

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, April 4, 2006 at 5:03 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
Mr. D. Dart, Superintendent, Business Operations & Environmental Services – Secretary Treasurer
Ms. D. Lewis on behalf of 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. 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. B. Fellows, Elementary School Principals' Association
Mr. D. Hammill, Canadian Union of Public Employees, Local No. 40
Mr. L. Liffiton, Alberta Teachers' Association, Local No. 38

Action By

1.0 CALL TO ORDER, NATIONAL ANTHEM AND WELCOME

Chair Dirks called the meeting to order at 5:03 p.m. and the singing of the national anthem took place. 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 April 4, 2006, be approved as submitted.

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.

5.1 Correspondence

There was no correspondence for the corporate record.

5.2 Report from Chair and Trustees

There were no reports.

5.3 Report from Chief Superintendent

There was no verbal report.

5.4 Public Question Period

There were no questions from the public.

5.4 Stakeholder Reports

5.5.1 Ms. C. Day, Parent, Fred Seymour Elementary School

Ms. Day expressed concerns about the recommendation to close Fred Seymour School and to keep Maple Ridge School open, noting that she has not been presented with any strong facts to support this choice. The following is a summary of the reasons Ms. Day gave for not supporting the recommendation:

- Fred Seymour School offers a successful inquiry-based learning program;
- Deferred maintenance at Fred Seymour School is less than deferred maintenance at Maple Ridge School;
- There are more students at Fred Seymour School than there are at Maple Ridge School that would have to be relocated;
- Fred Seymour School has four closed classrooms that could accommodate the special education classes;
- The campus concept and sharing of resources may apply in a Kindergarten to Grade 6 for grades 5 and 6, but not for a Kindergarten to Grade 4 structure as proposed.

5.5.2 Mr. D. Ashton, Resident, Willow Park Community

Mr. Ashton noted he was in agreement with the CBE that the communities of Willow Park and Maple Ridge have sufficient students to allow for only one elementary school; however, he was of the belief that the recommendation given to the Board of Trustees is the wrong recommendation. The following is a summary of the reasons Mr. Ashton gave for not supporting the recommendation:

- Fred Seymour School and its long-standing inquiry based learning centre in the Galileo method has been a stalwart school for the CBE to demonstrate the exceptional standards that public education can achieve;
- The relocation of 74 Fred Seymour students to Maple Ridge and the relocation of Lake Chaparral students twice versus moving 48 Maple Ridge students to Fred Seymour School and relocating Lake Chaparral students only once;
- Deferred maintenance is higher at Maple Ridge School;
- Fred Seymour is a superior facility to Maple Ridge; it has lower direct facility operating costs, complete universal accessibility, and a higher utilization rate.

5.5.3 Mr. D. Cramb, Parent, Varsity Acres School

Mr. Cramb shared the birthday wish of his son, which is that his friends be allowed to remain together in the regular program at Varsity Acres School. Mr. Cramb noted his belief that the parents of Varsity have provided the CBE with an alternative plan, which maintains a viable English program east of Shaganappi Trail. He commented that the time of short-term solutions to long-term challenges has ended and it is time for the Board of Trustees to make the only choice that makes sense considering the state of demographic flux in northwest Calgary. Mr. Cramb expressed that now is not the time to ignore the boom Calgary is experiencing, but it is the time for Trustees to initiate a new paradigm in community planning for elementary schools, a paradigm where the efforts and motivation of the community are harnessed; where community engagement is not rhetoric but is real.

5.5.4 Mr. M. Palmer, Representative, Fred Seymour School

Mr. Palmer noted that he is a filmmaker and that he was a former student at Fred Seymour School. He commented on the global citizenship programs that Fred Seymour has undertaken, including fundraising for an orphanage in Litein, Kenya, and the tsunami project of rebuilding Morgan Village for which they raised \$63,000. He noted that the students have learned through these projects that their everyday learning in the classroom has real meaning and that they can make a difference in the lives of people, not only in their own community but around the world. Mr. Palmer noted that in March of this year he travelled to Litein and met the children of the orphanage. He noted that *Keeping the Circle Strong* – the name of the Fred Seymour project – is a project that can give the orphans of Litein hope for a brighter future. He shared his belief that closing Fred Seymour School and breaking apart the dynamic team there will be a loss to the community of Calgary; that it will be a blow not just locally, but to many communities around the world that have been touched by the work Fred Seymour School students have done. He questioned how the CBE promotes global citizenship but then considers the closure of one of the schools that has done such inspirational and leading work. He urged that the circle be kept strong and that Fred Seymour School be kept open.

5.6 Trustee Inquiries

There were no Trustee inquiries.

6.0 CONSIDERATION OF SCHOOL CLOSURES

6.1 Regular Junior High Program at Balmoral School

Chief Superintendent Croskery noted the attendance of Mr. P. Carlton, Director, Community Engagement and Operational Planning, and Ms. A. Verdiel, Director, Area II, to assist with questions.

