renovating the building at the current school site.

The Board needs to listen to the voices and wishes of the community and of the families who attend Connaught - the people who live here are people who value community and history. I know that the new school designs are bright and shiny - but the people who live in this neighbourhood have chosen to live in an area with old houses, old buildings, and history. I don't believe that Connaught School's community wants their children to be guinea pigs in an open-concept school, and I'm concerned that the school's long-term viability will be compromised by a failed experiment of eliminating classrooms.  
<http://educhatter.wordpress.com/2012/09/16/open-concept-schools-why-is-the-failed-experiment-making-a-comeback/>

The wishes of the Connaught's children, parents, and community who are directly involved with the school ought to matter more than what the latest fad architecture for school buildings. And the beautiful part, is that I am certain that their wishes to fix years of physical neglect by the Board of Education (as I recall former Board member John Conway warning the former board about), and the failing foundation can be done less expensively than \$18.88 million dollars (or \$23.19 million).

Please table your decision tonight, in light of these issues, and of those outlined below (to which over 1000 people have now signed in about 24 hours.

Thank you for your work, and please table your decision. You are an elected board, and the voters are speaking up on behalf of their children and grandchildren (both present and future).

Sincerely,

I am in agreement with this statement from the petition to Save Ecole Connaught Community School (with over 1150 signatures in 24 hours), and respectfully ask the Board to consider the questions and issues posed via the petition:

#### The main concern:

Basically, a decision is being made about a major public asset without serious study of alternatives, or consideration of the value of historic schools to student learning and community cohesion. A decision to demolish or significantly alter a nationally significant historical site and highly regarded learning/community space should not be made in haste with insufficient information. New rebuilds are not suitable for all kids, especially kids with learning difficulties. The kids like their school!

#### Some good questions:

1. Last May, the board's engineering consultant wrote, "prior to any decision regarding proceeding with a renewal process, we recommend that a more detailed investigation program be undertaken to assess the condition of the building structure." Where is the investigation?
2. In a report titled Initial Assessment (note the word 'initial') the board's heritage consultant recommended a "full heritage conservation plan" be completed to allow rational decision-making about the future of the school. Where is the plan?
3. In April the Connaught School Community Council asked the board for a decision flowchart that "included major decision points and major consultation opportunities." Why did the board carry on discussions behind the scenes, and hide the most major decision item of all until the last possible minute?
4. According to best practice guidelines laid out by the U.S. National Trust, a feasibility study on school renovation/reconstruction should never be led by a firm that might bid on the project. Where is our independent audit of construction and design estimates?
5. Community members have called for a non-market valuation of the existing building, including calculation of heritage value. The heritage consultant also recommended this in a meeting with the school council. Why has this important study not been done?
6. The consultant's report said Connaught performs poorly as a modern learning environment. Where is the research base for this statement? Where is the research base to support open concept schools and 'learning communities' of up to 100 students sharing a single space, as proposed in new school designs?
7. Why are new school buildings designed to be portable, and what does this mean for community stability and the continued presence of a school?
8. In meetings, community members expressed an overwhelming preference for a respectful, intelligent renovation of the building as it is, with some upgrades. This does not square with the options put forward for either new construction, or a renovation that guts the entire building, hiking up costs. Why was no mid-range, sensible option prepared?
9. In written submissions and conversations, it's clear kids like their unique school and think of it as a good place to learn.
10. Some of the things people said they do want: a breakfast program, smaller class sizes, more daycare options, cultural sensitivity, freedom for teachers to teach creatively. Where is the concern for these priorities?
11. The heritage assessment identified the major character-defining elements as: wide, spacious hallways; terrazzo floors with marble baseboards; oak and wrought iron staircases; original beam and plaster ceiling, and; the manner in which the building is situated in its surrounding environment. In other words, not cornices or gargoyles, but the total essence of the building. How can these key features possibly be retained as "major heritage elements" in either a new building or a renovation that demolishes these elements? What does removal or destruction of major heritage elements mean for adaptive re-use? Is adaptive re-use even on the horizon if the school is shuttered, or will the City want the property cleared for sale (a very likely scenario)?



**Renovation versus new construction**

As the report notes, typically renovation costs are determined at 70 per cent of new builds. But not in this case.

Renovation estimate: \$23,194,580      New build estimate: \$18,880,064

The new build estimate does not include land purchase if the school is built elsewhere.

