

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, January 21, 2014 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:

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
Mr. B. Brunton, Chief Communications Officer
Mr. G. Francis, General Counsel, Legal Services
Ms. J. Barkway, Corporate Secretary
Ms. D. Perrier, Recording Secretary

Stakeholder Representatives:

Mr. F. Bruseker, Alberta Teachers’ Association, Local 38
Mr. L. Frawdle, Calgary Board of Education Staff Association
Ms. M. Krickhan, Principals’ Association for Adolescent Learners (PAAL)
Ms. H. Lawrence, Elementary School Principals’ Association

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

Chair Taylor called the meeting to order at 3:02 p.m. and O Canada was led by Grade 6 students Muaz, Yusra and Sara, from Rosscarrock School.

Chair Taylor welcomed senior administration, staff and representatives from the aforementioned organizations.

Chair Taylor received the general consent of the Board to reorder the business on the agenda, as follows:



- 2 | AWARDS AND RECOGNITIONS
- 3 | RESULTS FOCUS
- 4 | CONSIDERATION/APPROVAL OF AGENDA
- 5 | PUBLIC COMMENT (5 public speakers)

The Chair further noted that an emergent issue regarding OE-3: Treatment of Owners would be considered for addition to the agenda as Item 5.3, when formal Board consideration is given to the agenda later in the meeting. The remaining agenda items will be renumbered accordingly.

2 | AWARDS AND RECOGNITIONS

2.1 Lighthouse Award

Superintendent Faber introduced this month's Lighthouse Award recipient as the Calgary Academy of Chefs and Cooks. She noted that this Academy has a long history of working with the CBE. Their goal is to ensure that students are successful in their educational endeavors in the culinary arts and that they are able to explore their interests and passions in this field. This partnership aligns with Alberta's vision for education and the *Inspiring Education* document recommendations, where education is learner-centered, competency-based and expands beyond the school to make the community a true partner. This has led to the creation and delivery of collaborative projects, including: high school baking and hot foods competitions, skill development, professional learning opportunities for students and teachers, and excellence awards.

Students Jesse from Lester B. Pearson High School and Ryley from Lord Beaverbrook High School shared comments about their personal development and learning experience with the Calgary Academy of Chefs and Cooks.

Chef Malley and Mr. Chapman, President, Calgary Academy of Chefs and Cooks, came forward and shared comments about the benefits of the partnership to students and to the community. They accepted the Lighthouse Award, which was presented to them by Chair Taylor on behalf of the Board.

3 | RESULTS FOCUS

3.1 School Presentation – Rosscarrock School

Mr. C. Davies, Area IV Director, provided a brief introduction of the presentation, noting that students and staff from Rosscarrock School would share how assessment practices are helping students to understand themselves as learners and how this understanding helps teachers to adjust their practice in pursuit of academic success for their students. The presenters from Rosscarrock School were introduced as follows:

Dr. J. Batycky, Principal
Ms. P. Winter, Teacher
Mr. A. Gleeson, Teacher
Muaz, Yusra and Sara, Grade 6 students



Principal J. Batycky commenced the presentation, noting that the school was part of a pilot project last year for Iris, which has enabled transformative work at their school by using the program as a platform for summative assessment. A video was shown of students and staff sharing their views on Iris and the many ways in which they can use the program to set and reflect on their learning goals and strategies towards achievement. With the aid of a video and snapshots, Muaz, Yusra and Sara shared their personal experience of working with Iris. Mr. Gleeson spoke about the learning profile that teachers use in Iris to build a picture of where individual students are with their learning, through comments which can be stored, shared and tracked over time.

On behalf of the Board of Trustees, Trustee Hehr thanked Principal Batycky, staff and students for their informative presentation. She noted her understanding of how important and impressive it is, through working with Iris, to be able to store and share individual learning profiles with peers, teachers and parents.

4 | **CONSIDERATION/APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Ms. Barkway, Corporate Secretary, noted that Item 8.1, Minutes of the January 7, 2014 Board Meeting, was removed from the agenda for consideration at a future meeting.

MOVED by Trustee Hurdman:

THAT the agenda for the Regular Meeting of January 21, 2014, be approved as submitted, subject to the changes as noted earlier in the meeting by Chair Taylor and as noted above by the Corporate Secretary.

