

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, March 20, 2007 at 5:00 p.m.

Board of Trustees:

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

Administration:

Dr. B. Croskery, Chief Superintendent of Schools
Mr. F. Coppinger, Superintendent, Facilities and Environmental Services
Mr. D. Dart, Superintendent, Corporate Services – Secretary Treasurer
Mr. J. Drysdale, Superintendent, Educational Support Services
Ms. B. Hubert, Deputy Chief Superintendent of Schools
Ms. J. Barkway, Assistant Corporate Secretary
Mr. J. Jones, Executive Assistant to the Chief Superintendent
Ms. B. Kuester, Executive Director of Communications
Mr. R. Peden, Director and General Counsel, Legal Affairs
Ms. D. Perrier, Recording Secretary
Ms. S. Wasylshyn, Executive Assistant to the Trustees

Stakeholder Representatives:

Ms. A. Craig, Calgary Board of Education Staff Association
Ms. J. Kylo, Elementary School Principals' Association
Mr. L. Liffiton, Alberta Teachers' Association, Local 38
Ms. R. Mosher, Elementary School Principals' Association
Mr. C. Weir, Principals' Association for Adolescent Learners (PAAL)

Action By

1.0 CALL TO ORDER, NATIONAL ANTHEM AND WELCOME

Chair Cochrane called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m., and Justin, a Grade 12 student from Central Memorial High School, led in the singing of the national anthem. Chair Cochrane acknowledged and welcomed representatives from the aforementioned organizations. She also welcomed the SAIT Journalism 209 first-year students to the meeting.

2.0 CONSIDERATION/APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Ms. Barkway informed that two items were removed from the agenda – Item 3.1 Eco Team Presentation, and Item 4.2 Lighthouse Award; that a late circulation was made of the Regular Meeting Minutes of March 6, 2006, which would be added as a new item following the consent agenda; and, that an additional item was requested to be added as Item 7.4 – Executive Limitations 15: Student Transportation, First Reading.

MOVED by Trustee Dirks:

THAT the Agenda for the Regular Meeting of March 20, 2007 be approved as submitted, subject to the amendments as noted above.

The motion was
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

3.0 SCHOOL/SYSTEM PRESENTATIONS

The item was withdrawn from the agenda.

4.0 HONOURS AND RECOGNITIONS

4.1 Edwin Parr Teacher Award Nominee

MOVED by Trustee Bazinet:

- 1. THAT the Board of Trustees receives the report entitled *2007 Alberta School Boards Association (ASBA) Edwin Parr Teacher Award for information.***
- 2. THAT Krystle Hillcoat is named the 2007 teacher nominee of the Calgary Board of Education for the Alberta School Boards Association Edwin Parr Award.**

The motion was
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Superintendent Drysdale gave brief highlights about the background, and the criteria for nomination and ultimate selection of winners. Ms. J. Crarer, Director, Curriculum Support, Educational Support Services, shared introductory remarks about Ms. Hillcoat, who is a first year, grade 3-4 teacher at Captain John Palliser School.

Ms. Hillcoat came forward and expressed her excitement in being nominated for the Edwin Parr Teacher Award. She shared comments about how teachers inspired her when she was a student and influenced her decision to become a teacher. She gave special thanks to her family, to her mentors and to the school's administration for the support they have given her.

On behalf of the Board of Trustees and the Calgary Board of Education, Chair Cochrane presented Ms. Hillcoat with a gift of appreciation, and congratulatory remarks for being named as Calgary Board of Education's 2007 teacher nominee for the ASBA Edwin Parr Award.

5.0 PUBLIC CONVERSATION AND INFORMATION

5.1 Correspondence

There was no correspondence.

5.2 Report from the Chair and Trustees

Trustee Ferguson noted that she and Trustee Bazinet visited City Hall School earlier in the day, where Cambrian Heights Elementary School students were learning for the week. She noted that City Hall School has had approximately 5,000 students go through its program since its inception.

Trustee Fawcett noted he attended the 30th anniversary celebration of Dr. Gordon Higgins School, where Dr. Higgins was a guest of honour.

