

CALGARY BOARD OF EDUCATION

Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees (the "Board") held in the Multipurpose Room, Education Centre, 1221 – 8 Street SW, Calgary, Alberta on Tuesday, May 12, 2015 at 12 noon

MEETING ATTENDANCE

Board of Trustees:

Trustee J. Bowen-Eyre, Chair
Trustee L. Ferguson
Trustee J. Hehr
Trustee J. Hrdlicka
Trustee T. Hurdman
Trustee P. King
Trustee A. Stewart

Administration:

Mr. D. Stevenson, Chief Superintendent of Schools
Mr. D. Hoertz, on behalf of F. Coppinger, Superintendent, Facilities and Environmental Services
Ms. C. Faber, Superintendent, Learning Innovation
Mr. G. Francis, General Counsel, Legal Services/Superintendent, Human Resources
Mr. B. Grundy, Superintendent, Finance and Supply Chain Services
Ms. M. Martin-Esposito, Acting Chief Communications Officer
Ms. J. Barkway, Corporate Secretary
Ms. D. Perrier, Recording Secretary

Stakeholder Representatives:

Mr. R. Anderson, Canadian Union of Public Employees, Local 41
Mr. F. Bruseker, Alberta Teachers' Association, Local 38
Mr. M. Nelson, Principals' Association for Adolescent Learners (PAAL)
Ms. L. Robb, Calgary Board of Education Staff Association

1 | CALL TO ORDER, NATIONAL ANTHEM AND WELCOME

Chair Bowen-Eyre called the meeting to order at 12:02 p.m. and O Canada was led by Grade 3 and 4 students from Sam Livingston School, by way of a DVD recording.

Chair Bowen-Eyre acknowledged and welcomed staff, public and representatives from the aforementioned organizations. She also welcomed Ms. C. Gould and her Grade 1 and 2 students from Alex Munro School, who have moved their classroom to the historical Dr. Carl Safran building for the week to explore what makes Calgary unique within Canada.

2 | CONSIDERATION/APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Ms. J. Barkway, Corporate Secretary, noted that a public comment would be given under Item 6.0.

MOVED by Trustee King:

THAT the Agenda for the Regular Meeting of May 12, 2015 be approved as submitted, subject to the above noted change.

The motion was
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

3 | **AWARDS AND RECOGNITIONS**

3.1 Lighthouse Award

Superintendent Faber noted that this month's recipient of the Lighthouse Award is *Arts Commons* (formerly EPCOR Centre for the Performing Arts). Arts Commons has a long standing 29-year relationship with the Calgary Board of Education and has helped to build the capacity of Arts education for staff, students and the community, through curriculum-linked presentations, programs and resources.

Superintendent Faber introduced and called forward Ms. B. Harvey, Principal, Ms. J. Stetts, teacher, Ms. K. Soderman King, parent, and Annika and Marilyn, Grade 4 students at The Hamptons School, to share their experience with a Campus Calgary/Open Minds pilot project. The presenters commented on how "The Hub for Inspired Learning" pilot program has positively impacted their learning and personal development.

Mr. J. Zietsman, President/CEO of Arts Commons, and Mr. J. Anderson, member of the advisory council, shared words of appreciation for the partnership with the Calgary Board of Education.

On behalf of the Board, Chair Bowen-Eyre thanked the presenters for sharing their experience with Arts Commons, and expressed appreciation for this inspiring program and partnership for our students, staff and community.

3.2 Industry Partnership Award

Superintendent Faber introduced and called forward Ms. A. Smith, Director of Operations, and Mr. C. Palmer, Construction Career Development Coordinator, Calgary Construction Association (CCA), to speak to the award and their partnership with the Calgary Board of Education.

The CCA provides opportunities for students to be exposed to a variety of careers in construction through: the annual Calgary Construction Expo at the BMO Centre; the "try-a-trade" initiative; offering the first high school dual credit carpentry program at SAIT where students spend three days a week for three semesters working through the requirements to complete the first year of their technical training; and providing equipment, power tools and shop supplies.

On behalf of the Board of Trustees, Chair Bowen-Eyre accepted the *Building Futures Industry Partnership Award* and shared comments of appreciation for the partnership.

Item 3.3 – Excellence in Teaching Semi-Finalists took place at 3:00 p.m. and is recorded in these minutes sequentially.

4 | **RESULTS FOCUS**

4.1 **Board Development Session – Inclusive Education**

Chief Superintendent Stevenson introduced the presentation, noting it will showcase how we provide supports and services for all students within the Calgary Board of Education.

Director E. Gouthro provided highlights of inclusive education, aided by a PowerPoint presentation. She noted that it is important to understand the philosophical shift Alberta Education has undertaken, in that inclusive education is for all students. Inclusive education is defined as “a way of thinking and acting that demonstrates universal acceptance of, and belonging for, all students. Inclusive education in Alberta is a values-based approach to accepting responsibility for all students and providing equitable opportunity to be included in the typical learning environment or program of choice”.

