

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, December 18, 2007 at 5:00 p.m.

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PRESENT:

Board of Trustees:

Trustee P. Cochrane, Chair

Trustee C. Bazinet

Trustee G. Dirks

Trustee L. Ferguson

Trustee P. King

Trustee K. Kryczka

Trustee G. Lane

Administration:

Dr. B. Croskery, Chief Superintendent of Schools

Mr. F. Coppinger, Superintendent, Facilities and Environmental Services

Mr. D. Dart, Superintendent, Corporate Services – Secretary Treasurer

Ms. J. Crarer, Acting 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

Mr. R. Peden, Director and General Counsel, Legal Affairs

Ms. J. Barkway, Assistant Corporate Secretary

Ms. H. Numrich, Recording Secretary

Stakeholder Representatives:

Ms. L. Showler, Calgary Association of Parents and School Councils

Ms. A. Craig, Calgary Board of Education Staff Association

Mr. B. Anderson, Canadian Union of Public Employees, Local 40

Ms. J. Regal, Alberta Teachers' Association, Local 38

Ms. L. Lytle, Principals' Association for Adolescent Learners (PAAL)

Mr. T. Cave, Principals' Association for Adolescent Learners (PAAL)

Action By

**1.0 CALL TO ORDER, NATIONAL ANTHEM AND WELCOME**

Chair Cochrane called the meeting to order at 4:56 p.m. after enjoying a seasonal music presentation by choir students from Vista Heights School on the plaza. The choir led in the singing of the national anthem and the meeting reconvened in the boardroom. Ward Trustee P. King expressed appreciation to the students and staff on behalf of the Board, for the musical presentation. Chair Cochrane acknowledged and welcomed representatives from the aforementioned organizations.

**2.0 CONSIDERATION/APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Ms. Barkway informed that two items were pulled from the Consent Agenda, the minutes of November 27, 2007 Regular Meeting and Item 8.2.1 *Facility Condition Report*.

MOVED by Trustee Ferguson:

**THAT the Agenda for the Regular Meeting of December 18, 2007, be approved as submitted, with the above noted changes.**

The motion was  
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

### **3.0 HONOURS AND RECOGNITIONS**

#### **3.1 Lighthouse Award**

Ms. S. Church, Director, Corporate Partnerships introduced the recipient of this month's Lighthouse Award as the Telus World of Science - Calgary. The Telus World of Science and the Calgary Board of Education work collaboratively on many programs to ensure that students have the opportunity to experience the stimulating learning activities and exhibits at the World of Science while supporting the achievement of Ends 2: Academic Success.

On behalf of Telus World of Science, Mr. J. Hawryluk, Manager, Programs Department and Ms. D. Kipta, Program Leader, accepted the award that was presented by Chair Cochrane. On behalf of the Board of Trustees, Chair Cochrane expressed appreciation for the partnership, noting that students' critical thinking and schools are enhanced by this creative and fun way of learning.