MOVED by Trustee Bazinet:

- 1. THAT the Minutes of the Public Meeting of February 22, 2006, attached to the report as Attachment #1, be approved by the Board of Trustees, and**
- 2. THAT the report be received for information and for the record, in the form as submitted with the Agenda for the Regular Meeting held April 4, 2006.**

The motion was
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Trustee Cochrane pointed out that it is not a requirement of the *School Act*, but rather a decision of Trustees to have the Ward Trustee provide a summary of the written submissions from the public to acknowledge that those particular submissions have been given consideration prior to any decision being made with respect to school and/or program closures. She provided the following synopsis of concerns and questions that were raised by the public regarding the closure consideration of the regular junior high program at Balmoral School:

- There was a general question about the status of the program at Balmoral.
- Concern was expressed that the CBE did not fully support the LEAP recommendations for Balmoral to be an Arts-based Learning program. Either through negligence or direct intent, the CBE allowed the regular program at Balmoral to dwindle to the point where it can't be sustained.
- Concern was shared that parents would be required to pay transportation fees if the regular program closes.
- Concern was expressed that the CBE is providing more access to alternative programs than it can reasonably afford.
- Concern was noted that the CBE is not supportive enough of regular local programs.
- Concern was reported from a parent about the distance a student would have to walk to their new school if the regular program at Balmoral were to close.
- A general statement was made that closing schools and hospitals is not a good thing for Calgary.
- A statement was made that the low attendance at the public meeting on February 22, 2006 was due to the fact that people did not feel they could influence the closure decision.
- A question was raised about the success of the alternative program that may be placed at Balmoral if the regular program is closed.

Trustee Cochrane noted that a general statement was also received from a large group of people, that was not specific to Balmoral School, but was a request that the Board cease and desist all school closures without first considering issues of urban planning, environmental impact, safety, social and development concerns.

MOVED by Trustee Lane:

THAT the regular junior high program at Balmoral School be closed effective June 30, 2006.

Trustees debated the motion and comments in support of the motion included that enrolment projections for Balmoral School are very low, that enrolment numbers at the school have been low for a number of years, and that low enrolment impacts on the ability to offer a good educational program at the school. Concern was noted about the low attendance at the public meeting in consideration of closure of Balmoral School and it was felt that something needs to be done to alleviate this type of situation happening in the future, where it is felt that a small voice would not be heard and very little impact would result from the small number of community members who could share their voice on the matter. On another point, it was shared that the Board of Trustees struggles with the attempt to balance alternative programs and community schools. Comments were shared about the school being a beautiful sandstone building, and hope that Balmoral School would continue to be a CBE school to educate our students and, although the building may see changes in the type of program that it offers in the future, it is the hope for a long future for this school.

MOVED by Trustee Ferguson:

THAT the motion be laid on the table.

Trustee Ferguson noted her belief that the discussion surrounding the next item for consideration can help inform the Board's decision on this matter, and it is her intention to move to take this motion from the table for consideration prior to the decision being made regarding the Traditional Learning Centre alternative program at King George School.

Chair Dirks called for the vote to lay the motion on the table.

The motion was
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

6.2 Traditional Learning Centre Alternative Program at King George School

MOVED by Trustee Cochrane:

1. **THAT the Minutes of the Public Meeting of March 2, 2006, attached to the report as Attachment #1, be approved by the Board of Trustees, in the form as submitted with the Agenda for the Regular Meeting held April 4, 2006, and**
2. **THAT the report be received for information and for the record, in the form as submitted with the Agenda for the Regular Meeting held April 4, 2006.**

The motion was
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Trustee Lane provided a summary of the written public submissions that were received regarding the consideration of closure of the Traditional Learning Centre (TLC) alternative program at King George School. He noted that no specific requests were made to have the TLC alternative program remain at King George School; but, rather, there was encouragement for the program move to another location. There was a general written submission received by the Board in respect to all eight closure considerations that Trustees cease and desist in the recommendation of school closures without first considering issues of urban planning, environmental impact, safety, and social and development outcomes. Trustee Lane shared the following concerns that were raised specific to the recommended move of the TLC to Balmoral:

- There were concerns about losing resources in the transition, including Principals and staff with TLC training.
- Concern was expressed about the need to upgrade the physical plant at Balmoral School, including the checking for the presence of asbestos and Zonolite.
- There was a question of whether before and after school care would be available at the new site.
- Concern was expressed with regard to grade 5 and 6 students mixing with high school students.
- Concern was expressed that grade 9 and 10 students will be at Balmoral School only one year before having to move again.

MOVED by Trustee Fawcett:

THAT the Traditional Learning Centre alternative program at King George School be closed effective June 30, 2006 to allow for the transfer of that educational program.

A Trustee questioned whether the principal and teachers of the TLC alternative program at King George School would move with the program, to which Acting Superintendent Angelo noted that because it is proposed that the entire program be moved, those school staff

positions would move with the program. She pointed out that in situations where students move to a number of different schools or programs, a process is followed whereby the affected teaching staff would be individually identified for surplus and the support staff would be identified for lay-off; and those determinations would be made as a result of declining enrolment and, therefore, declining resources.

Trustees gave debate and reasons for support of the motion included that the TLC alternative program needs to move to a facility that would allow for its expansion; and, that the French Immersion program at King George School is also experiencing growth and will need more space. A comment was made that the Trustees need to work with the province on the current *School Closure Regulations*, which necessitates that a closure process occur prior to moving a program, as is the case with the Traditional Learning Centre alternative program at King George School.

MOVED by Trustee Ferguson:

THAT the motion be laid on the table.

The motion was
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

MOVED by Trustee Ferguson:

THAT the motion that was laid on the table, pertinent to the regular junior high program at Balmoral School, be taken from the table.

