

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, February 19, 2008 at 5:00 p.m.

PRESENT:

Board of Trustees:

Trustee C. Bazinet, Vice Chair, Chair of this Meeting
Trustee G. Dirks
Trustee L. Ferguson
Trustee P. King
Trustee K. Kryczka
Trustee G. Lane

ABSENT:

Trustee P. Cochrane (Chair)

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. J. Regal, Alberta Teachers' Association, Local No. 38
Ms. A. Craig, Calgary Board of Education Staff Association
Ms. G. Burger-Martindale, Calgary Association of Parents and School Councils (arrived at 5:15)
Mr. B. Anderson Canadian Union of Public Employees, Local 40
Mr. K. Brown, Elementary School Principals' Association

Action By

1.0 CALL TO ORDER, NATIONAL ANTHEM AND WELCOME

Chair Bazinet called the meeting to order on the plaza after hearing a musical presentation from the Grades 5 and 6 Choir from Nellie McClung School students. The choir then led in the singing of the national anthem. Ward Trustee Kryczka expressed her appreciation on behalf of the Board and thanked the students and their teachers for a very enjoyable performance. The meeting reconvened in the boardroom at 5:01 p.m. and Chair Bazinet acknowledged and welcomed representatives from the aforementioned organizations as well as guests from the Southern Alberta Institute of Technology, Broadcast Journalism students and their teacher, Ms. S. Blou.

2.0 CONSIDERATION/APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Ms. Barkway informed that a Stakeholder report was added to the agenda and a new item, Item 9.1.2 *Monitoring of Board Chief Linkage Policies 1 through 5* had been added to the Consent Agenda.

MOVED by Trustee Dirks:

THAT the Agenda for the Regular Meeting of February 19, 2008, be approved as submitted, with the above noted changes.

The motion was
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

3.0 SCHOOL/SYSTEM PRESENTATIONS

3.1 Dr. E.W. Coffin School

Mr. D. Stevenson introduced and welcomed Ms. J. Priest, Principal. Ms. Priest introduced the presentation and students Lucky, Mark and Sara and the following staff members: Ms. A. Batchelor, grade one/two teacher and Ms. P. Knowlton Cockett, a substitute teacher and doctoral student at the University of Calgary and member of the Environment Committee.

Their presentation and PowerPoint focused on their most recent environmental project entitled "Whispering Signs". The signs feature the art of Dr. E.W. Coffin students from both past and present as well as local community artists. The students highlighted some of the signs and the teachers provided further details of the project. The signs will be posted in the "Whispering Woods", a natural wooded area on the west side of the school, developed in conjunction with the City of Calgary's "Adopt A Park" program in 1995. The community, students and staff together provide ongoing care of this area and learn about open parkland and grassland ecosystems. They hope to have the signs installed for Earth Day, April 22, 2008, with the official opening of Whispering Woods to take place on June 4, 2008 at 2:00 p.m. Ms. Priest extended an invitation to everyone to attend.

Dr. E.W. Coffin School has a long history of being involved in environmental education. The school received the Alberta Emerald award in 2005 for "Environmental Excellence in Education" for their prairie reclamation and restoration project, entitled "Centennial Nature Ground". This project was done in conjunction with the City of Calgary and the Calgary Board of Education grounds department. It features plants and species native to Alberta and a sandstone "Prairie Amphitheatre". Other projects include a mural painted by local artists on the west side of the school and involvement in the naming of the pedestrian overpass over John Laurie Boulevard, "Whispering Grasses Walkway".

Ward trustee, Trustee Lane expressed his thanks on behalf of the Board to each of the staff and students for their very well done, interesting and thought provoking presentation.

4.0 HONOURS AND RECOGNITIONS

4.1 Lighthouse Award

Ms. B. Kuester, Director, introduced the recipient of this month's Lighthouse Award as the Burns Memorial Fund. She stated that the Burns Memorial Fund provides for the welfare of low-income Calgary students with disabilities and their families who are less able to provide for themselves. Their programs benefit and encourage students each year and are a valuable support to the Calgary Board of Education, through providing financial assistance to students while encouraging them to stay in school to graduate. She stated that the Calgary Board of Education is truly grateful to have such a beneficial partnership that focuses on the well being of our students. Ms. M. Clarke, President and Director of the Burns Memorial Fund, accepted the award that was presented by Chair Bazinet. She stated that they keep the vision of Senator Patrick Burns alive by working closely with the Calgary Board of Education to meet the complex and diverse needs of Calgary's children, and allowing every community member to be the best that they can be. On behalf of the Board of Trustees, Chair Bazinet echoed her thanks and appreciation.

