

CALGARY BOARD OF EDUCATION

Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees (the "Board") held in Room T224 and the Multipurpose Room, Education Centre, 1221 – 8th Street SW, Calgary, Alberta on Tuesday, February 21, 2012 at 4:00 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
Ms. E. Gouthro, on behalf of Ms. D. Lewis, Superintendent, Learning Support
Ms. D. Meyers, Superintendent, Finance & Supply Chain Services
Mr. R. Peter, Chief Communications Officer
Ms. L. Safran, Acting General Counsel and Corporate Secretary
Ms. J. Barkway, Office of the Corporate Secretary
Ms. A. McNaught, Recording Secretary

1.0 CALL TO ORDER

Chair Cochrane called the meeting to order at 4:01 p.m. in Room T224 of the Education Centre.

MOVED by Trustee Ferguson:

THAT the Board of Trustees approves that the February 21, 2012, Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees commences at 4:00 p.m. rather than at the previously stated 5:00 p.m.

The motion was
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

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, February 21, 2012, 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.

In favour: Trustee Bazinet
Trustee Bowen-Eyre
Trustee Cochrane
Trustee Ferguson
Trustee King
Trustee Lane
Opposed: Trustee Taylor

MOVED by Trustee King:

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

The motion was
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Recessed: 4:54 p.m.

Reconvened: 5:01 p.m. in the Multipurpose Room, Education Centre.

Stakeholder Representatives In Attendance:

Ms. L Robb, Calgary Board of Education Staff Association
Ms. J. Regal, Alberta Teachers' Association, Local 38
Ms. L. Newton, Calgary Association of Parents and School Councils
Ms. H. Lawrence, Elementary School Principals' Association
Ms. J. Hugill, Elementary School Principals' Association
Mr. R. Laycock, Principals' Association for Adolescent Learners (PAAL)

NATIONAL ANTHEM AND WELCOME

Chair Cochrane reconvened the meeting in the Multipurpose Room at 5:01 p.m. and the assembly sang the national anthem, led by students from the John Ware School Senior Band by way of a DVD recording.

Chair Cochrane acknowledged and welcomed stakeholder representatives from the organizations noted above, as well as Karen Kryczka, a former Member of the Legislative Assembly of Alberta and former Calgary Board of Education Trustee.

2.0 CONSIDERATION/APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Ms. Barkway noted the following proposed additions to the Agenda: Under Item 5.4, there were requests for five stakeholder reports; and under Item 5.5, there was one Trustee inquiry.

MOVED by Trustee King:

THAT the Agenda for the Regular Meeting of February 21, 2012, be approved as submitted, subject to the amendments noted above.

The motion was
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

3.0 SCHOOL/SYSTEM PRESENTATIONS

3.1 There were no presentations.

4.0 HONOURS AND RECOGNITIONS

4.1 Lighthouse Award

Ms. M. Levy, System Principal, Corporate Partnerships, introduced this month's Lighthouse Award recipient, Weigl Educational Publishers Limited. Weigl Publishers is a well-respected company in the global marketplace, specializing in supplementary school materials. Through last year's donation of over 8,000 books they have become an exceptional and valued partner of the Calgary Board of Education (CBE). Involved in two literacy projects with the CBE, WOW UP Your CBE Library With Books From Weigl Publishers and Book Bags for Kids, Weigl Publishers has made a significant difference for many of the most vulnerable students and schools. Linda Weigl, Publisher and President of Weigl Educational Publishers, accepted the award. Chair Cochrane extended congratulations and presented a plaque, expressing appreciation on behalf of the Board of Trustees.

5.0 PUBLIC CONVERSATION AND INFORMATION

5.1 Report from the Chair and Trustees

- Trustee Bowen-Eyre attended the My World Conference on February 8th. The conference was attended by almost 900 CBE students from approximately 40 middle and junior high schools. Students were treated to guest speakers who spoke about overcoming adversity and giving back to the community locally, nationally and globally. A highlight was student presentations about initiatives they participated in at their schools. Students expressed excitement over bringing those new ideas back to their schools. It was an excellent example of the CBE's Result R-3: Citizenship.

