

Let's Band Together!



SASKATCHEWAN
BAND
ASSOCIATION



Mar 25, 2026

To: Adam Hicks
Chair,
Regina Board of Education

From: Suzanne Gorman
CEO
Saskatchewan Band Association

Dear Mr. Hicks,

We would first like to thank you and the Regina Board of Education trustees for recognizing the need within Regina Public Schools to revitalize the division's elementary band program. Like you, we want to see a greater proportion of elementary band students continuing their band experience into high school and beyond. We appreciate that balancing multiple needs in the face of ever-growing complexities in our school system means we need creative solutions for maintaining and strengthening band programming.

We also believe the best such solutions will arise out of genuine, thoughtful engagement with the communities most impacted and individuals most knowledgeable about music and band education. This includes band teachers, young musicians and their parents, and professional musicians who are today a vital part of our province's cultural fabric thanks to band programming in their early years.

This is why we respectfully request, on behalf of this letter's signees and their memberships, that Regina Public Schools pause its plans for a new, centralized band programming model and embark on a meaningful, comprehensive, thoughtful, solution-oriented consultation process involving RPS educators and administrators, the RPS Band Parent Leadership Team, and music parent associations.

In the spring of last year, a collective of band parents, supporters, and music educators proposed a community task force comprising division administrators, educators, band parents and supporters, coming together to find a sustainable, fiscally sound solution for effective, inclusive band programming.

We are concerned not only that this suggestion has been disregarded by the division and its trustees, but that a profound restructuring of elementary band programming has been announced with no evidence of meaningful input from those most affected or those with significant expertise to contribute. In fact, the announcement was a complete surprise for virtually everyone who has a significant interest in and need for quality band programming in the school division.

The new, centralized model for elementary band has raised profound concerns within our community and, to date, the questions that have been raised about its execution and likely efficacy have been met not with data, detail, or evidence, but with dismissals by anonymous administrators.

Any education or service model built without the engagement of those served or doing the educating is bound to fail. The parents, students, taxpayers, and education professionals who live and work here deserve programming that offers the same quality and opportunities that can be found for those who live in other Saskatchewan communities. We are not confident that this hastily designed, centralized model will provide that.

Even a pause of one year would allow for the emergence of elementary band solutions rooted in community engagement and creative problem-solving: solutions that go beyond fiscal and logistical management and create an educational experience for our young people of which we can be proud.

Sincerely,



Dr. David Dick
Dean,
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Em Ironstar
Executive Director
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Carol Donhauser
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CC:

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Mr. Darcy Gingras
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RPS Band Parent Leadership Team

Mr. Dean Zurburg
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