

## **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, February 13, 2018 at 12:00 p.m.

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### 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  
Mr. D. Breton, Superintendent, Facilities and Environmental Services  
Ms. J. Everett, Acting Deputy Chief Superintendent  
Mr. G. Francis, Superintendent, Human Resources/General Counsel  
Mr. B. Grundy, Superintendent, Finance/Technology Services  
Ms. M. Martin-Esposito, Chief Communications Officer  
Dr. R. Mosher, Acting Superintendent, Learning  
Ms. K. Fenney, Director, Legal Services and Corporate Secretary  
Ms. T. Minor, Associate Corporate Secretary  
Ms. D. Perrier, Recording Secretary

#### Stakeholder Representatives:

Ms. R. Harms, Elementary School Principals’ Association  
Mr. K. Kempt, Alberta Teachers’ Association, Local 38  
Mr. M. Wilson, Senior High School Principals’ Association

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

Chair Hurdman called the meeting to order at 12:01 p.m. and noted that as of today the Board meetings are being livestreamed online through YouTube for greater access by the public. The Division 2 Choir students from Grant MacEwan School came forward and led the singing of O Canada. On behalf of the Board of Trustees, Trustee Dennis expressed appreciation to Mrs. H. Fong, Music Teacher, and the Division 2 Choir for their performance of O Canada.

Chair Hurdman called forward Isiah, a Grade 4 student from Grant MacEwan School to acknowledge the lands. Isiah 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.

Chair Hurdman welcomed representatives from the aforementioned organizations, members of the public and staff.

## 2 | **CONSIDERATION/APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Ms. T. Minor, Associate Corporate Secretary, noted that Item 8.2.3, Impact of Proposed Amendments to Board Meeting Procedures, was removed from the agenda and that correspondence from the Minister of Alberta Education was added to the consent agenda as Item 8.2.4.

MOVED by Trustee Davis:

**THAT the Agenda for the Regular Meeting of February 13, 2018 be approved as submitted, subject to the above-noted changes.**

The motion was  
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

## 3 | **AWARDS AND RECOGNITIONS**

There were none.

## 4 | **RESULTS FOCUS**

### 4.1 **Grant MacEwan School Presentation**

Director D. Yee, Area 4, introduced the item, noting the presentation from Grant MacEwan School staff and students is on Results 2: Academic Success. She introduced and called forward Principal B. McPherson to commence the presentation.

Principal McPherson introduced Ms. I. Masciuch, Assistant Principal, and Ms. B. Mau, Vice Principal. She noted that for the past several years the focus of their School Development Plan has been on literacy and mathematics, with a strong emphasis on inquiry. Through a video recording, information was shared about the strategies they undertook to strengthen mathematics teaching techniques and learning. Illustrations were also provided of classroom work that was based on increased student use of mathematical manipulatives, mathematical vocabulary and students' ability to communicate mathematical reasoning. Vice-Principal Mau shared details about the focus of the teaching and learning at Grant MacEwan School over the past year. She provided some analytics of the data on their student achievement results, noting that significant improvements have been made as a result of the school's targeted decision-driven data collection and focused teaching strategies. Students Jahanwi, Neha and Elizabeth demonstrated a math learning experience with the use of dice.



On behalf of the Board of Trustees, Trustee Dennis expressed appreciation for the school presentation and demonstration of the learning environment at Grant MacEwan School.

#### 4.2 Results 2: Academic Success – Annual Monitoring

Chair Hurdman noted the annual monitoring report was introduced at the February 6, 2018 meeting where trustees posed questions and received clarification from Administration. The Board must now formally act on the monitoring report to determine whether reasonable progress has been made to the ultimate achievement of this Results policy.

MOVED by Trustee Hehr:

**THAT the Board has reviewed the monitoring report on Results 2: Academic Success and concludes that reasonable progress is being made toward the ultimate achievement of this Results policy.**

MOVED by Trustee Hrdlicka:

**THAT the motion be amended by the addition of “with the exception of First Nations, Métis and Inuit student achievement in all academic disciplines.”**

In debate of the amendment, comments from trustees included: Indigenous students continue to struggle in their learning; trends show a lack of sustainability in academic achievement for Indigenous students; our Three-Year Education Plan recognizes that the learning results for Indigenous students is an area of significant concern and there is a continued need for attention to this matter.

