

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, June 21, 2005 at 5:00 p.m.

PRESENT

Board of Trustees:

Trustee G. Dirks, Chair
Trustee C. Bazinet (arrived at 5:09 p.m.; departed at 7:53 p.m.)
Trustee N. Close
Trustee P. Cochrane
Trustee K. Fawcett
Trustee L. Ferguson

Absent: Trustee G. Lane

Administration:

Dr. B. Croskery, Chief Superintendent of Schools
Ms. J. Barkway, Assistant Corporate Secretary
Ms. M. Clark, Superintendent, Human Resources
Mr. D. Dart, Superintendent, Business Operations & Environmental Services – Secretary Treasurer
Mr. J. Drysdale, Superintendent, School Support Services
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
Mr. L. Liffiton, Alberta Teachers' Association

Action By

1.0 CALL TO ORDER, NATIONAL ANTHEM AND WELCOME

Chair Dirks called the meeting to order at 5:01 p.m. and the singing of the national anthem took place accompanied by students from Captain John Palliser Elementary School playing the recorders. Chair Dirks welcomed representatives from the aforementioned organizations and members of the public.

2.0 CONSIDERATION/APPROVAL OF AGENDA

MOVED by Trustee Fawcett:

THAT the Agenda for the Regular Meeting held June 21, 2005, be approved as submitted.

The motion was

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Absent:

Trustee Bazinet

3.0 CORRESPONDENCE

There was no correspondence.

4.0 PRESENTATION, HONOURS AND RECOGNITION

4.1 LIGHTHOUSE AWARDS

4.1.1 GLOBAL TELEVISION

Ms. Kuester introduced Mr. L. Koutis, Reporter, and Ms. L. Olsen, Anchor, who were in attendance to accept the Lighthouse Award on behalf of Global Television. Global has assumed a major role in the promotion and implementation of the CBE's *Book Bags for Kids* program, and last year the program was officially launched on the Global Breakfast Show, preceding a very successful campaign. Ms. Kuester noted that Global Television does an excellent job of bringing much of our good news to the public's attention, helping to keep Calgarians informed about the great things going on in our schools and our system.

Ms. Olsen and Mr. Koutis each shared remarks about the importance of the public education system and about reporting stories that raise public awareness and that reflect the community that we live in.

On behalf of the Board of Trustees, Chair Dirks thanked Global Television for their fine work in covering education issues and making public education awareness a priority in our city.

4.1.2 CALGARY POLICE SERVICE

Ms. Kuester introduced and welcomed from the Calgary Police Service (CPS), Mr. J. Watson, Chair of the Police Commission, and Mr. J. Beaton, Chief of the CPS. The CPS has a visible presence in our junior and senior high schools, overseeing everything from criminal investigations to family counseling. As early as Grade 6 our students are introduced to the CPS through their anti-smoking campaign, *Teaming up for Tobacco Free Kids*. They are also involved in extracurricular activities in our schools, chaperoning school trips, coaching sports teams and providing security at school sporting events. In addition, the CPS offers Youth and Student Police Academies, enabling students to experience life as police officers. Ms. Kuester noted that the CPS is an invaluable asset to the CBE, and their active participation is a vital contribution to our safe, secure and spirited learning environment.

Mr. Watson and Chief Beaton came forward and gave thanks for the acknowledgement and for the Lighthouse Award. Remarks were shared about the pride and dedication that CPS has for youth in the city and comments were given about some of the programs they deliver within our schools.

On behalf of the Board of Trustees and the system, Chair Dirks gave words of appreciation to the Calgary Police Service for their very significant partnership with the Calgary Board of Education, and stated that they are integral to the success of public education in our city.

5:09 p.m. – Trustee Bazinet arrived at the meeting.

5.0 VERBAL UPDATES

5.1 REPORT FROM THE CHAIR AND TRUSTEES

Trustee Ferguson reported on the new initiative called "A Call to Action – Leading the Way to Successful Immigrant Integration". Participants in this initiative include representatives from government, education, health, police, justice, business and human services. She stated that it is a very important initiative in recognizing the diversity in our schools and the need

in our society to develop a framework for successful integration policies and some indicators for measuring success for immigrant families and their children.

Trustee Close noted that she recently attended the Round Table meeting of *Imagine Calgary*. She pointed out that there are roles in this project that are of mammoth proportions working towards both the development of a 100-year vision and the setting of 30-year targets and strategies. Trustee Close stated that she came away from the Round Table meeting with a feeling of great hope and optimism.

Trustee Cochrane informed that she had attended the graduation of the CBE Facility Operators who have completed the three-year Facility Management Certificate Program. SAIT and the Calgary Board of Education jointly offer this certificate program.