The motion was
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

For clarification, Ms. Barkway read the motion that was taken from the table and that is now on the floor for the Board's consideration, as follows:

THAT the regular junior high program at Balmoral School be closed effective June 30, 2006.

The motion was
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

MOVED by Trustee Ferguson:

THAT the motion that was laid on the table, pertinent to the Traditional Learning Centre alternative program at King George School, be taken from the table.

The motion was
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

For clarification, Ms. Barkway read the motion that was taken from the table and that is now on the floor for the Board's consideration, as follows:

THAT the Traditional Learning Centre alternative program at King George School be closed effective June 30, 2006 to allow for the transfer of that educational program.

The motion was
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

5:53 p.m. – Recessed.

6:12 p.m. – Reconvened.

6.3 Fred Seymour Elementary School

Chief Superintendent Croskery noted the attendance of Ms. N. Johnson, Director, Area V, and Mr. D. Hoerz, Director, Facility Operations, to assist with questions.

Following is a summary of the questions posed by Trustees, and responses by Administration:

- Mr. Hoerz addressed questions on deferred maintenance, noting that this is identified as work that requires attention at some point in time, and because of the limited resources that are available it is deferred or set aside in order to perform work that may be more critical to the ongoing operation of a facility. He noted that the majority of deferred maintenance for Maple Ridge School and for Fred Seymour School, in light of assessing the work across the CBE as a system, would not be deemed necessary for the next three to five years.
- Ms. Johnson responded to a question about the maintenance issues between the two schools and whether that had any impact on the recommendation coming forward by Administration. She stated that the scenario selection team, on which Mr. Hoerz had also participated, reviewed the issues surrounding the maintenance of the buildings. She noted that where there is no significant difference between the two schools, facility information is not the primary consideration when consolidation is being contemplated. Mr. Hoerz commented on the differences in deferred maintenance of the two schools, and noted that the two facility audits had been conducted by two different consulting companies retained by the province, and the metrics used in those audits differed between the two companies.
- At the request of a Trustee, Ms. Johnson addressed the issue of the campus concept, noting that this was raised numerous times at various meetings and there was mixed support for the campus concept. There was support expressed on proximity, busing, etc., and there were concerns expressed about an overwhelming number of students in one space, about the proximity to the middle school, and safety issues. Ms. Johnson remarked on some of the literature surrounding the campus concept and she shared some of its benefits, including the opportunity to share staff and expertise, physical resources, and continuity of program.
- It was asked if the closed classroom space versus the open classroom space factored into the recommendation by Administration, to which Ms. Johnson noted that different points of view were shared on that aspect, both supportive and unsupportive. She pointed out that teachers do work together in teams, regardless of space. Ms. Johnson noted that the building design of many of our newer schools is such that two classrooms are built together and there is also breakout space.

MOVED by Trustee Cochrane:

1. **THAT the Minutes of the Public Meeting of February 23, 2006, attached to the report as Attachment #1, be approved by the Board of Trustees, in the form as submitted with the Agenda for the Regular Meeting held April 4, 2006, and**
2. **THAT the report be received for information and for the record, in the form as submitted with the Agenda for the Regular Meeting held April 4, 2006.**

The motion was
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Trustee Bazinet provided a summary of the written public submissions that were received and of the feedback that was expressed by the public regarding the consideration of closure of Fred Seymour School, as follows:

- Fred Seymour is an exceptional school, with great staff; others should have same opportunity to be at this school; it is a magical place, it is community minded, welcoming, caring, well supported by the community.
- Students excel academically at Fred Seymour School; successful student involvement in various projects regarding citizenship; recognition of school projects by outside groups.
- The school is a major asset to the community; if the closure does occur, it will break apart a very dynamic team; it would be the closure of a CBE model school.
- The deferred maintenance costs were identified as being higher at Maple Ridge School; Fred Seymour is the smaller school, therefore the utilization would be higher should it be the school that remains open; it is less expensive to operate than Maple Ridge School.
- Parents of Fred Seymour School are willing to pay for the minor adjustments required to make the gym wheelchair accessible; Fred Seymour is a one-storey structure versus the two-storey structure at Maple Ridge, and the second storey is not wheelchair accessible.
- Fred Seymour School has a mixture of closed and open classroom space.
- Many young families are moving into the neighbourhood; the nature of growth in the neighbourhoods is cyclical; Willowpark-Maple Ridge is a very desirable area for families.
- In respect of the recent baby boom in the city of Calgary, it was asked whether the CBE is closing too many of its schools.
- More students would have to be moved from Fred Seymour than from Maple Ridge; more students would have to cross Acadia Drive; the Chaparral students would have to be relocated from Maple Ridge School to Fred Seymour School prior to moving to their new school.
- Concerns: process issues, such as criteria and weighting of condition of facilities; traffic and safety; community consultation, and whether it included pre-school parents; time allowed for public input and preparation; written notice to Willowpark stating that students would attend Maple Ridge School; Fred Seymour out-of-boundary students; frequent movement of grade 3 students; financial considerations; house values; future use of the land, should Fred Seymour School close, and the hope that it would be park or green space; one school on each side of Acadia Drive should remain; there should be three schools more widely distributed in the community; campus concept of K-9 students in one place is unfavourable.
- Suggestions for solutions: Could other communities such as Auburn Bay, New Brighton or Copperfield be designated to Fred Seymour? Could another program be offered at Fred Seymour? Could Douglasdale students continue to attend Fred Seymour? Fred Seymour could be left open with split grades for now and build from there as people choose it as an out-of-boundary school. Fred Seymour could remain open as a K-6 school and students would then start at R.T. Alderman in Grade 7. Could the school at least be left open until the current students can all graduate from grade 4?
- Questions: Will teachers find other positions? When was it decided that R.T. Alderman become a middle school? What are the chances of Maple Ridge also closing at some point in the future?

