

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, October 18, 2005 at 5:26 p.m.

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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. 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. G. Burger-Martindale, Calgary Association of Parents and School Councils  
Ms. M. Clark, Elementary School Principals' Association  
Ms. A. Craig, Calgary Board of Education Staff Association  
Mr. L. Liffiton, Alberta Teachers' Association  
Ms. C. Oishi, Principals' Association for Adolescent Learners  
Mr. P. Tuck, Senior High School Principals' Association

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

Chair Dirks called the meeting to order at 5:26 p.m. and the singing of the national anthem took place, led by students from Fred Seymour Elementary School. Chair Dirks gave a welcome to all present.

**2.0 CONSIDERATION/APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

MOVED by Trustee Ferguson:

**THAT the Agenda for the Regular Meeting held October 18, 2005, be approved as submitted, subject to the removal of Item 9.1.3 – Linkages Committee report.**

The motion was  
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Action By

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

#### **3.1 Tsunami Relief Efforts – Fred Seymour Elementary School**

Ms. L. Lyster, Director, Educational Support Services, came forward and made introductions of the presenters, including Ms. B. Zugman, Principal, Ms. J. Gray, Teacher, Mr. M. Magowan, Teacher, and welcomed students and parents from Fred Seymour Elementary School. The students of the school, along with 30 other CBE schools raised over \$62,000 for the tsunami relief between January and July 2005. Principal Zugman, Ms. Gray and Mr. Magowan, along with Ms. Lyster and Ms. S. McLeod, System Principal, International Bureau, were in Thailand in August and met with people who benefited from the money raised.

Ms. Gray spoke about the contributions made by the students and parents and a video clip presentation was provided showing their efforts for the tsunami relief and for the rebuilding of Morgan Village. Student ambassadors from Fred Seymour Elementary School came forward and each shared phrases of positive beliefs for a better world and better people. A second video showed news clips, commentary by people affected by the tsunami, some of the devastation and efforts of rebuilding, and interaction between CBE staff and some of the people of Morgan Village. The students, accompanied by teachers and parents in the public gallery, sang their school song.

Following a presentation of gifts to the Board of Trustees and to the Chief Superintendent of Schools, which were made on behalf of the Governor of Phang Nga Province and the people of Morgan Village, Ms. Zugman gave thanks for the opportunity to travel to Thailand, to actualize their students' dreams and goal to make a difference. On behalf of the Fred Seymour Community she presented both Ms. McLeod and Ms. Lyster with copies of the book "Imagine A Day", in recognition of their efforts and involvement in this project. She also presented Chair Dirks with a plaque that was designed by students for the Morgan Village rebuilding project.

On behalf of the Board of Trustees, Trustee Bazinet gave words of thanks for the presentation and to the students and staff of Fred Seymour Elementary School for leading in the singing of the national anthem and sharing their school song.

5:56 p.m. - Trustee Bazinet left the room.

### **4.0 HONOURS AND RECOGNITIONS**

#### **4.1 Lighthouse Award**

Ms. Kuester stated that the recipient for this month's Lighthouse Award is the Calgary Bridge Foundation for Youth. She noted that the Calgary Bridge Foundation for Youth assists immigrant and refugee youth to overcome language and cultural barriers so that they may succeed in school and in Canadian society. The Calgary Bridge Foundation for Youth has partnered with the CBE since 1990 in providing after school programs in both elementary and junior high schools. This year there are 16 elementary sites and five junior high sites, and the program is offered once a week at each site.

Ms. Kuester introduced and welcomed Mr. H. Yee, Executive Director, and Ms. B. Ahluwalia, who were present to accept the award on behalf of the Calgary Bridge Foundation for Youth. Mr. Yee shared remarks of appreciation for the partnership and acknowledged a number of CBE employees who were in the audience and who have taken an active role in this partnership.

On behalf of the Board of Trustees, Chair Dirks shared words of appreciation for the partnership with the Calgary Bridge Foundation for Youth, noting their work is crucial and foundational to the success of children and their families.

6:04 p.m. - Trustee Bazinet returned to the meeting.