Trustee Fawcett shared comments about the Calgary Regional Debate Championships that were hosted at Lester B. Pearson High School. He noted debate is definitely flourishing in our city; that the school hosted 97 teams for this event, which is no small task and for which they are to be commended. He congratulated Shaun and Kees, our Board Pages, on their win of those debates.

Trustee Fawcett noted he attended the Calgary High School Athletics Awards Banquet held March 19th, where recognition and scholarships were given to a number of students for their personal accomplishments in the field of athletics.

Trustee Ferguson noted that she and Trustee Fawcett attended the Calgary Immigrant Aid Society's Gala on March 16th in celebration of its 30th anniversary; and that four of the five scholarship award recipients were from CBE schools.

Chair Cochrane reported on the support staff retirement celebrations that were held on March 16th, noting it was a pleasant opportunity to hear the many personal stories told, and to individually commend the retirees for their years of service to the CBE.

5.3 Report from the Chief Superintendent

Chief Superintendent Croskery provided comments on the following issues and events:

- The succession plan for senior administrators is well underway, and a seminar was held on Monday, March 12th. A program has been developed to build potential candidates for succession. He pointed out the importance of having a good succession plan in place.
- He met with Mr. T. Eriksen, Principal of Collingwood School, to thank him for his 35 years of service to the CBE, and to congratulate him on his upcoming retirement.
- Schools visited included: William Reid and McKenzie Lake, two schools that held St. Patrick's Day celebrations.
- On behalf of Chief Superintendent Croskery, Superintendent Drysdale attended a dinner event held last week for the Korean Community in Calgary, which included a Korean Language and Cultural Implementation Ceremony. Dr. Lee, who is a very strong leader in the Korean Community, and two of his colleagues visited with Chief Superintendent Croskery earlier in the day to thank the CBE for attending the event and for the establishment of a Korean language program that is being offered at Chinook Learning Services.

5.4 Public Question Period

There were no questions from the public.

5.5 Stakeholder Reports

5.5.1 Mr. K. Bomhof, Member of the Board of Trustees of the Calgary Christian School

Mr. Bomhof acknowledged the attendance of some of his colleagues and school parents to hear the Board's decision with respect to the proposed recommendation presented under Agenda Item 7.2 – Executive Limitations 6: Instructional Program – Proposed Amendment and Public Participation Process.

He noted that Calgary Christian School has been providing a Christian educational program in accordance with the Alberta curriculum for over 40 years. They have approximately 700 students in K-12 across two campus sites in the southwest community of Glenbrook. Although independent, they do not categorize themselves as a private school, and access to their school is relatively open; and, although faith based, they have no denominational affiliation, and they have no specific academic criteria for the admission of students.

Mr. Bomhof pointed out the belief that the Calgary Christian School shares the same essential ends and objectives that the Calgary Board of Education holds for its public

schools; and their school is also of the belief that their vision quite mirrors the mega end of the Calgary Board of Education.

5.5.2 Ms. M. Filyk, Parent, Highwood School

Ms. Filyk noted she was speaking on the behalf of the children at Highwood School, with respect to the Board's consideration of the potential closure of the French Immersion Program. She pointed out that in consideration of costs and expenditures that the Board has to make decisions around, in her opinion the cost of busing children is not well analyzed. She noted that savings of costs associated with closing small schools in communities, including the utilization of space and the allocation of resources, is important; but at the same time it is equally important to consider the value the community holds in having those resources.

Ms. Filyk noted her belief that the costs of busing are twofold – with one being the loss of time for students to be physically active; and the second cost being that students are basically unsupervised while on the bus, because the driver is focused on his job of driving the bus. She requested that the Board of Trustees considers busing as a very last resort for children.

5.6 Trustee Inquiries

There were no Trustee inquiries.

6.0 ACTION ITEMS

6.1 Recommendation for Consideration of Closure of the Regular Program at Branton Junior High School

Chief Superintendent Croskery noted that as the report indicates, the Administration is of the belief that a recommendation for the Board of Trustees to proceed with a consideration of closure of the regular program at Branton Junior High School is warranted. He acknowledged the attendance of Ms. A. Verdiel, Director, Area II, and Mr. P. Carlton, Director, Community Engagement and Operational Planning, to assist with questions.

