

public agenda

Regular Board Meeting

September 12, 2017
1:30 p.m.

Multipurpose Room,
Education Centre
1221 8 Street SW,
Calgary, AB

R-1: Mission |

Each student, in keeping with his or her individual abilities and gifts, will complete high school with a foundation of learning necessary to thrive in life, work and continued learning.

Conflict of Interest reminder: Trustees must disclose any potential pecuniary interest in any matter before the Board of Trustees, as set forth in the agenda as well as any pecuniary interest in any contract before the Board requiring the Board's approval and/or ratification.

Time	Topic	Who	Policy Ref	Attachment
1:30 p.m.	1 Call to Order, National Anthem and Welcome			
	2 Consideration/Approval of Agenda		GC-2	
	3 Awards and Recognitions			
	3.1 Opening Remarks	D. Stevenson		Verbal
	3.2 Lighthouse Award	J. Everett	GC-3	
	4 Results Focus			
	5 Operational Expectations			
Max 20 mins	5.1 OE-2: Temporary Chief Superintendent Succession - Annual Monitoring	D. Stevenson	B/CSR-5, OE-2	Page 5-1
	6 Public Comment [PDF]		GC-3.2	
	Requirements as outlined in Board Meeting Procedures			
	7 Matters Reserved for Board Action	Board	GC-3	



	8 Consent Agenda	Board	GC-2.6	
	8.1 Ron Southern School Opening Date Letter <i>(THAT the Board ratified their verbal approval of the letter to the Minister of Education re: opening date for Ron Southern School.)</i>		OE-8, 9, 12	Page 8-4
	8.2 Proposed Amendment to GC-5: Board Committees <i>(THAT the Board approves the amendment of GC-5: Board Committees)</i>		GC-5	Page 8-7
	8.3 Items Provided for Board Information		OE-8	
	8.3.1 Correspondence			Page 8-1
	9 In-Camera Session			
4:30 p.m.	10 Adjournment			
	Debrief	Trustees	GC-2.3	

Notice |

This public Board meeting will be recorded & posted online.
Media may also attend these meetings.
You may appear in media coverage.

Archives will be available for a period of two years.
Information is collected under the authority of the School Act and the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act section 33(c) for the purpose of informing the public.

For questions or concerns, please contact:
Office of the Corporate Secretary at corpsec@cbe.ab.ca.

operational expectations monitoring report

Monitoring report for the school year 2016-2017

Report date: September 12, 2017

OE-2: Temporary Chief Superintendent Succession

CHIEF SUPERINTENDENT CERTIFICATION

With respect to Operational Expectations 2: Temporary Chief Superintendent Succession, the Chief Superintendent certifies that the proceeding information is accurate and complete.

- [x] In Compliance.
[] In Compliance with exceptions noted in the evidence.
[] Not in Compliance.

D. Stevenson

Signed: David Stevenson, Chief Superintendent Date: Sept. 5/17

BOARD OF TRUSTEES ACTION

With respect to Operational Expectations 2: Temporary Chief Superintendent Succession, the Board of Trustees:

- [] Finds the evidence to be compliant
>[] Finds the evidence to be compliant with noted exceptions
>[] Finds evidence to be not compliant

Summary statement/motion of the Board of Trustees:

Signed: Chair, Board of Trustees Date:

OE-2: Temporary Chief Superintendent Succession

The Chief Superintendent shall designate at least one other employee who is familiar with the Board's governance process and issues of current concern and is capable of assuming Chief Superintendent responsibilities on a temporary basis.

Board-approved Interpretation |

The Chief Superintendent interprets:

- *Board's governance process* to mean the governance model adopted by the Board of Trustees, and the governance policies and Board procedures approved by the Board of Trustees;
- *issues of current concern* to mean those matters immediately affecting the organization or the Board of Trustees;
- *capable* to mean those employees who can manage essential functions and urgent matters related to the responsibilities of the Chief Superintendent;
- *responsibilities* to mean the management of essential functions and urgent matters as distinct from the role as a whole;
- *temporary* to mean instances of time, including both planned and unplanned, where the Chief Superintendent is absent and/or unavailable.

Outside of operational hours, the Chief Superintendent remains the Chief Superintendent, available and in contact electronically, via cell phone, text or email. The Chief Superintendent will determine when a planned absence requires a temporary designation. This will be communicated, in writing, to the Board of Trustees. If the Chief Superintendent is unavailable electronically, the primary plan of designation is in effect.