The 'renovation' estimate includes \$440,000 for the demolition of 4,000 m<sup>2</sup> – which is almost the entirety of a 4,452 m<sup>2</sup> building. What kind of 'renovation' is that? Where is the sensible, mid-scale renovation people wanted?

Minus the needed structural repairs estimated at \$6.25 million, there is nearly \$17 million of adjustable budget space to reduce the renovation budget by devising a more modest plan that keeps the integrity of the building.

**Further information:**

A repository of related documents and articles about school architecture can be found here: <http://realrenewal.org/liberty-4a1eb9873c83a.htm>

**Some recent articles on the style of school to replace Connaught:**


School House Consulting:

<http://educhatter.wordpress.com/2012/09/16/open-concept-schools-why-is-the-failed-experiment-making-a-comeback/>

The Globe and Mail

<http://m.theglobeandmail.com/news/national/canadian-schools-adopt-old-style-architecture/article4519536/?service=mobile>

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 **Connaught letter.pdf**

330K

## NOTICE

### MEETING OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION

of the Regina School Division No. 4 of Saskatchewan

February 26, 2013, at 7:00 p.m.

Regina Public School Board Office – 1600 4th Avenue

## AGENDA

CA 1. Adoption of Agenda - <sup>CACA</sup> Presentation, Comm Leaders Adv Comm, Facility

DW 2. Approving of minutes of the Board meetings of January 8 and 29, 2013 Request approval.

### 3. DELEGATIONS / PRESENTATIONS

a) Public Presentation

<sup>Camille D</sup>  
Rene D, daughter, Amy Petrovich  
Ms. Trish Elliott to present  
(Cdn & SK Heritage Foundation)  
Brent Kramer, CCA.

### 4. EMPLOYEE GROUPS

### 5. STANDING COMMITTEES

### 6. SASKATCHEWAN SCHOOL BOARDS ASSOCIATION

a) Public Section Update

Suggest discussion in closed session.



7. BUSINESS ARISING OUT OF THE MINUTES

- a) 11 & Under Initiative Program  
(pp. 1-3)

- reach youth B4 involved w/  
Crim justice system  
- UofR will do formal ev'n of initiative  
- 90 families referred - 120 children

- b) School Transitions Update

(p. 4) Current Achmt Results

Transition Plan

Engagement thru Middle Yrs PAA

Mr. Greg Enion and Supt. Lance  
Dudar, Regina Police Service, to  
comment.

*in chge of Comm  
Services  
dwn.*

*Gr. Halbert, Vicki Conway*

*? referral process, evaluation/data  
referral timeliness/timeline gathering*

Mr. Luc Lermieux and Ms. Joni  
Darke to comment.

*Aborig. Adv Teachers - # & location  
(Balfour/Martin)*

- c) Facilities Matters  
(pp. 5-6 & enclosure)

Mrs. Katherine Gagne and Ms. Julie  
MacRae to comment.

8. CORRESPONDENCE9. NEW BUSINESS

- CA a) 2013-14 School Year Calendar  
(pp. 7-10)

El: 182 x 314 mins

H.S.: 180 x 320 mins

Mr. Mike Walter to comment.

- JE b) Annual Meeting Statement of Proceedings  
and Discussion  
(pp. 11-20 & enclosure)

- 1) Request approval.
- 2) Suggest discussion in closed session.

- c) Greens on Gardiner Concept Plan  
(pp. 21-23)

Mr. Mark Whiting to comment.

- d) Request for Presentation  
(enclosure)

Suggest discussion in closed session.



- e) Capital Projects Funding  
(enclosure)

Suggest discussion in closed session.

- f) Board and Director Evaluations  
(enclosure)

Suggest discussion in closed session.