MOVED by Trustee Cochrane:

THAT the Board of Trustees approves the staged closure of Fred Seymour School, effective June 30, 2006, or such later date as may be required by relevant construction timelines. This staged closure shall be conditional on the planned new construction of the school in Chaparral being satisfactorily completed prior to redirection of affected students to that new facility.

Trustee Cochrane spoke to the rationale for the motion, noting that with the proposed changes in attendance of students from Fred Seymour School next year, including those from Douglasdale, and the grades 5 and 6 students who will move on to a middle school,

there will be very few students remaining in the school. She noted her belief that consolidating the Fred Seymour and the Maple Ridge students would ensure that the staff and the students have a better environment in which to teach and learn and would make for a viable program.

Trustees debated the motion, during which a great deal of praise was expressed about Fred Seymour School and its outstanding programs, as well as for the terrific support of the staff and of the community, and the success of their students. A comment reiterated by many of the Trustees was that if the decision is made to close Fred Seymour School, it is hoped that the strong circle around this school, the community spirit, and the strengths and successes of the program would be carried on into the future and fostered to become a stronger program that could benefit a larger campus and community.

MOVED by Trustee Ferguson:

THAT the motion be laid on the table.

Trustee Ferguson noted her belief that the discussion surrounding the next item for consideration can help inform the Board's decision on this matter, and it is her intention to move to take this motion from the table for consideration prior to the decision being made regarding the Kindergarten to Grade 6 Regular Program at Willow Park School.

Chair Dirks called for the vote to lay the motion on the table.

The motion was
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

6.4 Kindergarten to Grade 6 Regular Program at Willow Park School

Chief Superintendent Croskery provided introductory comments.

MOVED by Trustee Fawcett:

1. **THAT the Minutes of the Public Meeting of March 9, 2006, attached to the report as Attachment #1 and as submitted with the Agenda for the Regular Meeting held April 4, 2006, be approved by the Board of Trustees, and**
2. **THAT the report be received for information and for the record, in the form as submitted with the Agenda for the Regular Meeting held April 4, 2006.**

The motion was
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Trustee Bazinet provided a summary of the public submissions that were received, noting that many of those received also dealt with issues at Fred Seymour School and were summarized in the discussion earlier. Highlights of the summary of feedback received regarding the Kindergarten to Grade 6 regular program at Willow Park School are as follows:

- Questions were raised about the long-term viability of all schools in the area, including Maple Ridge and R.T. Alderman in five-years time; about the future use of space at Willow Park; about the transition plan for students; about the grade 3 and 4 students and whether or not they could remain in the Arts program at Willow Park, regardless of low enrolment; about the accommodation process, which some felt did not involve as many stakeholders as it should have, and others felt that it was a very long, but well-thought out (even tedious) process involving many stakeholders.

- Concerns by parents from Fred Seymour School that their school was not mentioned as a school that students could possibly attend (pending decision by Trustees); and that their school was not even on the map distributed with the Written Notice.
- A general submission was made to “cease and desist in the recommendation of school closures without first considering issues of urban planning, environmental impact, safety and social and developmental outcomes.”

MOVED by Trustee Close:

THAT the Kindergarten to Grade 6 regular program at Willow Park School be closed effective June 30, 2006.

Trustee Close provided rationale for the motion, noting her belief that the numbers as indicated warrant the need to close the regular program at Willow Park School. She noted her appreciation of the transition plan that was recommended, whereby the current grade 2 and 3 students at Willow Park School who would select the Arts-Centred Learning at Willow Park School for grade 5 to 9 will continue to be accommodated at Willow Park School.

In the debate of the motion a Trustee noted that with respect to the proposed transition plan, although there may be some issues around implementing it, it was felt that going forward with this plan based on the pragmatic issues was more important. A Trustee pointed out that ongoing work of the CBE will involve a review of communities and an attempt to provide some longer-term stability by combining school programs as a result of smaller populations today, and because of the development of newer communities and new schools built within those communities, resulting in fewer bused students to older community schools. It was also noted that the growth and vibrancy will continue at Willow Park School through its Arts-Centred Learning program.

MOVED by Trustee Ferguson:

THAT the motion be laid on the table.

The motion was
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

MOVED by Trustee Ferguson:

THAT the motion that was laid on the table, pertinent to Fred Seymour School be taken from the table.

The motion was
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

For clarification, Ms. Barkway read the motion that was taken from the table and that is now on the floor for the Board’s consideration, as follows:

THAT the Board of Trustees approves the staged closure of Fred Seymour School, effective June 30, 2006, or such later date as may be required by relevant construction timelines. This staged closure shall be conditional on the planned new construction of the school in Chaparral being satisfactorily completed prior to redirection of affected students to that new facility.

