

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, May 1, 2007 at 5:00 p.m.

Board of Trustees:

PRESENT:

Trustee C. Bazinet (Vice-Chair)
Trustee N. Close
Trustee G. Dirks
Trustee K. Fawcett
Trustee L. Ferguson
Trustee G. Lane

ABSENT:

Trustee P. Cochrane, Chair

Administration:

Dr. B. Croskery, Chief Superintendent of Schools
Ms. J. Barkway, Assistant Corporate Secretary
Mr. F. Coppinger, Superintendent, Facilities and Environmental Services
Mr. W. Braun, Director, Corporate Financial Services
Mr. J. Crarer, Acting Superintendent, Educational Support Services
Ms. B. Hubert, Deputy Chief Superintendent of Schools
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. H. Numrich, Recording Secretary

Stakeholder Representatives:

Ms. G. Burger-Martindale, Calgary Association of Parents and School Councils
Ms. A. Craig, Calgary Board of Education Staff Association

Action By

1.0 CALL TO ORDER, NATIONAL ANTHEM AND WELCOME

Trustees, guests and staff enjoyed a performance on the plaza by music students of F.E. Osborne School, including the singing of O Canada. Trustee Dirks thanked them for coming, and for their wonderful musical performance.

Vice-Chair Bazinet also expressed her appreciation to the students and called the meeting to order at 4:58 p.m. The meeting reconvened in the boardroom and a special welcome was extended to representatives from Stakeholders groups.

2.0 CONSIDERATION/APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Ms. Barkway noted that the Agenda being followed tonight reads "Public Agenda, As Amended 07/04/27". She also noted that a Trustee requested that Agenda Item 6.5 *Consideration of 2007/08 Transportation Fee Schedule* be moved, and be considered following Item 8.1 as a new Item 8.2.

MOVED by Trustee Dirks:

THAT the Agenda for the Regular Meeting held May 1, 2007 be approved as submitted subject to the amendment by moving the consideration of Item 6.1 to follow Item 8.1.

The motion was
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

3.0 SCHOOL/SYSTEM PRESENTATIONS

3.1 Area III Partnership with Hull Family Services re: PATHS Project

Ms. T. Oberlin, System Assistant Principal from Area III introduced the report. She stated that the presentation is an example of how schools in Area III are working towards meeting the Personal Development Ends. A large part of this involves working with partners such as Hull Family Services, to support students. She introduced the presenters, Ms. S. Hanwell, principal of West Dover Elementary School and Ms. P. Swain, principal of James Short Memorial Elementary School.

Together, the principals gave a PowerPoint presentation entitled "Imagine a Day". PATHS (Promoting Alternative Thinking Strategies) is a comprehensive program that promotes social skills, enhances academic achievement and prevents bullying in elementary school children. Hull Family Services provides the PATHS curriculum to over 1800 students in Forest Lawn. The PATHS Program has identified five key concepts that are essential for children to develop in order to reach their potential: identify and express feelings; develop a healthy self esteem; demonstrate self-control; work through social problems and build healthy peer relationships.

Trustee Fawcett thanked the principals for their presentation and for their example of the excellent type of work being done within our schools. He also gave recognition to Hull Family Services for their partnership in this project.

4.0 HONOURS AND RECOGNITIONS

4.1 Lighthouse Award

There were two Lighthouse Awards presented by Ms. B. Kuester. The first recipient was Calgary Emergency Medical Services (EMS), represented by Mr. P. LaPointe, Public Education Officer. Ms. Kuester stated that Calgary EMS has been an active partner with Catherine Nichols Gunn Elementary School. On a regular basis Calgary EMS staff give safety talks, lessons in first aid, demonstrations with their ambulances and most recently bicycle safety at the school. Calgary EMS is concerned with the proper safety education of students, but also supports community involvement. Ms. Kuester thanked Mr. LaPointe and Calgary EMS on behalf of the Calgary Board of Education and stated that with their support Calgary's students are going on to live healthier and safer lives. Mr. LaPointe accepted the award with thanks, stating that Calgary EMS places importance on students and look forward to future dealings with the Calgary Board of Education.

The second Lighthouse Award was presented to Cedarglen Homes, represented by Mr. H. Tse, Management Executive and Mr. R. MacNeil, Estimator. Ms. Kuester stated that thanks to Cedarglen Home's involvement with the Calgary Board of Education, young men and women from Lord Shaughnessy High School get the chance to hone their creative building skills through an annual playhouse construction project. Cedarglen provides leadership and guidance and coordinates the provision of supplies and support from a number of its partner organizations. The playhouse is auctioned off after it is completed and the proceeds are donated to Habitat for Humanity. Every summer Cedarglen Homes

helps find jobs in the trades for interested students. They also provide demonstrations and guidance to all those students who wish to become tradespersons. Ms. Keuster thanked them on behalf of the Calgary Board of Education and stated that with their support students will go on to build a brighter Calgary. Mr. Tse expressed his gratitude for the award on behalf of Cedarglen Homes.

5.0 PUBLIC CONVERSATION AND INFORMATION

5.1 Correspondence

Ms. Barkway stated that there was one piece of correspondence. The Board received a document titled "Petition to Keep Kingsland School French Immersion Open" signed by 317 persons regarding the closure of the Kingsland French Immersion Program. Ms. Barkway read the following statement from the document: "We the undersigned fully support Kingsland School remaining open with the French Immersion Program residing there". Ms. Barkway noted that although it does not meet the School Act requirements as a petition, this document will be received by the Board as correspondence,

5.2 Report from the Chair and Trustees

Trustee Close reported that she recently attended the Cedarbrae School anniversary celebration and that it is wonderful to look at the past and reflect on the good work that has been going on over the past 30 years. She was invited with Trustee Lane to Jennie Elliott School where the Grade 6 class had created films. The Grade 6 curriculum shone through the work, their enthusiasm was spectacular, and she enjoyed the sense of humour.

