

CALGARY BOARD OF EDUCATION

Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees (the "Board") held in the Board Room, Education Centre, 1221, 8th Street SW, Calgary, Alberta on Tuesday, September 20, 2011 at 5:00 p.m.

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. K. Peterson, Director, Human Resources, Partner Services
Ms. D. Lewis, Superintendent, Learning Services
Ms. D. Meyers, Superintendent, Finance & Supply Chain Services
Ms. L. Safran, Interim General Counsel and Corporate Secretary
Mr. R. Peter, Chief Communications Officer
Ms. D. Doll, Assistant Corporate Secretary
Ms. H. Numrich, Recording Secretary

Stakeholder Representatives:

Ms. L. Robb, Calgary Board of Education Staff Association
Ms. J. Regal, Alberta Teachers' Association, Local 38
Ms. A. Guinn, Calgary Association of Parents and School Councils
Ms. R. Morrison, Elementary School Principals' Association
Ms. C. O'Connor, Elementary School Principals' Association

1.0 CALL TO ORDER, NATIONAL ANTHEM AND WELCOME

Chair Cochrane called the meeting to order at 5:04 p.m. Students Kal-el, Matthew, Gracie, Cameron and Azree from O.S. Geiger School led in the singing of the national anthem. Chair Cochrane acknowledged and welcomed representatives from the aforementioned organizations.

2.0 CONSIDERATION/APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Ms. D. Doll, Assistant Corporate Secretary, noted that a replacement page to the June 28, 2011 minutes had been circulated and that the Chief Superintendent's Update report had been amended for minor typographical errors. Ms. Doll also stated that there had been a

request submitted for a written stakeholder report to be read into the record as the stakeholder could not be present. This would require the Board of Trustees to waive the board procedure that requires a verbal stakeholder report.

The Board of Trustees agreed that the written stakeholder report would not be read into the record because all trustees had already been provided with a copy of the report.

MOVED by Trustee Lane:

THAT the Agenda for the Regular Meeting of September 20, 2011 be approved as amended.

The motion was
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

3.0 SCHOOL/SYSTEM PRESENTATIONS

3.1 O.S. Geiger School

Ms. D. Selby, Area III Director, provided introductory remarks to the presentation. Ms. L. Cooper, Principal of O.S. Geiger School, provided further introductory comments. She stated that the presentation would be an example of their school's quest to personalize learning for all students in keeping with Ends 2: Academic Success. Ms. Cooper provided a brief background history of the school and spoke highly of the students and staff, their hard work and resulting celebrations of success. She introduced Ms. C. Asmundson, a grade 3/4 teacher.

Ms. Asmundson provided some background information on their class project. The grade 3 Social Studies curriculum includes the goal of discovering: "What Makes a Global Citizen?" To accomplish this, their class decided on "the Orangutan Project". Students Harpreet, Amal, Shahzeab, Gabe and Muskaan reported on their personal experiences and success stories. Ms. Cooper noted that when both students and staff become more engaged in what they are learning, it is hoped that there might be an increase in academic success.

Trustee King expressed appreciation to the staff and students on behalf of the Board of Trustees.

4.0 HONOURS AND RECOGNITIONS

Chair Cochrane gave recognition to Julia, the new Board Page for the 2011-2012 school year and welcomed her to the boardroom.

5.0 PUBLIC CONVERSATION AND INFORMATION

5.1 Report from the Chair and Trustees

- Trustee Ferguson read a letter addressed to Ms. Weber, Principal of Crossing Park School, and copied to her, from the Honorable D. Hancock, Minister of Education, expressing congratulations on the school receiving the 2010/2011 'Nutrition Innovation'

award for Alberta schools. She noted that H.D. Cartwright School had received a similar award last year and extended her congratulations to both schools.