Trustee Fawcett gave recognition to the patrols at Abbeydale Elementary School who took the award for being the best patrol team in the City of Calgary.

On behalf of the Board of Trustees, Chair Dirks gave recognition to Irfan and presented him with a gift in appreciation of his work as Board Page for the 2004-2005 school year.

5.2 REPORT FROM THE CHIEF SUPERINTENDENT

Chief Superintendent Croskery reported on the following issues and events:

- He had attended the SAIT graduation for the Facility Operators and he noted his appreciation to the Business Operations and Environmental Services Unit for its support of approximately 200 people who have taken that training to date.
- King George School received an award from the United Way, for their unique and outstanding fundraising contributions. The school had a campaign last year where each student filled a soup can of their own design with money; this year they did that and more.
- Last week he had the opportunity to visit West Dalhousie and Hawkwood Elementary Schools. He commended the work being done in these two schools and noted that the children were totally focused on learning every minute that he was there.
- A small celebration was held for some of the CBE staff in appreciation of their work on the budget.
- He gave mention to the work that is being done in the teacher leadership strand in the Leadership Centre, and noted his pleasure that this initiative is a collaborative undertaking by some senior administrators of the Alberta Teachers' Association and our staff.

Chair Dirks gave a reminder that on June 28th at 1:00 p.m. the Board of Trustees will hold its public meeting to consider the matter of the possible closure of Ogden Elementary School.

6.0 PUBLIC QUESTION PERIOD

There were no questions from the public.

7.0 STAKEHOLDER REPORTS

There were no stakeholder reports.

8.0 GOVERNANCE: POLICY DEVELOPMENT AND MONITORING

Chair Dirks received the consent of Trustees to move forward Item 8.2.1 to this point in the meeting; however, it is recorded in chronological order to provide continuity to these minutes.

8.1 ACTION ITEMS

8.1.1 2005/06 OPERATING BUDGET

Superintendent Dart provided opening comments, noting that in keeping with the CBE value that students come first, the top priority for this budget has been the provision of teaching and learning services to students. A continuation of the Small Class Size Initiative announced in the 2004/05 school year will place an additional 100 teachers in our schools, resulting in almost 350 additional teachers over two years. Extended kindergarten programming will be supported in almost 30 of our schools for students who would benefit the most. The budget also provides for continued and enhanced support for English as a Second Language instruction, and it provides for an additional 11 new special needs classes for those students who require additional support. As a result of issues facing metro boards, the provision of lower grants and inflationary cost pressures, areas in which the CBE will be challenged include the maintenance of current levels of support in the classroom in the future; improvements to environmental conditions and related plant operations and maintenance; increases to transportation costs and number of routes required - resulting in increased fees to parents.

Trustees gave consideration to the report and had their questions responded to, which related to the following issues:

- Plant Operations and Maintenance Funding – no formal announcement as yet by the Minister of Infrastructure and Transportation.
- Alberta Initiative for School Improvement (AIS) Funding – is based on the enrolment count from the previous September 30th. AISI funding did receive a 2% grant increase, but we have not seen the final allocation of those funds for our jurisdiction as yet.
- Utilities Expenses – no significant increase is anticipated and the rates have been manageable within or below the projected budget. A review is underway with our carrier regarding a long-range contract.
- Information was provided with respect to the transferring of funds from operating to capital budgets and it was noted that the province allows flexibility to boards in making those decisions. Over the last few years draws against operations to support capital infrastructure have been anywhere from \$1.5 to \$3.0 million, and this year it is anticipated at around \$1.8 to \$2.0 million. Some of these draws are carried over from year to year as special reserves.

MOVED by Trustee Fawcett:

THAT the 2005/06 Preliminary Operating Budget be approved, in the form as submitted with the Agenda for the Regular Meeting held June 21, 2005, and that it be submitted to the Minister of Alberta Education on or before June 24, 2005.

In the debate of the motion, trustees voiced that the budget was both a good news and a bad news budget in that some significant enhancements in critical areas have been attended to, but it also is recognized that the budget does not respond to the unique and complex metro issues we face in our board. Chair Dirks called for the vote on the motion.

The motion was
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

8.2 INFORMATION/DISCUSSION ITEMS

8.2.1 Presentation of Metro School Boards Study

Chair Dirks introduced the item, noting that on behalf of and out of concern for the wellbeing of the four metro boards – the four large boards in Calgary and Edmonton - the Alberta School Boards Association (ASBA) engaged in a study to investigate, research and report back on issues of concern related to the metro school boards. He noted this particular study was completed and referred to trustees for consideration at a recent provincial meeting and it was virtually unanimously supported by school boards and by trustees. Chair Dirks introduced and welcomed to the Board Room, Dr. L. Sloan who was senior consultant assisting the school boards and the ASBA in this particular matter in preparing and then reporting on the Metro School Boards Study.