Trustee Ferguson attended a Highwood School play about bullying entitled "In Harmony" that demonstrated the type of programs being offered in the Calgary Board of Education. She also attended a play entitled "Rats" at Huntington Hills School that taught a lesson about keeping a promise, and the consequences if promises are not kept. She stated that it was great to see the children in the audience participate as well.

Trustee Dirks reported that this past week was unique in the history of the school board as for the first time, three new schools were opened in one week. He attended the Citadel Park School opening and was honored to see the government represented (Premier, Minister of Learning and two MLA's) in show of their support for public education.

Trustee Bazinet attended the Mountain Park and Chaparral School openings, which were both delightful to attend. She also attended a French for the Future conference at the University of Calgary where the Grade 12's in attendance were encouraged to keep up their French; some will go to France, and some to Quebec to study further. She stated that this is the first year where French Second Language students were invited to attend along with the French Immersion students.

5.3 Report from the Chief Superintendent

Chief Superintendent Croskery remarked that this is Education Week, which was established 75 years ago by the Alberta Teachers' Association. This year's theme is "Our Future, Our Students". He thanked all Calgary Board of Education staff for making a contribution to this important task in society of preparing students to be tomorrow's citizens.

Dr. Croskery provided brief remarks about the following school visits: He attended the three new school openings; visited Ernest Manning High School; visited with 22 Area II Administrative Secretaries where they shared their thoughts regarding how he could support and improve their work; visited Highfield with Mr. W. Kauffeldt, Co-ordinator, Training and Staff Development, and met with Ms. F. Steele, Manager, Purchasing Services, thanking her for at least 35 years of service with the Calgary Board of Education; met with a Manitoba

School Superintendent; attended the installation service for Calgary Catholic School Chief Superintendent and noted that we work hard to build strong and supportive relationships with our sister Board; attended a tour of Aggie Days at the Calgary Round Up Centre, where he credited the Calgary Stampede for giving 5000 - 7000 of our students exposure to the agriculture industry.

Dr. Croskery noted a good news story regarding Rideau Park students who attended a West Coast sailing trip and demonstrated qualities of exemplary citizens. On the return trip home West Jet airline staff announced publicly what a pleasure it was to have them on board.

5.4 Public Question Period

There were no questions from the public.

5.5 Stakeholder Reports

5.5.1 Ms. C. Carlson, Coventry Hills

Ms. Carlson stated that the Coventry Hills Community eagerly awaited this year's Capital Plan. However, upon review they are left feeling uncertain as to what the future holds for their middle school. She stated that in spite of having a rapidly increasing enrolment they are ranked behind a high school worth over 40 million dollars. Their Junior High utilization is over 200%, yet a high school in the northwest, which has a utilization of 90%, is considered on the Capital Plan as top priority. It is her belief that most parents would rather see their 5th grader walk to school rather than their 16 year old. She questioned why the need for a new high school in the northwest is more important than putting middle schools in communities with rapidly growing populations? She questioned that if the Calgary Board of Education is committed to Calgarians building schools in the right places at the right time, why does it not extend to the Grade 5-9 populations?

5.5.2 Ms. M. Marr, Panorama Hills

Ms. Marr commended the Calgary Board of Education for their commitment to Aboriginal education, second language education and all other programs of choice, but stated that it is the ranking of the Piitoayis Family School that is her concern. She stated that this school grew by only 13 students this year and the population is expected to decrease next year. It is her belief that to spend 14 million dollars on this school does not seem to be the best use of tax payer dollars as it is ranked above much larger schools that would serve a much larger population. She referred to the communities of Taradale and Coral Springs, which have over 700 students in need of a middle school, nearly triple that of Piitoayis. She stated that Panorama Hills has grown by 2000 people, including 174 K-9 students. She also noted that the Calgary Board of Education spent 36 million on busing last year and students are experiencing long delays and longer bus rides. It is her belief that the Piitoayis School requires busing of students and that by building middle schools for Taradale, Coral Springs and Panorama Hills it would reduce busing needs. She also expressed concern that this could be setting a precedent that other alternative programs would be given priority over regular program schools. She believes that there is a new school crisis in Calgary, and that there is a need for more regular program schools rather than alternative programs. She requested that the Board please look at existing schools to house the Piitoayis program as is done with every other program of choice.

5.5.3 Ms. J. Kohut, Hidden Valley Parent re: North Central High School Committee

Ms. Kohut expressed her concern over the north central high school being dropped from the Capital Plan. She stated that the north central area is the fastest growing region in the city of Calgary and questioned why the northwest high school is ranked higher in the Capital Plan? She noted that utilization by residence for a high school in Sector 4 is 207% and utilization by enrollment for Sector 4 is 107%. She expressed concern that Sector 4 is linked with Sector 3 to the south where there are a number of very old, underutilized, inner city high school structures, which she does not feel is fair. She believes that the burden of busing should not be on her sector alone. She requested that the Board consider the north central high school in the Capital Plan and stated that this is of utmost importance to the community.

5.5.4 Mr. G. Galpin, Saddleridge Community Association and Northeast Centre of Community Society

Mr. Galpin stated that he was speaking as a representative of the North of McKnight communities to say thank you and to express their support of the northeast high school in the third year of the Capital Plan. He stated that they have been working to see this school included on the Capital Plan for over a decade and are very appreciative. He noted that there are 130,000 people in the northeast sector with only one high school. He estimated that between 1000 – 1700 students are being bused to other areas for high school. He stated that the Area MLA has made this one of his two top priorities and supports the need of the area. Mr. Galpin noted that he has been working with the Northeast Community Society and the Calgary Board of Education, Brent Hughes (Capital Planning and Development) regarding developing a large recreation centre to attach to the high school on the same 47 acre site in Martindale. The centre is scheduled to open in 2010. He stated that residents support it very strongly.

