

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, April 9, 2024 at 11:00 a.m.

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:

J. Pitman, Chief Superintendent of Schools
R. Armstrong, Superintendent, Human Resources
D. Breton, Superintendent, Facilities and Environmental Services
B. Grundy, Superintendent, Finance/Technology Services
M. Martin-Esposito, Chief Communications Officer
M. Nelson, Acting Superintendent, School Improvement
D. Unruh, Acting Superintendent, School Improvement
P. Minor, Corporate Secretary
M. Graham, Board Administrator

Stakeholder Representatives:

C. Gordon, Canadian Union of Public Employees, Local 40
S. Clements, Alberta Teachers’ Association, Local 38

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

Chair Hack called the meeting to order at 11:07 a.m. and students from Fish Creek School led the national anthem through a video recording.

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.

The Chair welcomed staff, union representatives and members of the public to the meeting.



2 | **CONSIDERATION/ APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

P. Minor, Corporate Secretary, noted that a request was received to remove item 9.2.1 Chief Superintendent's Update from the Consent Agenda and add it as item 7.2 under Matters for Board Information.

MOVED by Trustee Bolger:

THAT the Board of Trustees approves the agenda for the Regular Meeting of April 9, 2024, subject to the changes noted above.

The motion was
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

3 | **AWARDS AND RECOGNITIONS**

3.1 LEED Plaque Presentation

Chair Hack introduced the award, stating that Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design® (LEED) is an internationally recognized mark of excellence for green buildings in over 160 countries, creating healthier indoor environments and conserving resources. In accordance with the Board of Trustees' Operational Expectations 9: Facilities, the CBE aims to ensure that all new schools constructed meet the LEED Silver level of certification. She noted that Mahogany School has been granted LEED Gold certification and Lakeshore school has been granted LEED Silver certification. Forty CBE schools have now received LEED certification.

Award plaques were presented to T. Kohan, principal of Mahogany School, I. Fero, principal of Lakeshore School, and A. Ard, Education Director. Chair Hack also thanked members of the construction projects teams.

Recessed: 11:13 a.m.
Reconvened: 11:16 a.m.

4 | **RESULTS FOCUS**

4.1 Results 4: Personal Development – Annual Monitoring

Chief Superintendent Pitman introduced the report, stating that the 2022-23 report outlines results as an organization in ensuring that, in and through learning, each individual learner will identify and develop their individual gifts, talents and interests. She provided a summary of the data provided in the report and the evidence that shows indicators of success.

Acting Superintendent Nelson provided further context for the report, including: 2022-23 school year suspension of K-6 measurements; notable areas of success for division three (grades 7-9) students, including increases in setting and working towards learning goals and engaging in learning with confidence and persistence; areas for celebration and



growth in the area of technological learning and online interactions, noting a decrease in student ability to critically evaluate online content, as compared to pre-Covid19 results, and in respectful online communication.

Administration responded to trustee questions on matters from the report, including: drivers behind year over year increases in responses to the emotional health summary measures, including the Wellness Framework; student alignment with the measurement “comfort with variability” and willingness to wrestle with multiple viewpoints; curricular expectations in Alberta Education’s Programs of Study related to critically assessing on-line information; student responses to themes of “making friends” and “relationship strategies” and the environmental impacts on social-environmental skills development; cell phone and social media use in schools; evidence for reasonable progress in available data; and support for youngest learners in setting learning goals.

Chair Hack asked trustees to identify their intentions to bring forward any motions related to compliance, exceptions or commendations for Results 4: Personal Development to the Corporate Secretary and to trustees by noon, Thursday, April 18, 2024. She stated that the item will be placed on the April 23, 2024 agenda for consideration.

5 | **OPERATIONAL EXPECTATIONS**

5.1 **OE-2: Learning Environment/Treatment of Students – Annual Monitoring**

Chief Superintendent Pitman introduced the report, stating that data collected relates to the 2022-23 school year and demonstrates the creation and maintenance of a learning environment that is safe and respectful, and that supports students to participate fully in their learning. Students continue to feel safe and cared for in schools. Six of seven compliance indicators have been found to be in compliance; Indicator 2.1.3 relating to agreement with the “safe and caring” suite of questions, is noted as non-compliant. She stated that CBE administration is committed to meeting compliance in this indicator and provided a summary of work being done.

