

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, February 13, 2024 at 11:00 a.m.

MEETING ATTENDANCE

Board of Trustees:

Trustee L. Hack, Chair
Trustee P. Bolger
Trustee N. Close
Trustee M. Dennis
Trustee D. Downey
Trustee C. May
Trustee S. Vukadinovic

Administration:

G. Strother, Acting Chief Superintendent of Schools
R. Armstrong, Superintendent, Human Resources
D. Breton, Superintendent, Facilities and Environmental Services
K. Fenney, General Counsel
B. Grundy, Superintendent, Finance/Technology Services
M. Martin-Esposito, Chief Communications Officer
M. Nelson, Acting Superintendent, School Improvement
P. Minor, Corporate Secretary
M. Graham, Board Administrator

Stakeholder Representatives:

C. Gordon, Canadian Union of Public Employees, Local 40
C. Sagriotis, Senior High School Principals’ Association

1 | **CALL TO ORDER, NATIONAL ANTHEM AND WELCOME**

Chair Hack called the meeting to order at 11:00 a.m. and students from David Thompson School led the national anthem through a video recording.

Chair Hack acknowledged the traditional territories and oral practices of the Blackfoot Nations, which includes the Siksika, the Piikani, and the Kainai. She also acknowledged the Tsuut’ina and Stoney Nakoda First Nations, the Métis Nation (Region 3), and all people who make their homes in the Treaty 7 region of Southern Alberta.

The Chair welcomed staff, union representatives and members of the public to the meeting, including those attending virtually.



2 | **CONSIDERATION/ APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

P. Minor, Corporate Secretary, noted that the following change requests were received:

- To add Opening Remarks as agenda item 3 and the remainder of the agenda items be renumbered accordingly.
- To remove item 9.2.1 Acting Chief Superintendent Update from the consent agenda and add it as item 7.2 under Matters Reserved for Board Information.

MOVED by Trustee Vukadinovic:

THAT the Board of Trustees approves the agenda for the Regular Meeting of February 13, 2024, subject to the changes noted above.

The motion was
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

3 | **OPENING STATEMENTS**

Chair Hack expressed, with gratitude, the Board of Trustees' acknowledgement of the steady guidance and leadership of Gary Strother, Acting Chief Superintendent. She stated:

"Gary's support over the last six months ensured stability and certainty, allowing the Board to do the important work of searching for our next Chief Superintendent.

Gary's leadership and his commitment to listening to students, staff, trustees, community, and parents fostered and maintained unity and resilience within the CBE. He upheld CBE's commitment to the success of each student, every day and modeled the value of every person connected to the CBE. The Board of Trustees would like to express their heartfelt thanks to Acting Chief Strother and his leadership."

Acting Chief Superintendent Strother responded, thanking the Board of Trustees for the opportunity and sharing that what he observed over the past six months has been impressive. Everyone at the CBE has been welcoming, kind, and supportive, from the Board of Trustees and senior Administration to directors, teachers, support staff, and service units. He noted that he witnessed an expertise and passion for doing what is right for children, and leaves with insider knowledge of a well-led and well-structured organization whose sole focus is on ensuring that children get the best possible education experience and that their needs are looked after on an individual basis. This is a tall task for a district of this size, but it is the strength of its people that create these conditions for success. He expressed that it has been a privilege to walk along side CBE on this short journey and that he is honoured to have been a part of it.

4 | **AWARDS AND RECOGNITIONS**

There were no presentations.



5 | **RESULTS FOCUS**

There were no reports or presentations.

6 | **OPERATIONAL EXPECTATIONS**

6.1 **OE-3: Instructional Program – Annual Monitoring**

Acting Chief Superintendent Strother introduced the report, stating the data collected applies to the 2022-2023 school year and highlights the high level of programming provided by the CBE for all students. The evidence presented indicates compliance in each of the eleven indicators.

Acting Superintendent Nelson provided additional detail on the report, highlighting school development plans crafted by each school to meet the specific needs of students; in-year assessment and support for continuous improvement by Education Directors; and increased implementation and use of CBE foundational frameworks and related resources, noting movement towards system alignment and coherence. He provided examples such as increased literacy skills focus and achievement, opportunities in Career and Technology Studies (CTS), and an increase in Unique Pathways programming opportunities.

Administration responded to trustee questions on matters from the report, including Career and Technology Foundation (CTF) course offerings; apprenticeship training opportunities; distinction between courses (core, complementary, options, or unique pathway) in determining access to financial support for off-site activities; requests made by principals for Area Learning Team (ALT) supports; psycho-educational assessment referrals; and penalties for non-compliance with the Master Transportation Agreement by service providers.

Chair Hack asked trustees to identify their intentions to bring forward any motions related to compliance, exceptions or commendations for OE-3: Instructional Program to the Corporate Secretary and to trustees by noon, Thursday, February 29, 2024. She stated that if no motions come forward, the item will be placed on the March 5, 2024 consent agenda with a motion that the Board of Trustees approves that the Chief Superintendent is in compliance with the provisions of OE-3: Instructional Program.

7 | **PUBLIC COMMENT**

There were no public comments.

8 | **MATTERS RESERVED FOR BOARD INFORMATION**

8.1 **2023-2024 First Quarter Budget Variance Analysis**

Acting Chief Superintendent Strother introduced the report, stating the report shows the differences between the budget approved by the Board of Trustees in May 2023 and the latest financial forecast as at the end of November 2023. Though CBE has more students



than ever before, it is on track to balance the budget and continue to provide the highest level of quality education.