Further, in accordance with Alberta Regulation 178/2003, the qualifications of an individual appointed to act in the office of the superintendent of schools include:

- (a) a Bachelor of Education degree or equivalent, and a Master's degree;
- (b) a certificate of qualification as a teacher; and
- (c) 3 years' experience in a school system in Alberta.

The naming of an employee to assume the responsibilities of Chief Superintendent on a short-term basis does not presume a detailed knowledge of all functions. It does require an awareness of primary needs, knowledge of resources for the management of those needs and the ability to access those resources in an appropriate and timely manner.

OE-2: Temporary Chief Superintendent Succession

Calgary Board of Education practices ensure the holders of the following positions meet the criteria of Alberta Regulation 178-2003 and are sufficiently familiar with Board and organizational issues and processes.

In the absence of the Chief Superintendent, the primary plan of designation is:

1. Deputy Chief Superintendent
2. Superintendent, Learning
3. Area Directors
4. Education Directors

Board-approved Indicator and *Evidence of Compliance* |

At the beginning of each school year, the Board of Trustees will receive a signed document from the Chief Superintendent confirming the positions and order of designates indicating the primary plan of designation. A separate, confidential document which identifies each individual's name and contact information will be updated annually or within 30 days as positions or people change

The organization is compliant with this indicator.

A revised list indicating the primary plan of designation was signed by the Chief Superintendent, presented to the Board of Trustees on August 31, 2016. Electronic memos were distributed to all Trustees, in all instances during the 2016-2017 school year, where the Chief Superintendent was absent. Each memo indicated the primary contact during the temporary absence.

Evidence demonstrates the indicator in sub-section 1 is in compliance.

GLOSSARY – Developed by the Board of Trustees

Board: The Board of Trustees

Operational Expectations: These policies define both the nonnegotiable expectations and the clear boundaries within which the Chief Superintendent and staff must operate. They articulate the actions and decisions the Board would find either absolutely necessary or totally unacceptable.

Monitoring Report: The Board wants to know that its values have driven organizational performance. The Chief Superintendent will present to the Board, for its evaluation, a report that summarized how either compliance has been achieved on Operational Expectations or how reasonable progress has been made in Results. Each monitoring report requires: a re-statement of the full policy, by section; a

OE-2: Temporary Chief Superintendent Succession

reasonable interpretation of each section; data sufficient to prove compliance or reasonable progress; and a signed certification from the Chief Superintendent of the status.

Reasonable Interpretation: Once the Board has stated its values in policy, the Chief Superintendent is required to “interpret” policy values, saying back to the Board, “here is what the Board’s value means to me.” The Board then judges whether this interpretation is reasonable. In other words, does the Chief Superintendent “get it?” This reasonable interpretation is the first step required in monitoring compliance on Operational Expectations and monitoring reasonable progress on Results.

Compliance: Evidence or data that allow the Board to judge whether the Chief Superintendent has met the standard set in the Operational Expectations values.

Non-compliance: In gathering evidence and data to prove to the Board that its Operational Expectations values have been adhered to, there may be areas where the standards were not met. The policy or subsection of the policy would be found to be “non-compliant.” The Chief Superintendent would identify the capacity-building needed to come into compliance and the Board would schedule this section of policy for re-monitoring.

report to
Board of Trustees

Ron Southern School Opening Date Letter

Date	September 12, 2017
Meeting Type	Regular Meeting, Public Agenda
To	Board of Trustees
From	Kelly-Ann Fenney Office of the Corporate Secretary
Purpose	Decision
Governance Policy Reference	Operational Expectations OE-8: Communication With and Support for the Board OE-9: Communicating With the Public OE-12: Facilities

1 | Recommendation

It is recommended:

- THAT the Board of Trustees ratified their verbal approval of the Letter to the Hon. D. Eggen, Minister of Education, regarding the opening date for the Ron Southern School.

2 | Background

In order to provide timely notification to the Minister of Education and parents regarding the notification of the school opening date for the Ron Southern School in the community of Silverado, the trustees provided verbal approval for the Board Chair to sign the letter to the Minister, marked as Attachment I to this report.



3 | Conclusion

This report is now being presented in order that the Board of Trustees may formally ratify the verbally expressed decision of trustees on Attachment I.