5.6 Trustee Inquiries

6.0 ACTION ITEMS

6.1 Board Decision re Consideration of Closure of Kingsland French Immersion Program

Dr. Croskery introduced the report and stated that staff are available to answer questions. He noted that he attended the consideration of closure public meeting and is satisfied that the planning process was extensive.

MOVED by Trustee Lane:

THAT the Board of Trustees approves the Minutes of the Public Meeting of March 26, 2007 in the form as submitted as Attachment I, to the report dated May 1, 2007 and that this report be received for information and for the record.

The motion was
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Trustee Close summarized the feedback that has emerged during the Administrative process and during the consideration of closure of the Kingsland French Immersion Program. She stated that after the public meeting Trustees received emails and a detailed report reviewing the Long Range Student Accommodation Plan and outlining concerns for the complete proposal and recommended boundary changes. The report also included a request for a formal inquiry into the Administrative process. She noted that a petition with 317 signatures was received and that many of the signatures on the petition are from the Kingsland

geographic community, and includes parents of Kingsland students residing in other communities. The following concerns were noted and summarized as follows:

- Need for a long term plan, a plan for the future that includes French Immersion South and allows parents to effectively plan, allows for growth and keeps cohort groups and siblings together. All plans need to be in place before moving any children, as transitions are difficult for children. Concern was expressed about further changes if a new Area 6 is created.
- This plan results in overcrowding, and is not utilizing space and resources effectively. Focus on the quality of the program, rather than utilization or to qualify for new school funding. Class size is a concern.
- Being close to home is important to reduce busing and travel times.
- The Calgary Board of Education has allowed Kingsland to disintegrate and controlled its destiny by changing boundaries and closing the regular program and opening Sundance. Confidence is lacking in Calgary Board of Education plans as a result of past decisions and overcrowding at Sundance. Concern was expressed over future use of the building, as well as when and how the community will be involved in these decisions.
- Disappointment that opening a French Immersion program at Braeside was not considered, as shorter ride times would have resulted. The Administrative process did not allow enough time for legitimate involvement or feedback or for families to make arrangements and did not involve the community. There was a request for a formal inquiry into the Administrative process.
- The following suggestions to keep Kingsland open were made: Consider another alternative program at Kingsland in addition to the French Immersion program; closure affects 35 communities and 170 students, it would be easier to move Chinook Park students to Kingsland; there will be more preschool kids in Kingsland as evidenced by the reports from the community and increasing Kindergarten enrollment at Kingsland; support the program with adequate funding and proper boundary designations; why close any school program when Calgary is growing so quickly.

Motion arising:

Moved by Trustee Lane:

THAT the Kindergarten to Grade 6 French Immersion program at Kingsland School be closed effective June 30, 2007.

Trustee questions regarding the motion were addressed by Administration and are summarized as follows:

- The projected enrolment for September 2007, should Kingsland remain open is 170 students. In order to have an assistant principal the school would need to have a principal and ten additional staff. This would equate to approximately 200 students, keeping in mind that special education students have a lower student/teacher ratio.
- Administration explained that consideration was given to redesignating Midnapore/Sundance for the eleven grade 6 students to Sundance Elementary but parents preferred that they stay with their cohort group. If these students were to stay at Sundance for the fall of 2007, it would be in a mixed grade grouping class of grades 5 and 6.

- In consideration of a new south French Immersion location, customarily, there would be a minimum of 25 students per grade grouping. There has been some consideration of a K-1 program at Janet Johnstone School with the opening of the new middle school at Shawnessy/Somerset. Administration will also look at K- grade 4 grouping; however, they would have to look at the number of students and the quality of the program and the communities that would be designated.
- A Trustee questioned whether alternative programs had been considered at Kingsland in order to increase the school utilization. Administration stated that a German bilingual program had been considered for the Maple Ridge area to be located at Kingsland school for a K-4 and a 5-9 grade grouping; however there were only 12 people who expressed interest in this last year, and only two this year. They also considered a K-9 science program to replicate the science school at Langevin, but due to space issues in the communities of Cedarbrae, Braeside and Oakridge, it was decided that Louis Riel was the best placement for that program. Kingsland is located in the far north of Area V and there are several other programs that will require additional space that Kingsland may be a consideration for such as the Evergreen team, Chinook Learning, Renfrew educational services, administrative offices, and the potential need to relocate Connaught School students during renovations for a period of 6 months to 1 year.
- A Trustee questioned if moving students from Chinook Park to Kingsland was given consideration? Director Carlton explained that when the proposal first went out to consider closure of both Chinook Park and Kingsland schools extensive public consultation was given. Several opportunities were provided such as a Focus group, World café, open houses, and the opportunity for written submissions. After receiving feedback from the public, the plan was revised to the current proposal. It was recognized that if the Chinook Park French Immersion program was moved to Kingsland, it would still result in two underutilized buildings, and it would not be effective use of space and resources.
- If another new Area VI were established, how would it affect this plan and the French Immersion boundaries that are being proposed? Director Carlton explained that ease and access of travel would have to be considered. They have created a cohort group of K-9 located east and west of Macleod Trail and a potential school in the south of Fish Creek. A cohort group of elementary students would move to Fairview and then to Dr. E.P. Scarlett. Another elementary group from Chinook Park and a potential school in the south would move to Harold Panabaker and then to Dr. E.P. Scarlett.
- A Trustee asked how the existing crowding at Sundance is being dealt with? Director Carlton explained that Sundance has a provincial capacity of 473 and projected enrolment of 473 including kindergarten FTE. The declining regular program population and the ability to open a program south of Fish Creek should help the situation. Director Johnson explained that the principal, Ms. Slater considered carefully the learning conditions in classes and has made changes, particularly in the younger grades, towards more positive learning conditions.

