

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, March 18, 2014 at 3:00 p.m.

MEETING ATTENDANCE

Board of Trustees

In Attendance:

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

Absent:

Trustee T. Hurdman

Administration:

Ms. N. Johnson, Chief Superintendent of Schools
Mr. D. Stevenson, Deputy Chief Superintendent of Schools
Mr. F. Copping, 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. B. Brunton, Chief Communications Officer
Ms. J. Barkway, Corporate Secretary
Ms. D. Perrier, Recording Secretary

Stakeholder Representatives:

Ms. L. Robb, Calgary Board of Education Staff Association
Mr. F. Bruseker, Alberta Teachers' Association, Local 38
Mrs. K. Lloyd, Calgary Association of Parents and School Councils
Mr. K. Bauer, Elementary School Principals' Association
Mr. J.F. Belanger, Principals' Association for Adolescent Learners (PAAL)

1 | CALL TO ORDER, NATIONAL ANTHEM AND WELCOME

Chair Taylor called the meeting to order at 3:00 p.m. The grade one students from Cambrian Heights School led the singing of O Canada by way of a video recording.

Chair Taylor acknowledged and welcomed representatives from the aforementioned organizations.



2 | CONSIDERATION/APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Ms. J. Barkway, Corporate Secretary, noted that Item 3.1, Lighthouse Award, has been removed from the Agenda, three public comments would be given under Item 6.1, and a late circulation was made of the Regular Board Meeting Minutes of March 4, 2014 and the Special Board Meeting Minutes of March 10, 2014, which would be added to Item 8.1, Board Consent Agenda.

MOVED by Trustee King:

THAT the Agenda for the Regular Meeting of March 18, 2014, be approved as submitted, subject to the revisions noted above.

The motion was
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

3 | AWARDS AND RECOGNITIONS

3.1 2014 Alberta School Boards Association Edwin Parr Teacher Nominee

Superintendent Oishi shared information about the history of the ASBA Edwin Parr Teacher Award and the nomination process. This is an annual presentation in recognition of outstanding teaching performance by a beginning teacher. After reviewing all nominations, the Calgary Board of Education (CBE) selection committee recommended that Mr. Owen de Lange be the CBE nominee for this award. Mr. de Lange teaches Mathematics 10 and Business Opportunities to high school students at Robert Thirsk High School.

Mr. de Lange shared a few words of appreciation for the nomination. He thanked his mentors and peers and spoke of some of his experiences at university and as a first-year teacher at Robert Thirsk High School.

MOVED by Trustee Bowen-Eyre:

THAT Mr. O. de Lange is the Calgary Board of Education nominee for the 2014 Alberta School Boards Association Edwin Parr Award.

The motion was
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

On behalf of the Board, Trustee Bowen-Eyre shared accolades to Mr. de Lange.

4 | RESULTS FOCUS

4.1 Cambrian Heights School Presentation

Ms. S. Church, Director, Area II, provided opening remarks. She introduced and called forward Ms. B. Bilcox, Principal, to commence Cambrian Heights School presentation.



Ms. Bilcox provided preliminary remarks about the teaching and learning at Cambrian Heights School. Staff and students set learning targets together to ensure an understanding of what academic success looks like. Professional commitment is focused on interpretive analysis to enhance competencies to design rich tasks, model and explain lesson learning targets and outcomes; and to create or co-create with students the success criteria for personalized learning. Ms. Bilcox introduced and called forward Ryley, grade one, Nathan, grade three, and Noelle, grade 5, to share their individual learning experiences. The students spoke of the unique ways in which they learn and of their academic achievement.

A video presentation was shown of two grade five students, George and Ethan, working on a project design modeling the use of electricity. They shared their theoretical and analytical thinking and tasks involved to achieve a successful outcome.

Mr. T. Graftaas, parent, came forward and shared his perspective, noting that his children's engagement in their learning and in self-assessment is exceptional and much appreciated.

On behalf of the Board, Chair Taylor extended appreciation to the students and staff of Cambrian Heights School for sharing their presentation.

5 | **OPERATIONAL EXPECTATIONS**

5.1 **OE-8: Communication With and Support for the Board – Annual Monitoring**

Chief Superintendent Johnson introduced the report and stated that information is very powerful, and when available in a timely manner it is very useful. This monitoring report covers the 2012-2013 school year.