ATTACHMENTS

Attachment I: Letter dated August 31, 2017 from Board Chair to the Hon. D. Eggen, Minister of Education





Board Chair

Joy Bowen-Eyre Wards 1 & 2

Vice-Chair

Trina Hurdman Wards 6 & 7

Trustees

Lynn Ferguson Wards 3 & 4

Pamela King Wards 5 & 10

Judy Hehr Wards 8 & 9

Julie Hrdlicka Wards 11 & 13

Amber Stewart Wards 12 & 14

August 31, 2017

Honourable David Eggen
Minister of Education
Office of the Minister
228 Legislature Building
10800 – 97 Avenue
Edmonton, AB T5K 2B6

Dear Minister Eggen:

RE: Opening of Ron Southern School

Further to my April 11, 2017 update on 2017-18 CBE school openings, I am pleased to inform you that Ron Southern School in the community of Silverado will open on November 20, 2017. This highly anticipated new school will have the capacity to serve up to 600 kindergarten to grade 6 students and will have been operating as a school-within-a-school' at Braeside School since the beginning of the 2017-18 school year.

You will recall that construction of Ron Southern School was originally expected to open on September 5, 2017, however the extremely ambitious construction timeline was unfortunately hampered by an unusually wet summer in 2016 and the colder than average winter that followed.

A letter will be sent to parents on September 6, 2017 to share this good news.

Yours truly,

Joy Bowen-Eyre
Chair, Board of Trustees

cc: Honourable Brian Mason, Minister of Infrastructure, Government House Leader
David Stevenson, Chief Superintendent of Schools, CBE
Dany Breton, Superintendent, Facilities and Environmental Services

**report to
Board of Trustees**

Proposed Amendment to GC-5: Board Committees

Date	September 12, 2017
Meeting Type	Regular Meeting, Public Agenda
To	Board of Trustees
Purpose	Decision
From	Joy Bowen-Eyre, Board Chair
Governance Policy Reference	Governance Culture GC-5: Board Committees

1 | Recommendation

THAT the Board of Trustees approves the amendment of GC-5: Board Committees, as attached to this report.

2 | Background

The reporting requirement for each Board committee has been moved from GC-5 to GC-5E and minor amendments made to provide better clarity on the reporting obligations of each Board committee to the Board of Trustees.

Attachment:

GC-5 and GC-5E showing proposed amendments



GOVERNANCE CULTURE
GC-5: Board Committees

Monitoring Method: Board Self-assessment
Monitoring Frequency: Annually

The Board may create committees if they are deemed helpful to assist the Board in the performance of its responsibilities. If committees are established, they will be used exclusively to support the work of the Board as described in Policy GC-3, and will never be created or used to assist the Chief Superintendent in any operational area.

- 5.1 Board committees and other such entities by whatever name created by the Board will not be used to direct, advise, assist or oversee employees. Committees customarily will prepare recommendations for Board consideration. Board committees will have no authority over employees, and may exercise demands on employee's time and organizational resources only to the extent authorized in this policy. Members are not entitled to any fees or compensation; however, external committee members may be reimbursed for actual out-of-pocket parking expenses to attend the Committee meetings.
- 5.2 Board committees may not speak or act for the Board. The responsibilities and authority of all Board committees are carefully stated in this policy to assure that committees fully understand their duties and extent of authority, and to assure that committee work will not usurp or conflict with the Board's own authority or conflict with authority delegated to the Chief Superintendent.
- 5.3 All Board committees are considered to be ad hoc, or temporary. The date for their termination is listed for each committee. Committees may be renewed or reauthorized upon their expiration, but unless the Board acts to renew the committee's existence, it shall cease to exist upon the date specified.
- 5.4 The Board shall appoint members to committees and these members shall serve at the pleasure of the Board. Committee membership shall be reviewed annually at the Organizational Meeting and more frequently if the Board of Trustees so determines.

- 5.5 Board committees may or may not include members of the Board.
- 5.6 Meetings of committees may be held publicly or in private, at the discretion of the Board. The committees may hold its meetings, and members of the committee may attend meetings by electronic means, provided all meeting attendees can hear each other.
- 5.7 Chairpersons shall establish the agendas for meetings, ensure that properly prepared agenda materials are circulated to the members with sufficient time for study prior to the meeting, and be responsible for reporting to the Board of Trustees ~~with minutes following each meeting as required in GC-5E.~~
- 5.8 ~~Minutes of all meetings of Board committees shall be provided to the Board of Trustees by the Chair and filed with the Board of Trustees for the corporate record and indicate at least the following information:~~
- ~~a. date and place of meeting;~~
 - ~~b. attendees;~~
 - ~~c. record of decisions and who is assigned any actions arising; and~~
 - ~~d. date, time and place of next meeting.~~
- 5.9 ~~All Committees shall report annually to the Board of Trustees on the Committee's responsibilities and how it has discharged them.~~
- 5.10 All Board committees are listed in GC-5E.

