

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, November 5, 2013 at 3:00 p.m.

MEETING ATTENDANCE

Board of Trustees:

Trustee S. Taylor, Chair
Trustee J. Bowen-Eyre
Trustee L. Ferguson
Trustee J. Hehr
Trustee T. Hurdman
Trustee P. King
Trustee A. Stewart

Administration:

Ms. N. Johnson, Chief Superintendent of Schools
Mr. D. Stevenson, Deputy Chief Superintendent of Schools
Mr. F. Coppinger, Superintendent, Facilities and Environmental Services
Ms. C. Faber, Superintendent, Learning Innovation
Mr. B. Grundy, Superintendent, Finance and Supply Chain Services
Dr. C. Oishi, Superintendent, Human Resources
Mr. D. Parsons, Superintendent, Learning Services
Ms. J. Barkway, Corporate Secretary
Ms. D. Perrier, Recording Secretary

Stakeholder Representatives:

Mr. B. Anderson, Canadian Union of Public Employees, Local 40
Mr. K. Bauer, Elementary School Principals' Association
Mr. F. Bruseker, Alberta Teachers' Association, Local 38
Mr. M. Johnson, Calgary Board of Education Staff Association
Ms. L. Robb, Calgary Board of Education Staff Association (arrived at 4:15 p.m.)
Mr. G. Tink, Principals' Association for Adolescent Learners (PAAL)

1 | CALL TO ORDER, NATIONAL ANTHEM AND WELCOME

Chair Taylor called the meeting to order at 3:03 p.m. O Canada was led by Dr. Gladys McKelvie Egbert School grade 9 students Kerri, Rochaelle and Samantha.

Chair Taylor acknowledged and welcomed representatives from the aforementioned organizations.

Motion Arising:

MOVED by Trustee King:

THAT the Board of Trustees waives the Board Meeting Procedures to suspend point C, Board Room Seating, subsection (2) to allow for a new seating configuration in the room until such time that the Board amends the Board Meeting Procedures or until the next Organizational Meeting of the Board, whichever may come first.

The motion was
CARRIED.

In favour: Trustee Hehr
Trustee Hurdman
Trustee King
Trustee Stewart
Trustee Taylor

Opposed: Trustee Bowen-Eyre
Trustee Ferguson

Chief Superintendent Johnson introduced and welcomed Mr. B. Grundy, Superintendent, Finance and Supply Chain Services, and noted that he was appointed to this position on November 1, 2013.

2 | CONSIDERATION/APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Ms. J. Barkway, Corporate Secretary, shared the following proposed changes to the agenda:

- Item 6.0, a public comment would be made;
- Item 8.1, Minutes of the Regular Meeting of October 8, 2013 and the Organizational Meeting of October 29, 2013, was removed from the Consent Agenda for consideration at a future Board meeting; and
- Item 9.1, Financial Status of Operating Reserves and Designated Funds at August 31, 2013, was removed from the Consent Agenda for consideration immediately following the Consent Agenda.

MOVED by Trustee Hurdman:

THAT the Agenda for the Regular Meeting of November 5, 2013 be approved as submitted, subject to the revisions noted above.

Trustees debated the motion and their comments are summarized as follows:

- A trustee expressed her opinion that the items on the agenda are not as significant as the Board's need to focus on the recruitment of a new chief superintendent.
- Concerns were shared by some trustees that the agenda was formed without the appropriate process or practice taking place, and not all of the trustees were made aware of the business itemized on the agenda.

- A trustee pointed out that reference to an agenda planning session had been raised and that the next session is scheduled for December 10, 2013. She expressed her belief that some trustees felt the agenda items were emergent and according to the Board Meeting Procedures the Chair is authorized to approve emergent agenda items in consultation with the Corporate Secretary or designate.

Chair Taylor called for the vote on the motion.

The motion was

CARRIED.

