

CALGARY BOARD OF EDUCATION

Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees held in the Board Room, Education Centre, 515 Macleod Trail SE, Calgary, Alberta, on Tuesday, December 6, 2005 at 5:12 p.m.

PRESENT

Board of Trustees:

Trustee G. Dirks, Chair
Trustee C. Bazinet
Trustee N. Close
Trustee P. Cochrane
Trustee K. Fawcett
Trustee L. Ferguson
Trustee G. Lane

Administration:

Dr. B. Croskery, Chief Superintendent of Schools
Ms. J. Barkway, Assistant Corporate Secretary
Ms. L. Angelo, Acting Superintendent, Human Resources
Ms. J. Crarer, on behalf of Mr. J. Drysdale, Superintendent, School Support Services
Mr. D. Dart, Superintendent, Business Operations & Environmental Services – Secretary Treasurer
Ms. B. Hubert, Deputy Chief Superintendent of Schools
Mr. J. Jones, Executive Assistant to the Chief Superintendent of Schools
Ms. B. Kuester, Executive Director of Communications
Mr. G. Scott, Director & General Counsel, Legal & Risk Management Services
Ms. S. Wasylshyn, Executive Assistant to the Trustees
Ms. D. Perrier, Recording Secretary

Stakeholder Representatives:

Ms. V. Barlow, Elementary School Principals' Association
Ms. G. Burger-Martindale, Calgary Association of Parents and School Councils
Ms. D. Clark, Elementary School Principals' Association
Mr. L. Liffiton, Alberta Teachers' Association
Ms. S. Walper, Calgary Board of Education Staff Association

1.0 CALL TO ORDER, NATIONAL ANTHEM AND WELCOME

Chair Dirks called the meeting to order at 5:12 p.m. and the singing of the national anthem took place in the Assembly Room led by students from Glamorgan Elementary School, who put on a festive musical performance prior to the meeting start. The meeting reconvened in the Board Room and Chair Dirks welcomed representatives from the aforementioned organizations and members of the public.

2.0 CONSIDERATION/APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Ms. Barkway noted that two items were requested for addition to the Agenda, the first being Item 8.1 – Amendment of GP-5E: Closure of Schools, and the second item is the Minutes of the Special Meeting held November 28, 2005 to be added as Item 9.1.1. She noted also that a late circulation was made of Item 6.1.1 – E-4: Personal Development – Reasonable Interpretation, Indicators and Benchmarks.

Action By

MOVED by Trustee Close:

THAT the Agenda for the Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees held December 6, 2005 be approved as submitted, subject to the addition of Items 8.1 and 9.1.1, as noted above.

The motion was
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

3.0 SCHOOL/SYSTEM PRESENTATIONS

There were no presentations.

4.0 HONOURS AND RECOGNITIONS

There were no honours or recognitions.

5.0 PUBLIC CONVERSATION AND INFORMATION

5.1 Correspondence

There was no correspondence.

5.2 Report from Chair and Trustees

Trustee Bazinet stated that she was recently at the Beth Tzedec Synagogue Calgary, where there was a screening of the movie *Paperclips*, which is about global citizenship. She noted that a private donor made a generous contribution of 80 copies of the film to both Calgary Board of Education and Calgary Catholic School Boards for sharing with students.

Trustee Fawcett noted that he and Trustee Bazinet attended the Mayor's Food Bank Drive Launch on December 1, 2005. In speaking with staff members of the Calgary Interfaith Food Bank, recognition was made that our school system donates over 90,000 pounds of food throughout the school year, and almost 1/3 of that is donated during the month of December.

5.3 Report from Chief Superintendent

Chief Superintendent Croskery reported on the following issues and events:

- He met earlier in the day with Mr. J. Huang, Special Advisor on Chinese Language, Curriculum Branch of Alberta Education. He noted that the government of China is launching a very significant initiative to encourage the teaching of Chinese in western school divisions, and they have also undertaken a project whereby Chinese-speaking nationals are permitted to come to Canada to assist with the teaching of Chinese.
- On November 30, 2005 he attended the Regular Meeting of the Council of Champions. This is a group that is essentially sponsored by the United Way; it involves representatives of Calgary corporate and public agencies, who work together to advance agendas for children in Calgary. One of the projects of the Council of Champions is The Learning Village.

5.4 Public Question Period

There were no questions from the public.

5.5 Stakeholder Reports

There were no stakeholder reports.