### **4.0 PUBLIC CONVERSATION AND INFORMATION**

#### **4.1 Report from the Chair and Trustees**

- Trustee Kryczka reported that she had the opportunity to visit and tour several schools, attend school council meetings and participate in Book Bags for Kids. The schools she visited included Altadore, Alternative High, the GATE program, William Reid, Chinook Park, Emily Follensbee and Janet Johnstone schools. She also attended concerts at Jenny Elliott and Windsor Park (including students from Elboya) schools.
- Trustee Lane attended the Breakfast of Champions at Ernest Manning High School where students were honored for demonstrating good character.
- Trustee Bazinet participated in Book Bags for Kids and stated that it is great to see the excited faces of the children and acknowledged the many partnerships that enable this project. She stated that this is the first year that junior high students were included.
- Trustee Ferguson attended the Annual General Meeting of the Calgary Learning Centre (CLC) where the principal of Catherine Nichols Gunn, Ms. J. Walker, was awarded the CLC award for outstanding contribution to the lives of individuals with learning and literacy difficulties. She stated that Catherine Nichols Gunn School is supported by ten partnerships.
- Trustee Dirks reported that he had the opportunity to engage with three stakeholders groups, including the downtown Rotary Club, where he was given the opportunity to tell the story of the unique attributes of the Calgary Board of Education and the great success of the system. He also attended an Annual Ismaili award ceremony for junior and senior high students, as well as some post secondary, and including some private and charter schools, where students were acknowledged for leadership and academic success. He noted that the keynote speaker was remarkable. Nontombi Tutu, daughter of Desmond Tutu, shared an inspiring story and spoke directly to students of what she learned while growing up in apartheid South Africa.
- Trustee King participated in Book Bags for Kids, attended a Christmas pageant at Forest Lawn High School, a play at Belfast Elementary School, Chief Justice Milvain School and events at Marlborough School. She also attended a family craft night at Chris Akkermann School and a dress rehearsal for a play at Centennial High School.

#### 4.2 Report from the Chief Superintendent

Dr. Croskery reported that he and Deputy Chief Superintendent, B. Hubert attended a James Fowler High School Christmas celebration for a nearby senior's residence. This has been an ongoing tradition for 24 years where over 100 seniors from Harris House enjoy music, dinner, and gifts all put on by the students. This is an outstanding example of a school being involved with the community. The seniors provide an annual scholarship to a student at the school.

He acknowledged the retirement of Principal J. Woods at Varsity Acres School and will be attending a concert at Christine Meikle School.

Dr. Croskery also reported on an unfortunate incident at West Dover School where a principal was hurt due to a physical altercation. He expressed the importance of ensuring that schools are safe for children and staff and that administration takes this most seriously.

#### 4.3 Public Question Period

There were no questions from the public.

#### 4.4 Stakeholder Reports

#### 4.5 Trustee Inquiries

There were no Trustee inquiries.

### 5.0 ACTION ITEMS

There were no action items.

### 6.0 MONITORING AND RESULTS

#### 6.1 P3 Update (EL-13)

Superintendent Coppinger provided opening remarks noting the Ministerial approval on June 14, 2007 of a new P3 pilot project, which will facilitate the construction of eighteen new schools in Edmonton and Calgary. Six of these schools will be Calgary Board of Education schools. He stated that this is the first time that the province of Alberta has constructed schools under this model. Work is currently underway on a tri-partite agreement that the Province would like to sign by December 20, 2007, with Alberta Infrastructure and Transportation, each metro school board and a Contractor, which would establish roles and responsibilities of the three parties in connection with the Design, Build, Finance and Maintenance (DBFM) Agreement. Superintendent Coppinger stated that Administration suggests that further review and legal advice is required before signing.

The expected date of release of the Request for Proposal is January 7, 2008. Finalization of the DBFM is expected on February 1, 2008, final bids on May 30, 2008 and the appointment of the successful bidder on July 15, 2008. The final signing of all agreements is expected by September 10, 2008.

Administration addressed questions that were posed by Trustees, with regards to the following issues:

- The contractor referred to in the tri-party agreement will not be known until July. Further agreements will need to be signed, as the land is co-owned with the City.