The motion was
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

5 | **PUBLIC COMMENT**

5.1 Ms. A. Jobs, Parent

Ms. Jobs spoke on the issue of the registration of new students to the Calgary Board of Education. She noted that she resides in the community of West Springs and has two children, one of whom currently attends West Springs School and the other to enter Kindergarten in the fall. She expressed her concerns with the lottery process and potential negative effects it may have on her family life should her children be unable to attend the same school together. Her concerns included the potential loss of meaningful engagement between parents and the school, fundraising, volunteering, sense of belonging to the community, and additional transportation schedules. Ms. Jobs expressed her belief that prioritizing siblings when lotteries are required for school enrolment is important and would be beneficial to many families.

5.2 Mr. M. Bartek, Parent

Mr. Bartek shared comments about the overflow lottery process. He stated that he has two children currently attending West Springs School, and a younger child at home. Mr. Bartek noted that as the current policy stands, a family with three young children living in the bus zone for the school will need to win the admission lottery three times in a row if



they want their children to attend their community school. He shared his belief that this creates a stressful and family-unfriendly atmosphere that devalues the bonds and commitments that make up a school community. He urged the Board to reconsider the current prioritization process.

5.3 Mr. J. Woo, Parent

Mr. Woo commented on the lottery process guidelines. He noted that he lives in the West Springs community, within the bus zone for the school, and he has three children – one currently attending West Springs School, another will enter Kindergarten in the fall, and a younger child at home. Mr. Woo expressed his concerns with the potential separation of his children from attending the same school, which he felt would be detrimental to remove them from a school that they have set roots in, where they would have built strong relationships with their peers, their teachers and the community. He noted that it would be a hardship on his family to potentially have to juggle between two or possibly three different schools. Mr. Woo respectfully requested that the CBE considers keeping siblings of current students together in one school.

5.4 Ms. N. Vorel, Parent

Ms. Vorel commented on the overflow lottery process. She noted that she has two children, one of whom currently attends West Springs School, and they reside within the bus zone for the school. She shared her belief that if a family is faced with splitting their children between different schools there will be numerous hardships placed upon the siblings and a struggle for families. Issues could arise with having to deal with different school philosophies, professional development days, school start and end times, and the provision of child care. She noted that she would personally have to give up her volunteer time to the school. She acknowledged that the overflow lottery process is not unique to her community, that it affects many communities across the city. Ms. Vorel expressed her opinion that the CBE's administrative consultation process involving school councils and principals did not go far enough to include parent stakeholders.

5.5 Mr. D. Gillespie, Parent

Mr. Gillespie provided his concerns about the CBE's decision process that was undertaken to relocate the Westgate Spanish Bilingual Program. He noted that he has one child attending Bishop Pinkham School and one child attending Westgate School. He requested the Board of Trustees to assess the facts, actions, and communication by the CBE Administration in this matter. In summary, his concerns related to: relocation distance being over 10 kilometers, which he felt should warrant a closure process; the number of students affected by the relocation, which he believed to be approximately 400; the exemptions from the Regulations cited in this matter, which he felt should not apply; he questioned whether the actions of the CBE Administration are consistent with Board policies OE-3, Treatment of Owners, and OE-9, Communicating With the Public and with the core values of the CBE; and he questioned the timing provided to parents to react to the decision.



6 | **OPERATIONAL EXPECTATIONS**

6.1 **OE-7: Asset Protection – Annual Monitoring Report**

Superintendent Grundy provided a brief review of the contents of the report. He noted that with respect to policy subsection 7.3, 1.a), as indicated in last year's monitoring report and updated at the October 8, 2013 Board meeting, the CBE's Corporate Records Management program is under revision and the timelines have been shared with the Board. As this work is not yet complete, this monitoring report indicates non-compliance with this indicator at this time.

Chair Taylor noted that Trustees are to determine whether the Chief Superintendent is in compliance with OE-7: Asset Protection, based on the Board's previously approved interpretation and indicators. She pointed out that any decision or comment of the Board of Trustees around non-compliance of the operational expectations, or any part of it, is in no way intended to be a vote of non-confidence for the Chief Superintendent.