Acting Superintendent Nelson provided highlights from the report, including evidence demonstrating the commitment to the creation of positive learning environments that foster a sense of belonging and a respect for diversity; evidence of compliance with the system wide Student Code of Conduct; evidence of support for students with Individual Program Plans and students struggling with consistent attendance; and data regarding indicator 2.1.3, noting in particular decreases in grades 7-9, and a summary of targeted actions to address this area for growth.

Administration responded to trustee questions on matters including student attendance; student surveys and response of the Chief Superintendent’s Student Advisory Council; volunteer security clearance requirements; and the expense and process for acquiring volunteer security clearances.

Chair Hack asked trustees to identify their intentions to bring forward any motions related to compliance, exceptions or commendations for OE-2: Learning Environment/Treatment of Students to the Corporate Secretary and to trustees by noon, Thursday, April 18, 2024.

She stated that if no motions come forward, the item will be placed on the April 23, 2024 consent agenda with a motion that the Board of Trustees approves that the Chief superintendent is in compliance with the provisions of OE-2: Learning Environment/Treatment of Students.

5.2 OE-6: Asset Protection – Annual Monitoring

Chief Superintendent Pitman introduced the report, stating that data included relates to the 2022-23 school year and indicates that CBE is properly maintaining, adequately protecting, and appropriately using all organization assets and evidence that indicates compliance with all six indicators, noting that indicator 6.1.3 is no longer applicable due to changes to government audit and reporting processes.

Administration responded to trustee questions on matters from the report, including: deferred maintenance; the internal monitoring processes for facility condition; risks to facilities from high utilization rates; school records management training and support for proper compliance; and what constitutes a complaint related to violation of intellectual property rights and processes to assure compliance.

Chair Hack asked trustees to identify their intentions to bring forward any motions related to compliance, exceptions or commendations for OE-6: Asset Protection to the Corporate Secretary and to trustees by noon, Thursday, April 18, 2024. She stated that if no motions come forward, the item will be placed on the April 23, 2024 consent agenda with a motion that the Board of Trustees approves that the Chief Superintendent is in compliance with the provisions of OE-6: Asset Protection.

Recessed: 12:13 p.m.

Reconvened: 12:27 p.m.

6 | **PUBLIC COMMENT**

There were no public comments.

7 | **MATTERS RESERVED FOR BOARD INFORMATION**

7.1 Budget Assumptions Report

Chief Superintendent Pitman introduced the report, stating the report for the 2024-2025 school year lays out the CBE operating context as well as the revenue and expense assumptions that will be incorporated into the budget plan. Later this week schools will receive their individual funding through the Resource Allocation Method (RAM) to plan for next year, and the overall CBE 2024-2025 Budget will be presented in May. CBE will receive almost \$1.4 billion, an increase of \$85 million year over year. The priority will be hiring teachers and school support staff and offsetting rising operational costs. One billion dollars is being allocated to CBE's 251 schools to support over 140,000 students, balancing the impacts of growing enrolment on infrastructure, educational programming, transportation, technology requirements, and more. Growth and inflation pressures are immediately felt in classrooms and system wide, but CBE's focus will remain on providing



programming, supports and services to students while being responsible stewards of public dollars.

B. Grundy, Superintendent, Finance/Technology Services, provided further context for the report, stating that the report meets the requirements of OE-5: Financial Planning, and sets out the material budget assumptions that will be incorporated into the budget for the upcoming school year; the report is a necessary pre-cursor to the issuance of the school based budgets (RAM) for the upcoming school year, allowing schools the time to thoughtfully plan and make workforce planning changes; the RAM will exceed \$1 billion for the first time in CBE history, emphasizing that CBE values are central to budget priorities; plans to hire additional school based staff to support growing enrolment and complexity; significant enrolment growth continues, equalling over 20,000 new students by 2025, enough students to fill 11 high schools; the growing need for new learning spaces; the accumulative impacts of inflation which has eroded CBE purchasing power by more than 20%; per-student funding remains below 2018-2019 levels; impacts of salary and benefits growth and reduced funding strength on hiring; impacts of high utilization rates, exceeding Alberta Education's goal of 80% utilization system-wide, including 12 of 22 high schools at or above 100% utilization; growing number of schools in overflow status, totaling 33 schools being overflowed to 48 receiving schools; and continued commitment to providing the best public education and learning possible within the funding and resources allocated.