5.0 PUBLIC CONVERSATION AND INFORMATION

5.1 Report from the Chair and Trustees

- Trustee Kryczka reported that she had been to the Alternative High School to attend a Democratic General Meeting. She encouraged others to attend, listen and observe the

process at this very worthwhile weekly Friday event. She also attended a school council meeting at Nellie McClung School where GATE (Gifted and Talented Education) program students gave a robotics demonstration and a student demonstrated how to build a compost. Both were very well presented.

- Trustee King reported that it was a pleasure for her to attend an awards ceremony put on by the Calgary Vietnamese Association for the Encouragement of Learning. She stated that it was an honor to see so many Calgary Board of Education students receiving awards for academic excellence.

5.2 Report from the Chief Superintendent

Dr. Croskery reported that he attended a retirement celebration for Ms. A. Verdiel, Area II Director. He stated that she had made a significant contribution to the Calgary Board of Education and students of the City of Calgary with a long and distinguished career. He also reported that the recent staff conventions of Corporate Services and Facilities and Environmental Services, Staff Association and the Alberta Teachers' Association Convention were reported to be successful.

5.3 Public Question Period

There were no questions from the public.

5.4 Stakeholder Reports

Ms. J. Van Rosendaal

Ms. Van Rosendaal appealed to the Board to review the Calgary Board of Education's Nutritional Policy, Administrative Regulation 3047. She stated that schools have the ability to reinforce positive healthy lifestyles and stressed the importance of teaching children proper nutrition. She noted that the regulation states that it exists in order to "support and encourage lifelong healthy living skills through curriculum, by modeling appropriate behaviour and by changing the culture surrounding foods offered in schools". She referred to the list of "higher nutrient dense food" included in the regulation that is required to be served eighty per cent of the time. The following items are included in this list: croissants, biscuits, scones, canned luncheon meat, pudding, hot dogs, sausage, battered chicken fingers, wedge shaped French fries, ice cream, and milkshakes. The remaining 20 percent can include such items as candy, chips, pop tarts, cheezies, etc. She noted that there is no mention of cooking methods, and although pizza is not categorized, it is found in nearly every school cafeteria.

She questioned what message is being sent to the children while on the one hand they are being taught the importance of nutrition and healthy eating habits and with the other serving these types of foods just outside their classroom doors. She likened this to teaching students not to smoke and then having a cigarette machine available outside their classroom door.

She noted that the Edmonton school board voted unanimously to ban junk food; however, the Calgary Board of Education chose not to, saying instead that the 80/20 per cent is more realistic. Calgary public schools have until January 2011 to meet the minimum guidelines, to be reviewed again in 2012. She stated that five years is a large amount of time in a child's development and noted that the Vancouver school district has a new nutrition plan, which is much stricter and is to be in place by January 2009 for elementary students and by the fall of 2009 for junior and senior high students. She requested that the Board reconsider the nutritional policy as they have an important role to play and could contribute positively to children's health and well being.

At this point in the meeting Chair Bazinet welcomed Ms. G. Burger-Martindale, representative for Calgary Association of Parent and School Councils and stated that it was her last meeting as their representative. Chair Bazinet expressed thanks on behalf of the Board for serving in this capacity for the past four years, that it was a pleasure to work with her and thanked her for doing a wonderful job representing the parent voice.

5.5 Trustee Inquiries

There were no trustee inquiries.

6.0 ACTION ITEMS

There were no action items.

7.0 MONITORING AND RESULTS

7.1 Annual Monitoring Report for Executive Limitations 9: Compensation and Benefits

Chair Bazinet 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 also that the particular vote with regard to compliance should in no way be considered as a vote of non-confidence.