In favour: Trustee Hehr
Trustee Hurdman
Trustee Stewart
Trustee Taylor

Opposed: Trustee Bowen-Eyre
Trustee Ferguson
Trustee King

3 | **AWARDS AND RECOGNITIONS**

There were none.

4 | **RESULTS FOCUS**

4.1 **Presentation - Dr. Gladys McKelvie Egbert School**

Dr. D. Yee, Area III Director, provided a brief introduction of the presentation, noting that it is a snapshot of academic success through personalized learning at Dr. Gladys McKelvie Egbert School. She introduced the presenters as follows:

- Ms. S. Searle, Principal,
- Ms. A. Shaffer, Grade 9 Learning Leader, and
- Sydney, a former student of Dr. Gladys McKelvie Egbert School, currently attending Forest Lawn High School.

Ms. Searle shared comments about the teaching and learning at Dr. Gladys McKelvie Egbert School. She noted that with the support of the University of Calgary Galileo Educational Network, teachers have been working in teams to produce authentic tasks that are accessible to all of their students, challenging them to invest emotionally and cognitively in their learning, increasing their ability to solve complex problems and construct new knowledge. Ms. Shaffer commented on aspects of her teaching and students' learning relevant to their inquiry of the Youth Criminal Justice Act. She stated that the work was a focus on collaboration, creativity and critical thinking. Sydney came forward and shared her personal learning experience with this inquiry. She expressed that through this project the students were all able to come together to share their thoughts. She learned how to focus on her own tasks for goal setting; to see things from the perspective of others; and to know that students were achieving something that they could carry forward into their everyday living. A video was shown of student engagement in this discipline-based inquiry, along with student and teacher narratives of their experience.

In conclusion, Ms. Searle stated that being a part of this and other inquiry activities was a transformational experience for the students. It helped them to become engaged thinkers and ethical citizens with entrepreneurial spirits, as described in Alberta Education's *Inspiring Education*. This year, building on the success of the previous year, changes have been made to the school day to build in large blocks of time during which students are able to engage in productive collaboration on discipline-based inquiry activities.

On behalf of the Board of Trustees, Trustee King thanked the presenters for sharing the context of personalized learning at Dr. Gladys McKelvie Egbert School. She commented that the enthusiasm of the teachers at the school is greatly appreciated. Trustee King also thanked the students who led the singing of O Canada.

5 | **OPERATIONAL EXPECTATIONS**

There were no items.

6 | **PUBLIC COMMENT**

6.1 **Ms. H. Mowat, Member of the Public**

Ms. Mowat stated that she had a letter with her to present to Chair Taylor. In her letter to the Chair she had some questions, which she shared as follows:

- Is she correct to believe that the Board of Trustees' position is to benefit students, parents and taxpayers of the City of Calgary?
- How do Trustees benefit the students, the parents and the taxpayers? How will the Board go about doing this in an honest, timely, straightforward and transparent fashion?
- Why does the Board of Trustees have closed-door meetings about personnel issues, for example, that the union brings forth to them? Is this the Board's responsibility? She questioned whether the Board has an arms-length distance from unions, and whether the union dictates to the Board in the same fashion as the provincial government.

Ms. Mowat proceeded to speak about a union member's involvement in her own personal experience of when she was employed with the Calgary Board of Education. Chair Taylor asked Ms. Mowat to conclude her comments at this point in time. Ms. Mowat provided her letter to the Board.

7 | **MATTERS RESERVED FOR BOARD ACTION**

7.1 **Alberta School Boards Association (ASBA) Proposed Policy Positions**

Chair Taylor introduced the item, noting that the ASBA fall general meeting is scheduled for November 17-19, 2013. At that time the proposed policy revisions, attached to the report, will be publicly debated. She expressed her belief that the Board should review this issue in public, and that it was added to the agenda so that Board members could exchange preliminary discussions. This preliminary discussion is designed to aid administration in understanding the specific questions that trustees may have.