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Adopted: February 10, 2015

GOVERNANCE CULTURE

GC-5E: Board Committees Terms of Reference

Monitoring Method: Board Self-assessment

Monitoring Frequency: Annually

1. Audit Committee

a. Purpose/Charge:

- To recommend external auditors.
- To review annually the external auditors' performance, reporting any issues.
- To serve as liaison to the external auditors, and arrange a meeting with the Board of Trustees prior to public presentation of the annual audited statements.
- To review and recommend approval of the annual audit plan.
- To review and report on the annual financial statements and audit findings report.
- To review with the external auditors the auditing process, any significant difficulties encountered during the audit including any restrictions on scope of work or access to required information.
- To meet at least two times annually as a Committee and at least once annually with the external auditors.
- To receive and review internal audit reports.

b. Membership:

A minimum of five individuals comprised of:

- two trustees; and
- not less than three individuals external to the Calgary Board of Education.

The Committee Chair shall be one of the trustee members, appointed by the Board of Trustees. All meetings must have one trustee present.

c. Reporting Schedule:

Following each meeting and annually to the Board of Trustees. Minutes of all meetings of the Audit Committee shall be provided to the Board of Trustees by the Chair and filed with the Board of Trustees for the corporate record and indicate at least the following information:

- date and place of meeting;

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Monitoring Method: Board Self-assessment
Monitoring Frequency: Annually

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Audit Committee *(Continued)*

- attendees;
- record of decisions and who is assigned any actions arising

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The Committee shall report at least annually to the Board of Trustees on the Committee's responsibilities and how it has discharged them.

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- d. **Term:**
One year, appointment at the Board of Trustees' Organizational Meeting. External members normally serve three-year terms for a maximum of six years with expirations staggered to achieve continuity of leadership.
- e. **Authority Over District Resources:**
None.

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| Adopted: ~~May 27, 2014~~

Monitoring Method: Board Self-assessment
Monitoring Frequency: Annually

2. **Board Evaluation Committee**

a. **Purpose/Charge:**

To recommend to the Board of Trustees a plan for the:

- annual summative Board self-evaluation each September;
- annual monitoring of all Governance Culture policies;
- annual monitoring of all Board-Chief Superintendent Relationship policies; and
- annual Chief Superintendent's summative evaluation each January.

b. **Membership:**

A minimum of two trustees:

- One trustee will serve as Chair of the Committee as determined by the Board of Trustees at the Organizational meeting.

c. **Reporting Schedule:**

~~Following each meeting and annually to the Board of Trustees.~~
The Committee Chair shall report at least annually to the Board of Trustees on the Committee's responsibilities and how it has discharged them.

d. **Term:**

One year, appointment at the Board of Trustees' Organizational Meeting.

e. **Authority Over District Resources:**

None.

| Adopted: ~~November 27, 2012~~

Monitoring Method: Board Self-assessment
Monitoring Frequency: Annually

3. **School Naming Committee**

a. **Purpose/Charge:**

- To provide recommendations to the Board of Trustees for the naming or renaming of a school.
- To ensure that the reputation of the Corporation is given the highest priority when making recommendations for school naming.
- To consider Corporation values and be guided by the following principles:
 - (1) Names of schools should provide meaningful learning opportunities for students.
 - (2) Schools may be named:
 - for the districts in which they are located; or
 - for locations or events that show great Canadian historical significance; or after a Canadian individual of recognized stature, whose life work aligns with achievement of the organizational *Results*, or who has demonstrated exemplary achievement of the organizational Results; or
 - by any other name that may be deemed appropriate by the Board of Trustees.
 - (3) When naming schools after individuals, the use of the names of individuals who are deceased or who have retired will be considered first.
 - (4) Prior to naming a school after an individual, that individual or immediate family will be requested to grant permission.
 - (5) Except for high schools, it will be the practice to exclude grade configurations as part of the school name.

School Naming Committee (Continued)

- (6) Engagement Consultation with the ~~school~~ community ~~to~~ consistent with CBE's dialogue framework ~~discuss the~~ matter must take place prior to making a recommendation to the Board.

b. Membership:

- Chair: Ward Trustee for the community in which the school is located, or alternate trustee, as designated by the Board. The Committee Chair must be present at all meetings;
- Chair or Vice-Chair of the Board, or alternate trustee, as designated by the Board;
- Corporate Secretary or designee;
- Area Director or designee;
- School community representatives (at least 2-3 members);
- Other member(s) as determined by the Board.

c. Reporting Schedule:

The Committee Chair shall report As required for Board approval of the school name.