Chair Hurdman called for the vote on the amendment.

The amendment was  
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

MOVED by Trustee Davis:

**THAT the motion be amended by the addition of “and with the exception of student results in Mathematics.”**

Trustee comments in debate of the amendment included: declining student results in Mathematics were evident in the 2016-17 Provincial Achievement Tests; the monitoring reports from Administration acknowledge that targets were not met in specific areas of student achievement with Mathematics; student results in Mathematics was identified as a concern of the Board in 2016; in recognition of the importance to this matter, CBE staff are devoting significant resources to improving the Mathematics program; student results in specific areas of Mathematics have fallen below the provincial averages; results across the province have also declined over the past few years; report cards indicate that students are finding this subject area to be most challenging.



Chair Hurdman called for the vote on the amendment.

The amendment was  
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Trustees debated the main motion as amended, with comments including: over the past few months the Board has received a number of reports and information on student results and the vast majority of the targets were met for Results 2: Academic Success, indicating that reasonable progress has been made with exceptions as noted; incredible work takes place in our schools and our students are thinking critically and their confidence levels are inspiring; in many of the subject areas we are seeing good, improving and high results for which students, staff and parents are to be commended; and, we must continue working on the successes that have been made.

For clarification, the amended motion reads as follows:

**THAT the Board has reviewed the monitoring report on Results 2: Academic Success and concludes that reasonable progress is being made toward the ultimate achievement of this Results policy, with the exceptions of First Nations, Métis and Inuit student achievement in all academic disciplines, and student results in Mathematics.**

Chair Hurdman called for the vote on the motion as amended.

The motion was  
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

MOVED by Trustee Davis:

**THAT the Board of Trustees identifies a concern with the Grade 9 English Language Arts results.**

Trustee comments in debate of the motion included: the summary of 2016-17 Provincial Achievement Tests and Diploma Exam results for the Grade 9 Acceptable Standard show declining achievement levels over consecutive years and the current results have fallen below the provincial average; a decline in results at the Standard of Excellence level has occurred over consecutive years and have been lower than the provincial average for the past two years; literacy and English Language Arts are core foundational skills; and, the CBE has an opportunity to take a leadership role in literacy.

Chair Hurdman called for the vote on the motion.

The motion was  
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.



MOVED by Trustee Dennis:

1. **THAT the Board of Trustees directs the Chief Superintendent to review the indicators for R-2: Academic Success, for Board reaffirmation or approval by October 31, 2018;**
2. **THAT the Board of Trustees directs the Chief Superintendent to review the targets for R-2: Academic Success, for Board approval by November 30, 2018; and**
3. **THAT the Board of Trustees directs the Chief Superintendent to provide additional information, including strategies, revised targets and the assessment of the strategies for each of the areas identified as an exception or a concern by November 30, 2018.**

On a trustee point of information of whether the proposed dates and timelines are achievable, Chief Superintendent Stevenson stated that with respect to the third motion the date could be met with the Board's support of Administration shifting priorities. He noted that the dates proposed in parts 1 and 2 of the motion are problematic in that the system workloads are very heavy during that timeline. Chief Stevenson requested that the Board consider changing the dates to February 2019, to align with the existing monitoring report timelines. Additionally, both of the two processes will require collaborative time between the Board and Administration to progress that work.

MOVED by Trustee Hrdlicka:

**THAT the Board of Trustees amends part 1 and part 2 of the motion by changing the dates of October 31 and November 30, 2018 to February 28, 2019.**

In debate of the amendment, trustee comments included: this is great amount of work for Administration and Trustees to undertake together and it is important to do the work accurately without rushing the process; and, this work is of importance to trustees and the indicators and the targets should align with Board priorities.

A trustee raised a point of information about whether this delay might impact the monitoring focus of the Board, to which Administration responded that the monitoring timelines will not be affected, regardless of providing the information by 2018 or 2019, as the data will be unavailable until 2020.

