

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, December 8, 2015 at 12:00 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 (departed at 1:50 p.m.)
Trustee A. Stewart

Administration:

Mr. D. Stevenson, Chief Superintendent of Schools
Ms. S. Church, Deputy Chief Superintendent of Schools
Mr. F. Coppinger, Superintendent, Facilities and Environmental Services
Ms. J. Everett, Superintendent, Learning Services
Mr. G. Francis, Superintendent, Human Resources/General Counsel
Mr. B. Grundy, Superintendent, Finance and Supply Chain Services
Ms. M. Martin-Esposito, Chief Communications Officer
Ms. J. Barkway, Corporate Secretary
Ms. D. Perrier, Recording Secretary

Stakeholder Representatives:

Mr. F. Bruseker, Alberta Teachers’ Association, Local 38
Mr. B. Garner, Principals’ Association for Adolescent Learners
Ms. M. Krickhan, Principals’ Association for Adolescent Learners
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 on the link at 12:00 p.m. and O Canada was led by the West Springs School Senior Choir. The meeting reconvened in the Multipurpose Room.

Chair Bowen-Eyre acknowledged and welcomed staff, the public and representatives from the aforementioned organizations. She also welcomed Grade 5/6 students from Captain John Palliser School and their teacher Ms. Sarah Walter. Students have moved their classroom to the CBE and the community of Connaught for this week. Their week will guide their learning throughout the year. They will be exploring the idea of “Collaboration within our community”. They will be working with a public art expert from the City of Calgary and interviewing EducationMatters to see how they collaborate with others.

2 | **CONSIDERATION/APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Ms. J. Barkway, Corporate Secretary, noted that Item 4.3, Results 4: Personal Development – Reasonable Interpretation, and Item 4.4, Results 5: Character – Reasonable Interpretation, were removed from the Agenda for discussion at a later date; Item 7.2.5, 2015-2016 School Enrolment Report, was pulled from the Consent Agenda for discussion; and, an in-camera session would be added to the Agenda as new Item 8.0, to discuss a legal issue, and Item 9.0 would be the Adjournment.

MOVED by Trustee Ferguson:

THAT the Agenda for the Regular Meeting of December 8, 2015 be approved, as submitted, subject to the above-noted revisions.

The motion was
CARRIED.

In Favour:	Trustee Bowen-Eyre Trustee Ferguson Trustee Hehr Trustee Hrdlicka Trustee Hurdman Trustee Stewart
Opposed:	Trustee King

3 | **PUBLIC COMMENT**

There were none.

4 | **RESULTS FOCUS**

4.1 School Presentation – West Springs School

Mr. C. Davies, Director, Area IV, provided opening comments and introduced Ms. R. Morrison, Principal of West Springs School. Principal Morrison noted that the school presentation highlights Results 4: Personal Development. She introduced the presenters as follows:

- Ms. E. Tourigny, Assistant Principal
- Ms. B. Jackson, Teacher
- Ms. T. Wright, Teacher, Wellness Learning Leader
- Ms. D. Rognvaldson-Anan, Music Teacher
- Mehan, Isabel and Kalem, Grade 4 students

Principal Morrison provided a snapshot of the teaching and learning at West Springs School, which this year took on the theme “What If”, asking everyone to think about all the possibilities within themselves. The presentation provided a glimpse of the school’s focus on developing healthy attitudes and actions and assuming personal responsibility for wellbeing. Ms. Jackson shared comments about her Grade 4 students’ healthy living learning. Mehan spoke about their week at Healthy Living School and having experts speak to and engage students in active learning. Isabel commented on the Healthy Living Expo held at West Springs School and how she served as an ambassador in the

promotion of a healthy lifestyle. Kalem shared his experiences with the Healthy Living School and the school's Expo, and he shared his understanding that a person who is healthy and active is more focussed on learning and work.

Ms. Wright provided comments about some of the initiatives that were undertaken by the West Springs School Healthy Learner Club, which she noted operates year-long and consists of a group of dedicated students, grades 1 through 6, with a passion for health and wellness. A video was shown of students sharing their knowledge of and experience with healthy and active living.

On behalf of the Board, Trustee Hurdman expressed appreciation for the school presentation and commended the students on their presentation skills and for their accomplishments in working collaboratively with their peers.

4.2 Social Studies Information Report

Chief Superintendent Stevenson introduced the item, noting that the presentation provides data from the Provincial Achievement Test results, Diploma Examination results and report cards. Superintendent Everett provided a PowerPoint presentation that showed the types of learning experiences that contribute to student success in Social Studies, and depicted the ways that those learning experiences and improvement efforts during the upcoming year are connected to some aspects of OE-10: Instructional Program.