Chair Taylor noted that trustees are to determine whether the Chief Superintendent is in compliance with OE-8: Communication With and Support for the Board, 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.

MOVED by Trustee Ferguson:

THAT the Board of Trustees approves that the Chief Superintendent is in compliance with the provisions of OE-8: Communication With and Support for the Board.

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

- Beliefs shared by a trustee were that: the indicators and report are different from other operational expectations because it monitors the communications between the Board and the school system through the Chief Superintendent; a crossover of values and an element of trust are at play and may compete with other values within



our school system and Administration; and the Board needs to be conscious of the fine line between what data is needed for governance and what details are operational in nature. Much work was done to support the changeover in governance this past year and the many challenges faced through that process.

- The complexities inherent with a large school system such as ours can lead to numerous challenges as the organization faces high volumes of issues at any given time. Communication from Administration to the Board and from the Board to the public is critical. It is felt that a much better job is being done in the area of communication.
- Trustees expressed appreciation for the communication work that has evolved over the past few years, and for the details outlined in the monitoring report.

Chair Taylor called for the vote on the motion.

The motion was
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

6 | **PUBLIC COMMENT**

6.1 **Ms. L. Farrar, on behalf of “We Love Our Schools”**

Ms. Farrar stated that she was speaking on behalf of a community based collective known as “We Love Our Schools”. She shared her concerns with the community engagement and appeal processes, and referenced in particular the process that was undertaken for the GATE program in the community of Oakridge. She voiced a number of concerns with the rationale given by the CBE administration for the movement of students from Nellie McClung School and John Ware School to Louis Riel School. Ms. Farrar provided a handout to trustees detailing her concerns with the community engagement and appeal processes, and requested that trustees review the processes for standardization across the system.

6.2 **Ms. A. Clarke, President, Kingsland Community Association**

Ms. Clarke expressed concerns related to the Three-Year School Capital Plan listing as a priority the modernization of the Kingsland Centre for use as a south campus for Chinook Learning Services. She noted concerns with the lack of community input and the potential impacts on: parking in and around the community, additional traffic through the community, loss of municipal green space, loss of quality of life and pedestrian safety. Ms. Clarke requested that the Board of Trustees postpones its decision on the Capital Plan until after a full consultation on the impacts has been held between the Calgary Board of Education administration and the Kingsland Community Association.

6.3 **Ms. B. MacInnis, Vice-President & Planning Director, Kingsland Community Association**

Ms. MacInnis noted that she is an urban planner by profession. She stated that there is increased growth in the community of Kingsland and in surrounding communities, as they are being redeveloped by The City of Calgary. She shared her belief that Kingsland community will grow as the existing single-family houses are replaced with R-2 housing



units and multi-family units, which will influence an influx of younger families. Ms. MacInnis stated that the community wants to ensure that plans are made for their students in the long term and that they have a school to attend as the area redevelops and grows. She stated that the community respectfully requests that no decision be made at this time regarding the Kingsland Centre, until such time that the Calgary Board of Education completes a community consultation process and reassesses the demographics of Kingsland and all the communities that currently feed the surrounding schools.

7 | **MATTERS RESERVED FOR BOARD ACTION**

7.1 Three-Year School Capital Plan 2015-2018

Superintendent Coppinger provided highlights of the contents of the Capital Plan. The Calgary Board of Education has received provincial approval for twelve new schools in the last year. With the rapid growth in student enrolment in the last two years and a forecast increase of approximately 15,000 students in the next five years, we need even more schools to be built. For many years the Calgary Board of Education has used ranking criteria that is updated periodically, which looks at pre-school census, student numbers, population growth and travel time, to generate points that allow for the ranking of Kindergarten to Grade 9 (K-9) schools across the system. The Capital Plan lists the community ranking for new schools on page 118. Administration suggested that a review of the ranking criteria will be conducted over the next year to take into consideration the extraordinary accelerated growth of the city and the increasing number of students.

