

Calgary Board of Education

Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees held in the Board Room, Education Centre, 515 Macleod Trail SE, Calgary, Alberta, on Tuesday, October 3, 2006 at 5:00 p.m.

PRESENT

Board of Trustees:

Trustee N. Close, Vice-Chair – Chair of the Meeting
Trustee C. Bazinet
Trustee P. Cochrane
Trustee K. Fawcett
Trustee L. Ferguson
Trustee G. Lane (departed at 8:17 p.m.)

Absent: Trustee G. Dirks, Chair

Administration:

Ms. J. Barkway, Assistant Corporate Secretary
Mr. D. Dart, Superintendent, Corporate Services – Secretary Treasurer
Mr. J. Drysdale, Superintendent, Educational Support Services
Ms. B. Hubert, Deputy Chief Superintendent of Schools
Mr. J. Jones, Executive Assistant to the Chief Superintendent
Ms. B. Kuester, Executive Director of Communications
Ms. D. Perrier, Recording Secretary
Ms. S. Wasylshyn, Executive Assistant to the Trustees

Stakeholder Representatives:

Mr. R. Anderson, Canadian Union of Public Employees, Local 40
Ms. S. Brims, Elementary School Principals' Association
Ms. G. Burger-Martindale, Calgary Association of Parents and School Councils
Ms. A. Craig, Calgary Board of Education Staff Association
Mr. L. Liffiton, Alberta Teachers' Association, Local 38
Mr. T. Main, Senior High School Principals' Association
Mr. B. Unterschultz, Elementary School Principals' Association

Action By

1.0 CALL TO ORDER, NATIONAL ANTHEM AND WELCOME

Chair Close called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m, and the Bowness High School Choral 10-20-30 class led in the singing of the national anthem by way of a pre-recorded DVD. Chair Close welcomed representatives from the aforementioned organizations and members of the public.

2.0 CONSIDERATION/APPROVAL OF AGENDA

MOVED by Trustee Bazinet:

THAT the Agenda for the Regular Meeting held October 3, 2006 be approved as submitted.

The motion was
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

3.0 SCHOOL/SYSTEM PRESENTATIONS

3.1 Calgary Senior High School Athletic Association (CSHSAA)

Superintendent Drysdale provided opening remarks and introductions, noting that the Calgary Senior High School Athletic Association began in 1913 as a collaborative project between the Calgary Board of Education and the Calgary Catholic School District. It presently involves well over 10,000 students in twelve sports. Mr. T. Main, President of CSHSAA, and Mr. D. Sheehan, Executive Director of CSHSAA, came forward and provided further details about the program with a PowerPoint presentation. The presentation covered aspects regarding the structure of CSHSAA; community relations; student/athlete benefits; the power of school sport; lessons from high school sport; and, the benefit to schools. Mr. Main noted that he's had the opportunity to attend conferences and speaking engagements across North America to present about this unique organization, and he noted that we are recognized as the initiator of this program. Additional information about the program was provided in hard copy to Trustees and Administration.

Mr. Sheehan and Mr. Main thanked the Board for its continued support of CSHSAA, and noted that numerous changes have taken place over the past 14 years, especially in the area of support that the program receives.

Chair Close thanked Mr. Main and Mr. Sheehan for making their presentation, and for sharing their passion and sense of pride in their individual roles with the Calgary Senior High School Athletic Association.

4.0 HONOURS AND RECOGNITIONS

There were none.

5.0 PUBLIC CONVERSATION AND INFORMATION

5.1 Correspondence

Chair Close referenced a letter that was sent by our Board Chair on September 5, 2006 to the Honourable Gene Zwozdesky, Minister of Education, to express the Board of Trustees' appreciation of the provincial government's \$303.3 million investment in school infrastructure projects over the next four years. The Calgary Board of Education has been given approval to proceed with the first three schools on our current School Capital Plan, which are Taradale Elementary, McKenzie Towne Elementary and Panorama Hills Elementary. The letter also notes the sincere appreciation of the Board with respect to the Minister's work in recognizing the importance of developing a long-range plan for new school construction.