A question was asked how it was determined that potentially 45 students could enroll in the regular program for the 2007/08 school year. Ms. Verdiel responded that is the total number of students that reside in the catchment area that potentially could register for the regular program at Branton Junior High School. Many of those students have already been redesignated to other schools and it can be expected they would remain where they are currently enrolled.

Mr. Carlton addressed a question about the different figures referenced in the report with regards to capacity, noting that the figure of 760 student spaces refers to the provincial capacity rating; that, for our purposes, we are only using the rated room capacity of 710 as the number of instructional spaces to accommodate students. He indicated that the reference to functional capacity should be taken as the rated room capacity of 710.

MOVED by Trustee Dirks:

THAT the Board of Trustees receives for information the Student Accommodation Plan for Branton Junior High School, as outlined in the report dated March 20, 2007.

The motion was
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

MOVED by Trustee Lane:

THAT the Board of Trustees is satisfied that there is cause to proceed with a consideration of closure of the Regular Program at Branton Junior High School in accordance with the *Closure of Schools Regulation* and the Board of Trustees' *Governance Process Policy 5E: Board of Trustees' Procedure – Consideration of School Closure, section 1.1 (2)*.

The motion was
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

6.2 Recommendation for Consideration of Closure of the Regular Program at Langevin School

Chief Superintendent Croskery introduced the item and noted that the regular program anticipates a projected enrolment of 3 students for September 2007. Enrolment as of September 30, 2006 at Langevin School was sixteen grade 9 students in the regular program, 108 students in the Mandarin Program, and 415 students in the Science School.

Ms. A. Verdiel, Director, Area II, and Mr. P. Carlton, Director, Community Engagement and Operational Planning, assisted with questions posed by Trustees, which are summarized as follows:

- The rated room capacity in 2004/2005 was 615 and it dropped to 590 in 2006 as a result of renovations that were done at the school.
- The bar graph (Attachment II) shows projections that were made in early 2004. It was clarified that 53 students from the community of Erin Woods, who attended the regular program at Langevin, were designated to Ian Bazalgette effective September 2004. In 2005 and 2006, a number of students moved either into the Science program or the Mandarin bilingual program, or were redesignated to Stanley Jones, Connaught, Colonel Macleod or Mount Royal school.
- It was clarified that there is no planned end date for the practice of giving students from the Bridgeland/Riverside community priority enrolment for the alternative programs at Langevin School.

MOVED by Trustee Lane:

THAT the Board of Trustees receives for information the proposed Accommodation Plan for Langevin School, as outlined in the report dated March 20, 2007.

The motion was
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

MOVED by Trustee Fawcett:

THAT the Board of Trustees is satisfied that there is cause to proceed with a consideration of closure of the Regular Program at Langevin School in accordance with the *Closure of Schools Regulation* and the Board of Trustees' *Governance Process Policy 5E: Board of Trustees' Procedure – Consideration of School Closure, section 1.1 (2)*.

The motion was
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

7.0 POLICY DEVELOPMENT AND REVIEW

7.1 Second and Third Reading to amended Executive Limitations 3: Information, Counsel and Support to the Board of Trustees, and Executive Limitations 11: Financial Condition; and First, Second and Third Reading to amended Executive Limitations 6: Instructional Program

Trustee Fawcett provided highlights of the contents of the report. He noted that with respect to EL-3, which received first reading on January 9, 2007, the Board had received impact statements on the proposed amendments to the policy and, subsequent to reviewing those impact statements the policy committee is recommending some minor changes to the wording of the policy as outlined in Attachment I of the report. There are no further amendments proposed to EL-11: Financial Condition, subsequent to giving first reading to the amended policy on January 9th, and as indicated in Attachment II. The recommended new wording of EL-6: Instructional Program is shown in Attachment III, and it incorporates a number of points that were in the original EL-3.

Trustee Close noted that point 14 from the original EL-3 is not shown in tracked changes anywhere in the report, noting that the policy committee felt it was covered off in points 5 and 6 of the proposed EL-6; and apologized that it would not form part of EL-14 as the report states. For clarification, she noted that point 14 reads as follows: "Fail to inform the Board of Trustees in advance of new programs to be established or of any deletions, additions or significant modifications to any existing instructional program designed to achieve the Board of Trustees' Ends policies."