# 10. NOTICES OF MOTION

DW Sheldon Williams musical - well done  
 SCC mtg @ Lakeview (Feb 13) - sample of Glee Club  
 presentation (Band/Choral)  
 Sr FIAP cheer team won @ Campbell Cheer  
 competition  
 JT SCC mtg of schls in subdivision (w/ ths) - A

# 11. OTHER BUSINESS

- a) Subdivision 3 Update

Mr. Dale West to comment

- b) Comm Leaders Adv Comm → Continue w/ City getting feedback on their plans.  
 JE - met Dec 6/12 - introductory mtg after election  
 - City outlined priorities & asked about role of committ

# 12. INFORMATION

3 priorities: Regina Renewal Initiative  
 Mosaic Stadium Replacement  
 Affordable Housing (work more closely w/ FN Housing Auth)  
 - rec that FN join comm.  
 Water Treatment Upgrade

Board Development Seminar on Education Law	Tuesday, March 12, 2013, 4:00PM, RPS Division Office, Committee Room.
Board Photos	Tuesday, March 12, 2013, 5:30PM, RPS Division Office, Committee Room. <i>Supper provided.</i>
Good Neighbour Dinner	Thursday, March 21, 2013, Reception 6:00PM, Dinner 6:30PM, RPS Division Office, Ron Mitchell Centre.
SSBA Spring General Assembly	April 11-12, 2013, Regina Ramada Hotel.
Audit and Policy Review Committee Meeting	As yet undetermined.
Community Relations Committee Meeting	As yet undetermined.
Public Education Advocacy Committee Meeting	As yet undetermined.
Strategic Planning Committee Meeting	As yet undetermined.

## Upcoming Board Meetings:

Tuesday, March 12, 2013, 7:00 PM
Tuesday, April 9, 2013, 7:00 PM



Date Feb 26/13.

## Real Renewal

- School Council & School Community
- Creative corner
- Unique → old.
- depth of concerns
- not about the building about the kids.
- impact children & community
- Heritage Laward
  - define Heritage - art/culture.
  - Heritage community - Heritage School.
  - rebuild
    - respect.
    - Community tabled.
- ↔ 1912 - open concept school.
- cost sharing grant.
- open air.

## Community Cathedral Area.

- [redacted]
- community →
- architecture - better communication
- [redacted]
- wants to be allowed to

Page

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ISSUE  
GOAL

From: **Julie MacRae** <[julie.macrae@rbe.sk.ca](mailto:julie.macrae@rbe.sk.ca)>

Date: Wed, Feb 27, 2013 at 2:34 PM

Subject: Update on several issues and Sloan workshop!

To: Aleana Young <[aleana.m.young@gmail.com](mailto:aleana.m.young@gmail.com)>, Carla Beck <[carlabeck@sasktel.net](mailto:carlabeck@sasktel.net)>, Cindy Anderson <[cindyandersonrps@gmail.com](mailto:cindyandersonrps@gmail.com)>, Jane Ekong <[ekong2012@hotmail.com](mailto:ekong2012@hotmail.com)>, Katherine Gagne <[gagne@accesscomm.ca](mailto:gagne@accesscomm.ca)>, Kathleen O'Reilly <[kathleenoreilly@sasktel.net](mailto:kathleenoreilly@sasktel.net)>, Dale West <[kennethdwest@gmail.com](mailto:kennethdwest@gmail.com)>

Hello all:

Media interest in last night's decisions continues to be intense. Katherine and Carla have both been interviewed several times today and will continue tomorrow.

A letter to all 4 SCC's impacted was sent out today. Linda is sending you a copy so you know what was said.

A letter will go out tomorrow to the executive of the Connaught SCC inviting them to tour the school, and then join as many Board members as are available for a light supper and debrief at 5 pm at the school on Tuesday Mar 4th. I had hoped to get that done today but we are somewhat swamped.

If you are questioned about timelines for Ministry of Education approvals, there is no fixed timeline. They will prioritize these projects in a provincial queue: we have in the past received info on our placement in June, but last year for example it was not received until October.

Staff will be posting an update on all current capital projects and their status on our website within the next week. We will advise when that is completed so you can direct inquiries there!

It appears the best start time for the most participants tomorrow's with Dr. Sloan is 11 am. Others will join us at 12 as planned.

Hope some of your anxiety has dissipated. See you all tomorrow!