The Capital Plan shows the new school construction priorities over the three-years, 2015-2018, on pages iii and 32. Administration is recommending that three schools be included in the priority ranking with the K-9 schools, noted as C-2 Southeast Calgary High, C-11 Stampede Youth Campus, and C-16 North Calgary High. Major modernization projects are listed on pages iv and 33, and the combined new school construction and major modernizations are shown on pages v, vi, 34 and 35.

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

- In cases where communities are tied for points an assessment is made and typically the need for an elementary school in a community ranks higher than the need for a middle school in a community. The statistics generated by the City of Calgary generate points for ranking.
- In regards to combining communities and assigned points, in the case of an elementary/middle school the ranking criteria is done separately for the K-4 and the 5-9 and the points are assigned separately – they are then placed on the list based on whichever of the categories has the highest number of points. In smaller communities that are already built out it is felt to be justifiable to combine communities for points and ranking.
- A value held by the Board is to have schools as close to home as possible, particularly for the younger students, which is why larger schools are not being built.



- Administration agreed that with the growth rates increasing steadily and the varying sizes of communities we should look beyond the community statistics as the way of generating a need for a school. The guideline for a school ranking should likely be more oriented towards the land area and the site that is being developed. The thresholds used today for ranking criteria were put in place a number of years ago when communities were much smaller.
- With the new Education Act raising the age for eligible students, Administration is undertaking an evaluation of where those students would most likely go to further their education - it may be through online courses, part-time schooling, night school, or to a community school. The high school flexibility initiative is also a part of this consideration.

Recessed: 4:38 p.m.

Reconvened: 4:55 p.m.

- At the present time there are no CBE sites that are empty and available for sale.
- It is the Board's privilege to decide how capital reserve funds are utilized. Administration would not recommend the use of reserve funds for the construction of schools. It is felt prudent to maintain some reserve funds to address emergent infrastructure needs.
- Costs associated with the fit-up and commissioning of new schools are topped up by the CBE and those costs can vary significantly, dependent on the size of the school.
- With respect to the Kingsland Centre, the statistics show that the numbers are not sufficient to require it as an elementary school in the foreseeable future. School traffic is a concern at a great number of schools and the City is currently undertaking a study of traffic issues around school facilities. Administration stated that it has not finalized a plan for the use of Kingsland Centre. If the Capital Plan is approved as submitted and a different location for Chinook Learning Services is identified at a later date, it is likely that Alberta Education would not hold us committed to this location and that a change would be acceptable.
- The ranking of the Stampede Youth Campus in the Capital Plan is a means to provide a high quality program in a cost-efficient facility, through a respectful partnership. It is driven by public demand and need for an accessible Arts facility for high school students, and it aligns to the provincial initiative that Alberta Education has articulated.

MOVED by Trustee Ferguson:

THAT the Board of Trustees approves the Calgary Board of Education's Three-Year School Capital Plan 2015-2018 for submission to Alberta Education, subject to minor corrections as required.



MOVED by Trustee Stewart:

THAT the motion be amended by the addition of “subject to amendment by changing the priority ranking for the Southeast Calgary High School from #2 to #1 on Table 3 – New School Construction and Major Modernizations, page 34, and all other projects be renumbered accordingly”.

At 6:00 p.m. Chair Taylor received the consent of the Board to continue the meeting to the completion of the agenda.

Recessed: 6:03 p.m.

Reconvened: 6:14 p.m.

Trustee debate of the amendment is summarized as follows:

- Ward 12 has the highest population in the city and the overall sector has the highest growth. It is the only Ward without a high school and it is not scheduled to have one completed in the next two years. The Capital Plan gives overwhelming evidence of the need for a high school in Ward 12.
- A few trustees remarked that the current ranking position for the Southeast Calgary High at position #2 is felt to be acceptable. The shortage of schools in west Calgary is evident and one of the Board’s values is to have schools as close to home as possible for our younger students.
- Some trustees expressed their reluctance to rearrange priorities in the Capital Plan, knowing that a great amount of time, resources and strategy has gone into this work. Student accommodations across the system are tight as utilization rates rise.
- We need the province to approve the building of new schools that adequately addresses the student growth in the city. It is felt that the numbers depicted in the Capital Plan support the need for a high school in the southeast part of the city.
- The top schools in the Capital Plan would remain together as they have the same number of points ranked to them. The partnerships available for this school will give us the opportunity to provide entrepreneurial leadership to high school students in this area of the city. High schools typically take one year longer to build than an elementary or middle school, and in this current construction market it is believed to be in our best interest to get this project underway as soon as possible.