MOVED by Trustee Fawcett:

THAT the Board of Trustees gives second reading to the amended EL-3: Information, Counsel and Support to the Board of Trustees, in the form as submitted as Attachment I to the report dated March 20, 2007.

The motion was
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

MOVED by Trustee Fawcett:

THAT the Board of Trustees gives third and final reading to the amended EL-3: Information, Counsel and Support to the Board of Trustees, in the form as submitted as Attachment I to the report dated March 20, 2007.

The motion was
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

(The approved Executive Limitations 3: Information, Counsel and Support to the Board of Trustees, is attached to these minutes.)

MOVED by Trustee Fawcett:

THAT the Board of Trustees gives second reading to the amended EL-11: Financial Condition, in the form as submitted as Attachment II to the report dated March 20, 2007.

The motion was

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

MOVED by Trustee Fawcett:

THAT the Board of Trustees gives third and final reading to the amended EL-11: Financial Condition, in the form as submitted as Attachment II to the report dated March 20, 2007.

The motion was
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

(The approved Executive Limitations 11: Financial Condition is attached to these minutes.)

MOVED by Trustee Fawcett:

THAT the Board of Trustees gives first reading to the amended EL-6: Instructional Program, in the form as submitted as Attachment III to the report dated March 20, 2007.

The motion was
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

MOVED by Trustee Fawcett:

THAT the Board of Trustees gives second reading to the amended EL-6: Instructional Program, in the form as submitted as Attachment III to the report dated March 20, 2007.

The motion was
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

MOVED by Trustee Dirks:

THAT in accordance with Governance Process Policy 3: Governance Policy Development, the Board of Trustees agrees to proceed with more than two readings of policy EL-6 at one Board Meeting.

The motion was
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

MOVED by Trustee Fawcett:

THAT the Board of Trustees gives third and final reading to the amended EL-6: Instructional Program, in the form as submitted as Attachment III to the report dated March 20, 2007.

The motion was
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

(The approved Executive Limitations 6: Instructional Program is attached to these minutes.)

6:30 p.m. - Reconvened.

7.2 Executive Limitations 6: Instructional Program – Proposed Amendment and Public Participation Process

MOVED by Trustee Bazinet:

THAT the Board of Trustees gives first reading to amend EL-6: Instructional Program, by deleting the following provision:

“Assure that no program emphasizes a particular religion, notwithstanding the *School Act* definition of alternative programs.”

Trustee Bazinet provided rationale for the motion, noting it stems from a number of events that have taken place over the past couple of years. She noted that the Board has introduced a different governance model from which it is made very clear what we expect from our students at the end of Grade 12, and what is expected from them throughout their years of learning in the CBE. She stated that the Board also has an Executive Limitations policy on instructional program that clearly outlines the expectations in terms of meeting individual student needs, and which forms the framework for all regular and alternative programs within the CBE. Also, during the past few years the CBE has moved further along the pathway of offering alternative programs to meet the learning needs of all students. Trustee Bazinet further pointed out that it is very clear Alberta Education supports programs of choice and has indicated continued interest in the concept of choice for parents.

Trustees gave lengthy consideration and debate to the issue, which is summarized as follows:

- It was noted that the question as to what role religion should play in the CBE was the topic of a community consultation that took 13 months to complete; and it involved extensive public participation by a variety of stakeholder focus groups. A report on the process of implementation in the CBE was presented in June 2004. The current executive limitation provision is a result of that public consultation.
- A belief was expressed that the views held by the majority have not substantially changed or altered in the intervening couple of years.
- It was expressed that a major role of public education in a democratic society is to provide rich learning opportunities for students from very diverse backgrounds, cultures and religions to develop respect, understanding, and to encourage tolerance and caring for those who may be very different or hold different beliefs from oneself. It was felt that should it come to a segregation of students into different schools or programs to teach a particular religion, it would substantially diminish those opportunities; and if each student should only learn what his/her family knows and believes, the broader issue becomes -Why do public schools exist?
- A remark was made about not understanding the rationale for deleting this point in the policy and leaving the decision in the hands of Administration, adding that it raises another question with respect to the point in EL-6 that addresses French Immersion. It was also questioned what kind of participation plan is envisioned, what is the question that is being asked and who in our community are we asking, and have things changed enough to give consideration to this issue at this point in time.
- A comment was made it would be preferable to have the discussion about what we are doing as a system to acknowledge the faith that children bring to our schools each and every day and about the children that do not have a faith; and, about the role of religion in public education and the importance of it in that regard, which was a great part of the discussion that took place in 2001 through 2004.