- There is room to negotiate regarding building design, furniture and equipment issues, which will be funded by Alberta Education. However, air conditioning is not negotiable. Substantial changes have been made that the four school boards have agreed to, such as more stringent design and safety guidelines recommended by the Calgary Board of Education.
- A Trustee requested clarification regarding a statement in the report that there is a significant disconnect between the intent of the class size initiative and school construction standards particular to the Calgary Board of Education because of the K-4 schools. Superintendent Coppinger responded that the other three school boards are building K-9 schools. The intent of the report is to bring to Trustees' attention that the 550 capacity of a school is based on 25 students per classroom; however the class size initiative for K-3 is 17 students and grades 4-6 is 23 students. Alberta Education states that these sizes apply to the system, not individual schools.
- A Trustee stated that constituents have voiced their concern at open houses over joint use sharing of school space with community associations in new areas that do not have community centres. Superintendent Coppinger stated that schools would be available after 6:00 p.m. Monday – Friday, weekends and holidays. City staff will administer this and certain areas can be locked off restricting access.
- A Trustee expressed their opinion that this is not a true P3 concept as it is not leased space. Historically private contractors have built the schools, funded by the province with the boards given authority to run the programs and public having access to leasing space as always. The only difference is that long-term maintenance is in the hands of a private contractor. Administration responded that this P3 concept is unique to Alberta. After substantial completion of the school, the contractor is involved as the maintenance provider for a period of 30 years.
- The P3 guiding principles are based on the last P3 report approved by the Board. The key concern is the clarity of roles and responsibilities. Administration will be in a more comfortable position to sign the master agreement after seeing these and would appreciate Board support in this by way of a motion. The last draft was just received yesterday, so the position of the four other boards is not known or whether or not it is in compliance with Board policies. The Secretary/Treasurer is expected to sign the agreement.

MOVED by Trustee Dirks:

**THAT the report regarding P3 schools being constructed through the Alberta Schools Alternative Procurement Project be received for information.**

The motion was  
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

There was a general discussion regarding a possible motion. A motion arising was discussed but Trustees agreed to address the item after the recess to allow for legal advice regarding a proposed motion.

## 6.2 Annual Monitoring Report – Executive Limitations 13: Facilities

Dr. Croskery introduced the report and thanked the staff that worked on it.

Superintendent Coppinger noted that there are fourteen elements to this Executive Limitation and five specific areas that are being monitored as major factors. The key

element is the maintenance backlog. The maintenance backlog has increased significantly from last year due to an increase in construction costs and facilities that are one year older.

Chair Cochrane reviewed the criteria against which the Trustees are to judge the monitoring report on Executive Limitations 13: Facilities, including that of reasonable interpretation of the policy, whether the Board is satisfied that the Chief Superintendent is in compliance with the policy provisions or has disclosed procedures to establish compliance, and whether sufficient information has been provided. She noted further that any decision or comment of the Board of Trustees with regards to non-compliance is in no way intended to be a vote of non-confidence for the Chief Superintendent.

Trustees posed questions, which were responded to by Administration, and the discussion is summarized as follows:

- Director D. Hoerz stated that the current commitment to green power, wind generated electricity is 10 per cent. Green power has been used for a number of years and was increased this from 5 per cent to 10 per cent in the last contract. Increasing the green power percentage is currently being investigated.
- In response to a Trustee question regarding the normal length of time to authorize funding for portables, administration stated that normally approvals for portables are done in September or October with the details as to which sites, how many, etc. being derived from the capital plan. However, at the current time, there is a gap in the portable manufacturer production line and if Alberta Education gives approvals for 2008 now, they could be ready for school opening in September.
- With regards to facility maintenance, administration responded that they are trying to maintain a 13-year cycle for painting in public areas, while items such as roofing are monitored on a life cycle basis of 20-25 years. As facilities reach the end of a life cycle, monitoring is done more closely.
- A Trustee questioned the prioritization of projects. Deputy Chief Superintendent B. Hubert stated that as Chair of the School Modernization/Renovation Committee, projects are identified by the schools and approved by the Area Director. Next they are reviewed against the Committee's criteria and guidelines, usually in January. Area Directors are very involved and can propose projects as well.
- A Trustee questioned the life span design plan of buildings, and noted that in the past sandstone structures lasted 75 years or longer. Superintendent Coppinger responded that when tenders for new schools come in higher than the Alberta Education budget allowance it results in major cutbacks in design. The net result is that the school does not meet the originally designed life cycle. Mr. R. Ashley, Manager of Architectural Engineering Services, stated that in working on school projects over the past eleven years he has seen a diminishing in the quality of materials used, which will result in a shorter life cycle of schools. This began in 2001 when school maintenance funding was frozen, and provided only on an individual school basis. For example, where exterior materials were once brick, it is now used only for trim and less expensive concrete block or metal is now used.
- A Trustee noted a proposal in the media that private schools may receive an increase in maintenance funding and questioned what amount is required to clear the maintenance backlog. Superintendent Coppinger stated that the Calgary Board of Education annually receives 18 million dollars for maintenance funding. To maintain the current backlog it would cost 30-45 million dollars annually. To substantially reduce the backlog and improve the quality of facilities over time, it would cost 100 million dollars annually.