- Trustee Bowen-Eyre reported that she had attended a Terry Fox run entitled 'Toonies for Terry' at Citadel Park School. The event was held to raise funds for the Terry Fox Foundation and provided an excellent opportunity for students to demonstrate good citizenship.
- Trustee Lane reported that he had attended the opening celebration of the new Ernest Manning High School building. He noted that the construction of this school building was a co-operative venture between the City of Calgary, the Calgary Board of Education ("CBE") and the Province of Alberta. It was built in approximately 4 years and because it came in under budget, an additional wing was added to the original plan to accommodate additional students.
- Trustee King expressed thanks to Ernest Morrow School students for their DVD of the national anthem that was used at a mock board meeting in the new Education Centre. She further reported that she and several other dignitaries and representatives had attended and participated in an event at a fire station in the community of Forest Heights in recognition of the September 11th events. She was honored to represent the Calgary Board of Education and very proud of the outpouring of support and sentiments displayed by CBE students.

5.2 Report from the Chief Superintendent

Chief Superintendent Johnson introduced and welcomed Ms. L. Safran, QC to lead the Legal Affairs and Corporate Secretary functions of the CBE on an interim basis.

Chief Superintendent Johnson also reported that 'Encore CBE' is located on the main floor of the Education Centre. She explained that this is an innovative learning opportunity for disengaged youth to reconnect with their schooling. It is a place where students can build their own personal learning plan. Chief Superintendent Johnson stated that an advisory committee made up of various agencies will explore how community services can align to support young people in completing high school. She stated that there has already been significant interest expressed in this program by approximately 30 students. Further updates and information will be forthcoming.

5.3 Public Question Period

There were no public questions.

5.4 Stakeholder Reports

5.4.1 Dr. K. Guggisberg

Dr. Guggisberg stated that she was speaking as a mother and also in support of fellow Calgarians in favour of removing junk food from Calgary Board of Education schools. She noted that in her work as a doctor, she has seen that junk food has both short and long term affects. It is her belief that it is an issue of choice and that the ability to resist grows

with age. Dr. Guggisberg submitted a list of names from her community in support of the removal of junk food from CBE schools.

5.5 Trustee Inquiries

There were no trustee inquiries.

6.0 ACTION ITEMS

7.0 MONITORING AND RESULTS

7.1 Annual Monitoring EL-10: Budgeting Process

Superintendent D. Meyers provided introductory remarks and noted that the report covered many aspects of the budgeting process, including some improvements.

Chair Cochrane reviewed the criteria against which the Trustees are to judge this report, including that of reasonable interpretation of the policy, compliance with the policy and whether sufficient information has been provided. She noted also that any decision or comment of the Board of Trustees around non-compliance is in no way intended to be a vote of non-confidence for the Chief Superintendent.

Trustees posed questions and Administration's responses are summarized as follows:

- Result 9 indicates parent involvement in budget development. It was noted that school principals and school councils may include the budgeting process in more than one meeting with parents.
- In addition to the on-line survey, consultations and information sessions on the budgeting process were held with several outside organizations including the Calgary Association of Parents and School Councils (CAPSC).
- For the past two years, the interim Three-Year Education Plan has been completed prior to the budget. The budget is linked to the priorities set out in the Three-Year Education Plan.
- It is important to recognize that the budget process is the planning process used to develop the budget document. Policy Provision 2 refers to information in regards to the process, not the budget.
- A stakeholder consultation will be undertaken in the Fall with the goal of finding ways to collaborate and deliver better communication regarding the budget that will serve the needs of the Board of Trustees, stakeholders, parents and the community.
- Input into annual budget development will be by the Board of Trustees, not by individual trustees.

MOVED by Trustee Ferguson:

THAT the Chief Superintendent has reasonably interpreted the provisions of this policy, *Executive Limitation 10: Budget Process* and the Board of Trustees finds the Chief Superintendent to be in compliance.