Trustees continued to debate the amendment, with comments including: the proposed delay of one year does not reflect the urgency and expectation of parents and the public; trustees are obligated to this important work and it will involve extensive conversations, the Board needs to commit to this work and begin the conversations with Administration soon; and, with the use of the term "review" the possibility exists for targets and indicators to remain the same, and the conversation should occur .

Chair Hurdman called for the vote on the amendment.



The amendment was  
CARRIED.

In favour: Trustee Adams  
Trustee Bradshaw  
Trustee Dennis  
Trustee Hehr  
Trustee Hrdlicka  
Trustee Hurdman  
Opposed: Trustee Davis

Trustees debated the main motion as amended, with comments including: it is important that the Board understands the indicators and targets to ensure they are aligned with current policies, expectations and values; the work of reviewing policy indicators and targets is an opportunity for trustees to gain a better understanding of the structure and their roles in governance, and to own the indicators and targets for the Results policies.

Chair Hurdman called for the vote on the motion as amended.

The motion was  
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

MOVED by Trustee Davis:

**THAT the Board of Trustees directs the Chief Superintendent to provide an update on the progress of the Mathematics strategy, the Indigenous Education strategy and the Literacy strategy by April 30, 2018.**

The above motion incorporated a friendly amendment accepted by Trustee Davis to include the Indigenous Education strategy and the Literacy strategy.

On a trustee point of information of whether the proposed dates are achievable, Chief Superintendent Stevenson stated the dates are doable. He commented on having limited staff that typically spend most of their time in schools and who will have to be drawn from that environment to undertake these reports. He noted that new student data will be limited in that short time period and these reports will be more about the inputs and activities that have been undertaken.

Trustee comments in debate of the motion included: staff have been working diligently since last fall to improve Mathematics outcomes for our students and the Mathematics strategy is an important aspect to this work; it will be beneficial to have an update on the Mathematics strategy for this school year, including how the monitoring will take place; this strategy was funded out of a one-time allocation of Board reserves and communication on the implementation of this matter will help to inform the Board about how this fits in with our Three-Year Education Plan beyond the current school year; the system has focussed on and prioritized these strategies as very important work; and, it is essential to have conversations surrounding these strategies in a timely manner and in view of the upcoming budget considerations.



Chair Hurdman called for the vote on the motion.

The motion was  
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

MOVED by Trustee Davis:

**THAT the Board of Trustees directs the Chief Superintendent to provide the following reports by April 30, 2018:**

- **Grade 6 and 9 Mathematics Provincial Achievement Test results by school for the last three years, including the results for Part A and B portions, following the format used by Alberta Education;**
- **Math 30-1 and Math 30-2 results by school for the past three years, including the school-awarded mark and the Diploma mark, the difference between the two marks, and the Diploma Exam participation rates; and**
- **Grade 6 and 9 English Language Arts Provincial Achievement Test results by school for the past three years, including results for the reading and writing portions, as per the reports used by Alberta Education.**

The above motion incorporated a friendly amendment accepted by Trustee Davis to amend the date from March 20, 2018 to April 30, 2018.

Trustee comments in debate of the motion included: the information will provide the Board with the opportunity to review the many strengths and opportunities within the system and ensure the Board is well informed for decision-making for the upcoming school year; a school by school breakdown may assist in determining strengths and weaknesses; discussion of these matters may very well occur during the trustees' work in reviewing the indicators and targets for R-2; the use of resources and staff for the proposed timeline is concerning; much of this information is currently available to the public and can be obtained from Alberta Education's website; going forward, the larger conversation needs to occur regarding how the Board wishes to view student data across the system; and, it is important that those conversations should occur in tandem with the work that the Board is going to be doing in review of the indicators for next February.

Chair Hurdman called for the vote on the motion.

The motion was  
DEFEATED.

In favour:	Trustee Adams Trustee Bradshaw Trustee Davis
Opposed:	Trustee Dennis Trustee Hehr Trustee Hrdlicka Trustee Hurdman





Recessed: 1:30 p.m.  
Reconvened: 1:44 p.m.

#### 4.3 Board Development Session

Chief Superintendent Stevenson pointed out that our Three-Year Education Plan states that everyone contributes to the success of public education, and he noted that partnerships play an essential part in this success. Acting Superintendent Mosher introduced the presentation and called forward Director McLeod to provide highlights of how partnerships work to enhance the conditions for the success of every student.