Director Carlton gave the projected enrolments and capacities, should Kingsland close, as follows:

	Sam Livingston:	Chinook Park:	Sundance:
Provincial Capacity:	528	630	473
Instructional Spaces:	600	625 (4 communication/behaviour classes)	500
Projected Enrolment With FTE	481	575	508
Projected Enrolment With .5 Kindergarten	441	543	473

- A Trustee questioned if it is expected that over time enrolment will decline at Chinook Park as well? Administration explained that it is expected that by redefining the boundaries for William Reid it should stabilize that population.

Trustees entered into debate on the motion.

Trustee comments in support of the motion included:

- Administration is attempting to consolidate French Immersion programs and it is justified, as there are many in this part of the city. We have experienced that French Immersion programs grow when they are located closer to new communities. Only 19 residents from the Kingsland community chose French Immersion, while 75 students from the Chinook Park community are in French Immersion.
- We are not starting with a blank page, schools exist for various purposes and there are many constraints. Many options were considered and parents consulted, and there appears to be no perfect solution, but believe this to be the best option. It is difficult to relocate an existing program, but by not doing it now would not be doing good service to students. This is establishing a healthy environment for French Immersion. We must consider the long term effects of this decision. French Immersion programs in the south have had a long history of uncertainty.
- A school that has a capacity of 600 with a projected enrolment of 170 is not acceptable when there are other demands for space. Closure would be the best thing to do from a system standpoint.
- In looking at the attendance area maps on page 6-140 and 6-141 it is clear that something has to be done.
- There is a potential saving of .5 million dollars, although this is not the compelling reason.
- Overcrowding is a concern, but a Trustee expressed satisfaction with Administration's response in particular at Sundance where it will be beneficial in the long term. It is important not to fill schools to 100% capacity, but this decision is not about utilization as much as it is about programming, busing, and sustainability. Over time it will not be the case that schools will be over capacity. A Trustee noted that in her Area there is over crowding of schools at 147% capacity, but the quality of education is still strong and good.
- Trustees have heard loudly that it is more important to keep cohort groups together and avoid long bus rides. There are long bus rides now because there are not enough students requiring bus service to this program in order to have sufficient transportation service.
- A Trustee commented on the public meeting, and expressed his frustration regarding the inability of citizens to see the big picture. He believes that we have not seen smart growth in this city and that there are a number of related factors in this decision including the City's policy on expansion, class size initiative, and the government's decision to pay down debt rather than invest in education. It is frustrating to hear communities say they will redensify as they see the smaller picture of their community when this might not be the right decision for the larger community of Calgary.

Trustee comments not in support of the motion included:

- Concern regarding overcrowding of three other programs if Kingsland were to close. This decision would fill the other three French Immersion schools very close to capacity. There is concern over filling schools to 100% capacity when the recommended provincial

utilization is only 85%. Another concern is discussion of the class capacity of 25, when the class size initiative is 17 for K-3, and 23 for 4-6. At Chinook Park if class groupings were set at a capacity of 20, there would only be room for 500, yet projections are for 543. In addition, it becomes much more complicated to divide students into groups of 25, as this is a dual track school.

- It might be best to wait until another school is opened in the south and a plan and location in place, to do it all at once. Cohort groups are affected as when schools lose any part of their population, students feel the loss.

Vice-Chair Bazinet called for the vote on the motion.

In Favour: Trustee Dirks
 Trustee Ferguson
 Trustee Fawcett
 Trustee Lane
 Trustee Close

Opposed: Trustee Bazinet

The motion was
CARRIED.

6.2 Launch of Trustee-zine

Trustee Ferguson introduced the report as Chair of the Linkages Committee. She stated that the objective is to engage the public in ongoing dialogues about key topics in public education. The first issue reflects 21st century students, today's teachers, learning places and life-long learning. She introduced Mr. A. Harvey who gave a brief demonstration on how to access the site and the different articles within it. Trustee Ferguson encouraged everyone to access the site and browse through it. She noted that stakeholders will be receiving this in an e-mail and it will be available on the Calgary Board of Education website for anyone who is interested. She acknowledged Mr. Harvey and the Calgary Board of Education staff that worked on this project.

MOVED by Trustee Ferguson:

THAT the Board of Trustees approves the concept and design for an online magazine, entitled the TRUSTEE-ZINE.

There was a Trustee question regarding the cost and where does the funding come from? Trustee Ferguson explained that as this was a pilot project, not all of the costs have been completely compiled, and they will be included in a later report.

The motion was
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

The meeting recessed at 6:46 p.m.
The meeting reconvened at 7:01 p.m.

6.3 Three Year School Capital Plan (2007-2010)

Superintendent F. Coppinger introduced the report and gave a PowerPoint Presentation outlining the Three Year Capital Plan. He stated that the Board has a strategy of keeping the youngest students in the area closest to their school. He noted that the utilization for senior high schools is considered for each of the 5 Areas as opposed to the Sectors, and that the most pressure is in sectors I and 4, the northwest and northeast areas of the city. Over the

past 10 years there have been several elementary and middle schools built in these areas, but only one high school. Traditionally there is one high school for every 10 elementary schools. Administration has identified the northwest area as the greatest need for a high school.

Superintendent Coppinger reviewed the growth areas of the city and the expected population growth of 104,000 over the next 5 years. The peak of Calgary Board of Education students to expect from this would require 15 new schools. He also reviewed the projected enrolment over the next 5 years, noting that there is a decline in the inner city, and the ranking of construction and modernization projects. He explained that the schools take 2-4 years to construct; therefore the rate of inflation is included in the higher projected numbers from Alberta Education. Administration is working with consultants and the province to identify alternative funding to address the capital plan needs of the Calgary Board of Education.