Trustees entered into debate on the motion and the following points in favour of the motion are summarized as follows:

- The measures in the report have been met and improvements have been made to the process in regards to communicating with the public.
- This report is about the budgeting process, not the budget. For some time there has been no predictable, sustainable funding from the province and school boards across the province are facing budget issues. It is the responsibility of the Board of Trustees to carefully and responsibly spend the funding received in the year that it is received to educate current students. It was noted that the CBE has had a significant deficit in the past which was paid off early.

Trustee comments opposed to the motion are summarized as follows:

- Concern was expressed that too little information is provided in this document; revenue has been broken down, but not the expenses.
- Policy provision 4 states: *'that the Chief Superintendent shall not cause or allow budgeting which plans the expenditure in any fiscal year of more funds than are conservatively projected to be received in that period'*. A trustee expressed that over-spending indicates that this measure has not been met.
- Although revenue can not be predicted, there were indications of a shortfall in the preliminary operating budget. Future planning, sustainability and next steps should have been given more consideration.
- Although there has been significant improvement in the involvement of stakeholders in the budgeting process and the on-line survey was a good tool, it is not apparent that it was used in developing the budget.
- This was a very difficult year with numerous budget cuts and depletion of reserves which is no fault of Administration; however, because of this, it was not possible to achieve point 5 of this process which reads: *'shall not allow budgeting which endangers the fiscal or organizational capability sufficient to achieve Ends in future years.'*

Chair Cochrane called for the vote on the motion.

The motion was
CARRIED.

In favour: Trustee Cochrane
Trustee Lane
Trustee King
Trustee Ferguson
Trustee Bowen-Eyre

Opposed: Trustee Taylor
Trustee Bazinet

Recessed at 6:18 p.m.
Reconvened at 6:27 p.m.

8.0 POLICY DEVELOPMENT AND REVIEW

8.1 First Reading to Amend EL-16: Learning Environment and Treatment of Students

Chief Superintendent Johnson introduced the report by providing a brief, historical summary of nutrition in the CBE and direction for the future. She stressed that the health of students is greatly valued by Administration. Administrative Regulation 3047 on Nutrition was implemented in July, 2007 as well as a school strategy entitled 'Teaming Up for Health Learners'. The challenge has been set for schools that 100% of food served in schools be aligned with the Alberta Nutrition Guidelines for Children and Youth. This new draft directive, website and additional resources were completed in June, 2011 and implementation is tentatively scheduled to be in place by January, 2012. It will remove the last 20% of the 'choose least often' choices from vending machines and tuck shops. Chief Superintendent Johnson elaborated on what this would entail and stated that the CBE will work with food vendors to ensure that it is implemented. It will equal the highest standard for students in Alberta. The strategy is to complement menus with education resulting in life long health of students.

Trustee Taylor introduced the motion. She noted that this was the first reading of the motion and that it was being presented in order to ensure that student health and nutrition is included in the Board of Trustees policies. She stated that it is in line with EL-16 which reads: *"that a safe and caring environment is provided that is conducive to effective learning."*

MOVED by Trustee Taylor:

THAT the Board of Trustees gives first reading to the addition of the following sub-point 7 to EL-16 – Learning Environment/Treatment of Students:

... Accordingly the Chief Superintendent shall not: ...

7. Fail to restrict the sale of food in schools to "Choose Most Often-High Nutrient Foods" and "Choose Sometimes-Moderate Nutrient Foods" categories as described in Alberta Health Services' "Steps to a Healthy School Environment: School Nutrition Handbook".

Trustees posed questions that were answered by Administration. Several points were made and a summary is provided as follows:

- This is a starting point. Parents and schools would be consulted as to how it would be implemented in individual schools.
- An implementation process for a new Administrative Regulation regarding nutrition in schools is already in place that would restrict the sale of junk food in schools in the coming months. A draft of this plan is ready to go and a website has been developed. The same regulation will apply to every grade.