The motion was
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

MOVED by Trustee Ferguson:

THAT the motion that was laid on the table, pertinent to the Kindergarten to Grade 6 regular program at Willow Park School be taken from the table.

The motion was
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

For clarification, Ms. Barkway read the motion that was taken from the table and that is now on the floor for the Board's consideration, as follows:

THAT the Kindergarten to Grade 6 regular program at Willow Park School be closed effective June 30, 2006.

The motion was
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

7:19 p.m. – Recessed.
7:37 p.m. – Reconvened.

Chair Dirks handed the chair over to Vice-Chair Close.

6.5 Jerry Potts School

Chief Superintendent Croskery noted the attendance of Mr. D. Stevenson, Director, Area I, and Mr. P. Carlton, Director, Community Engagement and Operational Planning, to assist with questions.

Trustees asked a number of questions surrounding different scenarios for accommodation at each of the schools. The responses by Administration are summarized as follows:

- Enrolment projections for Marion Carson School for September 2006, in the event that motions are passed for the two closures in the Varsity community, would be 570 students, which is less than initially anticipated due to new information on enrolment changes particular to the Tuscany community. Administration is of the belief that Marion Carson School would not be in an overcrowded situation; however, a contingency plan includes the use of two portables that are currently vacant; and if the need arises, there is space available at F.E. Osborne School.
- It was noted that if Jerry Potts School were to close, those students could be accommodated in the regular program at Varsity Acres School in the fall of 2006.
- In the event that Jerry Potts School were to remain open, and if the students from the regular program at Varsity Acres School were to move to Jerry Potts School, it would allow for the expansion of the French Immersion program at Varsity Acres School and for the repatriation of Area I students who are currently in Area II for the French Immersion program.
- If a decision was made to keep a regular program operating on the east side of Shaganappi Trail it would have a significant impact on Marion Carson School, in that the number of resources allocated for the school and the ability to support a feasible program would be greatly minimized. It was noted that all three schools in the Varsity community have been functional for a number of years as a result of receiving bussed students or offering an alternative program.
- With respect to the projections in five years, and if the five portables at Jerry Potts School were removed, the school could accommodate approximately 329 students, which would be sufficient room to accommodate students from only two of the three current regular programs in the Varsity community (Varsity Acres regular program, Jerry Potts and Marion Carson regular programs).

- It was noted that the students in the Tuscany community would still need to be considered; that the new elementary school in that community is expected to accommodate Kindergarten to Grade 4 students, and the junior high students are being designated to F.E. Osborne; however, the Grades 5 and 6 Tuscany students must be accommodated somewhere.

MOVED by Trustee Cochrane:

1. **THAT the Minutes of the Public Meeting of February 27, 2006, attached to the report as Attachment #1 and as submitted with the Agenda for the Regular Meeting held April 4, 2006, be approved by the Board of Trustees, and**
2. **THAT the report be received for information and for the record, in the form as submitted with the Agenda for the Regular meeting held April 4, 2006.**

The motion was
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Trustee Dirks provided a synopsis of the public submissions that were received, which is summarized as follows:

- Community members felt that there was justification to maintain a regular English program on the east side of Shaganappi Trail.
- Concern was expressed that the Varsity communities are interconnected and should not be dealt with separately.
- Concerns were expressed about the enrolment projections, and belief was noted that the figures would rise due to the proximity of LRT stations and the demographic changes as a result of major upcoming building developments in the area.
- It was submitted that Jerry Potts would be a better long-term environment than Marion Carson because of its playing fields and because it is not situated between two junior high schools.
- Concerns expressed with the process of consultation included: insufficient opportunity for community input; insufficient advertising; exclusion of plans that would keep the schools open and find creative ways to increase enrolments; opinions that insufficient due diligence has occurred and closure consideration should be deferred for one year; no information was provided on the projected impact of closure on the community.
- Some concerns were shared about property values being negatively affected; and others countered the concern, noting it to be scaremongering.
- A concern was expressed about private or charter schools taking over the school if it closes; and another concern was the possibility of the school site being sold to a developer and condos being built on the property.
- Should the school close, it was suggested that the CBE consider joint use of the school building to incorporate wellness groups, day care and the community association on site; also, the Varsity Community Association noted its willingness to take over running the building; this position was also supported by the Federation of Calgary Communities.
- Not all parents want their children to attend a dual track school.
- It was suggested that students from University housing attending University Elementary School could be redesignated to Jerry Potts.
- Closing the school would create a loss of community spirit.
- It was noted that it does not make sense to bus kids when they can walk to their community school; and a concern was expressed about the safety of children having to cross Shaganappi Trail.

Comments from the public, in favour of the closure, included:

- Some community members expressed support of the proposed school closure and support for the process to date.
- It was noted that the comments about insufficient time provided for consultation were unfounded.
- A belief was shared that the maximum cost-benefit would be to close Jerry Potts and relocate students to the regular program at Varsity Acres School.
- Some wrote to say that Marion Carson School has a great reputation and they would support relocating children to the school.
- Various stakeholders shared support for maintaining the dual track program at Varsity and designating Jerry Potts students to that program.
- A plea was made to keep the positive, vital bilingual program.
- Some Jerry Potts School parents expressed support during the consultation process for their kids to be designated to Marion Carson.
- It was noted that Marion Carson offers a very high quality program, and impressions that it is a windowless school are unfounded.
- Space at Varsity Acres School will be freed up to allow the French program to expand.
- The proposal will enable a more enriched educational program to be offered at Marion Carson School.
- A comment was made that the closure would allow for more community cohesion by having all English program students in one building.