5.6 Trustee Inquiries

There were no trustee inquiries.

6.0 MONITORING AND RESULTS

6.1 Ends

6.1.1 E-4: Personal Development – Reasonable Interpretation, Indicators and Benchmarks

Chief Superintendent Croskery provided introductory comments, noting this is a very important agenda for the Calgary Board of Education; and it is an issue that he believes takes the Board into path-breaking territory as a public school system. The annual monitoring report for End 4 will be presented to the Board of Trustees in May 2006. Chief Superintendent Croskery pointed out that the challenge with this issue is in the ability to monitor very worthy and important values and goals in a domain that is unprecedented. He pointed out that Alberta Education as well as a private consulting firm have expressed an interest in working with us on this domain.

Trustees posed questions and requested clarification on a number of points made in the report, and asked for additional information about what will be reported in the May monitoring report. A summary of the discussion is as follows:

- Page 10, the bullets under the heading Reasonable Benchmarks and Indicators – the reporting on each of the activities listed can be expected in the May monitoring report.
- Chief Superintendent Croskery provided further information about the format and type of materials that could be used to form the basis of progress on End 4.
- A compilation of the inventory to be provided by each school of its efforts towards progress on End 4 could be provided to the Trustees' office as soon as it is available. It was suggested by a trustee that an analysis be formed of this data to give an impression of what schools are doing in the way of inputs, perhaps by grade level, and even by Areas. It was noted that a sample of trends could be gleaned from schools reporting on what they are doing this year, above what they did the previous year. It was noted by a trustee that the issue of validity is appreciated in the matter of self-reporting; however, the exercise in itself would be valuable and stimulating.
- It was questioned if there would be a cost burden associated with the work that is listed in the bullets under the Reasonable Benchmarks and Indicators (page 10 of the report). Chief Superintendent Croskery replied that he is of the belief that the work to be done in those areas listed is doable; however, the question that remains is how much further can we go beyond that and what would be required in regards to the methodological work. He noted his anticipation of many different outcomes from this work.
- With respect to the first monitoring report for End 4, Chief Superintendent Croskery stated that good research design is often iterative, that the starting point is with a number of targets to be measured, along with a survey. The results of that survey may not address the questions as they were thought out and, from the findings of the first survey it should be possible to design a better, quantitative survey.

- Chief Superintendent Croskery commented on the Board's value statement of End 4, noting that the questions that arise are: In what context? What does it look like? How would we know when we have a student who is a 'critical thinker' or a 'creative thinker'? He pointed out that without context, the danger is in a subjective opinion being offered. He noted that it is relatively easier to measure characteristics in this domain that are more trivial than deep. He further noted, in response to a subsequent question, that with respect to the sub-sets of intellectual behaviour in this Ends statement, of which there are nine that are listed on pages 1 and 2 of the report, there are actually 21 variables that are derived out of those nine sub-sets, and these are listed on pages 6 and 7 of the report.

MOVED by Trustee Cochrane:

THAT the Board of Trustees directs the Chief Superintendent to report back by the end of January 2006, on some indicators to be used for measuring reasonable progress towards End 4: Personal Development. These will be the initial, possibly provisional, indicators of End 4, as the Calgary Board of Education begins to grapple with measuring and reporting on what has heretofore been largely unmeasured and unreported.

The motion set out above incorporates a friendly amendment that was accepted by the mover. In response to a question of assumption that the initial, possibly provisional, indicators to be reported on in January might not cover all 21 variables as cited in the report dated December 6, 2005; it might not cover all nine sub-sets in the value statement; and it might not be an accounting for all students in the system, Trustee Cochrane agreed and remarked that the motion asks for identification of some initial indicators that can be used as a baseline for measure and reported on in the May monitoring report. She stated further that without clear indicators to start with, it would be very difficult to monitor any progress.

During debate, Trustees acknowledged that this was very complex and complicated work, but that it is critical to measure results so that, as a system, we will know if our students are actually achieving the intended results, in what areas we are improving, and in what areas we need to improve more. There was a recognition that this is a starting point for very important work that will become an iterative annual process, and that will provide opportunity to celebrate our achievements.

Chair Dirks called for the vote on the motion.

The motion was
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

MOVED by Trustee Fawcett:

THAT the Board of Trustees approves and directs the Chief Superintendent to implement the *Reasonable Benchmarks and Indicators* plan for the Annual Monitoring Report on End 4 for May 2006, as identified on pages 10 and 11 of the Reasonable Interpretation, Benchmarks and Indicators for End 4: Personal Development report dated December 6, 2005.

