

Award of Distinction

Presented annually to a current or former school board member who has demonstrated outstanding service and made a significant contribution to enhance education.

Nomination Form

Deadline: September 30, 2013

Please consider the numbered points below when completing your nomination.

Board Member's Name: Dr. Barbara Young

Nominating School Board/Branch: Regina School Division No. 4 of Saskatchewan

Background Information:

Please provide a few details of your nominee's school division to enable the committee to understand the context of achievement by the nominee:

1. Number of schools: 53
2. Number of students: 21,300
3. Any other relevant details about the nominee's division or details that make it "unique" (i.e. rural, urban, separate, large geographically, high number of inner-city schools, etc.):

Regina School Division No. 4 of Saskatchewan is one of the largest school divisions in our province, serving the educational needs of more than 21,000 students in 41 public elementary schools, nine public high schools, and three faith-based associate schools.

Regina Public Schools focuses on the continuous improvement of the educational services it offers students. To direct this focus, the school division has organized its planning and operations around four priority areas:

- Higher Literacy and Achievement
- Equitable Opportunities and Outcomes for All
- Smooth Transitions into and through the System
- Governance and Accountability

Planning and reporting on these priority areas and the resulting actions are completed and documented annually.

Rationale for Nomination

Describe why this nominee made a significant contribution to enhance education, considering the following points:

1. Describe the nominee's school board involvement (including years of service) and relevant committee work (including name(s) of the committee(s), years of service and extent and nature of the nominee's contribution to the work of the committee).

Dr. Young was first elected to the Regina Board of Education in November 2006, and was re-elected in 2009. She served as Chair of the Regina Board of Education from 2008-2011. She sat on the Board's Strategic Planning Committee and the Trustee Remuneration, Expense and Evaluation Committee from November 2006 to November 2007 and from November 2007 to November 2008. From November 2011 to October 2012, she sat on the Community Relations Committee and chaired the Public Education Advocacy Committee. During her tenure as Chair, she served as ex-officio member of all Board Standing Committees.

Dr. Young was Vice-Chair for the SSBA Public Section from November 2008 to November 2011. During that time, she also served as one of three Public Section representatives during the Public/Catholic mediation process. Barbara was an effective Table Officer and contributed not only through her leadership and ideas, but also with her writing skills (work plan direction and the Mediation report). She was highly committed to the mediation process and contributed significantly to the tenor of the discussions as well as the outcomes.

2. Outline the nominee's other actions as a school board member that demonstrate outstanding service to education at the local and/or provincial level, and that show commitment to public education and advocacy on its behalf.

Dr. Young has received the Saskatchewan Order of Merit (2012), an Administrative Excellence Award from the Saskatchewan Council of Education (2001), a Saskatchewan Centennial Medal for the Arts (2006), and the Mayor's Award for Volunteerism in the Arts (1993).

Barbara's additional involvement in education and community includes:

- Member of the Provincial Bargaining Committee from June 2010 to October 2011 and the Mediation Table from March 2011 to November 2011;
- First woman President of the League of Administrators, Directors and Superintendents (LEADS) (2000);
- Member of the Saskatchewan Provincial Task Force on the Role of the School (2000-2001);
- Member of the Mayor's Task Force on the Future of Regina;
- Chair and Past Chair of the Regina Food Bank Board of Directors;
- Chair of the Provincial Minister's Advisory Committee on the Status of the Artist;
- Chair of the Globe Theatre Board of Directors (1988-1991; 2005-2007);
- Vice-President of the Saskatchewan Chapter of DKG, an international Women's Leadership Organization;
- Sessional lecturer at the University of Regina, Faculty of Education.
- Work experiences include laboratory technician, teacher, principal, consultant, and Superintendent of Regina Public Schools;
- Served as Director of Policy, Planning and Research in the Saskatchewan Ministry of Education and has been a consultant in Organization Development in the U.S. and Canada;

In October 2012, Dr. Young was elected to her first term as a member of Regina City Council, representing residents of Ward 1. Councilor Young currently serves on the following civic boards, committees and commissions:

- Community and Protective Services Committee;
- Executive Committee;
- Finance and Administration Committee;
- MacKenzie Art Gallery, Board of Trustees;
- Public Works Committee;
- School Board/City Council Liaison Committee;
- Wascana Centre Authority.