- In response to a question regarding future directions for maintenance block funding on a provincial basis, Administration noted that the recent grant designated to Western Canada was the first modernization grant since 2001. There has been no confirmation of further grants in this area.

MOVED by Trustee Ferguson:

**THAT the Chief Superintendent has reasonably interpreted the provisions of Executive Limitations 13: Facilities, and the Board of Trustees finds the Chief Superintendent to be in compliance with the policy.**

Comments in support of the motion included that this is a very extensive report outlining attempts by administration to be in compliance with the terms of Executive Limitations 13. It is a very well written, easily understandable report. The lack of provincial funding is discouraging and makes it impossible to meet the desired outcomes.

The motion was  
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

MOVED by Trustee Dirks:

**THAT the Board of Trustees commends the Chief Superintendent for commitment to use and explore increasing use of wind generated electricity.**

The motion was  
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

MOVED by Trustee Ferguson:

**THAT the Board of Trustees commends the Chief Superintendent for exemplary performance in long term planning for facilities.**

The motion was  
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Recessed at 6:28 p.m.  
Reconvened at 6:47 p.m.

- 6.3 Annual Monitoring Report – Executive Limitations 17: imagineCALGARY Partnership  
Dr. Croskery introduced the report and thanked those who worked on it. He stated that in November, 2007 the Board passed an amendment to strengthen this Executive Limitation.

Superintendent Coppinger referred to the clarification on reporting requirements. The attachments are efforts to align current planning with imagineCALGARY goals. Attachment III supports achieving the targets in the imagineCALGARY charter and outlines staff interpretation of aligning current activities with those of imagineCALGARY.

Chair Cochrane reviewed the criteria against which the Trustees are to judge the monitoring report on Executive Limitations 17: imagineCALGARY Partnership, including that of reasonable interpretation of the policy, whether the Board is satisfied that the Chief Superintendent is in compliance with the policy provisions or has disclosed procedures to establish compliance, and whether sufficient information has been provided. She noted further that any decision or comment of the Board of Trustees with regard to non-compliance is in no way intended to be a vote of non-confidence for the Chief Superintendent.

MOVED by Trustee Dirks:

**THAT the Chief Superintendent has reasonably interpreted the provisions of Executive Limitations 17: imagineCALGARY Partnership, and the Board of Trustees finds the Chief Superintendent to be in compliance with the policy.**

Comments in support of the motion included:

- This is the first time Trustees have received this report and it is an admirable effort to see how targets are being included in the three year planning process. It is a good format.
- The Steering Committee was pleased to hear how alignment is being demonstrated between the City plan and the Calgary Board of Education. Additional information may be required in future reports.

The motion was  
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

#### 6.4 Monitoring Report on Asbestos Management Plan

Superintendent Coppinger provided brief introductory remarks to the report.

Administration responded to Trustees' questions and a summary of the discussion is as follows:

- If a staff member or member of the public has concerns regarding asbestos, the normal procedure is to bring the concern to the principal of the school who would in turn contact Environmental Services. Environmental Services will respond to individuals or concerned groups. Concerns that are responded to by testing may hold up construction work for a period of time as the area is sealed off until confirmation is received.
- All schools have an asbestos manual available in the caretaking office and principals have been informed of the high expectations on their part as to the procedures to be taken.
- In response to a Trustee question regarding the financial restrictions for removal of asbestos containing materials, administration responded that it is done based on the capacity to fund. Time for accessibility and contractor availability are also constraints.