5.2 REPORT FROM THE CHAIR AND TRUSTEES

Trustee Lane reported on his attendance at the Sunnyside Community School Annual Fall Fair.

Trustee Ferguson reported on her attendance, on behalf of the Board of Trustees, at the *Vista Grande Affordable Housing Development Groundbreaking Event* on September 29, 2006.

Trustee Cochrane, who is the Board of Trustees' liaison with EducationMatters (Calgary's Public Education Trust), noted that this year's recipient of the 2006 Calgary Board of Education Distinguished Alumni Award is Dr. Martha Cohen. This award is given out annually to honour past Calgary Board of Education alumni that have distinguished

themselves as successful, compassionate and committed leaders in the community. Dr. Cohen, who is the fifth recipient of this award, will be recognized at a dinner on Wednesday, November 15th. The theme for this event is *Building Future Leaders*, and it will showcase the launch of EducationMatters *Future Leaders Fund* that will support leadership enhancement programs and scholarships for Calgary's public education students.

Trustee Bazinet informed that on behalf of the Alberta School Boards Association, she attended a Council of Urban Boards of Education (CUBE) Conference in Phoenix, Arizona. Four representatives from Alberta school boards attended this conference – one from each of the four major urban boards.

5.3 Report from the Chief Superintendent

Deputy Chief Superintendent Hubert provided a verbal report, noting that Chief Superintendent Croskery was in Jeffersonville, Indiana on a tour of Amatrol Inc. for Canadian Educators. Amatrol Learning systems are helping thousands of educational institutions and industrial training centres prepare students throughout the world to become successful engineers, technicians, and scientists in today's high performance workplace. There are two Amatrol sites currently operating in the Calgary Board of Education, at Centennial High School and Crossing Park School.

Deputy Chief Superintendent Hubert shared further information, summarized as follows:

- Two Calgary Board of Education teachers are award recipients of the Special Interest Group for Telelearning, winning First Place for their creation of an Online Learning Resource. The winners of the Online Learning Award are:
 - Ms. J. Prazak, her students and former principal of Piitoayis Family School; and
 - Ms. J. George, her students and former principal of Prince of Wales Elementary School, Ms. T. Skulsky. Ms. George is also one of six recipients of the Governor General's Award for Excellence in Teaching Canadian History.
- A Retreat for Superintendents and Directors was held on September 27, 2006, to further develop the work on the Calgary Board of Education's succession plan, and on the system accountability framework.
- The annual *Raise A Reader* campaign took place on September 28, 2006, in which numerous Calgary Board of Education leaders and representatives participated, including staff, trustees, directors, and superintendents. The Calgary Herald sponsors this fundraiser in support of the Calgary Board of Education's program *Book Bags for Kids*. Last year, over 650 children received a gift of books through this program.

5.4 Public Question Period

There were no questions from the public.

5.5 Stakeholder Reports

There were no stakeholder reports.

5.6 Trustee Inquiries

There were no Trustee inquiries.

6.0 MONITORING AND RESULTS

6.1 Ends 4: Personal Development - Reasonable Interpretation, Indicators and Benchmarks

Deputy Chief Superintendent Hubert called forward Superintendent Dart to provide highlights of the report, and he and the relevant staff members who were accountable for this work were commended.