Ms. A. Sarson and Ms. M. Morden, Learning Specialists, provided highlights surrounding the program of studies and Dr. R. Mosher, Director, Learning, provided further details surrounding the provincial achievement tests, diploma examinations and report cards.

Administration addressed trustee questions on issues including: when the program of studies was last updated; the Knowledge and Employability course studies; the difference between the cohort results and the writer results with respect to the provincial achievement tests; the decision on choice and relevancy of topics for discussion and teaching in the classroom; the shifting participation pattern with more high school students taking 30-2 courses and fewer students opting for 30-1 courses; the modification made to the kindergarten report card stems; assessments, in relation to student learning in the classroom and in comparison with the provincial achievement test results or the diploma exam results; communications between teachers, students and parents about course options that are available to students, and exploring the individual learner's pathway as they move onwards from the junior and middle years and through high school; and, the gap in the results of student achievement as determined through report cards versus the provincial achievement tests and diploma examinations.

Chair Bowen-Eyre noted that this report was presented for information only.

Recessed: 1:50 p.m.

Reconvened: 2:10 p.m. Trustee King did not return to the meeting.

Chair Bowen-Eyre welcomed to the meeting Mr. B. Garner, Principals' Association for Adolescent Learners, and Mr. F. Bruseker, President, Alberta Teachers' Association Local 38.

5 | OPERATIONAL EXPECTATIONS

5.1 OE-5: Financial Planning – Annual Monitoring

Superintendent Grundy provided highlights of the contents of the report, and reviewed some of the factors that led to the timing and presentation of the OE-5: Financial Planning – Annual Monitoring report. He noted that the report indicates compliance in all eight policy subsections and all of the eleven indicators have been met.

Administration provided clarification on the unique budget reporting structure that occurred this year, which was the result of the election of a new provincial government, the delayed budget announcements and budget submissions, and the presentation of an updated, detailed budget report to the Board on December 1, 2015.

Subsequent to further discussion, the Board of Trustees agreed to delay consideration of the annual monitoring report to follow Item 6.1, Parameters Around the 2015-16 Planned Use of Reserves.

5.2 OE-11: Learning Environment/Treatment of Students – Annual Monitoring

Superintendent Everett provided a brief review of the contents of the report, noting that compliance is reported in all subsections of the policy. She brought attention to policy subsection 11.2, indicator 3, and noted that the issue will be addressed as stated in the capacity building comments. Three of the four indicators were in compliance with the policy subsection and that led to Administration's determination that the policy, overall, is in compliance.

Administration responded to trustee questions on issues including: the costs and time associated with first aid certification and with emergency plan practices; tailored safety mandates for individual schools, standard lock-down procedures and specific discussions that are tailored for the particular age group of students; the handling and processing of alleged inappropriate behaviour complaints; decisions about the provision of transportation service for students and the related fee structures; and, the provincial directive that CBE Administration reviews alternative program proposals.

Chair Bowen-Eyre asked trustees to identify their intentions to bring forward any motions related to compliance, exceptions or commendations for OE-11. She noted that if none come forward, the item will be placed on the consent agenda for the Regular Meeting of January 12, 2016, noting that the Board approves that the Chief Superintendent is in compliance with the provisions of OE-11: Learning Environment/Treatment of Students.

6 | MATTERS RESERVED FOR BOARD ACTION

6.1 Parameters Around the 2015-16 Planned Use of Reserves

Superintendent Grundy informed that additional documents were provided to trustees during the break, clarifying information that had already been received by the Board and including changes from the 2015-2016 Budget (approved by the Board in June 2015), to the fall update that was presented on December 1, 2015. He reviewed the contents of

the documents, including the operating budget adjustments, planned use of reserves (as reported) and future requirements of planned use. Two additional documents circulated to trustees contained information relevant to: 1) Three-Year financial Plan; and, 2) Fiscal Jeopardy, seen through the lens of “Going Concern”, and Superintendent Grundy noted that a report will come to the Board on the latter issue.

At 2:57 p.m. Chair Bowen-Eyre received the consent of the Board to continue the meeting to the completion of the agenda.

Administration addressed trustee questions and concerns related to issues including: costs associated with the expected work related to the Teachers’ Employer Bargaining Association process; flexibility with the planned use of reserves, including the potential for the expenditure over more than one fiscal year; the pros and cons of having reserves; the 2016-17 and 2017-18 budget projections.

Recessed: 3:45 p.m.
Reconvened: 4:12 p.m.

MOVED by Trustee Hehr:

THAT the Board of Trustees approves the planned 2015-16 use of reserves and designated funds (Attachment III of the December 1, 2015 report) for a total of \$41.7 million and \$26.6 million in capital reserves.