MOVED by Trustee Dirks:

**THAT the Chief Superintendent has reasonably interpreted the provisions of the following Executive Limitations and the Board of Trustees finds the Chief Superintendent to be in compliance regarding the management of asbestos containing materials:**

- **EL-7: Treatment of Staff and Volunteers – subsection 9;**
- **EL-12: Asset Protection – subsections 2 and 3;**
- **EL-13: Facilities – subsection 6;**
- **EL-13E: Facility Condition Report Information Requirements – subsection 3 (h) and (i); and**
- **EL-16: Learning Environment & Treatment of Students, subsection 6;**

Comments in support of the motion included that this is an issue of public health and sensitivity, and Trustees appreciate the quality report.

The motion was  
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

## 7.0 POLICY DEVELOPMENT AND REVIEW

### 7.1 Amendment of EL-6: Instructional Program, First Reading

MOVED by Trustee Bazinet:

**THAT the Board of Trustees gives first reading to amend Executive Limitations 6, Instructional Program by amending sub-clause #10 to: *assure that all alternative programs comply with the School Act definition of alternative program.***

Trustee Bazinet introduced the report and provided rationale for the motion explaining that there are many different ways to deliver curriculum and all schools, including alternative programs, are responsible for working towards achieving the Ends. Faith based alternative programs would be expected to do the same.

She noted that Alberta Education statistics show that there are currently over 5,000 Calgary students accessing other programs including religious based programs. It is apparent that parents are making choices. There are two private Calgary schools that have recently come under the Palliser School District Agreement. It is not known how many schools in Edmonton have done likewise.

Trustee Bazinet provided further rationale for the motion by stating that this motion would enable administration to provide Trustees with monitoring reports to show compliance with the School Act in alternative programs. The change to the policy would mean that there would be no prohibition against faith based programs.

Trustees posed questions and a summary of the discussion is as follows:

- A Trustee questioned how the faith based programs that have recently joined the Palliser Board and require capital bonds and additional fees would be in compliance with the Calgary Board of Education Executive Limitations. She also noted concern over the hiring practices of these programs and provided a copy of the fee structure from the website of a private religious school that has recently joined the Palliser Board. In response, Trustee Bazinet provided rationale for the motion stating that the impact statements that would be requested by administration would address all of these issues and that the regulations of the Calgary Board of Education would guide all alternative programs and provide opportunity to influence these programs.
- A Trustee suggested that it might be better to eliminate sub-clause 10 of the policy rather than to amend it. This would change the focus from whether or not to allow religious programs to compliance of alternative programs. However, this would eliminate the requirement for monitoring reports for specific alternative programs in compliance with the School Act.
- A Trustee questioned if this motion passed, would it be necessary for the Board to change EL-7, Treatment of Staff and Volunteers with regards to hiring practices?

Trustee Bazinet responded that this would not be necessary, as hiring practices would be covered in the monitoring reports to ensure compliance.

- A Trustee questioned if this motion were passed, the necessity of another motion directing administration to consult with the Board regarding the guidelines to be considered before approving a faith based alternative program. Trustee Bazinet responded that this is not anticipated as currently decisions regarding approval of alternative programs are left with administration. It is expected that the Executive Limitations are followed and Ends achieved. She noted that programs that are currently operating as private schools would be different than a new alternative program and further conditions would need to be satisfied.

Trustees entered into debate over the motion and a summary of comments in support of the motion are as follows:

- This is the first reading of the proposed amendment to this policy and it is timely as it is currently impacting the Calgary Board of Education. Administration would be required to bring back impact statements to the Board that would be very helpful in providing information as to how the other Alberta school boards that include religious alternative programs operate. Other boards have worked out issues of concern with agreements and have come to reasonable accommodations and adopted appropriate policies. It would be valuable to find out how this is working.
- As with all of the alternative programs that would comply with the School Act definition, the requirements would include following the Alberta curriculum, hiring Alberta certified teachers, progress towards the Ends would be monitored and Calgary Board of Education policies would be enforced. The similarities between schools are much greater than the differences.
- A Trustee stated that her own personal beliefs about alternative programs have changed in the past few years as a result of what she has heard from her constituents and changing societal values. One of the aims of public education is that all children be educated together in the same school where every child is welcomed and respected in order to promote social cohesion. However, it is clear that this aim is not shared by all who reside in Calgary. Those who support different aims of education also wish to access the public education system. Every time a parent chooses an alternative program, it reduces, to some extent, the heterogeneous culture within the other schools. Each individual school may not be as mixed as we might wish. It is important to keep the heterogeneity within the public system, to encourage communication and to build understanding. As society becomes increasingly diverse, it becomes more important to learn from each other. The reality is that we do have parents in Calgary that will not choose a public education system that does not include a particular alternative program.
- The delivery of education is constantly changing, and the Calgary Board of Education has often been on the cutting edge. There have been an increasing number of alternative programs, and an increase in the number of students choosing programs other than those offered at their neighborhood schools. Programs recognize increasing diversity. Parents want programs of choice, and some Calgary Board of Education students have left to attend private and charter schools.
- Competition is healthy and is needed for successful growth and expansion. Key components to success are flexibility, building on a customer base, service to customer needs, consistency, and being entrepreneurial.

- Over 5000 Calgary students are already accessing these types of schools, and it would be beneficial for the students if they were supported by the public education system. The landscape of society has changed to that of a pluralistic, mosaic society and public education should reflect these realities. As part of our customer base and as an inclusive education system we should look at the inclusion of faith based schools and other alternative programs.
- A number of private schools are joining boards outside of Calgary and if it continues, we lose the opportunity to educate those students, and contribute to the de-democratizing of public education and of the present governance system. Parents have the right to choose, but it is best to keep as many schools and students in Calgary as possible within the Calgary Board of Education.
- Students would benefit, as teachers would have access to a higher standard of professional development, students would be provided with more opportunities than they presently have and the public system would be enriched by having them in the wider environment.
- A Trustee referred to a target from the imagineCALGARY report “by 2036, 95% of Calgarians report that they feel respected and supported in their pursuits of meaning, purpose in life and experiencing ongoing feelings of connectedness, and that they extend respect and support to others who meet this need in ways different from their own.” In our various faith communities there are people with certain traditions who believe that it is best for them and their children to find meaning and connectedness by embracing certain traditions. They are asking for the respect of others to accomplish that. A democratically orientated public institution like public education should be one of the first to demonstrate that respect to those people and invite them into the broad umbrella of public education, to respect them by inviting them to be part of the community, to care about the quality of education that they are receiving, and to understand and gain the benefits of the Ends statements.

Comments not in support of the motion are summarized as follows:

- A Trustee stated that a thirteen month community consultation took place on the role of religion in the classroom from February, 2003 – March, 2004 including a variety of stakeholder focus groups and resulting in the current Executive Limitation. The Board heard clearly from Calgarians regarding the preferred role of religion in public education. A major role of public education in a democratic society is to provide rich learning opportunities to all students from various diverse backgrounds, cultures and religions, to develop respect and understanding for each other and to encourage tolerance and caring. Segregating students into different schools or alternative programs would diminish this opportunity.
- A Trustee stated that, in their opinion, public education should not be responsible for religious instruction. How do public schools respond to the diverse spiritual needs of students, how will we address diversity, social cohesion, choice and efficiency of public dollars within the goals of public education and how does inclusion of faith based alternative programs work towards achieving the Ends?
- Choice needs to be considered within the goals of public education, of building a sound society, of giving everyone a chance of becoming a capable, involved citizen. Common community values and goals do need to be considered. We need to thoughtfully lead and not just reflect what is currently happening elsewhere in society.