## **5.0 PUBLIC CONVERSATION AND INFORMATION**

### **5.1 Correspondence**

Chair Dirks read into the record a letter that the Board of Trustees sent to the Honourable Ralph Klein, Premier, the Honourable Shirley McClellan, Deputy Premier and Minister of Finance, the Honourable Dr. Lyle Oberg, Minister of Infrastructure and Transportation, and the Honourable Gene Zwozdesky, Minister of Education. In summary, the letter speaks to the extreme disappointment of the Board with respect to recent new school funding announcements, which falls short of addressing the CBE's pressing infrastructure needs. Our Board submitted a Three-Year School Capital Plan in May 2005 that included a list of eleven schools and two modernizations to be funded in the first year of the plan, but only one new school from the list was approved for funding. Despite educating almost 17% of the students in this province, the CBE received only 6.5% of the total infrastructure money recently announced to support new school construction. The CBE requires a rational long-range provincial plan to address its long-term capital needs. The Board respectfully urges the provincial government to work swiftly to develop and implement a predictable funding strategy in accordance with the CBE's capital plan that will result in the construction of desperately needed new public schools in Calgary.

### **5.2 Report from Chair and Trustees**

Trustee Bazinet reported on her attendance at the French Second Language Learning in Alberta Conference that was held in Kananaskis.

Trustee Ferguson shared comments about the Personalizing Learning Symposium that was held at the University of Calgary, which was attended by a number of trustees.

Chair Dirks gave recognition to the outstanding work of the participants who put together the Centennial Celebration on behalf of our system.

### **5.3 Report from Chief Superintendent**

Chief Superintendent Croskery acknowledged a number of CBE employees who received awards or medals for their outstanding work with students and their community, as follows:

- Mr. P. Tuck, Principal, Bowness High School, was awarded an Alberta Centennial Medal for his contributions and community support for students.
- Ms. K. Burchill, Assistant Principal, Georges P. Vanier Junior High School, received an Alberta Centennial Medal for her extensive community service activities.
- Ms. M. Lake, Teacher, Bowness High School, received an Executive Service Award from the Social Studies Specialist Council of the Alberta Teachers' Association.
- Mr. L. Champ, Teacher, Henry Wise Wood High School, received an Award of Excellence from the Social Studies Specialist Council of the Alberta Teachers' Association.

#### **5.4 Public Question Period**

There were no questions from the public.

#### **5.5 Stakeholder Reports**

##### **5.5.1 Mr. O. Fech**

Mr. Fech spoke as a concerned citizen, noting the importance that we listen to the children and strive for peace and goodwill. On the matter of school closures, he noted that the City of Calgary has a number of school properties and their intentions for future use of those buildings and lands are unknown at this time. Mr. Fech noted his recent finding from attending a City of Calgary transportation meeting was that they have a budget of \$2.4 billion for infrastructure, and he noted his concern that not a word was mentioned of the needs of children and for schools. He concluded by expressing that we need to take a stand on matters as individuals, to speak out about what is good for our children today, and not to concern ourselves so much with system globalization and governments.

#### **5.6 Trustee Inquiries**

There were no trustee inquiries.

#### **6.0 UNFINISHED BUSINESS CARRIED FORWARD FROM OCTOBER 4, 2005**

##### **6.1 Annual Monitoring Report – EL-7: Treatment of Staff and Volunteers**

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:

- The recruitment of highly qualified candidates, particularly for teaching positions - Superintendent Clark and Chief Superintendent Croskery provided an explanation of the recruitment process undertaken by the CBE, and noted that costs for recruitment can be high and attention is given to our finite resources. Superintendent Clark addressed a follow-up question related to trends, noting that there are indications of a teacher shortage around the world. Issues surrounding recognition of credentials and entrance to the teaching profession in Alberta were also discussed.
- A typographical error was noted on page 9 of 13 of the report, in the sentence above point 7 the word “complaint” should read “compliance”.
- On the issue of protection against illegal discrimination and harassment – Chief Superintendent Croskery provided clarification with respect to the statement of marginal compliance in these domains. He noted his belief that the workforce does not yet represent, in any meaningful manner, the diversity of our student body and, as such, this remains to be an agenda item for further work by our administration.
- Does the CBE track the incidents where students report that they have been discriminated or harassed? Chief Superintendent Croskery noted his belief that there is no formal tracking method in place, and a process as such may need consideration.
- The screening process for volunteers – Chief Superintendent Croskery noted that with respect to concerns that our procedures are too rigorous, compared to other

jurisdictions the CBE's procedures may be more scrupulous but, because we are a larger urban Board, it is felt a necessity. With respect to a question of consideration as to whether compliance was met in the first stages of the new procedures taking effect, he stated that lengthy discussions took place that involved staff from Legal Services, Risk Assessment, and Duty of Care Services.