The motion was
CARRIED.

In favour:	Trustee Close
	Trustee Dirks
	Trustee Fawcett
	Trustee Ferguson
	Trustee Lane
Opposed:	Trustee Bazinet
	Trustee Cochrane

6.2 Executive Limitations

6.2.1 Annual Monitoring Report for Executive Limitation 13: Facilities/ Accommodations

Chair Dirks 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. He noted further that the particular vote with regard to compliance should in no way be considered as a vote of non-confidence.

Trustees posed questions, which were responded to by Administration and are summarized as follows:

- On page 12 of the report, under point 5 where reference is made of an approved Long Range Student Accommodation Master Planning Process - it was confirmed that Senior Administration approved this process in the later part of the spring season, 2005.
- Discussion took place on the challenging issues surrounding the 85% utilization target, with references made to pages 8 and 9 of the report, including matters such as age and vintage of some of our schools and related capacity appeals that are currently lodged with the provincial government, respective of our sandstone facilities; projected utilization rate and estimated surplus student spaces.

Trustee Cochrane raised a point of order regarding the requirement that trustees limit their comments and questions to the three points noted by Chair Dirks during the introduction of this item. Chair Dirks reiterated the points, and agreed to more stringently limit trustees' comments and questions to these areas.

- With respect to this particular monitoring report, as it relates to facilities and capacities, there was no consideration given to the initiatives of class size or full-day Kindergarten.
- How the scarcity of funds makes it very difficult to carry out a comprehensive maintenance program of our facilities.

MOVED by Trustee Close:

THAT the Board of Trustees has reviewed the internal monitoring report of Executive Limitation 13: Facilities/Accommodations and makes the following conclusion:

THAT the Chief Superintendent is in compliance with the provisions of this policy, with policy sub-parts 4(b)(c) and 5 excepted.

A request was made for the Chair to separate the question with respect to each of the policy sub-parts.

For purposes of clarification, the text of each policy sub-part is recorded prior to the vote being called for its exception.

Policy sub-part 4(b): Include maintenance costs as necessary to enable facilities to reach or extend their intended life cycles;

Chair Dirks called for the vote on the exception of policy sub-part 4(b).

The motion to except policy sub-part 4(b) was
DEFEATED.

In favour:	Trustee Close
Opposed:	Trustee Bazinet
	Trustee Cochrane
	Trustee Dirks

Trustee Fawcett
Trustee Ferguson
Trustee Lane

Policy sub-part 4(c): Plan for and schedule preventative maintenance;

Trustee Close noted that funding is insufficient to meet all needs for preventative maintenance, as stated in the report, and she is of the belief that not being in compliance is acceptable because of the funding levels that we receive.

Chair Dirks called for the vote on the exception of policy sub-part 4(c).

The motion to except policy sub-part 4(c) was
DEFEATED.

In favour: Trustee Close
Trustee Cochrane
Trustee Ferguson
Opposed: Trustee Bazinet
Trustee Dirks
Trustee Fawcett
Trustee Lane

Policy sub-part 5: Fail to have a clear process to inform Administrative recommendations on school and program closures, relocations and expansions;

Trustee Close stated that progress towards a clear process has definitely been demonstrated, but progress in itself is not necessarily compliance. She noted that as the report indicates, this continues to be an area that needs attention; and just recently we had a newly created Community Engagement and Transportation Department to find a consistent approach for application. In the discussion of the issue, it was noted by some trustees that in terms of making a judgment as to whether there was compliance in this area over the past year, there have been shortcomings in this area.

Chair Dirks called for the vote on the exception of policy sub-part 5.

The motion was
CARRIED.

In favour: Trustee Bazinet
Trustee Close
Trustee Cochrane
Trustee Ferguson
Trustee Lane
Opposed: Trustee Dirks
Trustee Fawcett

Trustee Close reread the main motion, as follows:

THAT the Board of Trustees has reviewed the internal monitoring report of Executive Limitation 13: Facilities/Accommodations and makes the following conclusion:

THAT the Chief Superintendent is in compliance with the provisions of this policy, with policy sub-part 5 excepted.

The motion was
CARRIED.

