

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 4, 2005 at 5:01 p.m.

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PRESENT

Board of Trustees:

Trustee G. Dirks, Chair  
Trustee C. Bazinet  
Trustee N. Close  
Trustee P. Cochrane (departed at 7:03 p.m.)  
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. B. Brignall, Elementary School Principals' Association  
Ms. G. Burger-Martindale, Calgary Association of Parents and School Councils  
Ms. D. Clark, Elementary School Principals' Association  
Ms. A. Craig, Calgary Board of Education Staff Association  
Mr. L. Liffiton, Alberta Teachers' Association

**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, led by Althea who is a grade 12 student at Lester B. Pearson High School. Chair Dirks welcomed representatives from the aforementioned organizations and members of the public.

**2.0 CONSIDERATION/APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

MOVED by Trustee Bazinet:

**THAT the Agenda for the Regular Meeting held October 4, 2005, be approved as submitted.**

The motion was  
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Action By

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

#### **3.1 Impact Society, HEROES Program Presentation**

Mr. J. Toth, CEO and founder of Impact Society, gave the presentation and noted that copies of the HEROES Program Student Manual had been circulated for trustees' perusal. On behalf of Impact Society, he gave thanks to trustees for their steps taken towards increasing the mental, physical and emotional health of students, as per the Board of Trustees' Ends policies that speak to character, personal development and citizenship.

Mr. Toth shared remarks about what Impact Society has been doing over the past ten years to support students, noting that their work aligns very well with the stated policies of the Board of Trustees. The HEROES Program endeavours to assist students in building confidence, self-esteem, self-dignity, character, integrity, the power of achievement, being givers and not takers, and having respect. The Impact Society will soon be implementing full delivery of HEROES 2, which is a leadership program themed "For Students By Students" and it is directly aimed at increasing every student's ability to learn and accomplish, by creating an environment of acceptance that fosters growth. Mr. Toth noted there are six dynamics that must be in place for a healthy school environment: a foundation of integrity; positive relationships; a safe caring environment; a healthy support network; healthy community; and an understanding of the importance of knowledge. HEROES 2 combines the resources of school administration, HEROES instructors, and business leaders in strategic mentoring of student leaders and those striving to achieve to a point of leading small groups of students in addressing the needs of their school to become a healthy environment.

On behalf of the Board of Trustees, Chair Dirks shared appreciation for the work of Impact Society in our schools, noting that their partnership with the Calgary Board of Education is a very worthy and appreciated one.

### **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 Fawcett shared comments in reflection of the message given in the presentation by Impact Society, noting that he recently visited an elementary school in one of his wards, where they are doing tremendous work in addressing the Board's Ends policies in their teaching and learning; and this work shows favourable results in their classroom environment.

Chair Dirks informed that on October 5th over 100 countries are going to celebrate World Teachers' Day, and the theme for this year is "Professional Development - Meet the Needs of a Changing World".

Chair Dirks acknowledged that the week of October 10<sup>th</sup> is Substitute Teachers' Appreciation week. On behalf of the Board of Trustees, he expressed appreciation to all substitute teachers.

Chair Dirks pointed out that on October 5<sup>th</sup> the Calgary Board of Education would be celebrating Alberta's Centennial at the Saddledome.

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

Chief Superintendent Croskery reported on the following issues and events:

- A Calgary Board of Education parent, whose birthplace is Paskagoola, Mississippi, will be assisting family members who suffered many losses from hurricane Katrina. They will be opening their home, which is a blended family with six children, to two of their relatives' children. Due to the special circumstances, these children are admissible for an education in Canada, and Alberta Education has agreed to provide funding for them.

### **5.4 Public Question Period**

There were no public questions.

### **5.5 Stakeholder Reports**

There were no stakeholder reports.

### **5.6 Trustee Inquiries**

There were no trustee inquiries.

## **6.0 MONITORING**

### **6.1 Ends Monitoring**

#### **6.1.1 Results Reporting – Provincial Achievement Tests and Diploma Exams**

Chief Superintendent Croskery provided introductory remarks, and Ms. L. Brost, Director, Accountability Services, and Ms. L. Flanagan, Specialist, Accountability Services, spoke to the contents of the report and responded to questions posed by trustees.