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

- Mr. C. Hosfield, Director, Labour Relations stated that currently there are 8,827 employees eligible for the health spending account. All employees have access to the Employee Assistance Program if desired. Approximately 10 per cent of employees accessed the service in the past year. Health advisors and counselors work with employees referred through Section 118 of the *School Act* where it is suspected that a health issue may be impacting the employee's ability to perform their duties at an acceptable level. The number of employees accessing the Employee Assistance Program is growing as employees learn of it.
- Ms. B. Spilker, Director, Total Compensation and Employee Information stated that after a review of the Calgary Board of Education's group benefit plan and the results of the Mercer report, a recommendation and a strategic plan should be completed by the end of the school year. She stated that the future enhancements noted in the report will be provided through PeopleSoft over a period of time and will include such items as the process by which benefits are administered, inclusion of emergency contacts and tracking of lieu days.
- Mr. Hosfield explained that there were a number of compensation practices at Chinook Learning Services that were identified as non-compliant with the Alberta Teacher's Association (ATA) agreement. Hourly paid staff that were not entitled to benefits were being paid an additional hour in lieu of benefits for every 30 hours of instruction. This practice was outside of the collective agreement and has now been included as well as a long service recognition component. An honorarium was being paid to hourly instructors for non-instructional duties, attending meetings etc. at a rate of half of the hourly rate. Chinook Learning Services and the ATA have agreed upon a non-instructional rate and the recently ratified ATA agreement has addressed these issues. A similar approach is being taken with the Staff Association agreement. All forms of compensation at Chinook that are currently outside of the agreement will either be incorporated into the agreement or will be discontinued, effective immediately.

MOVED by Trustee Dirks:

THAT the Chief Superintendent has reasonably interpreted the provisions of this policy, *Executive Limitations 9, Employment, Compensation and Benefits*, and the Board of Trustees finds the Chief Superintendent to be in compliance.

A Trustee commented that they are pleased to see compliance with this policy, as adequate and appropriate dealings with issues of compensation and benefits can become de-motivators if not dealt with appropriately.

The motion was
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Motion arising:

MOVED by Trustee Ferguson:

THAT the Board of Trustees commends the Chief Superintendent for exemplary performance in completing the review of the group benefits plan and for ongoing evaluation and recommendations to provide further alignment regarding costs, employee needs and fiscal responsibility.

A Trustee commented on the importance of compensation, particularly in such a large organization and that it is clear that the evaluations and recommendations have been completed and that they have been fiscally responsible with taxpayer's money.

The motion was
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

7.2 Annual Monitoring Report for Executive Limitations 5: Annual Report to the Public

Chair Bazinet 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 also that the particular vote with regard to compliance should in no way be considered as a vote of non-confidence.

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

- Ms. B. Kuester, Executive Director, Communications stated that the timeframe to complete the annual report to the public is short. This year's report went to the printers on January 24, 2008; however there were some printing difficulties. The information to be included is provided in October/November of the previous year.
- Dr. Croskery and Ms. Kuester noted that it is difficult to decide what to highlight in the report and that it is difficult to include every program of choice as there are so many good things happening. They strive to be mindful of the community school choice as well. There is an effort to find balance, to communicate how the Ends are being achieved and to refer to other documents such as the Annual Results Report and the website for further details and information.
- Trustees commented that it was an impressive report, great reading, and that they enjoyed the theme of excellence and achievements.

- Ms. Kuester stated that they have a distribution plan where several copies are sent to each school, it is readily available to key stakeholders, the media and it is available on the website.

MOVED by Trustee Dirks:

THAT the Chief Superintendent has reasonably interpreted the provisions of this Executive Limitations 5 Annual Report to the Public, and the Board of Trustees finds the Chief Superintendent to be in compliance.

A Trustee commented that this is an exemplary report to the public and that it would be good to have it in the hands of every public school supporter. It is finely balanced between data and emotional appeal, academic Ends and other achievements and accomplishments, as well as the focus on staff and students.

The motion was
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Motion arising:

MOVED by Trustee Ferguson:

THAT the Board of Trustees commends the Chief Superintendent for exemplary improvements in the format, design and content of the annual report to the public.

Trustees commented that it was a very well presented report in format, design and content, a first class document, and a great improvement over last year.

The motion was
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

7.3 Administrative Response re: Executive Limitations 18: Student Fees

Chair Bazinet gave brief introductory remarks to the report, noting that when this monitoring report on *Executive Limitations 18: Student Fees* was provided to the Board of Trustees at the December 4, 2007 Board Meeting, the Board made the motion that the Chief Superintendent was not in compliance with sub-part one and directed the Chief Superintendent to provide further information specific to sub-part one.

Trustees posed questions to which Administration responded and are summarized as follows:

- Dr. Croskery stated that school fees are a complex and emotional issue; however, he is confident as they work through the details with communities and schools, they will be in full compliance by the fall of 2008. Principals will be surveyed and required to respond, as directed by the Board, as to how their school communicated the school fee regulations to parents and students.