Julie

Director of Education  
Regina Public Schools  
Email: [Julie.MacRae@rbe.sk.ca](mailto:Julie.MacRae@rbe.sk.ca)  
Telephone: [306 523 3010](tel:3065233010)

"Never underestimate the power of one person to make a difference: indeed it is the only thing that ever has!". Margaret Wheatley



**From:** Linda Hecker  
**To:** Katherine Gagne; Carla Beck; Aleana Young; Cindy Anderson; Dale West; Jane Ekong; Kathleen O'Reilly  
**Cc:** Julie MacRae  
**Subject:** Letters to Connaught SCC Exec  
**Date:** Thursday, February 28, 2013 1:52:30 PM  
**Attachments:** 2013-02-28 Connaught SCC Exec Tour Invitation LETTER.pdf

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Good afternoon. Attached are copies of the letters sent via courier this afternoon to the Executive of the Connaught School SCC - Mr. Rene Dumont, Chair; Ms. April Bourgeois, Co Chair; and, Ms. Elaine Barrow, Secretary, inviting them to participate in a tour of Connaught School on Tuesday, March 5 at 5:00 p.m.

*Linda Hecker*  
Executive Assistant to the Director  
Regina Public Schools  
Tel (306) 523-3017



THE BOARD OF EDUCATION OF THE  
**REGINA SCHOOL DIVISION**  
NO. 4 OF SASKATCHEWAN

Regina Public School Division Office  
1600 4th Avenue, Regina, SK S4R 8C8  
Web site: [www.rbe.sk.ca](http://www.rbe.sk.ca)

Ph: (306) 523-3000  
Fax: (306) 523-3031  
E-mail: [info@rbe.sk.ca](mailto:info@rbe.sk.ca)

February 28, 2013

Ms. Elaine Barrow, Secretary  
Connaught School Community Council  
2229 Princess Street  
Regina, SK S4T 3Z9

Dear Ms. Barrow:

On behalf our Board of Education, we would like to offer the Connaught School Community Council executive an opportunity to tour the Connaught School building with a view to sharing some of the structural issues of concern that have been shown to the Board. The Chair and Vice-Chair of the Board, as well as other Board members whose schedules permit, would also like to meet with you after the tour to discuss the next steps in the Ministry's approval and school design process.

The proposed time for this event is 5:00 p.m. on Tuesday, March 5, 2013. The Board will be pleased to host a light supper for those executive members who are able to attend.

The Board has asked me to communicate its commitment to working in partnership with the Connaught School Community Council as we move forward. In particular, it hopes to avoid having the SCC feel excluded or surprised by future decisions about your neighbourhood school.

Could you please confirm your interest and availability with Linda Hecker, Executive Assistant, at [linda.hecker@rbe.sk.ca](mailto:linda.hecker@rbe.sk.ca) prior to the afternoon of Monday, March 4, 2013?

We look forward to the opportunity to work together to forge a better working relationship for the sake of École Connaught Community School students.

Sincerely,

Julie MacRae  
Director of Education

cc: Regina Board of Education



THE BOARD OF EDUCATION OF THE  
**REGINA SCHOOL DIVISION**  
NO. 4 OF SASKATCHEWAN

Regina Public School Division Office  
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Web site: [www.rbe.sk.ca](http://www.rbe.sk.ca)

Ph: (306) 523-3000  
Fax: (306) 523-3031  
E-mail: [info@rbe.sk.ca](mailto:info@rbe.sk.ca)

February 28, 2013

Ms. April Bourgeois, Co-Chair  
Connaught School Community Council  
1520 Broadway Place  
Regina, SK S4P 4S6

Dear Ms. Bourgeois:

On behalf our Board of Education, we would like to offer the Connaught School Community Council executive an opportunity to tour the Connaught School building with a view to sharing some of the structural issues of concern that have been shown to the Board. The Chair and Vice-Chair of the Board, as well as other Board members whose schedules permit, would also like to meet with you after the tour to discuss the next steps in the Ministry's approval and school design process.

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Sincerely,

Julie MacRae  
Director of Education

cc: Regina Board of Education





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Ph: (306) 523-3000  
Fax: (306) 523-3031  
E-mail: [info@rbe.sk.ca](mailto:info@rbe.sk.ca)

February 28, 2013

Mr. Rene Dumont, Chair  
Connaught School Community Council  
2201 Retallack Street  
Regina, SK S4T 2K7

Dear Mr. Dumont:

On behalf our Board of Education, we would like to offer the Connaught School Community Council executive an opportunity to tour the Connaught School building with a view to sharing some of the structural issues of concern that have been shown to the Board. The Chair and Vice-Chair of the Board, as well as other Board members whose schedules permit, would also like to meet with you after the tour to discuss the next steps in the Ministry's approval and school design process.

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Sincerely,

Julie MacRae  
Director of Education

cc: Regina Board of Education