

## **CALGARY BOARD OF EDUCATION**

Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees (the “Board”) held in the Multipurpose Room, Education Centre, 1221 8th Street SW, Calgary, Alberta, on Tuesday, November 23, 2021 at 12:00 p.m.

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### MEETING ATTENDANCE

#### Board of Trustees:

Trustee L. Hack, Chair  
Trustee P. Bolger  
Trustee N. Close  
Trustee M. Dennis  
Trustee D. Downey  
Trustee C. May  
Trustee S. Vukadinovic

#### 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  
Ms. A. Holowka, Superintendent, School Improvement  
Ms. T. Minor, Corporate Secretary  
Ms. M. Broda, Board Administrator

#### Stakeholders:

Mr. J. Sturgeon, Senior High School Principals’ Association

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

Chair Hack called the meeting to order at 12:00 p.m. and O Canada was led by students from Fish Creek School by way of pre-recorded video.

Chair Hack 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 Hack welcomed staff, public members, and union representatives participating both in person and virtually in the Board meeting.



**2 | CONSIDERATION/ APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Ms. Minor, Corporate Secretary, noted there was a request for the addition of Board Chair Opening Comments to be added to the agenda as item 3.0 and for all remaining agenda items to be renumbered.

MOVED by Trustee: Downey

**THAT the Board of Trustees approves the agenda for the Regular Meeting of November 23, 2021 subject to the changes noted above.**

The motion was  
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

**3 | BOARD CHAIR OPENING COMMENTS**

The following statement was read by Chair Hack:

Throughout this pandemic, the CBE has acted to protect the health and safety of students, employees, and the community. It has worked to minimize disruptions in schools and give all students the opportunity to participate in their learning. Most recently, the CBE mandated COVID-19 vaccinations for employees, partners, contractors, and volunteers.

The Board of Trustees support the health measures that have been taken to date to protect our CBE community. As such, we would like to declare that each of us has been fully vaccinated against COVID-19.

**4 | AWARDS AND RECOGNITIONS**

There were no awards or recognitions.

**5 | RESULTS FOCUS**

There were no reports or presentations.

**6 | OPERATIONAL EXPECTATIONS**

There were no reports or presentations.

**7 | PUBLIC COMMENT**

There were no public comments.

**8 | MATTERS RESERVED FOR BOARD INFORMATION**

**8.1 Fourth Quarter Budget Variance Analysis Report**

Superintendent Grundy presented the report, stating that it provides a comprehensive financial summary of the 2020-2021 school year, focusing on how the CBE's activities



aligned or varied from the plan put forward in the CBE's 2020-2021 Budget approved by the Board in May 2020. Superintendent Grundy noted the budget was approved before the government had released its back to school plan and it was still not known if the school year would be fully remote, in person, or a mix.

Administration responded to trustee questions on matters including: managing funding with growing enrolment; funding for the Literacy Initiative for New Canadians (LINC) and English Language Learners (ELL) programs; Infrastructure Maintenance Renewal (IMR) capital projects that were deferred; areas the insurance premiums have increased; reasoning for the services, contracts and supplies expenditure variance; possibility of having a surplus this school year; timing to discuss optimal operating reserve levels; class sizes; how often buildings are assessed; and the CBE taking on the task of assessing buildings.

## 9 | **MATTERS RESERVED FOR BOARD DECISION**

### 9.1 **2020-2021 Year-end Financial Results and Audited Financial Statements**

Chief Superintendent Usih introduced the report, stating that this report, and the Fourth Quarter Budget Variance Analysis, both contain a significant amount of information and support the CBE's objectives of being transparent and accountable to the public.

Superintendent Grundy provided context to the report, noting that the statements highlight a unique year defined by the COVID-19 pandemic. He highlighted some important information which included: revenue was impacted significantly; increased funding was received from the Federal Government through the Safe Return to Class program; expenditures are down compared to prior years, except for increases to Instruction and Operations & Maintenance funding; there is an operating deficit of \$9 million; and the CBE is maintaining operating reserves of almost \$39 million.

Administration responded to trustee questions on matters including: asset retirement obligations changing timelines or values of assets; asset values increasing; prepaid travel vouchers coming with pre-negotiated pricing or as cash value; factors considered when investing; addition made to the school lighting system upgrade initiative; amount of funding provided to build new playground's; determining the value of a playground once built; who has the liability of playgrounds built by the Parks Foundation; mental health related services provided by the CBE; and amortization being tracked within business units versus through a non differentiated bucket.