Administration addressed questions of Trustees. Quarterly reports are provided to the Board about the progress of the Corporate Records Management program, and the timeline as posted on the CBE website will be maintained. Administration is in the process of updating and revising the current Administrative Regulation to ensure alignment with policy subsection 7.6. There has been no official communication, but it is an expectation that there will be increases to the insurance costs by the Urban Schools Insurance Consortium because of the flood damage experienced in June 2013.

Administration stated that, in regards to remedial work exceeding \$10,000, the minor urgent work is undertaken through Plant Operations and Maintenance; the larger maintenance issues are funded through Infrastructure Maintenance and Renewal and are reported to the Board. Property leases are not viewed as encumbrances. In regards to access control to critical/sensitive/confidential electronic information and data, the encryption process will be complete at the end of this school year.

MOVED by Trustee Stewart:

THAT the Board of Trustees approves that the Chief Superintendent is in compliance with the provisions of OE-7: Asset Protection.

The motion was
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

MOVED by Trustee Hurdman:

THAT the Board of Trustees directs the Chief Superintendent to review the indicators of OE-7: Asset Protection, policy subsection 7.8.

MOVED by Trustee Stewart:

THAT the motion be amended by the addition of "by June 30, 2014."

The amendment was
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.



Point of Order

A trustee raised a point of order, asking why the opportunity for questions was missed prior to going into debate on the main motion that was amended.

Chair Taylor cautioned against any questions that are debate related in terms of the motivation related to the motion.

Trustees' debate of the motion, as amended, is summarized as follows:

- The indicator for this policy subsection does not adequately represent the interpretation or the policy statement, as it states only that CBE employees are alerted to the expectations for their conduct.
- The preventative measure of making employees aware of a code of conduct is sufficient, and that having Administration track employee actions would not be a good use of time or resources.
- Asking the Administration to review this indicator may bring forward measures that offer stronger indicators as evidence of compliance.
- Administrative Regulation (AR) 4027 speaks to the Code of Conduct for employees and it is comprehensive in the stated expectations.
- Making employees aware of something or training them in a particular area is a process – it does not measure an actual outcome.

Chair Taylor called for the vote on the motion.

The motion, as amended, was
DEFEATED.

In favour: Trustee Hurdman
Trustee Stewart
Trustee Taylor

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

Recessed: 4:33 p.m.
Reconvened: 4:50 p.m.

6.2 OE-11: Learning Environment/Treatment of Students – Lottery Process

Trustee Hurdman provided a brief review of the contents of the report, noting that the CBE's lack of school facilities has led to accommodation issues. She acknowledged that the lottery process is a contentious issue across the CBE, and that there is not one fit that will please everyone.

Trustees posed numerous questions surrounding the contents of the report. Administration noted that lotteries will become more and more necessary with enrolment increases. This is a city-wide issue with pressure points, particularly in newer communities and for alternative programs. The CBE anticipates an additional 9,000 student enrolments by 2016. This year, 15 CBE schools have experienced accommodation issues and have had to administer the lottery process guidelines.

MOVED by Trustee Bowen-Eyre:

THAT the Board directs Administration to provide an impact statement on the proposed policy change pertaining to OE-11 (as recommended in the report) to the Board by February 4, 2014, including but not limited to:

- **transportation,**
- **financial impact, and**
- **scale of accommodation**

for the 2014-2015 school year, in relation to the lottery process.

MOVED by Trustee Hurdman:

THAT the motion be amended to insert “*student learning impacts*” to follow “*scale of accommodation*”.

In response to a question, Administration stated that research could be brought forward, but determining a conclusive impact would not be possible.

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

- We need to know the credibility of the researchers and it is not certain that trustees are qualified to make that determination.
- The timeline requested for this detailed information is insufficient. The CBE educates each student every day – no exceptions, in accordance with its value statement.
- Students are transitioned numerous times in our system, which is unfortunate, but it is becoming common due to the lack of space. Today, a community school looks quite different than it did in the past – it may be an alternative program or a language program that makes it a community school many kilometers distant.
- The amendment was suggested in order to provide some validation to the analysis that was included in the report. We need to look at student learning first and to focus on student outcomes, and it is believed that there are some factors here that have an impact on student learning outcomes.