MOVED by Trustee Bazinet:

THAT the Board of Trustees approves the staged closure of Jerry Potts School, effective June 30, 2006, or such later date as may be required by relevant construction timelines. This staged closure shall be conditional on the planned new construction of the new school in Citadel being satisfactorily completed prior to redirection of affected students to that new facility.

Trustees debated the motion, and comments in support of the motion included:

- Jerry Potts School will have a projected enrolment of 30 students, subsequent to student accommodation changes in the near future, and it would be difficult to provide a viable quality program;
- the overall utilization rate in the Varsity community makes it difficult to operate three community schools;
- the potential future growth of the Varsity community is uncertain at this point in time; and
- the need for stability for a longer period of time.

Comments in opposition to the motion included:

- uncertainty that has been expressed about some of the data that has been provided with respect to enrolment projects;
- a decision made at this time could be premature, because of issues in flux such as new housing developments in the Tuscany and Citadel communities and the unknown number of students moving into those areas, and with the new Children's Hospital and expansion at the University;
- parents are very likely aware that a small school can not offer the extras or certain options, but may be okay with that; and
- uncertainty that Jerry Potts School is the right choice for closure, rather than Marion Carson School.

MOVED by Trustee Ferguson:

THAT the motion be laid on the table.

Trustee Ferguson noted her belief that the discussion surrounding the next item for consideration can help inform the Board's decision on this matter, and it is her intention to move to take this motion from the table for consideration prior to the decision being made regarding the Regular Program at Varsity Acres School.

Chair Close called for the vote to lay the motion on the table.

The motion was
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

8:00 p.m. – Chair Dirks received the consent of Trustees to continue the meeting to the completion of the Agenda.

6.6 Regular Program at Varsity Acres School

Chair Close noted a correction to the report, on page 6-304, to remove the words “junior high” in reference to the regular program at Varsity Acres School.

In response to a question about the anticipated growth of the French Immersion program, Mr. Stevenson noted that it is growing in Area I and that growth will be monitored, especially in light of the mandatory second language, which our system is moving towards for our grade 4 students. Mr. Stevenson confirmed that Varsity Acres School, without portables, could likely reach full capacity with the French Immersion program alone.

MOVED by Trustee Bazinet:

- 1. THAT the Minutes of the Public Meeting of March 1, 2006, attached to the report as Attachment #1, and as submitted with the Agenda for the Regular Meeting held April 4, 2006, be approved by the Board of Trustees, and**
- 2. THAT the report be received for information and for the record, in the form as submitted with the Agenda for the Regular Meeting held April 4, 2006.**

The motion was
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Trustee Dirks provided a summary of the public submissions that were received:

- A strong sentiment was expressed that the proposal to close the regular program at Varsity Acres School is not the only or best solution.

Enrolment projection concerns were expressed as follows:

- Enrolment projects for the Varsity community are not all-encompassing of factors related to potential growth;
- The formula used by CBE in the data gathering was unknown by the community and there was not enough time for the community to fully analyze and provide new data;
- CBE should use other data in its assessments, besides enrolment, including housing statistics, economic growth, social factors, employment and income;
- The 5-year combined enrolment projects for Jerry Potts and Varsity Acres schools demonstrates that the total number of projected students is the equivalent to recent enrolment in the Varsity Acres program; thus a regular English program could be sustained at Varsity Acres;
- The CBE has 10-year facility plans, but only 5-year enrolment projections, and is ignoring the possible effect of the likely coming echo boom in population;
- The CBE demographic projections do not take into consideration the new children's hospital, expansion of the U of C, SAIT and ACAD, or new townhouse development;
- The high proportion of rental and low income housing in the Varsity community is attractive to young families as local property prices escalate;

- The CBE projections are questionable in light of the growth in Tuscany;
- Marion Carson School may experience overcrowding; and if this occurs and the portables from F.E. Osborne must be used, the students will have to walk an unacceptable distance to a washroom and disrupt their learning.

Safety concerns were expressed with respect to: children who will have to walk to Marion Carson and have to cross uncontrolled intersections at Valiant Drive and at 40th Avenue; and, blind spots created by concrete sound barriers in the area.

Other concerns and comments included:

- Congregating all children in a regular program east of Shaganappi Trail would reduce costs of busing and lunchroom supervision and enable children to continue walking to school;
- Accuracy of claims presented to Trustees in the January 10th report on the opportunities and challenges for options in Varsity community were challenged by some stakeholders;
- Parents of Marion Carson School students provided support for the high quality education offered at the school;
- Parents with children in both the English and French program at Varsity Acres concerned about splitting siblings between two schools;
- Marion Carson School is not wheelchair accessible;
- The consultation process recognized the inter-connectedness of the various Varsity communities, but the consideration of closure process did not;
- The English program at Marion Carson School would provide more options for children with specialty teachers;
- There is overcrowding at Varsity Acres School;
- The opinion that the maximum benefit and cost savings could be achieved by leaving Varsity Acres regular program as is, close Jerry Potts and designate those children to Varsity Acres School;
- Varsity Acres School is in close proximity to the community centre, which offers various facilities and a large English pre-school and after school care program;
- Closing the regular program at Varsity Acres School would entail younger children having to be schooled in close proximity to junior high school students.