Trustee Bowen-Eyre was honoured, along with Deputy Chief Superintendent Stevenson and Ms. J. Everett, Director, Area I, to host His Excellency David Johnston, the Governor General of Canada, at Arbour Lake School. The Governor General was impressed with our students, their school and what they are learning, and was excited to take this example of a fine school on his tour across Canada.

5.2 Report from Chief Superintendent

Chief Superintendent Johnson provided highlights from the past week, which focused on developing connections at the following events:

- The Alberta Initiative for School Improvement (AIS) Conference was held in Edmonton on February 13th and 14th. Chief Superintendent Johnson and some of the Trustees attended. The theme was “Engaging Mind and Making the Connections.” The CBE was well represented at seven sessions with more than 40 staff. A complete list of all the sessions given by the CBE was in Chief Superintendent Johnson’s written update presented at the Regular Meeting on January 17th.
- The National Forum on Learning Innovation was held in Toronto on February 15th and 16th. Superintendent Faber and Mr. B. Parker, Director, Learning Technologies, attended this invitation only event with Chief Superintendent Johnson. Deputy Minister Ellen Hambrook and Dr. Morris Manyfingers of the Kainai First Nations were also there representing Alberta. The theme was “Shifting Minds” and the event was organized by C21 Canada, an organization that stands for Canadians for 21st Century Learning and Innovation. The learning, conversation and networking that took place at this conference validated the work of the CBE and strengthened the organization’s connection to public education at the national level.

Chief Superintendent Johnson provided an update on the budget the Government of Alberta tabled in the legislature on February 9th. The complexity of fully understanding the impact of the budget increased when three budget years were provided at once. However, having a view to the budget for three school years created opportunities: the opportunity to consider strategies with a view to long-term impact; the opportunity to align the CBE’s three year budget to the full Three Year Education Plan cycle; and the opportunity to optimize how the budget supports student learning outcomes beyond the next school year. Preliminary estimates suggest there will be some challenges to solve, however; Administration is confident they will succeed and minimize the impact on students in classrooms wherever they can.

Chief Superintendent Johnson highlighted the budget planning milestones that will involve the Board Trustees to ensure that a Board approved budget can be delivered to Alberta Education by May 31, 2012:

- March 20th - Administration will bring forward a written report for the public meeting that details the budget assumptions and proposed strategies for the Board of Trustees’ consideration, enabling the Board of Trustees to influence this budget early in the planning process.
- Mid-April – the Resource Allocation Method (RAM) will be opened and distributed to schools. Principals need time to build their school budgets, finance planners need adequate time to consolidate the information into a comprehensive operating budget, and the Board of Trustees requires two weeks to consider the proposed budget.
- May 31st – is the deadline for submitting the Board approved budget to Alberta Education. The latest scheduled public meeting is May 15th and it is not possible for Administration to meet all of the stakeholder requirements by this date. Therefore, Administration is publicly requesting that the Board of Trustees create a third public meeting May 29th.

5.3 Public Question Period

There were no public questions.

5.4 Stakeholder Reports

Ms. H. Mowat, Member of the Public

Ms. Mowat introduced herself as parent, teacher, researcher, visionary, function and wholeness, light and love. She expressed her view that the Elite, who have many names (globalism, New World Order, World Health Organization, etc.) have created an illusion so vast it will escape perception and those who see it will be thought of as insane. She shared her opinion about the Elite's agenda and that they use fronts like the United Nations, UNESCO and foundations, and that universities and governments have been infiltrated and bought off. She stated she has chosen to become aware of the Elite's history and is no longer part of the education system.

Ms. Alex Poole, representing the Arabic Bilingual Program Parent Proposal Group

Ms. Poole advised she was there on behalf of the parent group who brought forward the proposal for the Arabic Bilingual Program. She stated that as tax payers they believe in and support the public school system and want the program implemented for the September 2012 school year. She discussed their belief that the program would be beneficial to students because second language learning enhances academic success, and being able to speak Arabic would give students more employment opportunities in the oil and gas industry. Ms. Poole talked about Edmonton's Public School Board and the Arabic Bilingual Program they have had for over 25 years. She maintained that the program they are proposing is a secular bilingual program and feels it is strongly supported by the Provincial Minister of Education. She further shared her belief that it would be exclusionary as opposed to inclusive of their students, and would run counter to the CBE's Citizenship Result to embrace diversity, if the program was not offered.