Minutes of all meetings of the School Naming Committee shall be provided to the Board of Trustees by the Chair and filed with the Board of Trustees for the corporate record and indicate at least the following information:

- date and place of meeting;
- attendees;
- record of decisions and who is assigned any actions arising.

d. Term:

As determined by the Board of Trustees and convened by the Corporate Secretary's Office in consultation with the Ward Trustee, terminating upon approval of a name for the particular school.

e. Authority Over District Resources:

None.



| Adopted: ~~November 1, 2016~~

Monitoring Method: Board Self-assessment
Monitoring Frequency: Annually

4. **Strategic Dialogue and Public Engagement Committee**

a. **Purpose/Charge:**

- To build on the work accomplished in connecting with community, business and thought leaders, parents and students
- To draft a schedule of dialogue meetings and topics
- To recommend appropriate learning opportunities for the Board of Trustees
- To provide recommendations to the Board of Trustees related to how we can increase and improve opportunities for public participation in governance of the Calgary Board of Education.

b. **Membership:**

All trustees, one of whom will serve as the Chair of the Committee as determined by the Board of Trustees.

c. **Reporting Schedule:**

| ~~The Committee Chair shall~~ ~~Regular~~ reports to the Board of Trustees, as determined by the Committee.

d. **Term:**

One year

e. **Authority Over District Resources:**

None.

| Adopted: ~~October 28, 2014~~

Monitoring Method: Board Self-assessment
Monitoring Frequency: Annually

5. **Trustee Remuneration Committee**

a. **Purpose/Charge:**

- To review trustee remuneration, including trustee remuneration levels, taking into consideration budgetary, economic and other relevant factors.
- To recommend continuation of or changes to Board policy on remuneration.
- To meet at least once every two years, or more often as requested by the Committee Chair.

b. **Membership:**

- Two trustees, one of whom will serve as Chair of the Committee as determined by the Board of Trustees at the Organizational meeting;
- At least one parent representative;
- One Calgary corporate community representative; and
- At least one other stakeholder of the Corporation.

c. **Reporting Schedule:**

The Committee Chair shall submit its recommendations regarding trustee remuneration levels for a school year at least six weeks prior to the Board of Trustees' approval of the Corporation's operating budget for such school year.

Minutes of all meetings of the Trustee Remuneration Committee shall be provided to the Board of Trustees by the Chair and filed with the Board of Trustees for the corporate record and indicate at least the following information:

- date and place of meeting;
- attendees;
- record of decisions and who is assigned any actions arising.

The Committee shall report at least annually to the Board of Trustees on the Committee's responsibilities and how it has discharged them.

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d. **Term:**

Trustees are appointed for a one-year term at the Board of Trustees' Organizational meeting. External Committee members shall be appointed for a four-year term. The membership timelines for external members shall be staggered, to provide continuity.

e. **Quorum:**

At least one trustee and two external Committee members.

f. **Authority Over District Resources:**

None.

Adopted: ~~April 5, 2016~~



Monitoring Method: Board Self-assessment
Monitoring Frequency: Annually

6. Agenda Planning Committee

a. Purpose/Charge:

On behalf of the Board, and consistent with the Board's Annual Work Plan, to prepare board meeting agendas that will:

- focus on furthering the Board's work;
- consciously tie each item on the agenda to the pertinent governing policy to ensure that the Board is doing the Board's work; and
- schedule the majority of the Board's time to be spent on Results for student achievement.

The Committee will:

- determine if and when issues referred to the Board are to be placed on a board agenda; and
- complete the *Trustee Agenda Request* forms with the Committee's decision.

b. Membership:

- All trustees
- Board Vice-Chair to chair this Committee
- Chief Superintendent
- Corporate Secretary

c. Reporting Schedule:

Proposed board meeting agendas will be available to Board members and senior administration in advance of the Board meeting.

d. Authority Over District Resources:

None.

Adopted: June 22, 2015

report to Board of Trustees

Correspondence

Date	September 12, 2017
Meeting Type	Regular Meeting, Public Agenda
To	Board of Trustees
From	Kelly-Ann Fenney Office of the Corporate Secretary
Purpose	Information
Governance Policy Reference	Operational Expectations OE-8: Communication With and Support for the Board

1 | Recommendation

The following correspondence is being provided to the Board for information:

- Letter dated June 27, 2017 from Board Chair to the Hon. D. Eggen, Minister of Education re: Ministerial approval for disposition of a portion of lands pertaining to the Nelson Mandela High School property.
- Letter dated June 30, 2017 from Dr. David Swann, Leader of the Liberal Opposition, MLA Calgary-Mountain-View, to the Board Chair, re: proposed changes CBE bell times and student busing.

