

## 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 1, 2011 at 5:00 p.m.

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### MEETING ATTENDANCE

#### Board of Trustees

Trustee P. Cochrane, Chair  
Trustee C. Bazinet  
Trustee J. Bowen-Eyre  
Trustee L. Ferguson  
Trustee P. King  
Trustee G. Lane  
Trustee S. Taylor

#### Administration:

Ms. N. Johnson, Chief Superintendent of Schools  
Mr. D. Stevenson, Deputy Chief Superintendent of Schools  
Mr. F. Coppinger, Superintendent, Facilities and Environmental Services  
Ms. C. Faber, Superintendent, Learning Innovation  
Mr. J. Johnston, Superintendent, Human Resources  
Ms. D. Lewis, Superintendent, Learning Services  
Ms. D. Meyers, Superintendent, Finance & Supply Chain Services  
Mr. R. Peter, Chief Communications Officer  
Mr. J. Bancroft on behalf of Ms. L. Safran, General Counsel and Corporate Secretary  
Ms. J. Barkway, Office of the Corporate Secretary  
Ms. D. Perrier, Recording Secretary

#### Stakeholder Representatives:

Ms. S. Anderson, Elementary School Principals' Association  
Ms. A. Guinn, Calgary Association of Parents and School Councils  
Ms. J. Regal, Alberta Teachers' Association, Local 38  
Ms. L. Robb, Calgary Board of Education Staff Association

### **1.0 CALL TO ORDER, NATIONAL ANTHEM AND WELCOME**

Chair Cochrane called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m. and students from King George School led the singing of O Canada by way of a pre-recorded DVD.

Chair Cochrane acknowledged and welcomed stakeholder representatives from the organizations as noted above.

### **2.0 CONSIDERATION/APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Ms. Barkway noted that a request was made for the removal of the October 4, 2011 Regular Meeting Minutes from the Consent Agenda, for consideration immediately following the Consent Agenda.

MOVED by Trustee King:

**THAT the Agenda for the Regular Meeting of November 1, 2011, be approved as submitted, subject to the change as noted above.**

The motion was  
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

### **3.0 SCHOOL/SYSTEM PRESENTATIONS**

#### **3.1 Dr. Gordon Higgins School – Ends 5: Character**

Ms. L. Pamplin, System Principal, Area III, commenced the presentation with brief comments about the school, noting it is a rich and dynamic learning community. Last year the focus of learning was on the development of Character, and this year they are working towards Personal Development and Citizenship. She introduced and called forward Ms. C. Whittaker, Principal, Dr. Gordon Higgins School, to give the presentation.

Ms. Whittaker showcased the work at the school, with the aid of a DVD showing how Character is woven into the teaching and learning at Dr. Gordon Higgins School. She noted that students share their thoughts about Character through messages and comments, which they attach to the "Higgins Tree". Students are given "Hawks" certificates in appreciation of their acts of kindness, which they can redeem in the school cafeteria. The DVD portrayed interviews with students, asking them to share their learning experience and their understanding of Character.

Ms. Whittaker thanked the Board for the opportunity to give the presentation, noting that it was a snapshot of the work going on at the school.

On behalf of the Board of Trustees, Trustee King shared words of appreciation for the presentation, and commended the staff and students of Dr. Gordon Higgins School for their commitment to further define and refine the expectations students have for themselves and for each other.

### **4.0 HONOURS AND RECOGNITIONS**

There were none.

### **5.0 PUBLIC CONVERSATION AND INFORMATION**

#### **5.1 Report from the Chair and Trustees**

Trustee King noted that she and Corporate Partnerships had met with staff and students at Rundle School to start the activities for *Book Bags for Kids*.

Trustee Bowen-Eyre shared comments about her visits to two *Open Minds* schools: the nature school, and the COP school. She noted that it is very fortunate that our students can partake in those learning environments.