In favour: Trustee Bazinet
Trustee Close
Trustee Cochrane
Trustee Dirks
Trustee Ferguson

Opposed: Trustee Lane
Trustee Fawcett

7:27 p.m. - Recessed.

7:45 p.m. - Reconvened.

6.3 Board Performance – Governance Process

There were no items.

7.0 BOARD DEVELOPMENT

7.1 High School Completion

Chief Superintendent Croskery spoke briefly about the context of the issue and introduced Ms. S. Church, Director, Corporate Partnerships, and Ms. L. Brost, Director, Accountability Services, and also welcomed Mr. D. Woloshyn, Director, Zone 5, Alberta Education.

7:48 p.m. - Chair Dirks received consent of the trustees to continue the meeting to the conclusion of the agenda.

Ms. Brost and Ms. Church gave the presentation, aided by PowerPoint, and written copies were also made available and distributed at the meeting. The topics covered by the presentation are summarized as follows:

- High School Completion – Session Purpose: Technical understanding of definitions and terms used for reporting high school completion rates.
- Outcomes: Progress towards Ends; Clarity of terminology used to describe student success.
- Alberta Education Data, Definitions and Methodologies.
 - Definitions: High School Completion Rate; Cohort; Completers; Credentialed Completers; Certificate of Achievement; Certificate of High School Achievement; Non-credentialed Completers; Attrition.
- Charts: High School Completion Rates (based on tracking grade 10 students for 3 years); Annual Dropout Rates (youth aged 14 to 18 years).
- Three-Year Education Plan (includes the most recent year of jurisdiction results for all required measures; sets improvement targets for all required measures).
- Performance Measures – Results and Targets.
- Increasing High School Completion: Strategies and Initiatives.

Trustees posed questions, which were addressed by Administration and by Mr. Woloshyn. It was noted that the methodology that is used in our Board and throughout the province of Alberta to measure high school completion is much broader than that used in other provinces. An indicator of success, and the parameters of what that indicator is, has now been given a definition; and this definition gives recognition to many paths for success for students, including the success of moving into an apprenticeship program. A question was raised about the students who are high school completers, but are non-credentialed completers, asking why those students are not informed in writing, or otherwise, that they are completers. There was no available response to this question.

In regard to a question of tracking First Nations, Metis and Inuit (FNMI) learners and English as a Second Language (ESL) learners, Ms. Brost noted that the request for this information has been made by many school boards to Alberta Education. She noted that the caution with this research is that it can't be done easily – both the College of Alberta School Superintendents and the Alberta School Boards Association have been reviewing issues particular to high school completion, such as attrition rates, etc., and there could be some

information disaggregated in future, for use with respect to FNMI and ESL learners. She pointed out that it is hoped this data would include any student who was ever coded as an ESL student, in order to see what kind of completion rate would apply for all of those students. Mr. Woloshyn confirmed that Alberta Education is working on the request for disaggregated data for specific student populations, in hopes of providing that information in the future.

On behalf of the Board of Trustees, Chair Dirks noted appreciation for the time involved to prepare and present the report, and shared the belief that the information presented is very beneficial.

8.0 POLICY DEVELOPMENT AND REVIEW

8.1 Amendment of GP-5E: Closure of Schools

Ms. J. Trylinski, Manager, Board Governance Policy Liaison and Administrative Regulations, reviewed the contents of the report and responded to questions.

MOVED by Trustee Fawcett:

THAT the Board of Trustees use one modified process for the closure of schools, and that the Board approves the amendment of GP 5E, by the addition of the phrase “using the Board’s customary process and principles as applicable to closures occurring pursuant to sections 4 to 7 of this procedure”.

MOVED by Trustee Bazinet:

THAT the motion be amended by changing the phrase “using the Board’s customary process and principles as applicable to closures occurring pursuant to sections 4 to 7 of this procedure” to “using the same process as applicable to closures occurring pursuant to sections 4 to 7 of this procedure”.

The motion to amend was
DEFEATED.

In favour:	Trustee Bazinet
Opposed:	Trustee Close
	Trustee Cochrane
	Trustee Dirks
	Trustee Fawcett
	Trustee Ferguson
	Trustee Lane

MOVED by Trustee Cochrane:

THAT consideration of the motion proposed by Trustee Fawcett be postponed to the next public meeting of the Board of Trustees, scheduled for December 20, 2005.

The motion to postpone was
CARRIED.