Trustee comments in support of the motion included that the money is available and can be utilized now for learning and opportunities for students who are currently in our classrooms; Administration has provided clarity around the use of reserves and the flexibility to do so, and has clarified issues surrounding fiscal jeopardy. A few trustees shared concerns about the potential use of reserves for school commissioning costs, which they strongly believed should be covered by the provincial government, and noted that the Board’s ability to advocate on this issue could be lost.

A trustee spoke in opposition to the motion, citing a number of uncertainties going forward, including the ongoing operating costs of new schools that will open this year, the increased enrolments, which will be further impacted with the intake of Syrian refugees, and costs associated with bargaining in the coming year. She expressed her concern that we may not be able to have a balanced budget next year without the use of reserves, and she shared her belief that less of the reserves should be spent this year.

Chair Bowen-Eyre called for the vote on the motion.

The motion was
CARRIED.

In favour:	Trustee Bowen-Eyre Trustee Ferguson Trustee Hehr Trustee Hrdlicka Trustee Stewart
Opposed:	Trustee Hurdman
Absent:	Trustee King

MOVED by Trustee Ferguson:

THAT the Board of Trustees receives the Fall 2015 Update to the 2015-16 Operating Budget (Attachment VI of the December 1, 2015 report), reflecting total planned spending of \$1,320.5 million, an increase of \$37.2 million, and authorizes submission to Alberta Education.

The motion was

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Absent: Trustee King

5.1 OE-5: Financial Planning – Annual Monitoring (continued)

MOVED by Trustee Stewart:

THAT the Board of Trustees approves that the Chief Superintendent is in compliance with the provisions of OE-5: Financial Planning.

MOVED by Trustee Hurdman:

THAT the motion be amended to include “with the exception of policy subsection 5.5.”

Trustee comments in favour of the amendment included that in looking at the actual budget that the Board just approved for submission to the province, we are left with \$9.6 million in capital reserves and no “available for use” reserves that were not already designated. She shared her understanding that this falls below the 1% reserves balance.

Trustee comments in opposition to the amendment included the belief that the plan put before the Board is fiscally sound.

Chair Bowen-Eyre called for the vote on the amendment.

The amendment was
DEFEATED.

In favour: Trustee Hurdman
Trustee Stewart

Opposed: Trustee Bowen-Eyre
Trustee Ferguson
Trustee Hehr
Trustee Hrdlicka

Absent: Trustee King

Trustees debated the main motion, as moved by Trustee Stewart, and Chair Bowen-Eyre called for the vote on the motion.

The motion was

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Absent: Trustee King

7 | **CONSENT AGENDA**

The Chair noted that items on the consent agenda are approved with the agenda, as follows:

7.1 Board of Trustees' Annual Self-Evaluation

THAT the Board approves the Board of Trustees' self-evaluation report as developed during the evaluation workshop of November 18, 2015.

7.2 Items Provided for Board Information

7.2.1 EducationMatters Financial Statements as at September 30, 2015

7.2.2 Chief Superintendent's Update

7.2.3 Construction Projects Status Update

7.2.4 School Accommodation Criteria

The following item was removed from the consent agenda for questions.

7.2.5 2015-2015 School Enrolment Report

Administration addressed trustee questions and provided clarification on issues including: the projected enrolment for 2016-2019; declining enrolments in alternative programs; the 2015 provincial capacity that is based on the new formula for calculating school capacity and includes stages, which is being appealed by the CBE; lease rates that are charged on a cost-recovery basis and cases where there is an exchange of services; CBE's requirements to maintain facilities that are leased to charter schools, for which no funding is provided; the provincial calculations of rated room capacity and how those differ from the CBE's calculations; and, accommodation planning for new students coming into the system.

It was noted that the report was provided for the Board's information and no action was required.

Chair Bowen-Eyre informed that the Board would go in camera to discuss one legal issue.

Recessed: 5:09 p.m.

Reconvened: 5:20 p.m.

8 | IN-CAMERA SESSION

Chief Superintendent Stevenson, Superintendent Francis, and Ms. Martin-Esposito, Chief Communications Officer, attended the private session.

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 December 8, 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 King

Motion to Revert to Public Meeting

MOVED by Trustee Hehr:

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

The motion was
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Absent: Trustee King

Motion to Action In-Camera Recommendations

MOVED by Trustee Ferguson:

THAT the Board of Trustees authorizes the Chair to correspond with the Alberta School Boards Association, as discussed in camera.

The motion was
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Absent: Trustee King

9 | ADJOURNMENT

Chair Bowen-Eyre declared the meeting adjourned at 5:40 p.m.