MOVED by Trustee Fawcett:

THAT the Kindergarten to Grade 6 regular program at Varsity Acres School be closed effective June 30, 2006.

Trustees debated the motion, and comments in support included that it would not be feasible to continue operating three elementary regular programs in the community of Varsity; and, that there is a need to look at what is best at this point in time to provide a strong and stable program for the students. A comment was made in opposition to the motion, noting that both the regular English program and the French Immersion program at Varsity Acres are highly valued by parents and there would be room for significant growth in both programs, should Jerry Potts School close.

MOVED by Trustee Ferguson:

THAT the motion be laid on the table.

The motion was
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

MOVED by Trustee Ferguson:

THAT the motion that was laid on the table, pertinent to the Jerry Potts School be taken from the table.

The motion was

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

For clarification, Ms. Barkway read the motion that was taken from the table and that is now on the floor for the Board's consideration, as follows:

THAT the Board of Trustees approves the staged closure of Jerry Potts School, effective June 30, 2006, or such later date as may be required by relevant construction timelines. This staged closure shall be conditional on the planned new construction of the new school in Citadel being satisfactorily completed prior to redirection of affected students to that new facility.

The motion was
CARRIED.

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

MOVED by Trustee Ferguson:

THAT the motion that was laid on the table, pertinent to the Kindergarten to Grade 6 regular program at Varsity Acres School be taken from the table.

The motion was
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

For clarification, Ms. Barkway read the motion that was taken from the table and that is now on the floor for the Board's consideration, as follows:

THAT the Kindergarten to Grade 6 regular program at Varsity Acres School be closed effective June 30, 2006.

The motion was
CARRIED.

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

9:00 p.m. – Recessed.

9:17 p.m. – Reconvened. Chair Dirks resumed the chair.

6.7 Juno Beach Academy Alternative Program at Sir William Van Horne High School

Trustees asked a number of questions, which were addressed by senior Administration, including Chief Superintendent Croskery, Mr. P. Carlton, Director, Community Engagement and Operational Planning, and Ms. K. Krylly, Director, Area IV. A summary of the discussion is as follows:

- Mr. Carlton noted it is anticipated that the classroom furnishings in Lord Shaughnessy would remain and be there for the use of Juno Beach Academy.

- With respect to the shops at Lord Shaughnessy and whether they will remain intact, Mr. Carlton noted his understanding that as the students in Area IV select Central Memorial High School for entrance in the Knowledge and Employability Skills program, those shops would be reviewed in terms of anticipated need.
- With respect to the communication to parents and students of the Integrated Occupational Placement program at Lord Shaughnessy, Ms. Krylly noted that there has been ongoing consultation, keeping them informed of Alberta Education's mandate for the Knowledge and Employability Skills program that will be engaged this fall; and, communications have been made through the School Council and through the school newsletters.
- The signage for the Juno Beach Academy would be placed on the Lord Shaughnessy school building, in the same manner as it is currently placed on the Sir William Van Horne school building.
- A Trustee questioned why the Integrated Occupational Placement (IOP) program at Lord Shaughnessy is being phased out, i.e. no grade 10 students will be accepted in the IOP program at that school, but we are accepting grade 10 IOP students at Jack James and at Sir William Van Horne High Schools. Confirmation was requested that the Lord Shaughnessy program is not being phased out due to it not being a successful program. Chief Superintendent confirmed that is not the case, as there has been tremendous success with many students over the years in Lord Shaughnessy High School.
- Ms. Krylly confirmed that Mr. L. Villiger will continue as the principal of the Juno Beach Academy, and Mr. J. Turner will continue as the principal of other programs at Lord Shaughnessy High School and Central Memorial High School; and, with respect to the buildings and associated administration, there would be a shared responsibility for the three schools.
- A Trustee asked whether Administration has any concerns with the proposed mix of students, where the learning environment will include students of the Juno Beach Academy, of Chinook Learning and of the Hull program. Chief Superintendent Croskery noted that it is important that the Administration continually monitors such situations to ensure that a properly balanced learning environment is in place.

MOVED by Trustee Fawcett:

1. **THAT the Minutes of the Public Meeting of March 6, 2006, attached to the report as Attachment #1, and as submitted with the Agenda for the Regular Meeting held April 4, 2006, be approved by the Board of Trustees, and**
2. **THAT the report be received for information and for the record, in the form as submitted with the Agenda for the Regular Meeting held April 4, 2006.**

The motion was
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Chair Dirks provided an overview of the public submissions that were received by Trustees, noting that, in general, there were no substantial expressions of opposition to the proposal to close the Juno Beach Academy at Sir William Van Horne High School and to subsequently transfer it to Lord Shaughnessy High School. Some expressions of support were communicated as well as concerns, which are summarized as follows:

- Stakeholders should have opportunity to tour the proposed Lord Shaughnessy site;
- The school should not have to draw from its program budget to cover the cost of the rubber floor for the drill bay;
- The CBE should cover any costs that might be incurred to ensure that the same quality music program that exists at Sir William Van Horne would be offered at Lord Shaughnessy;