3. Outline the nominee's actions as a school board member that demonstrate being a leader of positive change and commitment to achievement for students, such as:

Any significant change or challenge undergone in the nominee's school division in recent years, and how your nominee was a leader of positive change as the division met this challenge.

How your nominee helped the division progress over his/her term.

The nominee's most significant contribution to the division, and how and with what resources that was achieved.

Dr. Young was Chair of the Board during the development and implementation of the Ministry of Education's Continuous Improvement Framework in Saskatchewan school divisions. In 2007, the division developed the forward-thinking plan "Renewing Regina Public Schools: A 10-Year Plan." During Barbara's trusteeship, the Board participated in two biennial reviews of the plan.

During her time on the Board, she was instrumental in: entering into a memorandum of understanding with the Regina Trades and Skills Centre, a not-for profit organization that delivers short-term trades and skills programs aimed at employment and/or further post-secondary training; implementing a standardized, system-wide, Board-funded Lunch Hour Supervision program; establishing a Regina Public Schools' Apprenticeship Fellowship; implementing the Aboriginal Policy Framework; advancing a student advisory program in every high school; implementing an Adult Education Concept Plan and the subsequent opening of the Regina Public Schools Adult Campus; stressing the importance of literacy and numeracy and a forward-looking approach to the delivery of instruction through the now division-wide Structural Innovation initiative; implementing the annual Shared Values Recognition Program, that recognizes contributions of all staff for their embodiment of the division's shared values; initiating the now annual High School Leadership Forum where Board members discuss with students their needs, their interests and their ambitions; and approving a technology concept plan and new educational facility designs to meet the changing needs of the 21st century learner.

4. Outline the nominee's actions as a school board member that contribute to board effectiveness by demonstrating the following traits: leadership, effective governance, commitment, advocacy, ethics and participation in professional development.

As Chair of the Board in 2009, Barbara demonstrated her role as a leader by providing mentorship to newly elected trustees. She freely shared her knowledge and expertise and offered guidance to the five new trustees joining the Board following the 2009 municipal election.

In 2007, with the assistance of consultant, Dr. Leroy Sloan, the Regina Board of Education undertook a review of Board policies and procedures to define the policy governance role of the Board. As Board Chair from 2008 to 2011, Barbara guided the Board through the formative years of using the policy governance model for the Board.

Dr. Young attended York University's Sustainability and Education Academy *Leadership for Sustainable Development in Education*. At this forum, education leaders across Canada and internationally meet to develop and create a culture of sustainability in all aspects of the education system. Dr. Young brought back to the division insights that led to the development of division policy reflecting sustainability in the division's work. Her commitment, as a Board member, to the Board's shared values of "*I Belong, I Respect, I am Responsible, I Want to Know,*" developed under her leadership as a Superintendent in the division, was second to none.

Dr. Young chaired the Public Education Advocacy Committee, a standing committee of the Board with a mandate "to advance principles and values of public education and the interests of the Regina Public School Division with the public, at stakeholder governance tables, and with other elected officials at the federal, provincial and municipal levels; to support an Employee Recognition program acknowledging RPS values in the provision of quality public education programs and services; to support the ongoing communication of Board activities with constituents; and, to establish and update a Board Advocacy Plan addressing these terms of reference."

Dr. Young has always modeled integrity, a solid work ethic and an unconditional acceptance of diversity. Her work to develop the Shared Values program at RPS has left a legacy of acceptance of personal responsibility, the value of curiosity, the importance of respect for all, and the value of belonging.

Dr. Young attended Canadian School Boards Association Forums, which gave her the opportunity to meet and dialogue with other trustees from boards across Canada and with professional educators. She also regularly attended the Saskatchewan School Boards Association Annual Conventions, Members' meetings, professional development sessions, and other events.

5. What else makes your school board believe that this board member is a deserving candidate for this award?

Dr. Barbara Young is a long-time professional educator who is student- and community-oriented. Her entire life has been devoted to students and their achievements as they progress through their school career in order to prepare them for further education and positive life experiences.

6. Any additional comments:

Dr. Young is well respected in the education community, and in the broader community. She worked tirelessly to enhance and guide the work of the Regina Board of Education, and took an active role on the provincial education scene. In her current role as a Councilor for the City of Regina, she serves a valuable role liaising between the two Regina school boards and municipal government.

Respectfully submitted on behalf of the Regina Board of Education for consideration.

September 25, 2013

Please forward the award nomination to:

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