Chair Taylor called for the vote on the amendment.

The amendment was
DEFEATED UNANIMOUSLY.



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

- In order to make an informed decision on the proposed policy change, information on potential impacts in the stated areas is a necessity.
- A concern with the motion is that student accommodation has been delegated to the Chief Superintendent as part of the operation of schools and the Board has an operational expectation policy that speaks to the relevant issues.
- Support for the motion is given, but with great reservation because it is the belief of the trustee that all trustees need to have an understanding of the difference between governance and operation.
- The lottery decision has raised the concern of some parents and it is felt that this is a Board issue and it is important for the Board to have this discussion.

Chair Taylor called for the vote on the motion.

The motion was
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

The Board agreed to continue the meeting to the completion of the agenda.

Recessed: 5:57 p.m.
Reconvened: 6:09 p.m.

5.3 OE-3: Treatment of Owners – Compliance report on Westgate Spanish Program Relocation Decision

MOVED by Trustee Hurdman:

THAT the Board of Trustees directs the Chief Superintendent to provide to the Board at its February 4, 2014 Regular Meeting, a report monitoring compliance of OE-3: Treatment of Owners, with specific reference to subsection 3.3 (b), which reads “Maintain an organizational culture that reasonably includes people in decisions that affect them,” in relation to the relocation of the Westgate School Spanish Bilingual Program to Eugene Coste School.

In response to a question, Administration clarified that the decision is under appeal to the Area Director and it is still in process.

The following is a summary of comments made by Trustees in debate of the motion:

- The Board is responsible for ensuring that its policies are followed and that is done through annual monitoring. Members of our public are stating that the Board is not holding true to its policies and they were not included in the decision. In this regard, some trustees supported that Administration be asked to provide a monitoring report to gain a better understanding of this particular matter.



- On October 8, 2013 the Board monitored OE-3 and found the Chief Superintendent to be in compliance. As noted by Administration this has been an ongoing consultation for the past 18 months and a consultation meeting was held just recently. In light of the matter being in the middle of a process, some Trustees expressed their belief that the request is inappropriate at this time and that the Board should honour the administrative process.

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 | **MATTERS RESERVED FOR BOARD ACTION**

7.1 Charter School Facilities

Superintendent Coppinger provided a brief review of the contents of the report. Alberta Education has requested the Board's commitment to the principle of transferring the facilities currently occupied by charter schools to their respective charter school authorities for a nominal fee. An immediate transfer of five Calgary Board of Education (CBE) schools is being requested, and the extension of current lease terms on the remaining nine schools. The CBE's student accommodation challenges are concerning.

The following is a summary of Administration's responses to Trustee questions:

- With respect to the Minister's announcement of approval for modernizations for three charter schools, which are currently owned by the CBE, Administration noted that two grants of money have been provided for an upgrading of part of Montgomery School and Sir William Van Horne School. Administration will request the two charter school authorities to submit any improvement requests to us for approval of the design and of the construction.
- Administration clarified that our three-year School Capital Plan identifies a need for 11 schools in year one, 7 schools in year two, and 7 schools in year three, and tied to that was a comparison of our growth in students compared to system capacity. Should we receive Ministerial approval over a period of time for the 25 schools listed in our 2013-2017 School Capital Plan, we will not need these schools to be recovered from the charter school authorities; however, should they not be approved, the system utilization pressures will be realized at 86 percent or greater.
- With the accommodation pressures the CBE is experiencing in the west quadrant of the city, the restoration of Glenmeadows School to the CBE would be appreciated



and helpful because there are no schools approved for that area before 2017. Administration pointed out that we need schools, but more importantly we need schools in the right places.

- Some discussion ensued about the need for legislative changes to meet legal requirements for these facility transfers to be accomplished.
- Administration is working on what the potential impacts might be if the Education Act changes in 2015 to allow for students to stay in school to age 21. Administration advised that impacts other than increased enrolments include our ability to accommodate their learning needs in a flexible manner.

MOVED by Trustee Bowen-Eyre:

THAT the Board of Trustees agrees, in principle, to the Minister's request to transfer the five identified CBE school properties to charter school authorities, subject to the provision of 25 new school facilities as identified in the 2014-2017 School Capital Plan being made available for Calgary Board of Education students.