- The opinion that the motion is premature as the policy has just been in place three years. The current policy should be given time to mature before attempting to reverse it.
- The major, motivating force of private religious schools applying to be part of public education is financial. Alberta Education supports private schools and is presently considering raising the funding grant to 70 per cent. It would not be in the Calgary Board of Education's best interest to appear to be in a bidding war with the province in favour of partnership with private schools.
- The benefits to the Calgary Board of Education in passing this motion are likely to be minimal, a possible modest enrolment increase, but there are other ways to achieve this. The greatest cost would be the detrimental effect on the working relationship as a Board and dialogue in the electoral processes.
- Concern was expressed over teacher recruitment. Resources are already thin in the area of complementary course teachers and this would deplete resources further. The priorities should be working towards increasing the mathematics results and high school completion rates instead.
- Participants in the focus group included people from all over the world who spoke of the importance of teaching children together, teaching them about each other, to respect the dignity of the faith that they bring to the school. Religion has not been respected in schools as it should be and the spiritual element of human beings has been disregarded in the school system for too long. Religion has an important role in our history and needs to be included and addressed in public education. To teach children best is when we bring them together to learn together.
- A board development session could be done on this issue instead to discuss what is the role of religion in public education. This is an ongoing question and must be continually asked as we move forward.
- Students are taught to respect cultural diversity, develop skills to communicate effectively with others, demonstrate compassion, decency, civility and respect. It is easier to teach or model tolerance when a student has personal knowledge and contact with students or staff from diverse backgrounds and different beliefs.
- The enforcement of religious obligations and conformity to a set of beliefs is felt to be the responsibility of parents and religious institutions.
- Private religious schools appear to be exclusive in their admission and hiring practices. Public schools should not discriminate in their admission criteria on the basis of color, religion or creed.
- Students who currently attend faith based schools would not be interested in joining the public system unless they were allowed the freedom to stay unique and protect the right to conduct their own operations.
- The province has been very generous in allowing any group to start a private school as long as it meets certain standards. These alternatives are being provided for and the province allows but does not require that they become part of the public system.

Chair Cochrane received the consent of the Board to continue to the end of the agenda at 7:56 p.m.

Chair Cochrane called for the vote on the motion.

The motion was  
DEFEATED.

In favour: Trustee Dirks  
Trustee Bazinet  
Trustee Kryczka

Opposed: Trustee Ferguson  
Trustee Cochrane  
Trustee King  
Trustee Lane

## 8.0 CONSENT AGENDA

Ms. Barkway noted that the minutes of November 27, 2007 and Item 8.2.1 were pulled from the Consent Agenda. Chair Cochrane declared the remaining Consent Agenda items to be adopted as submitted, as follows:

### 8.1 Board Consent Agenda

#### 8.1.1 Approval of Minutes

Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees held December 4, 2007

**THAT the Board of Trustees approves the Minutes of the Regular Meetings held December 4, 2007, as submitted.**

#### 8.1.2 Correspondence

**THAT the Board of Trustees receives the correspondence for information and for the record, in the form as submitted:**

- Memorandum dated December 4, 2007 to All School Board Chairs from the Honourable Ron Liepert, Minister of Education regarding Programme for International Student Assessment (PISA) 2006 test results.
- Letter dated November 22, 2007 to Board Chair, Pat Cochrane from Mayor Dave Bronconnier regarding the City's approval of funding of the West LRT line and impacts on the Ernest Manning High School site.
- Letter dated November 26, 2007 to Board Chair, Pat Cochrane from the Honourable Luke Ouellette, Minister of Infrastructure and Transportation regarding the disposition of nine surplus Municipal School Reserve land parcels to the City of Calgary.
- Letter dated October 31, 2007 to the Deputy Minister Keray Henke from Chief Superintendent, Dr. Brendan Croskery regarding the request to borrow \$4.2 million to finance capital expenditures to retrofit schools for energy conservation.
- Letter dated November 23, 2007 to Chief Superintendent, Dr. Brendan Croskery from the Deputy Minister Keray Henke regarding the request to borrow \$4.2 million to finance capital expenditures to retrofit schools for energy conservation.

