

CALGARY BOARD OF EDUCATION

Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees (the "Board") held on Tuesday, May 26, 2020 at 11:00 a.m. through Skype

MEETING ATTENDANCE (Virtual)

Board of Trustees:

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

Administration:

Mr. C. Usih, Chief Superintendent of Schools
Ms. K. Fenney, General Counsel
Ms. T. Minor, Corporate Secretary

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Dennis called the meeting to order at 11:00 a.m. All Trustees and Superintendents in attendance confirmed they were alone and in a location that no other person could hear them or any part of this meeting.

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, May 26, 2020, 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.

Absent due to technical difficulties:
Trustee Bradshaw



Recessed: 11:47 a.m.

MEETING ATTENDANCE (Virtual)

Board of Trustees:

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

Administration:

Mr. C. Usih, Chief Superintendent of Schools
Mr. R. Armstrong, Superintendent, Human Resources
Mr. D. Breton, Superintendent, Facilities and Environmental Services
Ms. K. Fenney, General Counsel
Mr. B. Grundy, Superintendent, Finance/Technology Services
Ms. M. Martin-Esposito, Chief Communications Officer
Ms. J. Pitman, Superintendent, School Improvement
Dr. D. Yee, Superintendent, School Improvement
Ms. T. Minor, Corporate Secretary
Ms. D. Perrier, Board Administrator

1 | CALL TO ORDER, NATIONAL ANTHEM AND WELCOME

Chair Dennis called the meeting to order at 12:01 p.m. and O Canada was led by students from Fish Creek School by way of a pre-recorded video.

Chair Dennis 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.

The Chair welcomed all trustees, superintendents, staff and the public participating in the virtual public Board meeting.

2 | CONSIDERATION/APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Ms. Minor, Corporate Secretary, noted there were no changes to the agenda.

MOVED by Trustee Hehr:

THAT the Board of Trustees approves the agenda for the Regular Meeting of May 26, 2020 as submitted.



The motion was
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Chair Dennis gave the following statement:

“Last week, we received a copy of the report related to the Financial Cost Management and Governance Review of the CBE and the associated Ministerial Order. If this report were a report card, it would reflect success in some areas, but less than exemplary performance in others.

We appreciate the observations and recommendations outlined in the Auditors Report. It gives us the opportunity to see ourselves through a different lens. We will reflect on those recommendations as we continue to adjust. There is always room for improvement. As your democratically, locally elected school board, we are up to the task.

Comments have been made recently that while some of the necessary changes have been occurring, the rate at which change is happening is too slow. We wholeheartedly agree. This is why over the last number of months the Board has been considering its processes and what we need to do differently to help us work more effectively and efficiently.

We have work to do in order to comply with the directives contained in the Ministerial Order. This work is our responsibility and we will do it. In cooperation with the Chief Superintendent, we have already begun to identify who will lead the work on each of the directives in the Ministerial Order. We will assess each of the corrections that are called for. We will start immediately to develop a work plan to fully implement the directives according to the timeline imposed on us. We are moving as quickly as possible and we will not fail you.

The situation we are in today has created some turmoil – for that we apologize. We can assure you, that even in the midst of this, we will stay focused. We will serve our students, the citizens of Calgary and this organization with the dignity they deserve. We will govern with integrity. Our public dialogue will continue to be respectful, truthful and transparent.

As we work, we are committed to providing you regular updates on our progress. We accept that a number of things have happened in the past, we accept responsibility and we are moving forward. That was then, this is now. The Minister has given us six months and we are taking advantage of this opportunity to become the best board possible.

We will continue to make decisions in the best interest of the more than 126,000 students we serve.”

3 | **AWARDS AND RECOGNITIONS**

There were no awards or recognitions.



4 | **RESULTS FOCUS**

There were no reports or presentations.

5 | **OPERATIONAL EXPECTATIONS**

There were no reports.

6 | **PUBLIC COMMENT**

Vice-Chair Adams read the public comment received from parent, Ms. N. Burkinshaw. Ms. Burkinshaw's written statement expressed concern about the changes to transportation service levels for students attending the Deaf and Hard of Hearing program at Queen Elizabeth High School. She expressed her belief that moving these students to Calgary transit fails to consider their complex needs and travel time. She pointed out that this is not a program of choice, but a specialized setting. Ms. Burkinshaw noted that while she understands the CBE budgetary constraints, this decision does not fit the values of the Board to put students first.

7 | **MATTERS RESERVED FOR BOARD INFORMATION**

There were no reports.