Calgary Board of Education (CBE) results were higher than provincial results on all 12 tests at the acceptable standard, and higher on 10 of the 12 tests and equal on another at the standard of excellence. In comparison to the previous year's results, the CBE results improved on 6 of the 12 tests at the acceptable standard and on 7 of the 12 tests at the standard of excellence. Provincially, results improved on 5 of the 12 tests at the acceptable standard, and 6 of 12 at the standard of excellence. Over the past 4 years, the percentages of grade 6 students achieving the acceptable standard in Mathematics and Science have steadily increased. Over the past 3 years, the percentages of grade 9 students achieving the acceptable standard and the standard of excellence in Mathematics and Science have steadily increased. Also, over the past 3 years, students achieving the acceptable standard in English Language Arts at the grade 6 level have decreased for both the CBE and the province and this is an area where we will focus some attention and delve deeper into the data. Our participation rates continue to exceed provincial results on all 12 of the tests, as has been the case in previous years. The CBE English as a Second Language (ESL) students totaled 49% of the ESL students in the province who wrote the tests in English; and CBE Special Education students make up approximately 27% of Special Education students in the province who write achievement tests. These two groups of students each exceeded provincial ESL and Special Education results on 9 of the 10 tests at the acceptable standard, and on all 10 tests at the standard of excellence.

CBE Diploma Examination results were higher than provincial results on 8 of the 11 tests at the acceptable standard (exceptions were English 30-1 & 30-2, and Science 30), and on 10 of the 11 tests at the standard of excellence (exception Science 30). More than 30% of CBE students taking Pure Mathematics 30, Biology 30, Chemistry 30 and Physics 30 earn the standard of excellence. Tracking of 5 years of results shows that in 6 of the 8 courses, the CBE percentages have been consistently higher than provincial percentages for both the acceptable standard and the standard of excellence for all 5 years. Mathematics must continue to be an area of focus since the percentage of students achieving the acceptable standard in Pure Mathematics 30 in the CBE and in the province is below provincial expectations.

Trustees raised a number of questions, which were responded to, in the areas of the benchmarks, the reporting as it relates to the cohort, and the targets. Ms. Brost noted that the CBE targets are believed to be attainable, although challenging in some subject areas. These targets are identified in our Three-Year Education Plan. On the issue of cohort reporting, it was noted that the results are reported on all students enrolled in each grade (cohort), which also includes those students who did not write the exams and on this note, the results report that those students not writing have not demonstrated that they have met either one or both of the two standards. She noted this is often an issue of misinterpretation, where a certain percentage of students did not meet the standards and it is assumed they failed the tests, when in actual fact, they did not demonstrate having met the standard(s).

A trustee commented that with respect to the ESL students that are writing exams, comparisons are made with the provincial ESL students; but as has been heard from advocacy groups and ESL students themselves is that they have to compete with non-ESL students for entrance to universities or post secondary institutions. Therefore, the need exists for a year-by-year review of how our ESL students compare with non-ESL students in our school system. Chief Superintendent Croskery noted that discussions of this issue have been held within the system throughout the year and a more accurate methodology is being developed to review ESL performance using more appropriate measures.

In regard to cohort reporting at the school level, a trustee expressed great concern, noting the belief that where a particular school has a high number of ESL or Special Needs students, the results could be depicted unfairly and inappropriately. Consensus amongst trustees was that this particular issue should be raised for discussion at the table of the ASBA Fall General Meeting.

MOVED by Trustee Ferguson:

**THAT the Board of Trustees receives for information the Summary of the 2004-2005 Provincial Achievement Test and Diploma Examination Results, in the form as submitted with the agenda for the Regular Meeting held October 4, 2005.**

The motion was  
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

### **6.1.2 Aims of Education**

This item is recorded later in the meeting, as the presentation was scheduled to commence at 7:00 p.m.

## **6.2 Executive Limitations Monitoring**

### **6.2.1 Executive Limitation 12: Asset Protection – Annual Monitoring**

Superintendent Dart spoke to the contents of the report and responded to questions. A correction was noted to the report, page 6-71 under the heading Southwood School, where

Trustees

the statement is made that the Board approved the lease for the site. The leasing of sites is solely under the authority of administration for decisions of approval and the Board of Trustees considers such matters only as information.

A concern was noted by a trustee about the lack of information provided on the mechanisms in place for ensuring that all assets are protected, particularly related to theft. Chief Superintendent Croskery shared information about ways in which schools teach their students about prevention of opportunistic theft. Superintendent Dart added that the importance of locking office doors when staff members are away from their office is communicated. There is a 24-hour security-monitoring centre that operates out of the Highfield office. There are many different control features in all of our technology systems for mitigation of loss of data and/or unintended intrusions. There are asset controls in place through our warehousing and operations centre and for schools and their facility operators and caretaking staff. There are manuals and procedures to assist staff in understanding the importance of safeguarding assets and about best practices.