Trustees commented on the clarity of information provided in the financial health matrix, providing public transparency, accountability, and highlighting areas of financial pressure and advocacy.

8.2 Acting Chief Superintendent Update

Administration responded to trustee questions on matters from the report including: Books on Buses; Minecraft and Indigenous Languages, and other ways CBE is supporting Indigenous language acquisition; and resources to address concerns regarding vaping in schools.

Recessed: 11:36 a.m.

Reconvened: 11:45 a.m.

9 | MATTERS RESERVED FOR BOARD DECISION

9.1 Results 2: Academic Success – Annual Monitoring

Chair Hack introduced the report, stating that at the January 16, 2024 and January 30, 2024 meetings, trustees had the opportunity to ask questions. It is now on the agenda for the Board to determine if the Chief Superintendent is making reasonable progress with the provisions of Results 2: Academic Success.

MOVED by Trustee May:

THAT the Board of Trustees has reviewed the monitoring report for Results 2: Academic Success, and concludes that reasonable progress is being made toward the ultimate achievement of this Results policy.

Chair Hack stated the motion, followed by Trustee Close proposing an amendment to the motion:

THAT the Board of Trustees has reviewed the monitoring report for Results 2: Academic Success, and concludes that reasonable progress is being made toward the ultimate achievement of this Results policy, with the exception of students who self-identify as Indigenous in all academic areas.

In debate of the amendment to the motion, trustees made comments on: administration's recommendation for the exception; the necessity of public conversation regarding removal of an exception that has been in place for a seven-year period; concern that a colonial lens is being applied to the achievement of students who self-identify as Indigenous; the purpose of an exception to highlight an area of concern; the implementation of numerous supports for students who self-identify as Indigenous and Indigenous ways of being, including the Indigenous Holistic Lifelong Learning Framework; progress over time in the



results for students who self-identify as Indigenous indicating reasonable progress; increased cohort high school graduation rates; importance of continuing the focused work to ensure continued growth; and indications of continued areas of concern as seen in lower than provincial average results in some areas for this cohort.

Chair Hack called for a vote on the amendment.

The motion was:
DEFETED.

In favour::
Trustee Downey
Trustee Hack
Trustee May

Opposed:
Trustee Bolger
Trustee Close
Trustee Dennis
Trustee Vukadinovic

In debate of the main motion, trustees made comments on: all-student cohort and students who self-identify as Indigenous cohort increases in four and five-year graduation rates; report card data; evidence of student success in achievement; improvement in English as an Additional Language Learner cohort results; CBE results in comparison to provincial and federal results; impact of an environment of change and recovery on results; the definition and evidence of reasonable progress; areas of risk; professional development and support opportunities; processes for capacity building; evidence that CBE provides students with a strong academic foundation; concerns regarding sustainability in the current context of classroom complexity and unprecedented enrolment growth; seeing results through lived experience in CBE schools; Board advocacy priorities including increased funding; and administration's recommendation for the exception for students who self-identify as Indigenous.

Chair Hack called for a vote on the motion.

The motion was
CARRIED.

In favour:
Trustee Bolger
Trustee Close
Trustee Dennis
Trustee Downey
Trustee May
Trustee Vukadinovic

Opposed: Trustee Hack

10 | CONSENT AGENDA

10.1 Items Provided for Board Decision

There were no reports or presentations.



10.2 Items Provided for Board Information

There were no reports or presentations.

Chair Hack noted the public portion of this meeting is now adjourned; and, that the Board would reconvene in private to discuss one legal, three land, five labour and seven strategic planning matters. She stated the next public Board meeting is on Tuesday, March 5, 2024.

Recessed: 12:35 p.m.

Reconvened: 1:06 p.m.

10 | PRIVATE SESSION

Motion to Move In Camera

MOVED by Trustee Dennis:

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 of Trustees, February 13, 2024 be considered at a private session; therefore, be it

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

The motion was
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Absent: Trustee Bolger

Motion to Move Out of In Camera

MOVED by Trustee May:

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

The motion was
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Motions to Action In-Camera Recommendations

MOVED by Trustee Dennis:

THAT the Board of Trustees authorizes the Chair to communicate with the Minister of Education, as provided in Attachment I to the report.

The motion was
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

MOVED by Trustee Close:

THAT the Board of Trustees authorizes the Chair to communicate with the Minister of Immigration, as discussed in camera.

The motion was
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.



MOVED by Trustee Vukadinovic:

THAT the Board of Trustees ratifies the Mediator's recommendations for Terms of Settlement dated January 29, 2024, and the terms agreed to prior to mediation with respect to the collective bargaining between the Calgary Board of Education (CBE) and The Calgary Board of Education Staff Association – Main Body (MB).

THAT the Board of Trustees ratifies the Mediator's Recommendations for Terms of Settlement dated January 29, 2024, and the terms agreed to prior to mediation with respect to the collective bargaining between the Calgary Board of Education (CBE) and The Calgary Board of Education Staff Association – Professional Support Staff (PSS).

The motion was
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

MOVED by Trustee Close:

THAT the Board of Trustees ratifies the Memorandum of Agreement dated January 23, 2024, with respect to the collective bargaining between the Calgary Board of Education (CBE) and The Canadian Union of Public Employees (CUPE) Local 40.

The motion was
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

11 | **TERMINATION OF MEETING**

The meeting terminated at 4:28 p.m.