Trustee Cochrane commented on the following issues and events:

- Connaught School recently celebrated its 100<sup>th</sup> birthday. It is the longest, continuous use school in the Calgary Board of Education, and it has offered the CBE's English as a Second Language program since the school's opening. The students, who are recent immigrants to Canada, sang a song about how anyone can grow to become Calgary's mayor. Mayor Nenshi was present for the celebration.
- EducationMatters held its *Distinguished Alumni* celebration, where Ms. Peggy Valentine, former CBE student, CBE teacher and CBE trustee, and Master Corporal Paul Franklin, Afghanistan war veteran, were honoured as distinguished alumni.

## **5.2 Report from the Chief Superintendent**

Chief Superintendent Johnson shared comments about how the CBE is engaging the learning community through the following councils:

- the CBE's Elder Advisory Council, which includes Elders of the First Nations people from Treaty 7, who believe that education should be about the children and focused on the agenda of children. The stories and thoughts of Elders are heard and helpful to understanding and finding ways to move the system forward;
- the Chief Superintendent's Student Advisory Council, at which the following four topics were recently raised by students: 1) concerns about a CBE presence on Facebook and Twitter, 2) ideas about leadership, for both students and adults, 3) the "We Promise" document that shared this past September, and 4) concerns about the \$19.2, with respect to questions about how it would be distributed and spent;
- the Career and Technology Strategic Advisory Council, which is in its second year of bringing together representatives from business and industry, professional associations, post-secondary institutions, and Alberta Education, and its focus is on how best to prepare young people for their future, through personalized education opportunities;
- the Cultural Advisory Council, which currently includes representation from the Immigrant Services of Calgary, Calgary Catholic Immigration Society, Calgary Jewish Community Council, Centre for Newcomers, Calgary Centre for Culture, Equity and Diversity, Calgary Chinese Community Services, Ishmael Council for the Prairies, Calgary Bridges Foundation, Calgary Multicultural Centre, Calgary Immigrant Women's Association, and the Jewish Family Service of Calgary.

## **5.3 Public Question Period**

Ms. Barkway noted that a question had been received from Ms. T. Hurdman and subsequent to confirming her presence in the public gallery she read the question as follows:

*"Will you please provide the Resource Allocation Method formula that was used for school budgets, in elementary, junior high, senior high and unique setting schools, for the 2011-2012 school year, with all categories and amounts?"*

Chief Superintendent Johnson responded that the CBE's resource allocation document is quite complex. She noted that the resource allocation method formula for all schools, in all categories for the 2011-2012 school year would be provided to Ms. Hurdman. Because of the complexity of that information, it is proposed to provide it in person with Ms. Hurdman, with support from the CBE's Finance leaders to explain the information.

## **5.4 Stakeholder Reports**

### **5.4.1 Ms. M. Belanger, Member of the Public**

Ms. Belanger stated that she was giving the stakeholder report on behalf of herself and a group of parents who share a concern with the new Administrative Regulation 3047 – Nutrition. She expressed concern that the focus of schools has shifted greatly over the last few years, to spending much more time on activities that involve learning defined in a broader context, i.e., what children eat, whether they live in an environmentally friendly manner – reduce, reuse, recycle, citizenship, personal development, and social skills. She shared the belief that these are all things that children learn in communities, through spiritual practices, athletic and fine arts pursuits, and through values and family. Ms. Belanger shared frustration that these are areas in which schools are engaging and which are often-times contradictory to that which is personally taught in the family home.

Ms. Belanger stated that schools and teachers need to focus on educating children to read, write, research, analyze and synthesize information from a variety of sources, and they need to teach how to apply facts that represent outcomes, basic mathematic principles, how to write and communicate

clearly at the level and depth that they are capable of. She noted her opinion that the academic achievement levels of her four children were unacceptable.

Ms. Belanger requested that the Board of Trustees establish a series of Town Hall meetings with parents to find out what the parents' priorities are with respect to the learning needs of their children, and to allow them to take back some of the responsibilities and obligations that they as parents have, and together to think of concrete ways to support students who may need additional supports.