- Orientation of staff to the Board of Trustees' policies – Chief Superintendent Croskery stated that administration has done a great deal of work in raising the consciousness of our academies in the Leadership Centre, of Superintendents, Directors, Principals and staff, around the importance of the Board's values for the operation of the system and about the meaning of the Board's Ends and Executive Limitations policies. He responded to a follow-up question, clarifying that regardless of what level the incoming new employee is at, there would be an orientation to these policies.

MOVED by Trustee Bazinet:

**THAT the Board of Trustees accepts the Chief Superintendent's monitoring report on Executive Limitation 7: Treatment of Staff and Volunteers, as presented, as evidence of compliance with the provisions of the policy.**

The motion was  
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

## **6.2 Chief Superintendent's Monthly Update**

Chief Superintendent Croskery responded to questions posed by trustees and, where necessary, responses were given by senior administration. Issues that were discussed are summarized as follows:

- The Computer Adaptive Assessment Pilot Project – Ms. Lyster stated that this initiative will help teachers to develop a clearer picture of student achievement; it is not a stand-alone tool - its nature is diagnostic and would be supplemental to other forms of assessment. The advantages of this tool include: it is not a new diagnostic tool, as it is widely used in other fields such as medical exam writing; it is self-pacing – the student sets their own pace, within appropriate limits; it gives immediate feedback; and there is a multi-media aspect to it. With respect to costs, Chief Superintendent Croskery stated that Alberta Education would cover the cost for the first year of the pilot project, and the second year will be at a cost of \$1.80 per student. He noted a concern that if this initiative should become a mandated one, it should not be without the provision of provincial funding to school boards. The CBE administration, in discussion, questioned whether this project is an intended replacement of the Alberta Initiative for School Improvement project with respect to curriculum development and staff development, with assessment. This concern was raised with Alberta Education, who gave reasonable assurance that this was not their intention.

MOVED by Trustee Cochrane:

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

The motion was  
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

## **7.0 MONITORING AND RESULTS**

### **7.1 Ends**

#### **7.1.1 E-2: Academic Success – Reasonable Interpretation, Indicators, and Benchmarks**

Following some brief introductory remarks by Chief Superintendent Croskery, trustees gave consideration to the report and posed questions, which are summarized as follows:

- Chief Superintendent Croskery shared information about how a method of reporting to the Board of Trustees could be developed with respect to students who have profound physical or mental disabilities. The standards for achievement for these students are set out in Individual Program Plans.
- The rationale behind the use of 5-year targets instead of 3-year targets – Ms. Brost responded that Alberta Education requires only the 5-year targets, which are felt to be appropriate. It would be possible to set targets for the other years as well, and that would take some time due to a number of factors encountered by students between the third and fifth year.
- Chief Superintendent Croskery concurred with a remark by a trustee, noting that it is very conceivable that school plans could be incorporated into this report – at least as an expression of the intent and of the focus of the school.
- An observation was noted that the wording of point (d) on page 5 of the report might change to some extent as a result of the second language initiative that is being implemented as per the direction of Alberta Education, which is a requirement for all students from grades 4-9. Superintendent Drysdale pointed out it is believed that we will be able to meet expectations for implementation of the second language initiative to be completed by next year. For a good number of CBE schools this initiative is already well underway.
- Measuring success for those students to which academic success means the completion of an apprenticeship program or a non-certificated program - Ms. Brost informed that where high school completion rates are provided, included in those figures are the apprenticeship programs and other non-certificated programs. In terms of separating out the actual numbers for completion of apprenticeship programs and non-certificated programs, that data might be obtained from Alberta Education.
- Ms. Flanagan responded to a question of target setting, noting that the accountability pillar survey is a major contributor and as more data becomes available through that survey, the target setting will become more reliable. The targets that are set for this report are determined at the jurisdiction level because of the ability to base them on more reliable data, whereas the school level targets are set tenuously because of the fluctuating results that schools get with their small population. However, the schools are all setting targets for their achievement.
- With respect to reporting for Fine Arts and Information Technologies, the collection of data on a system-wide basis on the achievement of students is not readily available because these programs are deeply infused within core courses and programs. It was noted that we do have learner outcomes, but we do not currently collect data other than the profile of an individual learner. Administration discussed at length and considered what quantifying indicators might be used for these areas for reporting achievement. It was noted that should the Board of Trustees wish this type of analysis to be reported on, further work in this area would be undertaken. Chair Dirks

expressed his belief that reporting on the Fine Arts belongs with the Ends reporting and not under Executive Limitations.