A trustee noted that she did not realize there would be a discussion on each of these policy positions at this meeting, as that was not indicated in the report. Chief Superintendent Johnson stated that Administration is not prepared to offer counsel on these policy positions at this point in time because they have had no time to prepare for the discussion.

Further discussion took place about process and timelines. In response to how Administration would respond to the Board on the proposed policy positions, Chair Taylor acknowledged that the timeline is tight and she suggested that the recommendations of Administration be provided in writing to trustees before the ASBA fall general meeting. In response, Chief Superintendent Johnson noted that they do not have a Superintendents' Team meeting until the week of November 18, and the provision of a response would be outside of procedure. She later stated that although this is an extraordinary request in this space of time, the Administration will respond to it.

MOVED by Trustee Hurdman:

THAT the Board of Trustees requests that the Chief Superintendent provides information regarding administrative recommendations for each of the proposed policy positions, prior to November 14, 2013.

Chair Taylor clarified that if the Board wished to have Administration's recommendations in the form of a public Board report it could be presented after the ASBA fall general meeting.

Trustee comments in favour of the motion were that the work of the Board should be done in the board room and a request for Administration to do this work should be by Board motion. The Board could receive Administration's recommendations for information on a public consent agenda.

Trustee comments in opposition to the motion are summarized as follows:

- This request to Administration does not need to be done by Board motion as the provision of such information is covered in Operational Expectations 8: Communication With and Support for the Board.
- A trustee questioned the usefulness of receiving Administration's recommendations in a public report subsequent to the Board having already voted on the policy positions at the ASBA fall general meeting.

Chair Taylor called for the vote on the motion.

The motion was
DEFEATED.

In favour: Trustee Hurdman
Trustee Stewart
Trustee Taylor

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

7.2 **Establishment of Board Procedures Committee**

Trustee Hurdman provided a brief introduction to the item, noting that the last time the Board Meeting Procedures were reviewed it was done through an informal working group, about 18 months ago. In response to questions, Trustee Hurdman noted that the Terms of Reference indicate that the review would be of Board meeting times, private meeting practices and the timing of when agendas and reports are publicly released, but the depth of the review would be determined by the Committee. With respect to the suggested term for the Board Procedures Committee, Trustee Hurdman expressed her belief that there would be sufficient time to engage the public in this work through social media, electronically and online.

MOVED by Trustee Hurdman:

THAT the Board of Trustees amends policy GC-5E Board Committees to add a Board Procedures Committee.

Comments by trustees in favour of the motion were that this committee would be basically doing that which the Policy Committee had done in the past with respect to work being undertaken through the lens of openness and transparency.

Trustee comments in opposition to the motion were as follows:

- There are other issues that should take precedence for attending to, such as: the process for hiring a new chief superintendent; the upcoming evaluation of the current chief superintendent; the public engagement with the Council of School Councils; and the budget that will come forward for consideration in the spring. The Board needs to advocate for schools and to advocate provincially for transportation changes.
- The Board should live with the current Board Meeting Procedures for a period of time to have a better understanding of them and what may need to be changed, allowing for a more informed decision.
- Recent review has shown that the Calgary Board of Education current practices are amongst the most open and transparent of any boards in the province.

MOVED by Trustee Hehr:

THAT the Board of Trustees postpones consideration of the establishment of a Board Procedures Committee, to April 30, 2014.

Trustees debated the merits of the motion. Chair Taylor called for the vote on the postponement motion.

The motion was
CARRIED.