MOVED by Trustee Dirks:

THAT the Board of Trustees receives the report for information.

The motion was
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

8.0 POLICY DEVELOPMENT AND REVIEW

9.0 CONSENT AGENDA

Chair Bazinet declared the items on the Consent agenda to be approved as submitted with the Regular Agenda of February 19, 2008 as follows:

9.1 Board Consent Agenda

9.1.1 Approval of Minutes

Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees held February 5, 2008 and Special Meeting of the Board of Trustees held February 8, 2008.

THAT the Board of Trustees approves the Minutes of the Regular Meeting held February 5, 2008 and the Special Meeting of the Board of Trustees, held February 8, 2008, as submitted.

9.1.2 Monitoring Governance Process Policies 3,4,8 and 9

THAT the Board of Trustees approves the Governance Process Policy Monitoring Reports 3,4,8 and 9 as submitted.

9.1.3 Correspondence

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

- **Message dated January 17, 2008 from the Honourable Ron Liepert, Minister of Education to Board Chairs regarding progress on the new schools P3 pilot project, monthly highlights.**
- **Letter dated January 24, 2008 from the Honourable Ron Liepert; Minister of Education to Board Chair Pat Cochrane regarding Calgary Board of Education's jurisdiction boundary adjustment request.**
- **Letter dated January 25, 2008 from the Honourable Luke Ouellette, Minister of Infrastructure and Transportation to Board Chair Pat Cochrane regarding the invitation to attend the official openings of Calgary's two new schools, Arbour Lake and Battalion Park.**
- **Letter dated January 28, 2008 from the Honourable Luke Ouellette, Minister of Infrastructure and Transportation to Board Chair Pat Cochrane regarding the request to approve the disposition of reserve land at Valley Ridge school site.**
- **Letter dated January 28, 2008 from the Honourable Luke Ouellette, Minister of Infrastructure and Transportation to Board Chair Pat Cochrane announcing the release of Alberta Infrastructure and Transportation's 2006/2007 Annual Report.**
- **Letter dated January 28, 2008 from the Honourable Ron Liepert, Minister of Education to Board Chair Pat Cochrane regarding the announcement of details of the disbursement of the one-time resources allocated under Budget 2007.**
- **Letter dated February 4, 2008 from the Honourable Ron Liepert, Minister of Education to Board Chair Pat Cochrane offering thanks and congratulations**

in regards to the Calgary Board of Education Annual Education Results Report 2006-2007.

- **Letter dated February 4, 2008 from the Honourable Ron Liepert, Minister of Education to Board Chair Pat Cochrane in response to concerns about funding to independent schools.**

9.1.4 Board-Chief Superintendent Linkage

THAT the Board of Trustees approves the Annual Monitoring of Board-Chief Superintendent Linkage Policies Report, as attached and concludes that the Board and the Chief Superintendent have complied with the Board-Chief Superintendent Linkage Policies.

10.0 TRUSTEE NOTICES OF MOTION

There were no Trustee notices of motion.

Recessed at 6:25 p.m.

Reconvened at 6:43 p.m.

11.0 In-Camera Issues

11.1 Motion to Move In-Camera

MOVED by Trustee Ferguson:

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

The motion was
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

11.2 Motion to Revert to Public Meeting

MOVED by Trustee Lane:

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

The motion was
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

11.3 Motion to Action In-Camera Items

MOVED by Trustee Dirks:

1. **THAT the report be received for information in the form as submitted; and**
2. **THAT a total project budget of approximately 50.2 million, for the modernization and addition projects for the Dr. Carl Safran Centre and Connaught School, be approved. Such funding is to be provided from the current Capital Building Reserve and the proceeds of the future disposition of properties, as discussed in the in-camera session of the private meeting and outlined in the report; and**
3. **THAT a long-term lease arrangement as discussed in the in-camera session of the private meeting and outlined in the report be approved. Such lease arrangement would be for the use of newly constructed space for the**

Education Centre administrative building on the Dr. Carl Safran Centre site, with an approximate average annual rent for the first five years of \$8.7 million per annum, subject to final scope and costing; and

- 4. THAT the Board of Trustees authorizes administration to develop strategies as required, subject to further Board approval to dispose of Calgary Board of Education properties as discussed in the in-camera session of the meeting and outlined in the report.**

The motion was
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

12.0 ADJOURNMENT

Chair Bazinet declared the meeting adjourned at 8:14 p.m.