Trustees' questions regarding the report and responses from Administration are summarized as follows:

- The communities of Royal Oak and Rocky Ridge were not considered for an elementary school as growth in Rocky Ridge has slowed considerably, causing the enrolment profile to drop. A Trustee questioned whether Rocky Ridge at 71% build out and ranked at 53 points would ever make it back on to the Capital Plan list. Administration explained that a community of 10-12,000 could support an elementary school. The combination of Rocky Ridge and Royal Oak is approximately 22,000. A combined middle school for these two communities could accommodate up to 900. Ultimately, both communities could have their own elementary schools as neighborhood build outs can change and there is potential for population growth as it is a reasonable size. Currently, busing to the nearest elementary school for Rocky Ridge students is Belvedere Parkway School. Administration noted that if top priority schools are built in years one and two, those that are lower down the list would move up higher in the ranking.
- Trustees questioned the point ranking system and Administration outlined the points for each of the schools listed as follows:
 - o Taradale/Coral Springs Middle 101
 - o Cranston Elementary 94
 - o Royal Oak Elementary 92
 - o Panorama Hills Middle 90
 - o West Springs Elementary 88
 - o Rocky Ridge/Royal Oak Middle 84
 - o Copperfield Elementary 83
 - o McKenzie Towne Middle 81
 - o Evergreen Middle 80
 - o West Springs/Cougar Ridge Middle 79

The following schools were not included in the priority list, but had the following point rankings:

- o Cougar Ridge Elementary 78
- o Martindale Elementary 72
- o Springbank Hill Elementary 70
- o Rocky Ridge Elementary 53

- A Trustee noted that stakeholders and constituents have suggested that a North Central high school in Sector 4 should be ranked alone rather than as a joint priority. Administration explained that high schools are ranked on area, as opposed to sector and in looking at the 5 areas it was clear that the northeast and northwest are the two highest needs areas and are areas of high growth.

- A Trustee questioned Administration regarding the Piitoayis School that was discussed earlier in a stakeholder report. Dr. Croskery explained that this is different than an alternative program. It is not a program of choice, but of the aboriginal community. He stated that public school systems have not been addressing the needs of these students for decades and that it is imperative to adequately serve aboriginal students. These students do not have the range of choice, as do many of the other students. There was some discussion regarding whether or not provincial or federal funding could be accessed for this building as a joint initiative. Dr. Croskery agreed that another source of creative funding would be a good alternative to look into, but stressed that it is important to keep this school high on the ranking for credibility in that we value serving the needs of the aboriginal students. The preferred location for this site is on the east side of the city, just off of Blackfoot Trail where there is a high percentage of aboriginal families. The ideal situation for the families would be to have a stand alone school. Currently they share the Colonel Walker facility with another program.
- There was discussion regarding the 300 million dollars over 30 years of unallocated government funding that was mentioned in the provincial budget. If Calgary were to obtain 30% of this, would it enable schools in the first 2 years of the plan to be funded? Administration believes that it would theoretically complete the larger percentage of schools, however whether or not this percentage will be allocated to Calgary remains to be seen.
- Trustees expressed concern over school communities falling lower in the rankings and if any thought had been given to accommodation planning to address this if funding became available. For instance, Bridlewood School with a point ranking of 83, had previously been higher on the list and would have been approved had a serviced site been available, but has now been moved down the priority list. Schools that were lower in the rankings have since been built. Harvest Hills was in the 2002 plan, but has since fallen off. Administration explained that each situation is monitored and assessed by considering the growth of the community, potential growth and the ability to accommodate. The larger communities tend to be favoured first and Administration would like to be able to accommodate those with extenuating circumstances, if this option were available. Director Carlton explained that the opportunity to look at other ways to combine communities would have another impact down the road for potential situations for considerations of closure.

At 8:00 p.m. Vice-Chair Bazinet received the consent of Trustees to continue the meeting to the completion of the Agenda.

MOVED by Trustee Close:

THAT the Calgary Board of Education's *Three-Year School Capital Plan (2007-2010)* be approved and referred to Alberta Education subject to appropriate edits of grammatical and/or typographical errors.

An amendment to the motion was proposed:

MOVED by Trustee Ferguson:

THAT the priority rankings on page 6-49 of the Three Year Capital Plan 2007 – 2010 (the Plan) be amended so that Bridlewood School is placed in the priority charts as per the construction rankings for Kindergarten – Grade 9, as listed on page 6-40 of the Plan.

Note: (This would place it as the priority following Rocky Ridge/Royal Oak Middle)

Trustees debated the amending motion and comments included:

- This situation is unique. Bridlewood was taken off of the list because the land was not serviced, and it would have a school today if this hadn't happened. It was not dropped because of point ranking. Five more schools were approved since that time.
- Without sustainable Provincial funding it is difficult to construct schools where they are needed. We don't want to use ranking over entitlement needs. We know that we need all of these schools and more and don't want to be short sighted. We need to address the backlog as well as go forward.
- Bridlewood was in the 5 Year Plan, but now other communities are in the same situation, many schools that are on top of the list expect to get one. The point ranking system is used to identify those most in need of schools and we should leave them in this ranking order.
- It is our obligation to look forward and be future thinking in the 3 Year Plan, not to look back to things that were out of our control. Schools do change ranking for a variety of reasons, past school plans and circumstances change. We need to make decisions that serve schools now. Every community could say why theirs is different and an anomaly. Kingsland would say this too. We shouldn't go against the point system that we have trusted.
- A Trustee commented that she enjoys the objective criteria so that Trustees are not in contention over schools in their own wards. She believes that the current ranking system should be followed.