- A Trustee shared extrapolations from a 2007 document entitled “Canadians and the Common Good – Building a Civic Nation through Civic Engagement”. It was noted that the views presented in that report are consistent with the findings of the Committee on the Role of Religion in the CBE in 2004; and it appears that we are a leader in this area. There may be a need to do more in the way of promotion of the current policy, however, it is not understood why consideration should be given to changing the policy at this point in time.
- A belief was shared that the landscape has changed in the past three years in that more schools have expressed an interest for us to embrace their particular approach to education within the context of public education. In a presentation given by the Chief Superintendent on February 20, 2007 he referred to moving from culture as shared to culture as differential participation, which is also referenced in this report. It was felt that it is critical for our increasingly pluralistic society to do this – to make the world safe for diversity. Over the past three years there have been a number of Boards in the province adopting and embracing this particular approach to public education and we don’t yet know the impacts for those schools.
- A conviction was expressed that the religious segregation of schools is not something that could be endorsed – that it would not be desirable to see a particular school or a particular building, that is publicly funded, take in only students from a particular religion or promote a particular religion. However, it is believed that there is a need to be in constant engagement and discussion on the issue of what role religion plays in public education.
- A concern was noted that the Board has had to reprioritize a number of critical issues in order to finish some of the more important work before the end of the term of this Board; and this proposal would bring forward huge work to their table. It was noted that when the Committee met in focus groups and with religious leaders, it heard comments about the importance of people respecting each other and learning about each other’s religions, and not to indoctrinate people to any particular religion. A belief was shared that it is important that these conversations be held, but it is questioned whether now is the time to see what this means, and if there would be any difference from three years previous.
- A belief was shared that the importance should be placed on the evaluation of the impacts the system is experiencing as a result of the Board’s implementation of the Ends on citizenship and character. An example of current teaching about religion in our schools was shared, whereby a school assigns each grade on a monthly basis the responsibility for researching and presenting an assembly on a different religion’s beliefs, customs and celebrations. In this way, the school encourages student awareness of all religions without imposing any particular religious views.
- Comments were shared that the enforcement of religious obligations and conformity to a set of beliefs should remain as a parental responsibility.
- A remark was made that there is no reason why these discussions could not occur between Trustees and their communities.

Chair Cochrane called for the vote on the motion.

The motion was
DEFEATED.

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

7.3 Executive Limitations 14: Student Accommodation – Impact Statement

Superintendent Dart provided introductory remarks, and noted the attendance of Mr. P. Carlton, Director, Community Engagement and Operational Planning, to assist with questions. The following is a summary of the discussion, questions and responses:

- Clarification was given on the impact statement provided on point i) of the policy which reads “an appropriate definition of school capacity and school surplus space”. The Chief Superintendent’s interpretation of “appropriate definition” is that it would be limited to the definition that is deemed appropriate by provincial authorities. Chief Superintendent Croskery noted the class size provisions compound the lack of clarity in the definition of utilization formulas for the determination of capacity. He pointed out that he favours clarity and he is of the belief that with respect to school capacity, if there is a number on the books that was established and mandated by the government, then we should be making reference to only that number. However, if we think those numbers that are derived from the established utilization formula are not satisfactory to the realities, then we should be constantly lobbying the government for change. He noted that he is not in favour of using or relaying different and varying numbers with respect to capacity.
- With respect to a question about whether the current formula or definition of capacity serves us well, Superintendent Dart explained that over time school construction standards have changed dramatically, and every ten or fifteen years construction standards have changed. The area capacity utilization formula is problematic in that it is a one-mold issue that doesn’t fit all those different standards of construction. The confusion for the public is that we are starting to introduce different definitions of capacity for schools, which is based usually around the utilization; but, from a provincial standpoint, the area capacity utilization formula is also about design and construction of schools to a certain capacity. Part of the government’s rationalization of this is to try to standardize instructional spaces within schools and to avoid discretion that may result from different designs. As a result of the different standards of construction that have occurred over time, we are taking our leave to appeal some capacity ratings for some of our schools.
- With regards to EL-14E: Student Accommodation Information Requirements, and the reference in point c) to the date of April 1, Trustees felt that to be a timely reporting date to parents, so they were not faced with any last minute accommodation changes. Mr. Carlton advised that the intent of asking for the date of June 30th is so the Administration could provide Trustees with a complete and accurate report of all the changes that were made throughout the year. He pointed out that boundary changes and attendance area changes are announced to parents throughout the year as those decisions are made.
- In response to the suggestion in the report that points i) and k) would be better suited in policy EL-13: Facilities, it was noted that the Administration was attempting for more clarity in this area. Superintendent Dart pointed out that there are different strategies for reducing surplus space or for increasing utilization within our district, than the strategies used in regards to student accommodation.

MOVED by Trustee Close:

THAT the Board of Trustees receives the Impact Statement for Proposed Executive Limitations 14: Student Accommodation, for information.

The motion was
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

7.4 Executive Limitations 15: Student Transportation – First Reading

Trustee Fawcett highlighted the contents of the report, which contains attachments including the amended policy as recommended by the Policy Committee. He noted that using the feedback provided by Trustees through the Issue Identification and Problem Specification sheet, the Policy Committee reviewed the policy for potential changes based on the underlying value of accessibility. He pointed out that the proposed amendments attempt to balance the needs of students with the fiscal and operational capacities of the school system, without letting one override the other.

Trustees posed questions, which were addressed and are summarized as follows:

- It was asked whether consideration was given to the cross-subsidy for transportation and whether it would still come from operational funds that are CBE generated funds, or from provincial grant funds, or both. Trustee Fawcett replied that the Policy Committee did not contemplate that and, therefore, the proposed policy does not contemplate it. He pointed out that currently the metro transportation formula does not provide funding for students who choose a program of choice when they have a school that they can walk to, and this policy indicates that we are offering choice and want students to have equal access to those choices.
- In response to a question about how often the metro transportation formula gets amended, Mr. W. Braun, Director, Corporate Financial Services, informed that the formula has not been amended for 15 years and that he suspects it may be at least another five years.
- In regards to a question about point 4 b) and c) of the proposed policy as to which revenues would be used first, Trustee Fawcett noted he is interested to see what comes back from our Administration in the impact statements on the proposed policy, and whether they would place a value on one over the other, regarding b) and c).
- Trustee Fawcett addressed a question about the rationale for minimizing point 2 a) from the previous wording of the policy, noting that the intent is to make the issue as broad as possible and to allow Administration some flexibility; that as the city continues to grow and schools are not being built, or as a result of driver shortages, the student transportation times could potentially increase.

7:59 p.m. – Chair Cochrane received the consent of Trustees to continue the meeting to the completion of the Agenda.

MOVED by Trustee Close:

THAT the Board of Trustees gives first reading to the amended EL-15: Student Transportation policy, in the form as attached to the report (Attachment I) dated March 20, 2007.

MOVED by Trustee Fawcett:

THAT the Board of Trustees approves an amendment to EL-15: Student Transportation, by the addition of the following provision:

- 8. Student health and environmental impacts resulting from student transportation are identified and mitigated.**

The amendment was
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Trustees debated the motion as amended, and supportive comments included that the issue is about keeping costs down, and not having to raise the transportation fees charged to parents; and, with respect to transportation, the CBE provides more than other school districts in that we provide transportation based on a shorter walk limit, and we provide transportation to our programs of choice. A comment was made in opposition to the motion, with the rationale noted to be that point 4 of the proposed policy does not specifically indicate a need to keep costs reasonable; and, transportation fees being the same across all grade levels was not preferable.

Chair Cochrane called for the vote on the motion to give first reading to the amended EL-15: Student Transportation.