Attachments: Relevant Correspondence





Board Chair

Joy Bowen-Eyre Wards 1 & 2

Vice-Chair

Trina Hurdman Wards 6 & 7

Trustees

Lynn Ferguson Wards 3 & 4

Pamela King Wards 5 & 10

Judy Hehr Wards 8 & 9

Julie Hrdlicka Wards 11 & 13

Amber Stewart Wards 12 & 14

June 27, 2017

Honourable David Eggen
Minister of Education
228 Legislature Building
10800 – 97 Avenue
Edmonton, Alberta T5K 2B6

Dear Minister Eggen:

Re: Disposition of a Portion of School Lands – Nelson Mandela High School

The Calgary Board of Education (CBE) is requesting Ministerial approval for disposition of a portion of lands pertaining to the Nelson Mandela High School property, located at 45 Saddletowne Circle NE, Calgary, Alberta.

The school property boundary currently includes a portion of sidewalk and road infrastructure (driveway) along the perimeter of the site. A property boundary adjustment is required to exclude these elements as they are considered municipal infrastructure and hence should be under municipal control and responsibility.

The school property is jointly owned by the CBE and City of Calgary. The boundary adjustment, as detailed in Attachment I, will require the CBE to relinquish title to a 0.13 acre portion of lands. The disposition will be registered for nominal value as the lands are Reserve lands.

On June 27, 2017, and the following motions were passed by the Board of Trustees:

THAT the Board of Trustees approves the disposition of a portion of school lands as outlined in this report.

THAT the Board of Trustees authorizes the Chair to correspond with the Minister of Education, as per the attached letter.

Further to the Board motion noted above, and in accordance with Alberta Land Title requirements, the CBE hereby requests Ministerial approval for disposition of a portion of school lands described legally as Plan 1510804; Block; 1; Lot 4MSR.

Sincerely,

Joy Bowen-Eyre, Chair
Board of Trustees

cc David Stevenson, Chief Superintendent
Dany Breton, Superintendent, Facilities and Environmental Services



June 30, 2017

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY
ALBERTA

Joy Bowen-Eyre
Chair, Board of Trustees
Calgary Board of Education
1221 - 8th Street S.W.
Calgary, Alberta T2R 0L4

Dr. David Swann, MLA
Calgary-Mountain View Constituency

Dear Ms. Bowen-Eyre:

My office has been contacted by numerous parents voicing concerns about the proposed changes to bell times and student busing for the upcoming 2017-18 school year.

Particularly in situations involving feeder/affiliated schools where families find themselves with children in more than one CBE school, parents are telling me that the proposed changes will amount to something of a logistical nightmare. In at least one extreme case, I am aware that parents will be facing a differential of as much as an hour and five minutes between their children's bell times.

Many parents are expressing real anxiety – not to mention serious doubts – that they'll be able to make it all work. For some, it could mean needing to dramatically alter their work schedules, or even re-evaluating their employment situations entirely. In other cases, before and/or after school care may be required to help bridge any gaps. Regrettably, not every family has viable options in these areas.

Parents have also told me they're very concerned about the possibility of funding being diverted from the classroom to help pay for busing fee changes. Perhaps you could confirm if that is something the CBE anticipates it will have to do to comply with Bill 1.

The irony here, of course, is that all these changes started innocently enough with a provincial government plan to try to reduce school and busing fees – a laudable goal that the Alberta Liberals support as well, but one that seems to have left some parents of CBE students struggling to see any net benefit. After all, if getting a break on school and busing fees means one parent having to quit a job or a family having to spend more money on child care, it's hard to see how that constitutes progress.

It has recently come to my attention that some schools are trying to develop their own options to help affected families to the greatest extent possible. Again, while this is commendable, many would have preferred to see leadership or flexibility come from the CBE itself.

Now that the 2016-17 school year has concluded, I strongly encourage you and your board colleagues to revisit the upcoming bell times and busing arrangements for at least the most severely impacted schools. Working families deserve your understanding and support.

Sincerely,

Dr. David Swann
Leader of the Liberal Opposition
MLA Calgary-Mountain-View

c.c. Trina Hurdman, CBE Trustee, Wards 6 and 7