8 | **MATTERS RESERVED FOR BOARD DECISION**

8.1 **Students Come First | Budget Report for 2020-21**

Chair Dennis stated the budget report was presented at the May 19, 2020 Regular meeting, where trustees posed questions and received clarification from Administration on various matters. The budget is now before the Board for consideration.

Superintendent Usih provided an update related to the Bowness Discovering Choices Outreach Program, stating that the program will remain open for the fall of 2020. Subsequent to receiving feedback from staff, students and other key stakeholders, and considering the evolving situation with COVID-19, Administration will delay consolidating the Discovering Choices Outreach Programs to provide more time for student transitions and to work through the decision-making process as required.

MOVED by Trustee Hurdman:

THAT the Board of Trustees approves the 2020-21 budget as reflected in Attachment I to the report and authorizes its submission to Alberta Education.

Trustee comments in debate of the motion included: this is a time of transition with the new funding model provided by Alberta Education and this will be the first year of several that will require us to do things differently; the provincial education budget is frozen, at



best, despite net increase in enrolment, which means the funding per student will continue to go down for the foreseeable future; we need to change how we fund schools; the new equity allocation model that we are moving towards is appreciated; the decision made by trustees earlier in the year to raise transportation fees was a very difficult decision but necessary to balance the transportation budget; these changes will be difficult for a great many people to accept; this is a forward looking budget that is responsible and aligns with direction given by Alberta Education; we are in the middle of a pandemic and there is uncertainty in knowing what the coming school year will look like; the budget is our Mission statement in practice and some students will be successful through this budget and some students will suffer - this is not an easy decision to make; this new funding formula has given us an opportunity to dig deep into our program offerings towards finding sustainability; families will be impacted with increased fees, higher class sizes and changes in programming; budgeting for full-day Kindergarten programs in 16 CBE schools is important and appreciated; we previously received direct and indirect funding of \$10 million in RCSD and that has been cut by nearly \$7 million; the equity allocation is a work in progress to be implemented over the next four years and will require close monitoring; challenges with this budget surround equity allocation, particularly in relation to our drop out rates, the reduction of 16 EDC sites to 3 locations and bussing to only 1 of those sites, and the reduction in resources for support to LGBTQ, Indigenous and culturally diverse students; and appreciation for Alberta Education and the team that worked on the Assurance and Funding Framework and to CBE Administration for their creativity and having those difficult discussions and making challenging decisions and recommendations.

Chair Dennis called for the vote on the motion.

The motion was
CARRIED.

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

MOVED by Trustee Bradshaw:

THAT the Board of Trustees approves that the second paragraph in Section A.1. of Governance Culture 2E: Trustee Remuneration be amended to remove the wording “September 2020” and replace it with “September 2022”.

Trustee comments in debate of the motion included: it would not be appropriate for the trustees to take an increase in remuneration; the dedicated work and commitment of the Trustee Remuneration Committee is greatly appreciated; the work of trustees on the Committee and of the Board as whole is also commended for the many hours undertaken in dedication to students and stakeholders; and trustees have held the line on remuneration for the past ten years, disregarding the Committee recommendation to adjust trustee honoraria according to the most recent three-year rolling average of Statistics Canada annual published Calgary Consumer Price Index.



Chair Dennis called for the vote on the motion.

The motion was
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

9 | **CONSENT AGENDA**

Chair Dennis noted the following items approved as submitted with the consent agenda:

9.1 Items Provided for Board Approval

9.1.1 Governance Culture and Board/Chief Superintendent Relationship Governance Policies - Board of Trustees' Annual Self-Evaluation

THAT the Board of Trustees approves the Board's self-evaluation report as developed during the evaluation workshop of April 29, 2020.

9.2 Items Provided for Board Information

9.2.1 Correspondence

Chair Dennis stated that the Board would meet in camera following the public portion of the meeting to discuss one legal, one land and two strategic planning matters. She noted the next public Board meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, June 9, 2020.

Recessed: 12:54 p.m.
Reconvened: 1:18 p.m.

10 | **IN-CAMERA SESSION**

All Trustees and Superintendents confirmed they were alone and in a location that no other person could hear them or any part of this meeting.

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, May 26, 2020, 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.

MOTIONS TO ACTION IN-CAMERA RECOMMENDATIONS

MOVED by Trustee Bradshaw:

THAT, subject to any non-material adjustments to the *Audit Planning Report to the Audit Committee* (the “Planning Report”) made by the Chief Financial Officer, the Planning Report for the year ending August 31, 2020 be approved by the Board of Trustees as submitted.

The motion was
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

MOVED by Trustee Hrdlicka:

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

The motion was
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

11 | **ADJOURNMENT**

Chair Dennis declared the meeting adjourned at 2:09 p.m.