Vice-Chair Bazinet called for the vote on the amendment to the motion.

The motion to amend was

DEFEATED:

In favour: Trustee Ferguson
Trustee Fawcett
Trustee Bazinet

Opposed: Trustee Dirks
Trustee Lane
Trustee Close

Trustees entered into debate on the original motion.

Trustee comments in support of the motion included:

- A Trustee commented that public schools should be publicly funded with taxpayer dollars and that community schools are what Calgarians want for their children. Lack of funding to build schools prioritized in this Capital Plan is very frustrating. Every one of the communities on this plan needs a school desperately. New communities need both elementary and middle schools built in order to provide continuity. She supports the idea of innovative funding initiatives. The 3 Year Capital Plan clearly illustrates the crisis in Calgary for building schools.
- Funding decisions are made at another level of government and are out of our control. The city has grown considerably over the last 10 years, and city, the province and the school board need to do a better job in co-coordinating their infrastructure planning. The provincial government chose to pay down debt instead of investing in infrastructure, which is not congruent with the City of Calgary's policy to expand the city

geographically. The responsibility is on all of us to come up with solutions together that meet the needs of all of our communities and the broader society, recognizing that this Board has to make some hard decisions.

Vice-Chair Bazinet called for the vote on the motion.

The motion was
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Motion Arising:

Moved by Trustee Dirks:

THAT future capital plans include a listing of point allocations used for capital plan ranking and also include a listing of any schools dropped from the previous capital plan with the justification provided for such decisions.

Trustee comments in support of the motion included:

- The document provided has been very beneficial but could be a bit more user friendly in providing information to assist in making the decision as to whether we should or should not support it. The public doesn't have access to this data that is used by the Board and administration to make these decisions. It would be valuable for the public to have this information as well.
- A Trustee stated that the policy committee could include it in a policy and is supportive.

Trustee comments not in support of the motion included:

- This could be worked into a policy such as a facilities policy. How schools are being funded in this province is changing and we need to think carefully about how we rank our schools and what the Board requires from administration in the Capital Plan.

Vice-Chair Bazinet called for the vote on the motion.

In Favour: Trustee Dirks
 Trustee Ferguson
 Trustee Lane
 Trustee Close

Opposed: Trustee Bazinet
 Trustee Fawcett

The motion was
CARRIED.

Recessed at 8:35
Reconvened at 8:51 p.m.

6.4 Three-Year Education Plan (2007-2010)

Dr. Croskery introduced the report. He stated that each fall when student results are reported, improvement is shown in many measures largely due to aligned planning focused on the Ends, based on the 3 Year Education plan. The plan clearly reflects school and services priorities. It is connected to Alberta Education requirements and fulfills all planning and accountability requirements. This plan includes some new priorities, modifications of some priorities and deletions of others that Area Directors decided no longer needed to be

included. Dr. Croskery thanked the staff in Accountability Services under the leadership of Director Brost for their contribution to this plan.

Trustee questions and responses from Administration are summarized as follows:

- A Trustee requested that the Board would like to have a list of what was deleted from the plan. Director Brost advised that this information would be provided in the near future.
- Director Brost explained that results on achievement tests had improved on 4 of the 12 exams, which means they either stayed the same or declined on the other 8. This same pattern was reflected at the Provincial level and with diploma exams. She stated that where we declined, the province also declined, and our results are still higher than those of the province.
- Director Johnson referred to the AISI project, which includes all 5 areas and stated that the development of principal leadership is included in that project.
- A Trustee noted that the acceptable levels may have declined, but the excellence levels have increased. She asked if there was relationship between these two. Director Brost stated that there is no relationship here that she knows of but what it does say is that students are successful, in great numbers. Results showed that over 40% of students writing Pure Math 30 and Science exams achieved the standard of excellence.
- Targets for improvements are set in all areas. When acceptable standard results decline on achievement tests and diploma examinations it is reviewed. Focus on results is impacted in AISI projects, which have a positive impact on these results. Director Johnson stated that this focus exists at the school level. Schools build strategies in relation to trends over time. Area directors address the largest service gaps identified by school, area and system data.
- A Trustee questioned how the Outcome 2.2. "Embed character development into the culture of every school" was being met. Mr. D. Stevenson, Area Director, explained that this statement was included in order to ensure that every school was supported in it. It was added to the Area 1 school development plan. Some schools approached it as a new initiative, and others had it embedded already. School principals were asked in area meetings to demonstrate to each other what kind of things were successful for them and modeling to those who hadn't done so yet. This may vary considerably in each school.

MOVED by Trustee Close:

THAT the Board of Trustees approve the Three-Year Education Plan 2007-2010.

Trustee comments in support of the motion included:

- Trustees found the report helpful, and appreciate the alignment and planning. The Chief Superintendent was commended for the 3 Year Education Plan.
- A Trustee commented that it is nice to see that for every strategy the responsibility doesn't lie in one service unit alone but the integration across the organization is serving well in achieving excellent outcomes.

The motion was
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

6.5 Bylaw re: Number of Signatures on Nomination Forms

Vice-Chair Bazinet introduced the motion stating that since the last election there has been a change in the Local Authorities Election Act to allow Boards to decide the number of signatures required on a nomination form.

Moved by Trustee Lane:

Be it resolved:

THAT Bylaw Number 1 of 2007, being a Bylaw of the Calgary Board of Education to Establish the Required Nomination Signatures for Candidates for the Election of School Trustees be given first reading.

The motion was
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Pursuant to Section 69 of the School Act, Ms. Barkway read Bylaw Number 1 of 2007 in full for the record. She ensured that every Trustee had a written copy of the Bylaw so that second and third readings could be by title and description only.