A video provided a snapshot of students in action in some of the partnership learning programs. Director McLeod stated that with so many partners, this presentation will highlight just a few to demonstrate how partners support learning for CBE students. She introduced from Corporate Partnerships, Specialists T. Cooper and P. Kerber and noted they work closely with partners to enhance the learning experiences of students and that work involves: connecting funds, experiences and expertise to ensure the greatest impact on learning; supporting schools and service units around policies and regulations in their work with partners; and stewarding relationships and recognizing contributions.

Partners come from the private, corporate, public and not-for-profit sectors and they include individuals or large agencies. Partners invest significant amounts of time through mentorship, expertise and volunteering. Post-secondary partners provide a number of dual credit courses to high school students who are able to register in post-secondary courses while they are completing high school. Donations of facilities, such as theaters, recreation centres and laboratories allow students enhanced experiences to learn and grow outside of their schools. Partners offer services that span all areas from mental health, to nutrition, to supporting new Canadians. Partnerships range from formal agreements that are often linked to system initiatives or specific programs, to school-based partnerships that meet individual school needs.

Many projects offered through partnerships have a direct impact on Citizenship, Personal Development, Character and teaching and learning practices. All of the CBE's partner opportunities have at their core a focus on personalized learning and creating conditions for success. While many of our partner programs focus directly on students, others work with teachers to build their skills and understandings in highly specialized areas.

Through commentary, PowerPoint slides and videos, the presentation covered further in-depth specifics about many of the CBE partnership initiatives and the experiences they provide for our students and teachers. Last year, over \$810,000 was donated to the CBE through partnerships, and over \$4,500,000 of in-kind donations were gifted.

The CBE values its partners and finds many ways to acknowledge their contributions, including: simple thankyou notes; the Better Together Breakfast event; having partners see first-hand the impact that they are making with our students; and, where possible, having partners visit the school sites they are supporting, or receiving feedback and impact statements from our students.





With respect to measures of success, the impact of each partnership is measured differently. Measures of success may include: the evidence of growth in the participation rate; data components that are embedded in the initiative itself; anecdotal reporting that is collected from students, parents and school based staff; and regular interactions with our partners to ensure that our visions are aligned and that programs conform to our administrative regulations and our strategic direction.

The presentation concluded with Administration noting that they will continue to steward and nurture existing partnerships and will look to partners to fill new and unanticipated needs.

Administration addressed trustees' questions on matters including: the different breakfast support programs that are provided to students from Kindergarten through high school; the process for identifying specific issues and schools that are in need; the potential challenges to partnership initiatives in relation to Calgary's economic downturn; and the different ways that the CBE provides support for some partners.

On behalf of the Board of Trustees, Chair Hurdman expressed appreciation to CBE Administration and staff for the informative presentation.

## 5 | **OPERATIONAL EXPECTATIONS**

There were no items.

## 6 | **PUBLIC COMMENT**

There were no public comments.

## 7 | **MATTERS RESERVED FOR BOARD ACTION**

There were no items.

## 8 | **CONSENT AGENDA**

Chair Hurdman stated that items on the Consent Agenda are approved, as follows:

### 8.1 **OE-10: Instructional Program – Annual Monitoring**

**THAT the Board of Trustees approves that the Chief Superintendent is in compliance with the provisions of policy OE-10: Instructional Program.**

### 8.2 **Items Provided for Board Information**

- 8.2.1 Chief Superintendent's Update
- 8.2.2 Construction Projects Status Update
- 8.2.3 Correspondence



Chair Hurdman stated the Board of Trustees would meet in camera to discuss one labour matter and one strategic governance matter. She noted the next public meeting of the Board of Trustees is scheduled for Tuesday, March 6, 2018.

Recessed: 2:27 p.m.  
Reconvened: 2:49 p.m.

9 | **IN-CAMERA SESSION**

Motion To Move In Camera

MOVED by Trustee Hrdlicka:

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, February 13, 2018, 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.

Trustee Bradshaw departed a portion of the meeting due to a declared pecuniary interest in accordance with Section 83(1) of the *School Act*.

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 5:20 p.m.