- A comment was made that Library Statistics would best be placed as a measurement of “Read for enjoyment” rather than under “Language other than English”.

MOVED by Trustee Fawcett:

**THAT the Board of Trustees approves the reasonable interpretation, indicators, baselines and benchmarks for Ends 2: Academic Success, in the form as submitted with the Agenda for the Regular Meeting held October 18, 2005.**

Trustee Fawcett provided rationale for the motion, noting the importance of the collection of data, aside from the data that is provided from the province. He shared his belief that there is a need for more creativity in the material that could be researched and the methods used to collect such data. Overall, he is of the belief that the indicators, the benchmarks and the targets seem sound.

A trustee noted appreciation for the work done to put this material together, and noted further that it is important for staff to receive valuable feedback from trustees about the kind of information that is being presented. The trustee noted whole-hearted support for this work and looks forward to continued improvement in the data gathering and improvements that come out of the work. A comment was made that this work is going in the right direction in terms of reporting for students in our system.

Chair Dirks called for the vote on the motion.

The motion was  
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

## **7.2 Executive Limitations Monitoring**

### **7.2.1 EL-16: Learning Environment/Treatment of Students – Annual Monitoring Report**

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:

- Monitoring the effectiveness of community programs adopted by the CBE, as listed on page 5 of the report – Deputy Chief Superintendent Hubert shared the belief that information pertinent to the value of these programs could be collected, and noted that the recurrence of such programs from year to year would be a good indicator of success. A trustee suggested that the school development plans could be of assistance in that data gathering, and a capsule of that data would be desired in future reporting.

8:00 p.m. – Chair Dirks received consent of the trustees to continue the meeting to the conclusion of the agenda.

MOVED by Trustee Bazinet:

**THAT the Board of Trustees accepts the Chief Superintendent's monitoring report on Executive Limitation 16: Learning Environment/Treatment of Students, as presented, as evidence of compliance with the provisions of the policy.**

The motion was  
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

**7.3 Board Performance – Governance Process**

There were no items.

**8.0 POLICY DEVELOPMENT AND REVIEW**

There were no items.

**9.0 CONSENT AGENDA**

**9.1 Board Consent Agenda**

There were no objections to the Board's Consent Agenda and Chair Dirks declared the items and recommendations adopted as follows:

**9.1.1 Approval of Minutes**

- Regular Meeting held September 20, 2005
- Regular Meeting held September 27, 2005

**THAT the Minutes of the Regular Meetings held September 20, 2005 and September 27, 2005 be adopted as submitted.**

**9.1.2 Liaison Report**

- Alberta School Boards Association (ASBA)

**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 held October 18, 2005.**

**9.2 Chief Superintendent Consent Agenda**

There were no objections to the Chief Superintendent's Consent Agenda and Chair Dirks declared the item and recommendation adopted as follows:

**9.2.1 Compliance and Related Funding Issues for Instructional Hours – Chinook Learning Services**

**THAT the Board of Trustees receives the report titled "Compliance and Related Funding Issues for Instructional Hours – Chinook Learning Services" for information, in the form as submitted with the Agenda for the Regular Meeting held October 18, 2005.**

**10.0 ACTION ITEMS**

**10.1 EducationMatters – Appointment of Governor**

Trustee Cochrane provided introductory remarks.

MOVED by Trustee Cochrane:

**THAT the Board of Trustees appoints Mr. Mike Shaikh as Governor of EducationMatters.**

The motion was  
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

**11.0 TRUSTEES' NOTICES OF MOTION**

There were none.

8:04 p.m. - Recessed.

8:16 p.m. – Reconvened.

**12.0 IN-CAMERA ISSUES**

**12.1 Motion to Move In Camera**

MOVED by Trustee Close:

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

The motion was  
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

**12.2 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.

**12.3 Motion to Action In-Camera Recommendation**

MOVED by Trustee Cochrane:

**THAT the Board of Trustees authorizes Administration to enter into a contract with Longview Systems for the supply of printers, copiers, fax machines, scanners and multifunctional devices for a period of 5 years, with 2 one-year options, as proposed in Request for Proposal #2005PRO303.**

The motion was  
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Action By

**13.0 ADJOURNMENT**

The Chair declared the meeting adjourned at 8:36 p.m.

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