Mr. Sloan came forward and, assisted by a PowerPoint presentation, spoke on the findings of the Metro School Boards Study. He pointed out that the study is available on the ASBA website at: <http://www.asba.ab.ca>. He stated that the study and the impetus for it occurred because there was a renewed funding framework for the province that was brought into being around the same time, approximately one year ago, and the metro boards were led to believe they were going to receive a considerable increase in their funding. The difference between expectation and reality resulted in the undertaking of this study. Dr. Sloan stated that in addition to the renewed funding framework, which had some problems, there were further issues that required investigation as a part of the study, those being the issues of transportation and facilities.

Dr. Sloan provided details about some of the unique and complex issues experienced by metro boards, which were researched in the study. The Metro School Boards Study contains 30 recommendations respective to the following areas:

- Renewed Funding Framework – five recommendations;
- Funding for English as a Second Language – three recommendations;
- Funding for First Nations, Métis and Inuit Education – two recommendations;
- Student Transportation – four recommendations;
- Facilities: Infrastructure Expansion – five recommendations; Infrastructure Preservation – four recommendations; Plant Operations & Maintenance – four recommendations; Space Reduction Initiatives – two recommendations;
- Instructional Costs to Metro Boards – one recommendation.

Dr. Sloan pointed out there was overwhelming support for these recommendations, noting that out of approximately 350 trustees from throughout the province, only about six voted against the recommendations.

On behalf of the Board of Trustees, Chair Dirks gave thanks to Dr. Sloan for providing such a quality and comprehensive overview of the Metro Study. He noted that it is with great hope that this study goes a long way towards ensuring that equity is provided to the disadvantaged metro boards.

MOVED by Trustee Bazinet:

THAT the Board of Trustees receives the public presentation on the Metro School Boards Study for information and for the record.

The motion was
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

8.3 TRUSTEE INQUIRIES

There were no trustee inquiries.

8.4 TRUSTEE NOTICES OF MOTION

There were no notices of motion.

9.0 MINUTES

9.1 REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES HELD MAY 17, 2005

MOVED by Trustee Cochrane:

THAT the Minutes of the Regular Meetings of the Board of Trustees held May 17, 2005 be approved as submitted.

The motion was
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

9.3 BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

There was no business arising from the Minutes.

10.0 EMERGENT ITEMS FOR NEXT BOARD MEETING

There were no emergent items for the next Board meeting.

6:19 p.m. – Recessed.

6:37 p.m. – Reconvened.

11.0 IN-CAMERA ISSUES

11.1 MOTION TO MOVE IN CAMERA

MOVED by Trustee Ferguson:

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

The motion was
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

7:53 p.m. – Trustee Bazinet left the meeting.

8:05 p.m. – Chair Dirks received the unanimous consent of the Trustees to the continuation of the meeting past the scheduled completion time of 8:00 p.m., to the conclusion of the Agenda.

11.2 MOTION TO REVERT TO PUBLIC MEETING

MOVED by Trustee Cochrane:

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

The motion was
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Absent: Trustee Bazinet

11.3 MOTIONS TO ACTION IN-CAMERA RECOMMENDATIONS

MOVED by Trustee Close:

1. **THAT the Board of Trustees instructs Administration to endeavour to negotiate a definitive long-term agreement with Telus Sourcing Solutions Inc. (TSS) and Telus Communications Inc. (TCI) that embraces, amongst other considerations, the key business terms set forth in the non-binding Business Terms Sheet.**
2. **THAT, upon concluding those negotiations, Administration presents the long-term agreement to the Board of Trustees for review and final specific approval.**

The motion was

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Absent:

Trustee Bazinet

MOVED by Trustee Cochrane:

THAT the Board of Trustees supports the plan to transfer Piitoayis students to Colonel Walker School effective September 2005, and directs the Chief Superintendent of Schools to organize and convene an information meeting for the purpose of informing the parents of the students affected by the planned transfer of the planned transfer and the alternative arrangements for continuing the education program at another school.

Further, that the Chief Superintendent of Schools be directed to report to the Board of Trustees by June 28, 2005 on the outcome of such meeting in order that the Board can provide such further direction as deemed appropriate.

The motion was

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Absent:

Trustee Bazinet

12.0 ADJOURNMENT

The Chair declared the meeting adjourned at 9:07 p.m.