The vision of inclusive education from Alberta Education is rooted in broad-based public engagement and policy development. *Setting the Direction*, published in 2009, was an initial framework for inclusion that resulted from a comprehensive review of educational research and consultation with Albertans.

A number of provincial policy documents drew connections between this framework and the kinds of practices that could bring about the critical shifts it identified. At that time, there was a move toward establishing one education system that accepted responsibility for all students. This was a significant departure from the previous model that separated students into two broad categories: those with unique learning needs, and those without.

Inspiring Education, published in 2010, represented the next round of public consultation. It affirmed the values articulated in *Setting the Direction* and set the vision for public education in this province.

In the spirit of continuous improvement, Alberta Education has identified the following values and principles that are central to the development of inclusive practices:

- creating opportunities for learning and growth based on student strengths and needs;
- sharing responsibility amongst all stakeholders;
- valuing diversity as a positive and enriching aspect of our education system; and
- ongoing monitoring and accountability.

These four values and principles work in an integrated way, mutually supporting one another, in much the same way as the Board of Trustees’ Results. Student success is the outcome of our Three-Year Education Plan; it is monitored through ongoing assessment, responsive instruction and program and system monitoring.

Up until the 2011-12 school year, the Calgary Board of Education received funding from Alberta Education based on formulas that considered: base funding, severe disability

profile, the number of English as a Second Language student profiles, and the number of students identified as First Nations, Métis and Inuit learners. The funding was based on a medical model in which we diagnosed, labelled and were expected to “fix” students rather than recognizing, and focusing on, strengths and uniqueness in order to create the most enabling conditions for student success. This previous funding model required a direct connection between funding and specific labels and diagnoses.

In the 2012-13 school year, Alberta Education began to align funding with the values and principles of inclusive education. Recognizing that our learners actually represent the full range of uniqueness within humanity, they introduced a new funding model that ensures that all students have access to inclusive education funding. The Calgary Board of Education Administration is committed to reviewing its current model of organizing resources that are currently distributed through school resources (RAM), area resources and system resources.

To support school districts in developing inclusive practices, Alberta Education provides indicators to help ensure that the decisions we make are aligned with the provincial direction. These indicators are organized around five dimensions:

- Organizing Learning and Instruction
 - We are creating flexible school and classroom structures, and ensuring that instructional planning addresses the strengths and needs of each learner.
- Providing Supports for Success
 - We are coordinating services and interventions in support of classroom learning.
- Building Inclusive Learning Environments
 - We are welcoming and taking responsibility for all learners, and ensuring that students and families have a sense of belonging in their school community.
- Engaging with Parents and the Community
 - We are taking a collaborative approach to planning and decision-making and ensuring there is open, effective communication.
- Establishing Inclusive Values and Principles
 - We are sharing a commitment to the dignity, equality and quality of learning for all.

Videos were shown of students, teachers and professional staff, illustrating how the values and vision for inclusive education are lived out in the Calgary Board of Education.

Administration responded to trustee questions. It was noted by some trustees that the funding model for inclusive education and the potential financial impacts in going from a medical to an inclusive model may be a concern and it warrants a discussion between trustees and Alberta Education. With respect to an accountability system that is outcomes-based, outcomes for the CBE are reported to the Board through the monitoring structures in place, through internal program reviews to ensure effective practices are in place, and in addressing outcome priorities that are set by Alberta Education as part of their business and education plan. It was noted that inclusive education does not preclude the use of different environments or different opportunities in support of student choice and/or need. Charter schools and independent private schools do not receive the inclusive education funding.

5 | OPERATIONAL EXPECTATIONS

There were no items.

6 | PUBLIC COMMENT

6.1 Ms. L. Robb, Chairperson, Calgary Board of Education (CBE) Staff Association

Ms. Robb commented that the 2015-16 Interim Budget shows supports to be maintained at current levels. She stated that the CBE has faced some challenging budgets for the past few years and, consequently, there have been significant declines in supports, both in the school settings and in central services. She shared a concern that this year the Career Practitioner position was removed from the Resource Allocation Method (RAM). Ms. Robb noted that we have continued to do more with less for some time and workloads have increased to unmanageable levels for a number of staff positions. She expressed the opinion that CBE support staff takes the brunt of the budget cuts; they see their hours go up and down from year to year; and they see the elimination of their positions. She noted there is no stability and some staff members feel that they do not have a living wage, and that there is not enough time to give appropriate support to students.

Ms. Robb stated that the CBE Staff Association urges the Board of Trustees to consider using a portion of reserve funds to bring services and supports for 2015-16 up to a level that would be in the best interests of all CBE students.

7 | MATTERS RESERVED FOR BOARD ACTION

Chair Bowen-Eyre shared a communication received earlier in the day, that the Premier Designate Notley made a statement asking “that the outgoing Government of Alberta extend the schools’ budget deadline by one month, to the end of June.”

7.1 Office of the Board of Trustees’ 2015-16 Operating Budget

Superintendent Grundy provided a brief summary of the contents of the report, noting that the Office of the Board of Trustees’ 2015-16 Operating Budget totals \$1,285,598. Compared to last year, this budget has decreased by approximately \$230,000 or 15.2 percent. He noted that the budget is reasonable and necessary to allow the Board to effectively and efficiently perform its governing responsibilities.