#### 5.4.2 Ms. T. Hurdman, on behalf of the Association for Responsive Trusteeship in Calgary Schools (ARTICS)

Ms. Hurdman read a letter written by Ms. C. Oliver, former trustee of the CBE, Executive member of ARTICS. The content of the letter was in reference to the recent funding that the CBE received from the provincial government, and the decision by the Chief Superintendent on how those funds would be disbursed to and by schools. The letter notes that the Chief Superintendent chose to distribute the funds equally, on a per student basis, as described in the November school newsletter insert, and each school would get \$155.30 per student. The direction of the Board of Trustees, on October 18, 2011, was for the Administration to distribute the new provincial funding to principals of schools, using the resource allocation method (RAM).

The letter states that it is the job of the Board of Trustees to govern, and stated the opinion that by allowing administrators to act contrary to a decision of the Board causes the public to lose faith in their elected trustees, and endangers the CBE's public image and credibility.

ARTICS requests that the Board continue to do the right thing and not permit Administration to govern the system, but leave that work for the CBE elected representatives.

### 5.5 Trustee Inquiries

There were no trustee inquiries.

### 6.0 ACTION ITEMS

#### 6.1 Tripartite Framework Agreement

Trustee Ferguson provided a brief summary of the contents of the report.

MOVED by Trustee Taylor:

**THAT the Board of Trustees wants the Alberta School Boards Association (ASBA) to represent our board's interests in discussions with the Government of Alberta and the Alberta Teachers' Association with the aim of concluding a provincial framework agreement addressing: term, school board funding, teacher salaries, and a dispute resolution mechanism.**

Trustees debated the motion, which is summarized as follows:

- The belief was shared that a strong united voice would be brought to these negotiations.
- Long-term, sustained and predictable funding is part of the scope of the agreement, which has been advocated by our Board over many years, and that could be lost without a tripartite agreement.
- The two elements of this agreement that give some comfort are that as a metro board member, a trustee representative from our Board may serve on the Advisory Committee, and the Board will have an opportunity to vote on any final outcome.
- Concerns were expressed by a number of trustees that the timelines given to this proposal were far too short, that it was rushed and not sufficiently thought through.

- A trustee noted a particular concern with point 14 in the Questions and Answers attached to the report.
- Concern was shared that a trustee felt there was no alternative to agreeing to this proposal.
- The proposed agreement provides for the separation of transformation from learning. It was felt that the proposal also appears to be an attempt to address the inequality of the bargaining equation between the ATA and individual school boards.
- Comments were shared about the positive aspects to this proposal, including that this is a much more open and transparent process. There is the ability for the ASBA to talk with its members about what is on the table, and school boards can talk to their communities and have this debate in public. The proposal gives our Board a voice to the metro aspects.

Chair Cochrane called for the vote on the motion.

The motion was  
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

MOVED by Trustee Ferguson:

**THAT the Board of Trustees appoints Trustee Cochrane to serve on the ASBA Bargaining Advisory Committee.**

The motion was  
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

## **7.0 MONITORING AND RESULTS**

There were no items.

## **8.0 POLICY DEVELOPMENT AND REVIEW**

### **8.1 Board Committees**

A trustee requested that consideration of the Audit Committee and its Terms of Reference be postponed to the November 15, 2011 Regular Meeting of the Board.

Concern was shared about how the quorums were described for each of the committees. Trustees agreed to revise the Terms of Reference for the School Naming Committee and for the Trustee Remuneration Committee, to read: "A quorum at meetings of the Committee shall be a majority of the members appointed and must include the Committee Chair." The trustees further agreed to revise the Terms of Reference for the Board Evaluation Committee, to read: "A quorum at meetings of the Committee shall be the appointed trustees."

MOVED by Trustee Ferguson:

**THAT the Board of Trustees approves the continued functioning of the following committees and the amended GP-11E: Board of Trustees' Committees – Terms of Reference, as further amended on November 1, 2011, for each of these committees:**

- **Board Evaluation Committee**
- **School Naming Committee (ad hoc)**
- **Trustee Remuneration Committee**

The motion was  
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Motion Arising:

MOVED by Trustee Taylor:

**THAT the Board of Trustees approves the continued functioning of the Audit Committee and directs that the Committee's Terms of Reference be brought to the November 15, 2011 Regular Board Meeting for approval.**