Trustees posed numerous questions, which were addressed by Administration, and a brief summary of the discussion is provided as follows:

- With regard to additional data to be used in the May 2007 monitoring report, and particular to the development of an evaluation methodology to undertake a long-term study of outcomes related to Ends 3, 4 and 5, Mr. R. Bauer, Specialist, Accountability Services, responded to a question of how the work is proceeding in collaboration with Alberta Education. He noted that we are the only school district involved in this particular work with Alberta Education, which essentially is to develop outcomes and to provide alternative ways in which to measure student success.
- Appendix III, regarding the numbers depicted for student results – it was noted that in order to understand the relativity of the actual results, future reporting of the total number as a percentage would provide a clearer picture. Mr. Bauer remarked that it is important to review these numbers over the next few years in order to determine the trends, at which time it will be possible to set some targets.
- Comments were shared about the parent average from the Accountability Pillar Survey, which in some instances were lower than the student or the teacher average. It was suggested this might be attributed to insufficient data to provide a clear understanding of the many different views, and it might also be an awareness issue, which may require some work towards the development of a strategy to address these uncertainties.

MOVED by Trustee Fawcett:

THAT the Board of Trustees approves the reasonable interpretation as referenced in the report of December 6, 2005, and the indicators and benchmarks for Ends 4: Personal Development as submitted with the agenda for the Regular Meeting held October 3, 2006.

The motion was
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

6.2 Summary of the 2005-2006 Provincial Achievement Test and Diploma Examination Results

Deputy Chief Superintendent Hubert provided a brief overview of the Calgary Board of Education's results in the 2005-2006 Provincial Achievement Tests (PAT) and Diploma Examinations, noting that it is a good news story. She pointed out that the PAT results show that our students surpassed the provincial results on 83% of all measures; and given that 17% of Alberta students who write these tests are from the Calgary Board of Education, this is remarkable. Our English as a Second Language students achieved higher results than the province's average on 95% of all the measures, which she noted is exceptional considering that the Calgary Board of Education students make up almost 50% of those students who write those exams. Our grade 12 students demonstrated strong achievement on the diploma examinations, showing outstanding results in the Math and Science courses, where up to 47% of Calgary Board of Education students achieved the standard of excellence. Deputy Chief Superintendent Hubert shared commendations to students, parents, the Calgary Board

of Education community and support agencies, Calgary Board of Education partners, a great number of Calgary Board of Education staff for their contributions to student learning, and to the Board of Trustees for their strong focus on academic success.

Chair Close noted that the Board of Trustees had previously reviewed these results at an in-camera meeting, and had made an earlier announcement to the media. A question and answer session took place, which included discussion on the following issues:

- The reason we see an increase of approximately 3% in the number of grade 12 students who write the diploma exam is, in part, a result of students coming back to the Calgary Board of Education to finish high school, because some charter and private schools don't offer a high school program.
- The Calgary Board of Education participation rates in a variety of subject areas.
- The reduced class size initiative - it was noted that at this time we can't relate any positive results to reduced class sizes, as we have not yet achieved the optimal class sizes. It was pointed out that we have done significant work to implement the full-day Kindergarten program in many of our schools; and it was further noted that there are many things that we do in classrooms that impact student learning, including the continuous review and understanding of what is best practice.

MOVED by Trustee Cochrane:

THAT the Board of Trustees receives the *Summary of the 2005-2006 Provincial Achievement Test and Diploma Examination Results* report for information, in the form as submitted with the agenda for the Regular Meeting held October 3, 2006.

The motion was
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

6.3 Executive Limitations 4: Treatment of Parents and Citizens – Annual Monitoring Report

Chair Close reviewed the criteria against which the Trustees are to judge this report, including that of reasonable interpretation of the policy, compliance with the policy, and whether sufficient information has been provided. She noted further that the particular vote with regard to compliance should in no way be considered as a vote of non-confidence.

Deputy Chief Superintendent Hubert commended the staff, including Mr. J. Jones, for their contributions to this comprehensive report, and she provided a brief overview of the contents of the report, noting that this monitoring covers the time span of October 2005 to June 2006. Deputy Chief Superintendent Hubert made a general comment about treatment of parents and citizens, pointing out that the Calgary Board of Education has thousands of employees who interact with the public on a daily basis in numerous ways. It is hoped, and believed, that these interactions are characterized by respectful, courteous, sensitive and dignified exchanges; however, sometimes we are faced with very complex problems and issues that on the surface may seem rather simplistic; and, sometimes our public demands a quick solution or a quick response to some of these complex matters, and often it is not possible to do so. In some cases, our inability to respond quickly or to make a decision on a matter is interpreted as being insensitive or disrespectful; but, in every case, we strive to listen carefully and gather all the information that is necessary to make good decisions and solve problems.