- 'Teaming Up for Healthy Learners' is complimentary to Administrative Regulation 3047.
- If this motion were to pass first reading, the Board would work with the Chief Superintendent and would be directly involved with consultation of constituents.
- Learning and nutrition go hand-in-hand and the Board does not currently have a policy regarding nutrition.
- At the present time, 20% of food offerings in schools are permitted to be junk food, although many schools have championed higher standards.

Trustees entered into debate on the motion and a summary of the comments in favour of the motion is as follows:

- Currently, the Board only receives one piece of data per year on student health. Other areas, such as record checks for volunteers are included in policy in order to ensure that record checks take place. It was suggested that this is a similar situation.
- Nutrition should be included in both an Administrative Regulation and Board policy because it is a public issue and input from the public and Administration is needed.
- Nutrition is not a small issue, and this is one step in a large conversation. The Alberta School Board's Association has suggested that school boards increase their focus on nutrition and communities need to be involved. Although it is good that the Chief Superintendent is taking a step towards this, it is up to the Board to set the direction.
- Specific reference to nutrition is not included in current policies. We owe it to the community to make strong statements through policies. An informal Calgary Herald poll showed that 72 percent of participants were supportive of this which is a comment on how important it is to the people of Calgary.

Trustee comments opposed to the motion are summarized as follows:

- The Board was provided with survey results that showed very little or no vending with minimal food service in elementary schools during school time.
- It is the parents and guardians responsibility to provide proper nutrition. The CBE is different from other school boards where meals are provided.
- The paramount goal is to educate students and the CBE is committed to teaching them how to make good decisions.
- Several trustees commented that Administration has already included nutrition in an Administrative Regulation as well as Teaming Up for Healthy Learners, School Action Teams, Teaming Up Steering Committee and schools have received awards based on implementation of these plans. Clear direction has already been provided by the Chief Superintendent and it does not serve the needs of students better to include it in a Board policy.
- Studies show that prohibition increases attractiveness.

Chair Cochrane called for the vote on the motion.

The motion was
DEFEATED.

In favour:	Trustee Taylor Trustee Bazinet
Opposed:	Trustee Bowen-Eyre Trustee Cochrane

Trustee Ferguson
Trustee King
Trustee Lane

9.0 CONSENT AGENDA

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 June 28, 2011
- Special Meeting held August 15, 2011

THAT the Board of Trustees approves the Minutes of the Regular Meeting held June 28, 2011 and the Special Meeting held August 15, 2011, as submitted.

9.1.2 Correspondence

THAT the Board of Trustees receives the following correspondence for information and for the record:

- Letter dated June 9, 2011 from the Honourable Dave Hancock, Minister of Education, to Board Chair Pat Cochrane, enclosing the Success by 6, 10th anniversary children's books to be distributed to grade one students and school libraries.
- Letter dated June 29, 2011 from David Anderson, Executive Director, Alberta School Boards Association and John Rymer, Executive Director, Learner Assessment, Alberta Education to Superintendents of Schools, outlining this year's protocol for the release of provincial achievement test and diploma examination results.
- Email dated August 9, 2011 from Keray Henke, Deputy Minister of Alberta Education, to Superintendents of Public, Separate and Francophone and Charter School Boards Executive Directors of Stakeholder Associations, addressing feedback on the Action on Inclusion Expression of Interest process to select change agents and capacity builders.
- Letter dated September 7, 2011 from Jacquie Hansen, President, Alberta School Boards Association, enclosing an invitation to participate and a draft agenda for upcoming Fall Education Transformation Meetings.

9.1.3 EducationMatters Quarterly Financial Report

THAT the financial report for EducationMatters be received for information and for the record, in the form as submitted.

9.1.4 Liaison Report –Calgary Association of Parents & School Councils

THAT the attachments 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 report for information.

9.2.2 Student Fees Report (EL-18E)

THAT the Board of Trustees receives the report for information.

10.0 TRUSTEE NOTICES OF MOTION

There were no trustee notices of motion.

11.0 ADJOURNMENT

Chair Cochrane declared the meeting adjourned at 7:34 p.m.