Moved by Trustee Close:

THAT the Board of Trustees approves Bylaw Number 1 of 2007, as given first reading.

The motion was
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Moved by Trustee Dirks:

THAT Bylaw Number 1 of 2007 be given second reading.

The motion was
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Moved by Trustee Ferguson:

THAT the Board of Trustees approves *Bylaw Number 1 of 2007, Being a Bylaw of the Calgary Board of Education to Establish the Required Nomination Signatures for Candidates for the Election of School Trustees* as read the second time;

The motion was
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Moved by Trustee Close:

THAT, in accordance with Section 69 of the School Act, Bylaw Number 1 of 2007, be given third reading.

The motion was
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Moved by Trustee Fawcett:

THAT the Board of Trustees approves *Bylaw Number 1 of 2007, Being a Bylaw of the Calgary Board of Education to Establish the Required Nomination Signatures for Candidates for the Election of School Trustees* as read for the third time.

The motion was
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

7.0 MONITORING AND RESULTS

7.1 Ends

7.1.1 Ends 4: Personal Development

Dr. Croskery introduced the report and thanked the staff that worked on it. He stated that Director W. Braun was there as representative for Superintendent Dart to answer any questions about the report.

Vice-Chair Bazinet reviewed the criteria against which the Trustees are to judge this report, including to determine whether reasonable progress has been made to the ultimate achievement of this End result. Emphasis is on progress, not compliance.

Trustees gave consideration to the report and Administration addressed questions for clarification as follows:

- A personalized learning plan opportunity is offered at 22 out of 215 schools (approximately 10%). Mr. Davies explained that a personalized learning plan is offered throughout all levels, however it is seen more often at the high school level.
- A Trustee expressed her appreciation for the exceptional, very clear data in this report and questioned how the Ends monitoring is discussed at the Area and school levels. Dr. Croskery stated that the values embedded in the Ends are very significant in the system. Ends monitoring receives much discussion at both the Area and Divisional Meetings. At the school level, it is expected that there would be some discussion as well, with different levels of commitment, some schools being exceptionally committed towards achieving these Ends.
- In regards to the Grade 12 exit survey question asking students if they had the opportunity to develop particular talents/interests, 70% of the students answered "All the time" or "Often" when given five choices. There appears to be some decrease in extra-curricular activities. Administration explained that very small numbers can make significant differences in overall measurements and that every one of our schools offers some form of daily activity as well as an opportunity for intra-mural and extra-curricular activities. This is not limited to junior high and senior high schools.

MOVED by Trustee Dirks:

THAT the Board of Trustees has reviewed the scheduled monitoring report on Ends 4: Personal Development and concludes that reasonable progress is being made toward the ultimate achievement of this Ends policy.

Trustee comments in support of this motion:

- This is an exceptional report. It shows the academic success of our students, as well as the development of complete human beings and individuals. The community in Calgary and around the world will be better off because of that work. Students are seeing the importance

of it as well. Assessment leads to best practices, which is adequately demonstrated in this report.

The motion was
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Motion arising:

Moved by Trustee Fawcett:

THAT the Board of Trustees commends the Chief Superintendent for exemplary performance in making progress in the results listed for identifying and actively developing the individual gifts, talents and interests of our students.

Trustee comments included:

- There is ample evidence of significant progress in this report, for example there has been an increase of 6 schools offering alternative programs, with an increase of over 2,000 students participating in such programs.
- A Trustee questioned whether this progress is something that the Chief Superintendent does, or do students discover their own gifts and talents?

Vice-Chair Bazinet called for the motion.

The motion was
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Moved by Trustee Dirks:

THAT the Board of Trustees commends the Chief Superintendent for progress in enabling students to demonstrate the ability to adapt to changing environments as evidenced by the increased number of ESL students writing the provincial achievement tests.

The motion was
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Moved by Trustee Close:

THAT the Board of Trustees approves the reasonable interpretation, indicators, benchmarks and targets as provided, to be reported on in May 2008.

Trustee questions regarding the motion and administration response is summarized as follows:

- The actual results data to determine the next year's targets are delayed one year. Last year's (2005/06) data should be received in the next two weeks. How realistic are these targets as the last actual we have is 04/05? Administration responded that they work with Alberta Education in identifying areas of significant improvement needed.
- A Trustee commented that she appreciated how this report was presented. This is very extensive data that will be helpful for strategic planning and in trying to improve performance outcomes of students.

The motion was
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

7.2 Executive Limitations

7.2.1 EL-8: Staff Evaluation

Dr. Croskery introduced the report and thanked the staff that worked on this report.

Vice-Chair Bazinet indicated that Trustees have received and reviewed the Chief Superintendent's monitoring report on EL-8 Staff Evaluation. It is now the Board's responsibility to consider the report as evidence of organizational performance in this operational area. She invited any Trustee who had questions about the report to offer them to the Chief Superintendent, reminding the Board of the criteria against which they are to judge the report.

- A Trustee questioned the evaluation of performance for probationary teachers compared to that of those teachers who have passed the probationary period. Dr. Croskery explained that assumptions are made when students are achieving and learning outcomes are being met, that teachers are meeting expectations. We are not free to determine our own model for evaluation as there are strict provisions regarding this in collective agreements. Dr. Croskery explained that it is difficult to evaluate professionals like teachers. He stated that there is a strong sentiment in the ATA that the profession of teaching is self-regulating. Interesting discussions have taken place as to who has the authority to evaluate; the position has been only those with a teaching certificate.
- Administration explained that years ago all teachers were evaluated formally on a five year basis; however, they are comfortable with the model now in place as they have much more meaningful data. Principals are given direction and workshop training is provided for them. They clearly understand that it is their responsibility to monitor the ongoing performance of teachers. If they have any question in regards to a teacher's performance, there is a process of supervision to follow and work to carry out with that teacher that would result in improved performance and function. Administration is also working towards providing an on-line model for principals and supervisors with information and tools in this area. Labour relations also provides more specific one-on-one consultative support.
- Administration ensures that principals look more broadly in terms of the Ends, progress, and area renewal plans and are assessing teachers relative to this. Administration is confident that principals are doing this.
- Probationary teachers are provided workshops that include the Ends and it is clear that this is an expectation set for them. Professional development opportunities are not available to probationary teachers. This happens at the school level through Alberta Initiative for School Improvement support. There is no specific link between this and the teacher identified areas of growth.
- PeopleSoft is in the beginning stages of being implemented to track the information that is collected in all areas of teaching and support regarding performance management. Over time there will be more data available on teacher evaluation through this process.