Trustees posed questions, which were responded to by Administration, and much of the discussion that ensued was around the manner in which communication takes place between staff and our public, including the handling of complaints. With regard to these issues, the following information was shared:

- Administrative Regulations are in place that are broadly advertised throughout the system with regards to effective communication. It was noted also that at every level of the organization, all attempts are made to personalize communications with our public.
- Professional development throughout the organization, including staff at the schools, to ensure that all are skilled at making effective communication with members of our public is important.
- The definition of “timely” with regard to providing responses to concerns can be quite varied – the issue is evaluated on the degree of urgency; also, it is dependent on the complexity of the issue, as well as on the system’s capacity to address the particular issue.

Chair Close commended the four employees of the Community Engagement and Operational Planning department who have become members of the International Association of Public Participation (IAP2) and are undergoing professional training in effective community engagement initiatives.

MOVED by Trustee Bazinet:

THAT the Chief Superintendent has reasonably interpreted Executive Limitations 4: Treatment of Parents and Citizens, and the Board of Trustees finds the Chief Superintendent to be in compliance with this policy.

The motion was
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Chair Close handed the chair to Trustee Lane.

MOVED by Trustee Close:

THAT the Board of Trustees commends the Chief Superintendent for the work that has been done on the public participation processes with our community.

The motion was
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Vice-Chair Close resumed the chair.

MOVED by Trustee Cochrane:

THAT the Board of Trustees commends the Chief Superintendent for establishing the department of Community Engagement and Operational Planning; and also for raising the level of understanding in the Calgary Board of Education of the value of two-way communications with our public.

The motion was
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

7.0 CONSENT AGENDA

There were no objections to the Consent Agenda and Chair Close declared the items to be adopted as presented.

7.1 Board Consent Agenda

7.1.1 Approval of Minutes

- Regular Meeting held September 5, 2006

THAT the Board of Trustees approves the Minutes of the Regular Meeting held September 5, 2006 as submitted.

7.2 Chief Superintendent Consent Agenda

7.2.1 Monthly Update

THAT the Board of Trustees receives the Chief Superintendent's Monthly Update for information and for the record, in the form as submitted with the agenda for the Regular Meeting held October 3, 2006.

7.2.2 Long Range Student Accommodation Planning Process

THAT the identified long range student accommodation challenges and proposed program expansions for the 2007-2008 school year be received for information and for the record, in the form as submitted with the agenda for the Regular Meeting held October 3, 2006.

8.0 TRUSTEE NOTICES OF MOTION

There were no Trustee notices of motion.

Recessed: 6:27 p.m.

Reconvened: 6:40 p.m.

9.0 IN-CAMERA ISSUES

9.1 Motion to Move In Camera

MOVED by Trustee Cochrane:

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

The motion was

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

During the in-camera session, Chair Close received the consent of Trustees to continue the meeting past the scheduled completion time of 8:00 p.m., to the conclusion of the agenda. Also, during the in-camera session Trustee Lane disclosed a pecuniary interest with the issue of the redevelopment of the Dr. Carl Safran and Connaught School sites prior to the discussion of it, and left the meeting at 8:17 p.m.

9.2 Motion to Revert to Public Meeting

MOVED by Trustee Bazinet:

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

The motion was

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Action By

9.3 Motion to Action In-Camera Recommendation

MOVED by Trustee Ferguson:

THAT the Board of Trustees receives the correspondence for information and for the record, as distributed at the in-camera session of the Regular Meeting held October 3, 2006.

The motion was
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

10.0 ADJOURNMENT

The Chair declared the meeting adjourned at 8:32 p.m.