8.2 Chief Superintendent's Consent Agenda

8.2.1 Evaluation of Alice Jamieson Academy Program

**THAT the Board of Trustees receives this report for information.**

8.3 Items Pulled From the Consent Agenda

Minutes of November 27, 2007.

Ms. Barkway noted two proposed changes on page 10:

- First line - Trustee Dirks suggested a friendly amendment, rather than moving a motion; and
- The mover of the motion should be Trustee Bazinet rather than Trustee Dirks.

Moved by Trustee Bazinet:

**THAT the Board of Trustees approved the minutes of the November 27, 2007 Regular Meeting with the above noted changes.**

The motion was

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Facility Condition Report (EL-13E)

Trustees posed questions, which were responded to by Administration, and the discussion is summarized as follows:

- The condition of leased facilities compares generally to facilities used for Calgary Board of Education students. \$500,000 was allocated to maintenance renewal for leased facilities. Although this is more money than has been spent on the Calgary Board of Education schools, the buildings are older.
- In response to a Trustee question regarding future planning for maintenance in areas where there is declining enrollment, administration stated that they work with Community Engagement in planning and will be doing so over the next two months. This could include identifying opportunities for consolidation, closure or change of program. Recommendations will come forward as part of the Capital and Facility Plans. Creative suggestions have included energy consumption savings by replacing lighting, energy efficient boilers, etc.
- A Trustee expressed concern with closed schools with a high level of deferred maintenance going to other programs such as charter schools and as a result we have not been able to demolish them. Administration responded that Radisson Park School is a good example of what is possible. Schools in poor condition could be demolished and land sold to provide funding to build a new school that might support two communities.
- In response to a Trustee question regarding the purpose of the facility audit, administration stated that they plan to look at an alternative way of evaluating the condition of schools in order to determine prioritization of maintenance work. Director Hoerz stated that the previous audit had a score for each facility across the province. In a new process, identification of outstanding work and associated costs are being determined on a provincial wide basis. Some schools that were audited appeared better on paper; however, the buildings were in poor condition and not in line with industry standards.

Moved by Trustee Ferguson:

**THAT the Board of Trustees receives the Facility Condition Report for information.**

The motion was  
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

## 9.0 TRUSTEE NOTICES OF MOTION

There were no Trustee notices of motion.

Recessed 8:31 p.m.  
Reconvened 9:01 p.m.

### 6.1 P-3 Update (EL-13)

#### Motion arising

Moved by Trustee Dirks:

**THAT the Board of Trustees supports, in principle, the Terms Sheets as currently understood, on a conditional basis, and directs Administration to indicate to the Province that approval by the Board of Trustees would be conditional on the satisfactory review of the Design, Build, Finance and Maintenance (DBFM) Agreement and the formal agreement arising from the Terms Sheets and such other agreements as may be required or presented.**

Director R. Peden, General Counsel, Legal Affairs confirmed that the Terms Sheets will include the basic principles upon which the DBFM Agreement will be based.

Concern was expressed with the lack of details available for Trustees to understand the content of the terms sheets.

Chair Cochrane called for the vote on the motion.

The motion was  
CARRIED.

In favour: Trustee Cochrane  
Trustee Dirks  
Trustee Ferguson  
Trustee King  
Trustee Kryczka  
Trustee Lane

Opposed: Trustee Bazinet

## 10.0 IN-CAMERA ISSUES

MOVED by Trustee Lane:

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

The motion was  
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

MOVED by Trustee Lane:

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

The motion was  
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

MOVED by Trustee Ferguson:

**THAT the Western Canada High School Modernization Project Report be received for information.**

The motion was  
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

The following item that was on the consent agenda was approved:

**THAT the Board of Trustees receives the Construction Projects Status Update report for information and the record; and**

**THAT the information in Attachment I be authorized for public release, in the form as submitted.**

## 11.0 ADJOURNMENT

Chair Cochrane declared the meeting adjourned at 9:53p.m.