

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 7, 2017 at 12:00 noon

MEETING ATTENDANCE

Board of Trustees:

Trustee T. Hurdman, Chair
Trustee A. Adams
Trustee M. Bradshaw
Trustee L. Davis
Trustee M. Dennis
Trustee R. Hehr
Trustee J. Hrdlicka

Administration:

Mr. D. Stevenson, Chief Superintendent of Schools
Ms. S. Church, Deputy Chief Superintendent of Schools
Mr. D. Breton, Superintendent, Facilities and Environmental Services
Ms. J. Everett, Superintendent, Learning
Mr. G. Francis, Superintendent, Human Resources/General Counsel
Mr. B. Grundy, Superintendent, Finance/Technology Services
Ms. M. Martin-Esposito, Chief Communications Officer
Ms. K. Fenney, Director, Legal Services & Corporate Secretary
Ms. T. Minor, Associate Corporate Secretary
Ms. K. Maxwell, Recording Secretary

Stakeholder Representatives:

Ms. H. Colbourne, Senior High School Principals’ Association
Ms. L. Gaffney, Principals’ Association for Adolescent Learners (PAAL)
Mr. A. Herscovitch, Calgary Board of Education Staff Association
Ms. J. Hugill, Elementary School Principals’ Association
Mr. K. Kempt, Alberta Teachers’ Association, Local 38
Mr. T. Killam, Canadian Union of Public Employees, Local 40
Ms. A Taylor, Elementary School Principals’ Association

1 | CALL TO ORDER, NATIONAL ANTHEM AND WELCOME

Chair Hurdman called the meeting to order at 12:11 p.m. on the link and O Canada was led by Lord Beaverbrook High School’s Hard Choral Vocal Jazz Ensemble. The meeting reconvened in the Multipurpose Room.

Chair Hurdman acknowledged the traditional territories and oral practices of the Blackfoot Nations, which includes the Siksika, the Piikani, and the Kainai. She also acknowledged the Tsuut’ina and Stoney Nakoda First Nations, the Métis Nation (Region 3), and all people who make their homes in the Treaty 7 region of Southern Alberta. She acknowledged and welcomed staff, the public and representatives from the aforementioned organizations.

2 | **CONSIDERATION/APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Ms. P. Minor, Associate Corporate Secretary, noted Public Comment is being moved to follow the Legacy Award and re-numbered as Item 4, with the remaining agenda items re-numbered accordingly. In addition, the Summary of the 2016-17 Provincial Achievement Test and Diploma Examination Results is to be moved from under the Consent Agenda and added as Item 5.2 under the Results Focus. Finally, the Minutes of the Special Meeting held September 27, 2017 is to be removed from the Consent Agenda and added as Item 7.1 under Matters Reserved for Board Action.

MOVED by Trustee Dennis:

THAT the Agenda for the Regular Meeting of November 7, 2017, be approved as submitted, subject to the above-noted revisions.

The motion was
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

3 | **AWARDS AND RECOGNITIONS**

3.1 **CBE Legacy Award**

Chair Hurdman noted that the CBE Legacy Award celebrates public education in Calgary and individuals who have contributed to our communities. Legacy Award recipients embody the work of the public education system and represent the legacy of the CBE, preparing students for life, work and continued learning and inspiring life-long learning. She expressed that it is an honour to present the Legacy Award to Dr. Robert Thirsk, a graduate of Lord Beaverbrook High School. She noted he is an astronaut, engineer, physician, Chancellor of the University of Calgary, and the namesake of one of the CBE's high schools. She also noted that he holds the Canadian record for the longest space flight and most time in space.

Dr. Thirsk shared comments of appreciation for the CBE's tribute. He noted that although it's been 45 years since he was a CBE student the quality of the teaching and the student-focused orientation has remained the same. Dr. Thirsk said that his education, from elementary to post-secondary, provided a foundation for his dreams and that he is a strong believer in life-long learning. He thanked the CBE, the teachers who are engaged with students daily, and the Board of Trustees for the honour.

On behalf of the Board, Chair Hurdman presented Dr. Thirsk with a piece of artwork that was created by a student from Lord Beaverbrook High School, representing the CBE Legacy Award.

4 | **PUBLIC COMMENT**

Ms. Sara Peden noted she is not representing any group, but her experience as a former CBE psychologist and recent conversations with many Calgarians leads her to believe her views are shared by many. She said her comments are intended for all strategies contained within the CBE Three-Year Educational Plan, but since the Mathematics Strategy is on the meeting's agenda her comments are directed towards it. Her belief is the Mathematics Strategy articulates a process, rather a strategy with explicit outcomes.