MOVED by Trustee Stewart:

THAT the motion be amended by the deletion of "25" to read as follows:

"THAT the Board of Trustees agrees, in principle, to the Minister's request to transfer the five identified CBE school properties to charter school authorities, subject to the provision of new school facilities as identified in the 2014-2017 School Capital Plan being made available for Calgary Board of Education students."

Trustee comments in debate of the amendment are summarized as follows:

- It is felt that the main motion is too aggressive. There are numerous factors in building schools that are completely beyond our control. It is believed that the amendment is a strong motion that advocates for our students.
- The Minister's announcement of six new schools for the CBE is appreciated, but it is concerning that we are being asked to give up five schools. Our Capital Plan publicly states what our needs are and that is for 25 new schools.
- The CBE needs a predictable funding process for funding new public schools. As the space crunch becomes more severe with more students requiring accommodation, it may result in impacts on other areas of our budget. The amendment is supported because it clearly speaks to our School Capital Plan. It is felt important that we be engaged and cooperative in ongoing negotiations to ensure that we receive schools for our students.
- The Board needs to strongly advocate for CBE students, first and foremost. We are being asked to give up schools in the hope of receiving new schools. The communities currently on the bottom of our Capital Plan are in need of new schools, as there are some students who are travelling up to 20 kilometres to get to a



community school. It is felt critical to be explicit in the motion to include the number of schools to be provided.

Chair Taylor called for the vote on the amendment.

The amendment was
CARRIED.

In favour: Trustee Ferguson
Trustee Hurdman
Trustee Stewart
Trustee Taylor

Opposed: Trustee Bowen-Eyre
Trustee Hehr
Trustee King

Trustees debated the main motion, as amended, and Chair Taylor called for the vote.

The motion was
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

8 | **BOARD CONSENT AGENDA**

8.1 Correspondence

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

- Letter received January 3, 2014 from Honourable J. Johnson, Minister of Education regarding the 12 modular units received to accommodate students from Elbow Park Elementary School.
- Letter dated January 6, 2014 from Calgary Heritage Authority regarding the demolition of the Elbow Park School.

8.2 Trustee Liaison Report – Alberta School Boards Association (ASBA), Zone 5

THAT the Board of Trustees receives the Alberta School Boards Association (ASBA) Zone 5 Meeting Minutes dated December 6, 2013 for information.

8.3 OE-6: Financial Administration – Commendation Arising from Annual Monitoring Report

THAT the Board of Trustees commends the Chief Superintendent for exceptional organizational performance related to policy OE-6: Financial Administration including:

- implementation of the Public Sector Accounting Standards;
- restatement of the prior year's financials in addition to the completion of the current year's statements;



- **assisting with clarification regarding interpretation of the requirements applicable to all school districts; and**
- **restructuring services so as to reduce planned expenditures, which resulted in a more favourable financial outcome than anticipated.**

9 | CHIEF SUPERINTENDENT CONSENT AGENDA

9.1 Chief Superintendent's Update

THAT the Board of Trustees receives the Chief Superintendent's Update for information.

Recessed: 7:57 p.m.
Reconvened: 8:10 p.m.

10 | IN-CAMERA ISSUES

10.1 Motion to Move In Camera

MOVED by Trustee Hehr:

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, Tuesday, January 21, 2014, 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 UNANIMOUSLY.

10.2 Motion to Revert to Public Meeting

MOVED by Trustee Stewart:

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 Ferguson:

THAT, subject to Ministerial approval, the Board approves the appointment of Chief Superintendent, on an interim basis, as discussed in-camera; and

THAT the Board of Trustees agrees, in principle, with the details of the Employment Agreement for interim Chief Superintendent services, as discussed, subject to Ministerial approval; and

THAT the Board of Trustees approves the successful executive search firm to assist the Board of Trustees in its recruitment of a new Chief Superintendent,



and authorizes the Chair of the Board to sign the Agreement for Services, as discussed.

The motion was
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

11 | **ADJOURNMENT**

Chair Taylor declared the meeting adjourned at 9:44 p.m.