In favour:	Trustee Bazinet
	Trustee Close
	Trustee Cochrane
	Trustee Dirks
	Trustee Ferguson
	Trustee Lane
Opposed:	Trustee Fawcett

J. Barkway (Agenda)

9.0 CONSENT AGENDA

9.1 Board Consent Agenda

Chair Dirks noted that, as none of the following items had been pulled from the Board Consent Agenda, they would be deemed adopted as presented.

9.1.1 Approval of Minutes

- Special Meeting held November 28, 2005

THAT the Minutes of the Special Meeting of the Board of Trustees held November 28, 2005 be adopted as submitted.

9.1.2 Liaison Report – Alberta School Boards Association

THAT the liaison report with respect to the Alberta School Boards Association be received for information, in the form as submitted with the Agenda for the Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees held December 6, 2005.

9.1.3 Liaison Report – imagineCALGARY

THAT the liaison report with respect to imagineCALGARY be received for information, in the form as submitted with the Agenda for the Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees held December 6, 2005.

9.2 Chief Superintendent Consent Agenda

Chair Dirks stated that a request had been made to remove Item 9.2.2 – Facility Condition Report from the Chief Superintendent Consent Agenda. In addition, a correction was noted to Item 9.2.3 - School Enrolment Report: Addendum, on page 5, Attachment II, in the column for Sir John Franklin – Arts Centered, the student enrolment figure should read 110 rather than 13.

Chair Dirks noted that, as neither of the following two items had been pulled from the Chief Superintendent Consent Agenda, they would be deemed adopted as presented.

9.2.1 Monthly Update

THAT the Chief Superintendent’s Monthly Update be received for information.

9.2.3 2005-2006 School Enrolment Report - Addendum

THAT the Addendum to the *School Enrolment Report* for the 2005-2006 school year be received as information and for the record.

9.2.2 Facility Condition Report

Trustees gave consideration to the contents of the report and posed questions, which were addressed by Administration as follows:

- Reference was made to page 10 of the report, with respect to the change in the Province’s facility audit process, and the statements “In future years the CBE will not be able to draw information from the new audit in order to fulfill the information requirements of EL-13E. A much greater reliance will have to be placed on internally developed information.” Mr. D. Hoerz, Director, Facility Operations Services, noted that an internal process is currently in place, as is reflected in Attachment I, which addresses three key operating areas: mechanical, electrical and structural. He made a cautionary comment that these facility condition ratings are based on a 1999-2000 provincial audit and, as time passes, this information would become progressively stale. If, at some point in the future, we were to revisit the audit, this would involve a

significant amount of money to obtain professionals from outside of the system to do the work.

- A trustee remarked that it is questionable as to whether there is a need in this particular matter to acknowledge that the Chief Superintendent is not in compliance with the Board's policy; or a need to authorize the Chief Superintendent to spend a large amount in resources to obtain updated information; or a need for the Board to give consideration to changing the policy.
- Reference was made to the last paragraph on page 5 of the report – with questions raised about the new definition for deferred maintenance, which has been adopted by Alberta Infrastructure and Transportation. Mr. Hoerz remarked that we have not had any further information about what this actually entails; there has been no communication from the province as to what the impacts might be. This makes it extremely difficult for a determination to be made as to how the lower deferred maintenance numbers will reflect on the actual deferred maintenance costs.

MOVED by Trustee Cochrane:

THAT the Facility Condition Report be received as information and for the record, in the form as submitted with the Agenda for the Regular Meeting held December 6, 2005.

The motion was
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

MOVED by Trustee Close:

THAT the Administration draft a letter for the Board to send to the appropriate provincial Ministers, expressing grave reservations about the province's planned changes to defining deferred maintenance and requesting that the province consults with affected Boards before any implementation of such changes.

D. Dart

The motion was
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

10.0 ACTION ITEMS

10.1 Board Meeting Procedures

MOVED by Trustee Close:

THAT the Board of Trustees postpones consideration of the *Board Meeting Procedures* report to the Regular Meeting scheduled for December 20, 2005.

J. Barkway (Agenda)

The motion was
CARRIED.

In favour: Trustee Close
Trustee Cochrane
Trustee Dirks
Trustee Fawcett
Trustee Ferguson

Opposed: Trustee Bazinet
Trustee Lane

Action By

10.0 TRUSTEE NOTICES OF MOTION

There were no trustee notices of motion.

11.0 ADJOURNMENT

The Chair declared the meeting adjourned at 9:26 p.m.