She also questioned why system data had not been analyzed to determine if systemic problems are impacting math results. Ms. Peden commented that it is difficult for the public to see how their input has shaped the strategy as many asked for more repetition and memorization. She characterized the strategy as a “do more of what we have been doing, but do it better” plan benefitting those students who are already experiencing success. Ms. Peden urged the Board to ask Administration to re-draft the strategy based on, and targeted to, students who are not yet successful in math.

5 | RESULTS FOCUS

5.1 Board Development Session on Mathematics Strategy

Chief Superintendent Stevenson provided opening comments noting Administration presents Board Development Sessions to help build trustee familiarity with the CBE’s operational work.

Superintendent Everett noted the presentation is divided into three sections; the creation of the strategy, its content, and the implementation plans. She introduced Director Dr. Ronna Mosher and Learning Specialist Tracy Rand who delivered the presentation using PowerPoint slides. Content the slides covered included:

- How the Mathematics Strategy fits into the CBE Three-Year Education Plan 2016-2019
- The components that helped build the strategy:
 - Report card data and Provincial Achievement Test results
 - Research
 - Provincial context
 - Feedback from the stakeholder engagement sessions
- Detailed overview of the strategy noting the framework and priorities, key actions, and outcome
- Implementation plans including system-wide expectations and supports, school-based supports, teacher-specific learning opportunities, and common assessment resources

Administration responded to trustee questions on issues including: what is new in the strategy; Galileo Educational Network; number of schools participating; why the strategy is optional; research sources, publications and practitioner resources; report card data, Provincial Achievement Test and Diploma Examination results; instructional time devoted to math; student anxiety related to math; whether declining math scores can be correlated to reduced funding and increased student complexity; teacher supports for communicating math assessments; possibility of an elementary system-wide math assessment tool; criteria for choosing the math coaches; the grades and numbers of schools who will receive coaches; cohort strategy; supports available when creating school development plans and goals; standard algorithms; observation rubric; and future engagement plans.

The Chair, on behalf of the Board of Trustees, expressed appreciation for the work of Chief Superintendent Stevenson and staff in this informative presentation.

Recessed: 2:30 p.m.
Reconvened: 2:44 p.m.

5.2 Summary of the 2016-17 Provincial Achievement Test and Diploma Examination Results

Administration noted they had no comments to make and agreed to go directly to questions.

Administration responded to trustee questions on issues including: acceptable standard for English Language Arts; Grade 6 students meeting the acceptable standard in English Language Arts; cut scores; and participation rate versus the results.

6 | **OPERATIONAL EXPECTATIONS**

There were no items.

7 | **MATTERS RESERVED FOR BOARD ACTION**

7.1 Approval of Minutes

Chair Hurdman explained that the minutes of the Special Meeting held September 27, 2017 were removed from the Consent Agenda because section J(12)(b) of the Board Meeting Procedures states: *any Trustee who was absent from a Board of Trustees' meeting is not entitled to vote on the adoption of the minutes arising from that meeting. Such abstention shall be recorded. This provision is deemed to satisfy the requirements of Section 72(2)(a) of the School Act and no further motion in this regard is required.*

MOVED by Trustee Hrdlicka:

THAT the Board of Trustees approves the minutes of the Special Meeting held September 27, 2017 as submitted.

The motion was
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

In favour: Trustee Hrdlicka
Trustee Hurdman

Abstained: Trustee Adams
Trustee Bradshaw
Trustee Davis
Trustee Dennis
Trustee Hehr

8 | **CONSENT AGENDA**

The Chair noted that items on the consent agenda are approved with the agenda as follows:

8.1 Roster for Second Vice-Chair

THAT the Board of Trustees approves the roster for Second Vice-Chair for the period of November 2017 through August 2018 as submitted.

8.2 Items Provided for Board Information

8.2.1 EducationMatters – Financial Statements as at July 31, 2017

Recessed: 2:56 p.m.

Reconvened: 3:07 p.m.

9 | **IN-CAMERA SESSION**

Motion To Move In Camera

MOVED by Trustee Adams:

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 7, 2017, 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.

Motion To Revert To Public Meeting

MOVED by Trustee Hehr:

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

The motion was
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

10. **ADJOURNMENT**

Chair Hurdman declared the meeting adjourned at 4:19 p.m.