MOVED by Trustee Dennis:

**THAT the Board of Trustees approves the Financial Results of the Calgary Board of Education for the year ended August 31, 2021, including the Audited Financial Statements for the year ended August 31, 2021 and the Independent Auditors' Report dated November 23, 2021, for submission to the Minister of Alberta Education.**

In debate of the motion, trustees made comments on: thanking all staff involved for their excellent work as well as KPMG and the external members on the Audit and Risk



Committee; approval signalling that the work is accurate; recognizing that the discussion provides a picture of solid financial health; appreciating that the Fourth Quarter Budget Variance, Audited Financials Statements, and the Annual Education Results Report came together providing a complete picture; financial health matrix great in helping guide what areas need to be focused on; and that the priorities are outlined in the report based on where the money is spent, on the students.

Chair Hack called for a vote on the motion.

The motion was  
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

## 9.2 Annual Education Results Report 2020-21

Chief Superintendent Usih introduced the report stating the timeliness that the reports are presented and aligned shows the CBE's commitment to learning. The report details the intentional work done to support student success within schools, service units, and across the system over the course of the last school year. It is important to note that the overall structure of the report is in transition as CBE match's the report to the new Alberta Education Assurance Framework. This year's results and corresponding strategies are based on the previous three year education plan, with a look forward to 2021-2022, reflecting the goals and actions of the 2021-2024 Education Plan. This report and results are set in the context of teaching, learning, and living during the global pandemic. The results show an overall improvement of the 24 assurance measures.

Superintendent Holowka provided additional detail, stating that the unique context of being in the pandemic has had an impact on the students, families, and staff. The Alberta education assurance survey was piloted in the 2020-2021 school year, and as such, caution is suggested when interpreting the survey results over time. The report next year is expected to be fully reflective of the new assurance framework and will also be reporting on an increased number of local measures.

Superintendent Pitman continued, stating that the student achievement data that was collected by teachers was impacted by many operational changes and as such teachers reported results based on limited assessment data and what they were able to collect. Even with limited achievement data, trends were still able to be used to evaluate areas where improvement is needed. Despite the challenges, the results show strength of community, professionalism of staff, and their ability to both manage the challenges while remaining focused on supporting students in achieving their potential.

Administration responded to trustee questions on matters including: the types of mental health supports provided; ways of ensuring support is still provided after the reduction in number of early learning intervention centres; professional development opportunities for staff to advance inclusive educational practices; communication tools used by educators, students, and families and opportunities for alignment and training; tools chosen to support student achievement in literacy and numeracy; impacts from COVID-19 stress; determining the number of students who are missing from the school system; the decline in physical education results; the significant improvement of the ELL five year completion rate; ways of supporting learners with high absenteeism rates; clarification on attendance;



the index based equity allocation paying dividends being great; lessons learned from last year regarding unfilled substitute teacher positions; wanting to see data broken out by response group, disagreement on academic and career counselling question between response groups; the concept based professional learning network and how collaboration and engagement happen in the network; the difference between CTS and CTF; and are enough opportunities provided for students to self-identify as Indigenous.

Recessed: 2:28 p.m.

Reconvened: 2:42 p.m.

MOVED by Trustee Bolger:

**THAT the Board of Trustees approve the Annual Education Results Report 2020-21, and authorize its submission to Alberta Education.**

In debate of the motion, trustees made comments on: the values of the CBE being reflected in the report; looking forward to seeing future reports and having comparative data; unfinished learning impacting students, but real learning took place in the classroom over the last year; only looking at five of the twelve assurance measures being limiting, but the five being reported on giving an in-depth look; and the results reflecting the promotion of student learning.

Chair Hack called for a vote on the motion.

The motion was  
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

### 9.3 Minutes of the Regular Meeting held October 12, 2021

Chair Hack introduced the report stating these minutes are on the agenda to be approved as Trustee Dennis was absent and therefor has to abstain from the voting.

MOVED by Trustee Vukadinovic:

**THAT the Board of Trustees approves the minutes of the Regular Meeting held October 12, 2021, as submitted.**

A question was asked by a trustee about approving the previous Board's minutes.

Chair Hack called for a vote on the motion.

The motion was  
CARRIED.

Abstained: Trustee Dennis

## 10 | CONSENT AGENDA

### 10.1 Items Provided for Board Decision

#### 9.1.1 Minutes of the Organizational Meeting held October 29, 2021



**THAT the Board of Trustees approves the minutes of the Organizational Meeting held October 29, 2021, as submitted.**

10.2 Items Provided for Board Information

Chair Hack noted that the Board would meet in-camera following the public portion of the meeting to discuss one legal, two labour, two land, and three strategic planning matters.

Recessed: 2:50 p.m.

Reconvened: 3:28 p.m.

11 | **IN-CAMERA SESSION**

Superintendent Grundy confirmed he was alone and in a location that no other person could hear him or any part of this meeting.

Motion to Move In-Camera

MOVED by Trustee Bolger:

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 23, 2021 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 Vukadinovic:

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

The motion was  
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

12 | **ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 6:25 p.m.