In favour: Trustee Bowen-Eyre
Trustee Ferguson
Trustee Hehr
Trustee King
Trustee Stewart

Opposed: Trustee Hurdman
Trustee Taylor

Chair Taylor declared the items on the Consent Agenda to be approved as presented, as follows:

8 | BOARD CONSENT AGENDA

8.1 This item was deleted from the agenda.

8.2 Correspondence

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

- Letter dated October 1, 2013 from Greg Bass, Deputy Minister, Alberta Education, to Chief Superintendent Naomi Johnson, indicating approval of \$144,000 for furniture and equipment for the modular classrooms at Earl Grey School.
- Letter dated October 4, 2013 from Greg Bass, Deputy Minister, Alberta Education, to Chair Cochrane, regarding the CBE's C2 Committee co-chairs' request for an extension of its report submission pertaining to Section C2 of the modified Framework Agreement.

8.3 Revised Schedule of Regular Meetings, November 2013 to October 2014

THAT the Board of Trustees approves a revision to the Schedule of Regular Board Meetings, to note that a public meeting will be held on November 26, 2013, commencing at 3:00 p.m. in the Multipurpose Room at 1221 – 8 Street SW, Calgary, and to strike out this date from the schedule of private meetings.

9 | CHIEF SUPERINTENDENT CONSENT AGENDA

The following item was removed from the Consent Agenda, for consideration:

9.1 Financial Status of Operating Reserves and Designated Funds at August 31, 2013

With respect to questions put forward by a trustee, Administration responded that they received the questions mid-day today and they would be pleased to respond to the questions at a later date if the Board consented.

Superintendent Grundy gave a brief introduction of the report, noting that at the beginning of the 2012-2013 fiscal year we anticipated using approximately \$12.2 million of reserves to balance the budget. Administration responded to questions and a summary of the discussion is as follows:

- It is anticipated that for the 2013-2014 budget we will be using approximately \$15 million in reserves.

- Under the current accounting standards it is anticipated that our deficit for the year is going to be around \$7.7 million; under the accounting principles that were used last year, it would have been \$1.6 million.
- Even though we have increased our reserves we will have an operating deficit at the end of this 2012-2013 year, as we will for 2013-2014.
- Some discussion was held on the transportation surplus. The entire transportation surplus is transferred into a reserve and can only be used to offset transportation fees. The reserve must be used within two years. An analysis of school fees is done year by year.
- The use of reserve funds requires the approval of the Board of Trustees.

MOVED by Trustee Bowen-Eyre:

1. **THAT a restricted reserve named “Changes in Accounting Policy Reserve” be established to isolate the impacts of changes in accounting policy separate from regular operations.**
2. **THAT a reserve named “Operating Lease Reserve” be established.**
3. **THAT an Endowment Fund be established to reflect the endowments held by and restricted for use by EducationMatters when consolidated into the CBE’s year-end financial reports.**
4. **THAT the transfers represented in Attachments I, II, III, IV, V and VI of the report be approved.**

The motion was
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Recessed: 5:00 p.m.
Reconvened: 5:20 p.m.

10 | **IN-CAMERA ISSUES**

10.1 **Motion to Move In Camera**

MOVED by Trustee Hurdman:

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, November 5, 2013 be considered at an in-camera session; therefore, be it

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

The motion was
CARRIED.

In favour: Trustee Bowen-Eyre
 Trustee Ferguson
 Trustee Hehr
 Trustee Hurdman

Trustee King
Trustee Stewart
Opposed: Trustee Taylor

10.2 Motion to Revert to Public Meeting

MOVED by Trustee King:

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

The motion was
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

10.3 Motions to Action In-Camera Recommendations

MOVED by Trustee King:

THAT the Three-Year Modular Classroom Plan, as discussed in camera, be referred for consideration at the November 26, 2013 Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees.

The motion was
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

MOVED by Trustee Hehr:

THAT the Board Chair and Vice-Chair prepare, for Board consideration on December 10, 2013, a report that provides information on options for processes to move forward with the recruitment of a new Chief Superintendent.

The motion was
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Chair Taylor declared the following item on the private Consent Agenda approved as presented:

THAT the Board of Trustees receives the correspondence attached to the private report for information and for the record.

11 | **ADJOURNMENT**

Chair Taylor declared the meeting adjourned at 7:27 p.m.