The motion was  
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

**9.0 CONSENT AGENDA**

Trustees agreed to not pull the Minutes of the Regular Meeting held October 4, 2011 from the Consent Agenda, because the correction noted was minor and would be addressed through the Office of the Corporate Secretary. Chair Cochrane declared the following items to be adopted as submitted:

**9.1 Board Consent Agenda**

9.1.1 Approval of Minutes

- Regular Meeting held October 4, 2011
- Special Meeting held October 11 and 12, 2011
- Regular Meeting held October 25, 2011

**THAT the Board of Trustees approves the Minutes of the Regular Meeting held October 4, 2011, the Special Meeting held October 11 and 12, 2011 and the Regular Meeting held October 25, 2011, subject to the minor corrections noted.**

9.1.2 Correspondence

**THAT the Board of Trustees receives the following correspondence for information and for the record, in the form as submitted:**

- Letter dated October 20, 2011, from the Honourable Thomas Lukaszuk, Minister of Education, regarding additional Educational Act input.
- Letter and attachment dated October 24, 2011, from Board Chair Pat Cochrane to the Honourable Thomas Lukaszuk, Minister of Education, regarding Educational Act input.

9.1.3 Roster for Second Vice-Chair

**THAT the Board of Trustees approves the roster for Second Vice-Chair for the period of November, 2011 through October, 2012 as follows:**

<b>November/December 2011</b>	<b>Trustee King</b>
<b>January/February 2012</b>	<b>Trustee Bowen-Eyre</b>
<b>March/April 2012</b>	<b>Trustee Bazinet</b>
<b>May/June 2012</b>	<b>Trustee Taylor</b>
<b>July/August 2012</b>	<b>As Available</b>
<b>September/October 2012</b>	<b>Trustee Lane</b>

9.1.4 Trustee Liaison Report re: Alberta School Boards Association (ASBA) Board of Directors

**THAT the Alberta School Boards Association (ASBA) liaison report containing the ASBA Board of Directors' Meeting Highlights dated October 13, 2011 be received for information.**

9.1.5 Trustee Liaison Report re: Calgary Association of Parents and School Councils (CAPSC)

**THAT the attachments to the report, with respect to the Calgary Association of Parents and School Councils (CAPSC), be received for information and be considered as the liaison report for that organization.**

**9.2 Chief Superintendent Consent Agenda**

9.2.1 Chief Superintendent's Update

**THAT the Board of Trustees receives the Chief Superintendent's Update for information.**

9.2.2 Building Impact & Efficiency: Advancing the CBE Brand & Visual Identify on Two Fronts

**THAT the Board of Trustees receives the report for information.**

Recessed: 6:30 pm

Reconvened: 6:48 pm

**10.0 TRUSTEE NOTICES OF MOTION**

There were no trustee notices of motion.

**11.0 IN-CAMERA ISSUES**

MOVED by Trustee Lane:

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 1, 2011, 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.

MOVED by Trustee King:

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

The motion was

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

MOVED by Trustee Lane:

**THAT the Board of Trustees approves the amended actions as identified in the conclusion section of the private report of November 1, 2011.**

The motion was

CARRIED.

In Favour:

Trustee Bowen-Eyre  
Trustee Cochrane  
Trustee Ferguson

Trustee King  
Trustee Lane  
Trustee Taylor  
Opposed: Trustee Bazinet

MOVED by Trustee Ferguson:

**THAT the Board of Trustees receives for information the minutes of the Planning Committee meetings held October 19 and 26, 2011, as submitted.**

The motion was  
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

MOVED by Trustee Taylor:

1. **THAT the Board of Trustees approves the reappointment of Greg Elsasser to the Audit Committee, to be effective October 17, 2010, for a three-year term, ending October 17, 2013; and**
2. **THAT the Board of Trustees approves the reappointment of Tina Dulguerov to the Audit Committee, to be effective October 17, 2010, for a two-year term, ending October 17, 2012.**

The motion was  
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

MOVED by Trustee Bowen-Eyre:

**THAT the *Risk Assessment* report be received for information.**

The motion was  
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

## **12.0 ADJOURNMENT**

Chair Cochrane declared the meeting adjourned at 7:24 p.m.