Administration responded to trustee questions on matters from the report including: potential impacts on CBE values due to funding realities; estimated enrolment growth in 2024-25; hiring forecast; FTE teachers needed to reduce class sizes and meet enrolment growth; specialized programs' capacity and supports; impacts of funding shortfalls; ability to maintain programs and services; meeting the needs of complex learners who are not accepted into limited specialized education spaces; PUF funding and capacity for assessments; impacts of funding that does not address inflation; high school capacity for complex learners; international student program; claw-back of funds for students who have enrolled prior to eligibility for provincial funding; communication with the community regarding the RAM to individual schools; and advocacy for funding needs.

7.2 Chief Superintendent's Update

Administration responded to trustee questions on matters including funding capacity for supporting equitable learning; the Jordan's Principle for students who self-identify as Indigenous; how the Board of Trustees can continue to support work being done through Results policies; and resources and materials for new curriculum.

Recessed: 1:39 p.m.

Reconvened: 1:47 p.m.

8 | **MATTERS RESERVED FOR BOARD DECISION**

8.1 Capital Reserve Request to Support Enrolment Growth



Chief Pitman introduced the report, highlighting the need to support increased enrolment growth through the procurement of furniture, fixtures and equipment for CBE schools and through the relocation of six modular classrooms to two high priority schools that were in the modular classroom submission in October, but that were not included in the Alberta Government funding approvals announced last month.

D. Breton, Superintendent, Facilities and Environmental Services, provided additional context for the report, including that the schools identified are facing the highest utilization pressures; the pressures to resource additional furniture, fixtures and equipment due to high and ongoing enrolment for schools and the creation of undue administrative work; centrally procuring equipment in bulk allows for savings and greater efficiency in securing needed supplies in a timely manner; the central procurement initiative estimated end date is the 2026-2027 school year; and modular classroom relocation as vital to meet the needs of rapid enrolment growth.

Administration responded to trustee questions on matters from the report, including where capital reserves are gained; the capital reserves balance; and risks of withdrawal from reserves at this time.

MOVED by Trustee Bolger:

THAT the Board of Trustees approves a budget expenditure of up to \$11.4 million over the next three school years ending 2026-27 from capital reserves for the establishment and management of a Furniture, Fixtures and Equipment (FF&E) Repository.

In debate of the motion trustees made comments on supporting schools in procurement and reducing administrative burden; maximizing efficiency in purchasing power; impacts of unusually high enrolment growth; and allowing schools to redirect savings into other areas of need.

Chair Hack called for a vote.

The motion was
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

MOVED by Trustee Dennis:

THAT the Board of Trustees approves a budget expenditure of up to \$1.3 million from capital reserves for project expenses related to the relocation of six existing modular classrooms.

In debate of the motion trustees made comments on the provincial funding shortfall on requested new modular classrooms and modular classroom relocations; the relocations being necessary for schools that are over 100% utilization and in overflow; families not being able to send their children to neighbourhood schools close to home; the need for new schools; and the impact of rising transportation costs.



Chair Hack called for a vote.

The motion was
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

9 | **CONSENT AGENDA**

9.1 Items Provided for Board Decision

9.1.1 Revision to the Schedule of Regular Meetings

THAT the Board of Trustees approves a revision to the Schedule of Regular Meetings to change the commencement time of the May 21, 2024 public meeting to 1:00 p.m.

9.2 Items Provided for Board Information

No reports or presentations.

Chair Hack declared the public portion of the meeting adjourned, and noted the Board would reconvene in private to discuss two strategic planning matters. She stated the next public Board meeting is on Tuesday, April 23, 2024.

Recessed: 2:04 p.m.

Reconvened: 2:36 p.m.

10 | **PRIVATE SESSION**

Motion to Move In Camera

MOVED by Trustee Dennis:

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, April 9, 2024 be considered at a private session; therefore, be it

Resolved, **THAT the Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees moves in camera.**

The motion was
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Motion to Move Out of In Camera

MOVED by Trustee Dennis:

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

The motion was
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.



11 | **ADJOURNMENT OF MEETING**

MOVED by Trustee Bolger:

THAT on adjournment the meeting adjourns to the call of the Chair.

The motion was
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Time of adjournment was 3:04 p.m.