Chair Dirks noted that the criteria against which the trustees are to now judge this report are three:

- 1) Whether the Board is satisfied that the Chief Superintendent has reasonably interpreted the policy;
- 2) Whether the Board is satisfied that the Chief Superintendent is in compliance with the provisions of the policy or has disclosed procedures to establish compliance; or
- 3) Whether the information is sufficient to allow the Board to decide.

MOVED by Trustee Ferguson:

**THAT the Board of Trustees accepts the Chief Superintendent's monitoring report on Executive Limitation 12: Asset Protection, as presented, as evidence of compliance with the provisions of the policy, subject to a correction on page 6-71 regarding Southwood School lease issue, as noted in the discussion.**

The motion was  
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

#### **6.2.2 Executive Limitation 4: Treatment of Parents and Citizens – Annual Monitoring**

Chief Superintendent Croskery provided opening remarks, noting that with respect to reasonable interpretation, on any given issue you can have many different perspectives, and in this particular report there is perhaps a degree of subjectivity. 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 sufficiency of information that was provided.

Trustees asked questions on a number of issues, which were responded to by administration. In response to a question about tracking of complaints it was noted that there is no one unitary system that is being used. Chief Superintendent Croskery suggested that it would be possible to provide an inventory of the methodologies used in tracking complaints. He noted that improvements have been made in handling complaints, likely as a result of a more skilled workforce, however, expectations are increasing exponentially. It is believed that we are doing reasonably well in the area of handling complaints, but there is always room for improvement.

MOVED by Trustee Cochrane:

**THAT the Board of Trustees accepts the Chief Superintendent's monitoring report on Executive Limitation 4: Treatment of Parents and Citizens, as presented, as evidence of compliance with the provisions of the policy.**

Trustee Fawcett noted that he could not support the motion, not for the reason of non-compliance, but because he felt there was not enough information in the report for him to make a decision. He referenced the compliance analysis as noted in the report under point one, stating that areas where criteria has been met need to be reported, and evidence that a consistent pattern such as that referenced is followed throughout the entire school system.

Chair Dirks called for the vote on the motion.

The motion was  
CARRIED.

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

**6.2.3 Executive Limitation 7: Treatment of Staff and Volunteers**

The Chair received agreement of the Board of Trustees to postpone the item to the Regular Meeting scheduled for October 18, 2005.

**6.3 Board Performance – Governance Process**

There were no items.

**7.0 POLICY DEVELOPMENT AND REVIEW**

There were no items.

**8.0 CONSENT AGENDA**

**8.1 Board Consent Agenda**

The Chair noted that, as the following consent item had not been removed from the Consent Agenda, it was deemed to be approved as submitted.

**8.1.1 Approval of Minutes - Special Meeting held September 22, 2005**

THAT the Minutes of the Special Meeting held September 22, 2005 be adopted as submitted.

**8.2 Chief Superintendent Consent Agenda**

**8.2.1 Monthly Update**

The Chair received agreement of the Board of Trustees to remove the item from the consent agenda and to postpone it to the Regular Meeting scheduled for October 18, 2005.

## **9.0 ACTION ITEMS**

### **9.1 Trustee Notices of Motion**

There were no notices of motion.

6:54 p.m. Recessed.

7:03 p.m. Reconvened. Trustee Cochran did not return to the meeting.

#### **6.1.2 Aims of Education**

Chair Dirks spoke briefly to the intent of this portion of the meeting agenda, stating that the Board has determined it is important to elevate discussion around critical issues pertaining to education and the future of public education. He noted that a group of leading and influential citizens from our community were invited by the trustees' office to this presentation and he introduced those who were in attendance.

Chief Superintendent Croskery gave the presentation through PowerPoint, and provided hard copies of the presentation. Highlights of topics of the presentation are summarized as follows.

- Dr. Croskery discussed the issue of Vitriol in Education in the context of the U.S.A., Canada and Calgary.
- The Challenge for the CBE – What should be the aims of education for a multicultural student cohort of 100,000 students with very diverse learning needs? Who determines those aims?
- Aims and Authority – Positional Authority: Socialization; Received Authority: Initiation; Communal Authority: Education for Human Development.
- Aims, Values and Governance – The Roles of Policy Governance: Articulating Values; Building Consensus; Setting Direction; Holding Accountable.
- Some Possibilities for the Future: Clarify Values; Clarify Roles; Encourage Reflection; Support Debate; Reassess; Gain Knowledge; Celebrate.

Following the presentation by Chief Superintendent Croskery, there was a short time for comments, questions and answers with trustees, members of the public and administration. In conclusion, Chair Dirks noted that an informal discussion would be welcome by our public outside the Board Room, with refreshments being provided.

## **10.0 ADJOURNMENT**

The Chair declared the meeting adjourned at 8:11 p.m.