The motion was
CARRIED.

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

8.0 CONSENT AGENDA

8.1 Board Consent Agenda

8.1.1 Committee Report – Policy Committee

THAT the Board of Trustees receives the Policy Development Tracking Sheets for meetings held from January 31, 2007 to March 7, 2007, for information and for the record.

8.1.2 Liaison Report – Calgary Association of Parents and School Councils

THAT the attachment with respect to the Calgary Association of Parents and School Councils (CAPSC) be received for information, in the form as submitted with the agenda for the Regular Meeting held March 20, 2007, and that it be considered as the liaison report for that organization.

8.2 Approval of Minutes – Regular Meeting of March 6, 2007

MOVED by Trustee Ferguson:

THAT the Board of Trustees approves the Minutes of the Regular Meeting held March 6, 2007, as submitted.

The motion was
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

9.0 TRUSTEE NOTICES OF MOTION

There were no Trustee notices of motion.

Action By

10.0 ADJOURNMENT

The Chair declared the meeting adjourned at 8:23 p.m.

Attachments:

- Revised Policy EL-3: Information, Counsel and Support to the Board of Trustees
- Revised Policy EL-11: Financial Condition
- Revised Policy EL-6: Instructional Program



CALGARY BOARD OF EDUCATION

Board of Trustees' Policy – Executive Limitations

EL-3: Information, Counsel and Support to the Board of Trustees

Monitoring Method: Internal

Monitoring Frequency: Annual

With respect to providing timely information, prudent counsel and support to the Board of Trustees, the Chief Superintendent shall not allow the Board of Trustees, as a whole (except when fulfilling individual requests for information), to be uninformed or unsupported in its work. Accordingly, the Chief Superintendent shall not fail to:

1. Provide the following information in timely, accurate and understandable manner:
 - a) Relevant monitoring information directly addressing provisions of policies being monitored;
 - b) Relevant trends affecting the school district;
 - c) Significant events that occur in the schools or the school district;
 - d) All civil or criminal charges laid or about to be laid by or against the Board of Trustees, all significant proceedings before boards, tribunals or agencies, statutory investigations, and significant internal investigations. Regular updates on all such proceedings will also be provided to the Board of Trustees;
 - e) Significant civil, criminal investigations or charges laid or about to be laid against employees of the Calgary Board of Education;
 - f) Changes to the Administrative Regulations of the Calgary Board of Education;
 - g) Material external and internal changes to the school system, particularly changes in the assumptions upon which any Board of Trustees' policy has previously been established;
 - h) Significant and relevant changes in provincial or federal legislation, government policy or municipal bylaws, and the impact that those changes will have on the Calgary Board of Education; and
 - i) Anticipated adverse or significant media coverage;
 - j) Any correspondence or other communication to or from a Minister of the Crown, a Deputy Minister or any other elected official;
 - k) Any correspondence or notices that administration provides to all CBE school councils; and
 - l) All items delegated to the Chief Superintendent that are required by law or contract to be Board-approved, along with adequate information necessary to keep the Board of Trustees informed (on Consent Agenda).



CALGARY BOARD OF EDUCATION

Board of Trustees' Policy – Executive Limitations Page 2 to EL-3: Information, Counsel and Support to the Board of Trustees

2. Provide wise counsel to the Board of Trustees in the following areas:
 - a) If in the Chief Superintendent's opinion, the Board of Trustees is not in compliance with its own policies on Governance Process and Board-Chief Superintendent Linkage, particularly in the case of Board of Trustees' behaviour that is detrimental to the working relationship between the Board of Trustees and the Chief Superintendent;
 - b) In a timely manner, actual or anticipated non-compliance with any policy of the Board of Trustees and relevant provincial government departments; and
 - c) As many staff and external points of view, issues and options as reasonably needed to keep the Board of Trustees fully informed.
3. Provide support to the Board of Trustees in the following areas:
 - a) A public affairs strategy that recognizes the particular communication needs of the Board of Trustees, which shall include:
 - i. Effective two-way communication tools to support public engagement and linkages with stakeholders by the Board of Trustees (ex. web-site, promotional materials and meetings);
 - ii. A media strategy that recognizes the political sensitivities of the Board of Trustees and fosters effective media relationships and outcomes;
 - iii. Expert media training and advice.
 - b) Legal opinions, advice and representation to the Board of Trustees; and
 - c) Expertise in the Board's role of developing governance policies.
4. Provide any other information, counsel, and/or support that in his/her opinion should be provided to the Board of Trustees.