Chair Taylor called for the vote on the amendment.

The amendment was
DEFEATED.

In favour: Trustee Stewart
Trustee Taylor

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



Trustee comments in debate of the main motion are summarized as follows:

- The Capital Plan shows there is a backlog that requires an investment in public schools from our provincial government. Every one of our communities is deserving of a new school(s), but that is not possible without adequate funding.
- It is important that we move forward quicker on modernization projects as that work has backlogged over a long period of time.
- Some trustees expressed their belief that ranking criteria offers a fair and equitable process for communities to be prioritized to receive a school. It is hoped that the CBE gets a number of its capital requests approved by the province and that they are approved in the order that they are ranked.
- A number of trustees shared their appreciation for the difficult work that has gone into the production of the Capital Plan.
- Trustees expressed their anticipation of the work ahead in the review of the criteria to address current realities, and they remarked on their pleasure that the review process will include public consultation.
- A trustee noted her concern that the public did not have advance opportunity to review the 2015-2018 Three-Year School Capital Plan and to offer their feedback.
- A trustee shared her belief that public feedback should be received during the review of the criteria, not after Administration has finalized the document for recommendation to the Board.
- A trustee encouraged our public and our owners to have conversations not just about the ranking criteria but about how and when we get public schools in our communities and what the value of public education is to our society.

Chair Taylor called for the vote on the main motion.

The motion was
CARRIED.

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



Chair Taylor declared the items on the consent agendas to be approved as presented, as follows:

8 | **BOARD CONSENT AGENDA**

8.1 Approval of Minutes

- Regular Meeting held February 18, 2014
- Regular Meeting held March 4, 2014
- Special Meeting held March 10, 2014

THAT the Board of Trustees approves the Minutes of the Regular Meetings held February 18 and March 4, 2014, and the Special Meeting held March 10, 2014, as submitted.

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 March 5, 2014 from Board Chair Sheila Taylor, to The Honourable Bal Gosal, Minister of State (Sport), requesting a Federal grant towards building the National Sport School.

8.3 Trustee Liaison Report – Alberta School Boards Association, Zone 5

THAT the Board of Trustees receives the Alberta School Boards Association (ASBA) - Zone 5 Meeting Minutes dated January 10, 2014 and February 7, 2014 for information.

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: 6:56 p.m.
Reconvened: 7:18 p.m.

10 | **IN-CAMERA ISSUES**

Trustee King declared a pecuniary interest with Item 10.2.3 on the private agenda. During the in-camera session, she left the room during discussion of the item.



10.1 Motion to Move In Camera

MOVED by Trustee Ferguson:

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, March 18, 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 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 Board of Trustees approves the recommendation as outlined in the private report, as circulated with the March 18, 2014 private agenda.

The motion was
CARRIED.

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

Opposed: Trustee Taylor

Trustee King left the room for the vote on Item 10.2.3 on the private agenda, on which she declared a pecuniary interest earlier in the meeting.

MOVED by Trustee Hehr:

THAT the Board amends the motion previously adopted by the Board on May 28 that reduced the payment of fees to the Alberta School Boards Association (ASBA) by 10% for the 2013-14 fiscal year, to direct Administration to pay 100% of the ASBA fees assessed to Calgary Board of Education for the 2013-14 year.

The motion was
CARRIED.

In favour: Trustee Hehr



Trustee Stewart
Trustee Taylor
Opposed: Trustee Bowen-Eyre
Trustee Ferguson
Absent: Trustee King

Trustee King returned to the meeting.

MOVED by Trustee King:

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

The motion was
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Chair Taylor declared the items on the private consent agenda to be approved as presented, as follows:

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

THAT the Board of Trustees receives the Construction Projects Status report for information.

THAT the Board of Trustees receives the update on the 2012-2013 Audit Observations for information.

11 | **ADJOURNMENT**

Chair Taylor declared the meeting adjourned at 9:37 p.m.