Ms. Christina Essa, supporting the Arabic Bilingual Program Proposal

Ms. Essa introduced herself saying she was there on behalf of the community of youth and parents interested in having the Arabic Bilingual Program implemented in September 2012. She stated her intention to hold the CBE Trustees and officials accountable to that promised date. Ms. Essa shared that it is important to her family that their children have an opportunity to learn both of their parent's mother tongues, French and Arabic. She discussed the benefits of second language learning, the future employment opportunities being fluent in Arabic would provide, and the assistance an Arabic Bilingual Program would provide to children of families who have come to Canada to work in the oil and gas industry when they go back to their homeland and re-integrate. Ms. Essa stated that as a tax payer she does not accept suggestions that private education is a way for her children to learn Arabic. She asserted her belief that the Arabic community will be angry and feel targeted and excluded if the CBE decides not to offer the Arabic Bilingual Program.

Mr. Naves Hattab, supporting the Arabic Bilingual Program Proposal

Mr. Hattab introduced himself stating that his family immigrated to Calgary 15 years ago, and his three daughters went through the public system. Mr. Hattab shared that

although spoken at home, Arabic was difficult for his daughters to pick up so they attended Saturday school in order to learn it. He spoke about his daughters' frustration at having to attend school on Saturdays instead of having the opportunity to enjoy Saturday cartoons, participate in activities and relax on weekends like their other friends. Mr. Hattab would like his grandson and other children from his community to be able to enjoy the same pleasures others are experiencing on their weekends instead of having to go to Saturday school to learn Arabic. Mr. Hattab expressed some of the benefits he has experienced during his career in the oil and gas field by being able to speak Arabic.

Mr. Fouad Jomaa, supporting the Arabic Bilingual Program Proposal

Mr. Jomaa introduced himself and shared that he and his wife have two daughters, the oldest would be starting kindergarten in September 2012. They feel that learning Arabic should be an integral part of their children's education. Mr. Jomaa discussed the support that was shown for the Arabic Bilingual Program at the Open House last May. He referred to an article featured in the Calgary Herald on February 20th regarding the many merits of the current language programs offered by the CBE. He discussed the competitive advantage students who could speak Arabic would have in the oil and gas industry. Mr. Jomaa spoke about the seven reasons the CBE believes parents should choose public school for their children. He stated his belief that offering the Arabic Bilingual Program would enhance the organization's claims to all of those elements, as well as demonstrate the CBE's commitment to ensuring that all members of society receive fair access to the educational system.

5.5 Trustee Inquiries

Ms. Barkway read the following inquiry into the record that was received from Trustee Taylor:

"In the context of the legal review described in the Calgary Herald article of September 20, 2011, was a formal Request for Proposal (RFP) completed prior to retaining the ongoing legal services of Davis LLP or were the services of Davis LLP contracted via "single source" purchasing?"

Chief Superintendent Johnson advised that the services of Davis LLP were engaged through a Sole Source Agreement. She further shared three important points:

- In law and through the CBE's Administration Regulations, it is permissible to obtain legal services through a Sole Source Agreement;
- Davis LLP has significant and relevant experience providing legal services to education institutions including the Southern Alberta Institute of Technology (SAIT), the British Columbia Institute of Technology (BCIT) and the University of Calgary; and
- Davis LLP has worked with the CBE for some time, and when the organization needed continuous legal support in September when an immediate change occurred with General Counsel, Davis LLP was the logical choice to provide expert and uninterrupted legal services.

6.0 ACTION ITEMS

6.1 Trustee Liaison Report re: Alberta School Board Association Board of Directors – Early Childhood Survey

Trustee Ferguson provided a brief summary of the contents of the report and advised she was bringing the survey to the Board of Trustees so they could determine whether or not such information would be valuable to the CBE and its students.