Adopted: March 20, 2007



CALGARY BOARD OF EDUCATION

Board of Trustees' Policy – Executive Limitations EL-11: Financial Condition

Monitoring Method: Internal, external and direct inspection

Monitoring Frequency: Annually with quarterly financial statements

With respect to the actual ongoing condition of the organization's financial health, the Chief Superintendent shall not cause or allow the development of fiscal jeopardy or a material deviation from the budget policy. Accordingly the Chief Superintendent shall not:

1. Expend more funds than have been received or are reasonably expected to be received in the fiscal year unless appropriate authorizations have been received pursuant to the *School Act* and shall include a repayment schedule in reporting such expenditure to the Board of Trustees;
2. Plan to use any committed operating surplus or operating or capital reserves for other than their designated purposes;
3. Plan to use any uncommitted operating surplus or capital reserves without the prior approval of the Board of Trustees;
4. Allow any reports or filings required by any provincial or federal agency to be overdue or incorrectly filed;
5. Fail to:
 - (a) Ensure that the auditor is given access to all records, documents, books of accounts and vouchers of the Calgary Board of Education by Calgary Board of Education employees;
 - (b) Provide any information and explanations that in the auditor's opinion may be necessary to enable the auditor to report as required by provincial legislation;
6. Fail to bill on a timely basis and actively pursue receivables after a reasonable grace period;
7. Fail to settle payroll and debts in a timely fashion;
8. Fail to assure that any purchase is based upon prudent judgment and sound financial practice, including precaution against conflict of interest, comparative pricing based on items of similar quality with a balance between long-term quality and cost;
9. Fail to maintain complete and accurate financial records by funds and accounts in accordance with law and generally accepted accounting principles;
10. Allow any expenditure of borrowed capital funds for any purpose not authorized by the Minister of Education;
11. Fail to inform the Board of Trustees in a timely manner of significant deviations or projected deviations in either the income or expenditures in the approved budget.

Adopted: March 20, 2007



CALGARY BOARD OF EDUCATION

Board of Trustees' Policy – Executive Limitations EL-6: Instructional Program

Monitoring Method: Internal
Monitoring Frequency: Annual

The Chief Superintendent shall not fail to ensure that the district's instructional program achieves the Board's Ends policies for individual student learning.

Accordingly, the Chief Superintendent shall not fail to:

1. Ensure that instruction is oriented to exceed the expectations of Alberta Education for student learning outcomes.
2. Effectively measure each student's progress toward achieving or exceeding those expectations.
3. Ensure that the instructional program includes opportunities for students to develop talents and interests in more specialized areas.
4. Ensure that the instructional program addresses the different learning styles and needs of students of various backgrounds and abilities.
5. Encourage innovative programs, carefully monitoring and evaluating the effectiveness of all such programs and share the results of that evaluation with the Board of Trustees.
6. Inform the Board of Trustees of all new alternative program proposals that have been submitted for evaluation and all alternative programs that are being considered.
7. Ensure that all instructional programs are resourced equitably.
8. Ensure that all instructional programs, including both content and practice, are regularly evaluated, using both internal and external perspectives, and are modified as necessary to assure their continuing effectiveness.
9. Assure that the instructional time provided for students during the academic day is uninterrupted by unnecessary intrusions, unnecessary teacher time out of the classroom, or the scheduling of activities that can be scheduled during other times.
10. Assure that no program emphasizes a particular religion, notwithstanding the *School Act* definition of alternative programs.
11. Assure equitable access to programs.
12. Offer opportunities for all students to become bilingual in Canada's two official languages by offering French Immersion programs as an opportunity to learn French.
13. Adopt district calendars for the school year that best meet the instructional needs of students in order to achieve the Board of Trustees' Ends policies.

Adopted: March 20, 2007