- The principal of the Juno Beach Academy move with the program and the authority of that position be retained;
- Juno Beach Academy students should not be penalized for missing the course selection deadline of March 21st, which may result from the closure consideration timeline;
- Physical education tote bags be replaced for Juno Beach Academy students;
- Juno Beach Academy students be assured of access to science labs;
- Advertising the proposed closure of Juno Beach Academy without an explanation that it would transfer to Lord Shaughnessy may hurt enrolment for the coming year;
- At a stakeholder meeting in June 2005 the consensus of those present was that it would be more appropriate to relocate Juno Beach Academy to Balmoral School than to Lord Shaughnessy High School;
- It was noted that Lord Shaughnessy is physically separate from Central Memorial which means that Juno Beach Academy would have its own separate facility;
- There should be a similar code of conduct for Central Memorial students as there is for Juno Beach Academy students;
- Safety of Juno Beach Academy students who wear distinctive school uniforms;
- A comment was made that the Lord Shaughnessy site is not appropriate for an academically driven school like Juno Beach Academy;
- The name of the alternative program should be maintained.

MOVED by Trustee Cochrane:

THAT the Juno Beach Academy alternative program at Sir William Van Horne High School be closed effective June 30, 2006 to allow for the transfer of that educational program.

Trustees debated the motion and acknowledged the awkwardness of this process, which the Board of Trustees is required to follow to comply with the *Closure of School Regulation*, prior to moving a program; and in this particular situation, we have an alternative program that is thriving and is in need of a new facility to allow for its growth and success. An expression of disappointment was shared that the parents of Lord Shaughnessy were not engaged in a similar manner as a result of closing the Integrated Occupational Placement program. Comments in support of the motion included that the relocation of Juno Beach Academy to Lord Shaughnessy will provide a more central location, easier access for students and it is closer to other facilities that may have a direct relationship to the program.

Chair Dirks called for the vote on the motion.

The motion was
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

6.8 Kindergarten to Grade 6 Regular Program at Brentwood Elementary School

Trustees asked some questions, which were addressed by senior Administration, including Chief Superintendent Croskery, Mr. D. Stevenson, Director, Area I, and Mr. P. Carlton, Director, Community Engagement and Operational Planning.

With respect to questions of long-term stability and attainment of the regular program for the community, it was noted that the extensive consultation processes undertaken to date have been working towards that end.

MOVED by Trustee Lane:

1. **THAT the Minutes of the Public Meeting of March 8, 2006, attached to the report as Attachment #1, and as submitted with the Agenda for the Regular Meeting held April 4, 2006, be approved by the Board of Trustees, and**

2. THAT the report be received for information and for the record, in the form as submitted with the Agenda for the Regular Meeting held April 4, 2006.

The motion was
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Trustee Lane provided a synopsis of the feedback received from the public, and the following is a summary of the expressions of concerns and comments:

- That continued closure of inner city schools would lead to inner city students being bused to the suburbs when we already have a large number of students being bused;
- The closure process and the length of time devoted to it was too short; the community should be provided a year's notice of potential school closures in order to examine alternatives;
- That in two years time the communities might have to face the possibility of closure of Captain John Palliser and Dr. E.W. Coffin, which would leave Brentwood without a community school;
- There were expressions of support for the Traditional Learning Centre program at Brentwood School; and there were a number of questions regarding registration to the program;
- The incompatibility of the class size initiative with the 85% utilization concept was noted, and concern was expressed that it was the introduction of the new class sizes and the number of out-of-boundary students that precluded Dr. E.W. Coffin from accepting more, perhaps all, of the Brentwood regular program students;
- A statement was made that the clear message of the community is that it wants to have a regular program and it wants CBE to promote it; it is important that at least one remains in the community;
- A general statement was made in respect of all eight closure considerations, that Trustees "cease and desist in the recommendation of school closures without first considering issues of urban planning, environmental impact, safety, and social and developmental outcomes".

MOVED by Trustee Ferguson:

THAT the Kindergarten to Grade 6 regular program at Brentwood Elementary School be closed effective June 30, 2006.

Trustees debated the motion and shared comments of support and noted some concerns. It was noted that this is another case of the initiation of an alternative program into a building should garner public input. A Trustee pointed out that the discussion has occurred in public meetings with respect to parents making choices and being proactive, thus the establishment of the alternative programs, and noted further that such programs are also considered in the community discussions when looking at ways to keep their school viable. A comment was made that in light of the low number of students that would remain at Brentwood School and no students projected for the Kindergarten program, it is believed that moving the regular program to Captain John Palliser School is a feasible decision.

Chair Dirks called for the vote on the motion.

The motion was
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Chief Superintendent Croskery acknowledged the staff for their dedication of time to this difficult but important work; and Chair Dirks relayed sentiments of gratitude for the quality work given by staff to assist the Board of Trustees in these matters.

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

There were no items.

9.2 Chief Superintendent Consent Agenda

There were no objections to the Chief Superintendent's Consent Agenda and Chair Dirks declared the item to be adopted as presented.

9.2.1 Chief Superintendent's Monthly Update

THAT the Board of Trustees receives the Chief Superintendent's Monthly Update for information.

10.0 TRUSTEE NOTICES OF MOTION

There were no notices of motion.

11.0 ADJOURNMENT

The Chair declared the meeting adjourned at 9:54 p.m.