Administration addressed questions posted by Trustees, and the discussion is summarized as follows:

- Administration cannot speculate on the number of projects the CBE is involved in that support the concept of wrap-around services to children in the early childhood period. A list has not been compiled. Some of the early childhood initiatives the CBE is involved in are: Early Development Centres (currently 8 centres); Full-Day Kindergarten Program; Early Years Evaluation Teacher Assessment with Alberta Education; and Pre-K programs for First Nations, Métis and Inuit (FNMI) students (currently 2 programs and looking to expand).
- The CBE currently sits on the Counsel of Champions with other organizations like the Calgary Police Service, Child and Family Services, the University of Calgary, etc. This group focuses on wrap-around services for K-12.
- Completing the survey would take a significant amount of time and may be a larger undertaking than it appears on the surface. The request is quite detailed.
- Some of the information requested would be contained in the Community Mapping Project that the province is doing, specifically under the Community Early Development Index (EDI).
- It is believed the University of Calgary, and possibly the United Way, have conducted some research around local or provincial gaps in service or policy that act as barriers to providing wrap-around services to children in the early childhood period.
- It was suggested that this work might be better coordinated through the provincial Human Services Department.

MOVED by Trustee Ferguson:

THAT the Board of Trustees directs the Chief Superintendent to undertake the work required for the completion of the questions, as attached on the Wrap-Around Services in the Early Childhood Period – Alberta School Board Survey.

Trustees debated the motion, which is summarized as follows:

- A belief was shared that it may be worthwhile to pick out a couple of projects that Administration feels have potential and report on them, as long as that doesn't take up too much time or resources.
- Concerns were expressed about the amount of time and resources it would take to respond to the survey even if selective responses were provided, as well as the very short turnaround deadline of March 15th,

- Involvement from all of the different wrap-around service agencies would be essential in order to make the survey valuable; all the pieces need to be put together, not just education.
- A comment was made that since the CBE has made a commitment to the Alberta School Board Association (ASBA), and as the survey was part of their Strategic Plan, the organization should participate. Being the largest school board in the province and not participating could take away from the value of the survey overall.
- A point of information was shared that many school boards do not participate in ASBA surveys. The return is often only 30%.
- A point of information was shared that Key Results and Strategic Priorities are approved by the Board of Directors for ASBA. The strategies are the responsibility of the Executive Directors.
- A comment was shared that this could be an opportunity to be part of the conversation about what Early Childhood Education looks like in the province in the future.

Chair Cochrane called for the vote on the motion.

The motion was
DEFEATED.

In Favour:	Trustee Bazinet Trustee Taylor
Opposed:	Trustee Bowen-Eyre Trustee Cochrane Trustee Ferguson Trustee King Trustee Lane

Trustee Ferguson will inform ASBA through the Board of Directors, of this decision.

7.0 MONITORING AND RESULTS

There were no items.

8.0 POLICY DEVELOPMENT AND REVIEW

There were no items.

9.0 CONSENT AGENDA

9.1 Board Consent Agenda

9.1.1 Approval of Minutes

THAT the Board of Trustees approves the Minutes of the Special Meeting held February 6 and 7, 2012, as submitted.

9.2 Chief Superintendent's Consent Agenda

9.2.1 Chief Superintendent Update

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

10.0 TRUSTEE NOTICES OF MOTION

There were no notices of motion.

Recessed: 6:10 p.m.

Reconvened: 6:27 p.m. in Room T224, Education Centre.

11.0 IN-CAMERA ISSUES

MOVED by Trustee Ferguson:

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, February 21, 2012, 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.

In favour:	Trustee Bazinet Trustee Bowen-Eyre Trustee Cochrane Trustee Ferguson Trustee King Trustee Lane
Opposed:	Trustee Taylor

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 King:

- 1. THAT the Board of Trustees receives the Alternative Program Proposal report for information and for the record; and**
- 2. THAT the Board of Trustees authorizes Administration and the Board to communicate information contained in the report, as appropriate.**

The motion was
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

MOVED by Trustee King:

**THAT the Board of Trustees receives the Budget Update for information
and for the record.**

The motion was
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

12.0 ADJOURNMENT

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