Trustees agreed to delay further discussion of the item to the next Regular Meeting, to be held May 19, 2015.

7.2 2015-16 Interim Budget

Superintendent Grundy provided an overview of the contents of the report. He stated that with the recent election of a new government there is significant uncertainty related to what education funding will look like in Alberta in the coming year. He pointed out that this document is a simplified interim budget that is designed to keep as many options open as possible, while supporting the prudent resourcing of our schools for the fall.

The proposed interim budget assumes provincial funding for 2015-16 that will allow the Calgary Board of Education to maintain service levels that are consistent with the 2014-15 school year, adjusted for projected enrolment growth. The interim budget provides funding to schools to allow them to address issues related to enrolment growth while maintaining class sizes equivalent to those of 2014-15; it recommends maintaining transportation and instructional supplies and material fees at 2014-15 levels; and, noon supervision fees will increase by \$5 this year to address the increased cost of providing those services to a larger student population. To maintain transportation fees at current levels, certain service level changes will be implemented, including a move to more congregated stops and a change to the Calgary Transit rebate program. Adjustments will be made to fees or services if the government provides additional funding for this. The interim budget also makes available \$26.4 million in non-facility capital funding to support investment in maintaining and enhancing the student learning environment.

Administration addressed questions posed by trustees and provided clarification on issues including: the changes in the transportation service levels and how those changes will affect students and will be communicated to parents; the City Transit rebates that will not be offered through schools - families can apply for a transit rebate through income tax; students who can't afford transportation fees and do not qualify for a formal waiver need to identify themselves at their school or directly to the Transportation Service Unit at the Education Centre; effective June 1, 2015 parents can register for transportation services online, and fee waiver applications can be made online; the installation of GPS systems on all of our buses will allow for better tracking of routes and ride times; the increase in certificated salaries and benefits; the decrease in support staff salaries and benefits; revenues from Alberta Education and from fees, and how those are reconciled; and new school/modernization commissioning costs.

Trustees agreed to place the item on the Agenda for the Regular Meeting to be held May 19, 2015. The availability of further information at that time will determine budget process timelines.

Chair Bowen-Eyre noted that a break would be held until 3:00 p.m., at which time the semi-finalists for the 2015 Excellence in Teaching Awards would be presented.

Recessed: 2:40 p.m.

Reconvened: 3:02 p.m.

3.3 2015 Excellence in Teaching Semi-Finalists

Chair Bowen-Eyre noted for the 2015 Excellence in Teaching Awards there were 20 semi-finalists throughout the province, of which the Calgary Board of Education is honoured to recognize five. She provided brief background information about the Excellence in Teaching Awards.

Trustees read the nominator quotes related to the semi-finalists from their respective Wards and presented the teachers with recognition certificates and a token of appreciation for their exemplary work in educating Calgary Board of Education students.

Chair Bowen-Eyre presented to the following teachers from Ward 1:

Kamal Johal F.E. Osborne School
Carrie Edwards Varsity Acres School

Trustee Hurdman presented to the following teacher from Ward 7:
Laura Crosby Branton School

Trustee Hehr presented to the following teacher from Ward 8:
Melita Bishop Discovering Choices (CACY)

Trustee Hehr presented to the following teacher from Ward 9:
Stephanie Jones Piitoayis Family School

8 | **CONSENT AGENDA**

Chair Bowen-Eyre declared the following items to be adopted as submitted.

8.1 **Items Provided for Board Information**

8.1.1 Correspondence

8.1.2 Trustee Liaison Report re: ASBA Zone 5

8.1.3 Impact of Proposed Changes to Operational Expectations Policy Statements

8.1.4 Construction Projects Status Report

Chair Bowen-Eyre informed that the Regular Meeting would go in-camera for the Board to discuss a matter containing personal information.

Recessed: 3:32 p.m.

Reconvened: 4:04 p.m.

9 | **IN-CAMERA ISSUES**

9.1 **Motion to Move In Camera**

MOVED by Trustee Ferguson:

Whereas the Board of Trustees is of the opinion that it is in the public interest that matters on the Private Agenda for the Regular Meeting of the Board, May 12, 2015, be considered at an in-camera session; therefore be it

Resolved, THAT the Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees moves in camera.

The motion was
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Absent: Trustee Hehr

9.2 Motion to Revert to Public Meeting

MOVED by Trustee Stewart:

THAT the Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees moves out of in camera.

The motion was
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

9.3 Motion to Action In-Camera Recommendations

MOVED by Trustee Ferguson:

THAT the Board of Trustees approves the reappointment of Mr. Garnet Alberts and Mr. Dean Orlando to the Board of Trustees' Audit Committee for an additional three-year term effective May 15, 2015, ending May 15, 2018.

The motion was
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

10 | ADJOURNMENT

Chair Bowen-Eyre declared the meeting adjourned at 4:07 p.m.