MOVED by Trustee Dirks:

THAT the Board of Trustees accepts this report and finds the Chief Superintendent to be in compliance.

Trustee comments regarding the motion included:

- A Trustee commented that this is an important, sensitive issue. Hiring the “best” teachers for our organization is our goal. How can we evaluate to provide feedback to teachers so they can strive for excellence and be the best teachers that they can be? A Trustee expressed his opinion that we may not be on the cutting edge with this, as we are with many other things. A staff evaluation should be used to reach a higher level of excellence.
- Trustees expressed appreciation for the administrative answers tonight. Teachers are already in place, and we need to ensure that procedural fairness guides the evaluation process. We are doing what we can, and are on the right road.

The motion was
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

8.0 POLICY DEVELOPMENT AND REVIEW

8.1 Amendment of Executive Limitations 15 – Transportation

Dr. Croskery introduced the report and thanked the staff that worked on it.

Trustee Fawcett introduced the report stating that this in response to the impact statements from Administration on the first reading of EL 15: Transportation and the resulting recommendations from the Policy Committee.

Moved by Trustee Fawcett:

Be it resolved:

THAT the Board of Trustees authorizes the public release of the board report on Administrative Impact Statements regarding the first reading of a revised EL 15 – Student Transportation, that was received for information by the Board of Trustees at the April 24th Private Meeting of the Board of Trustees.

The motion was
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Moved by Trustee Fawcett:

THAT the Board of Trustees rescinds the first reading to the revised EL 15 Student Transportation policy that was approved at the March 20th, 2007 Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees.

The motion was
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Moved by Trustee Fawcett:

THAT the Board of Trustees gives first reading to the amended EL 15 – Transportation policy as attached to the report that was distributed with the agenda for the Regular Meeting held May 1, 2007.

The motion was
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Moved by Trustee Fawcett:

THAT the Board of Trustees gives second reading to the amended EL 15 – Transportation policy as attached to the report that was distributed with the agenda for the Regular Meeting held May 1, 2007.

The motion was
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Moved by Trustee Fawcett:

THAT in accordance with Governance Process Policy 3: Governance Policy Development, that the Board of Trustees agrees to proceed with more than two readings of this policy at this meeting; and

The motion was
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Moved by Trustee Fawcett:

THAT the Board of Trustees gives third and final reading to the amended EL 15 – Transportation policy as attached to the report that was distributed with the agenda for the Regular Meeting held May 1, 2007.

The motion was
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

8.2 Consideration of 2007/08 Transportation Fee Schedule

Trustee Fawcett questioned the rationale for not recommending an increase to fees. Director Braun explained that Administration was able to balance the transportation budget for next year with a minor use of some external resources and they discovered that a major part of this year’s shortfall was due to the inclusion of salaries for bus aides, which is not really a pure part of the transportation budget. They did not want to pass on the fee increase from Calgary Transit of \$35/yr as this fee is already at \$320 and would have been a 10% increase. Administration made the decision not to pass on this increase, just as the instructional fee did not increase.

MOVED by Trustee Dirks:

THAT the 2007/08 Transportation Fee Schedule be approved, as outlined in the attachment to the report that was distributed with the agenda for the Regular Meeting held May 1, 2007.

The motion was
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

For clarification, the approved 2007-08 Transportation Fees, as per the above motion, are as follows:

	<u>2007/08</u>
<u>Senior High School</u>	
Calgary Transit (net of rebate of \$185)*	\$320.00
Ineligible Transit	\$505.00

*Calgary Transit student monthly bus passes will be \$50.50 per month for the 2007/08 school year. (\$47.00 for 2006/07). It is proposed that for the 2007/08 school year, the CBE provide a rebate of \$18.50 per month (2006/07 \$15.00 per month).

Kindergarten and Grades 1-9

Kindergarten Charter Transportation	\$165.00
Elementary (grades 1-6) Charter Transportation	\$165.00
Junior High (grades 7-9) Charter Transportation	\$165.00
Junior High (grades 7-9) Calgary Transit**	\$165.00
Eligible Special Needs Students (Grades 10-12)	\$165.00
Family Maximum***	\$330.00
Ineligible Charter	\$165.00

** The fees associated with Calgary Transit student monthly bus passes will be provided on an equitable basis with the fees for charter bus transportation for Junior High students. As a result, it is proposed the CBE continue to provide an approved rebate for the eligible Junior High students with Calgary Transit student monthly bus passes at \$34.00 per month for 2007/08 (\$30.50 in 2006/07).

*** Established at two times the approved charter rates for eligible Charter Transportation students.

9.0 CONSENT AGENDA

There were no objections to the Board Consent Agenda or the Chief Superintendent Consent Agenda and Vice-Chair Bazinet declared the items to be adopted as presented.

9.1 Board Consent Agenda

9.1.2 EducationMatters (Quarterly Report)

THAT the Board of Trustees receives the attachment with respect to EducationMatters for information and for the record, in the form as submitted with the agenda for the May 1, 2007 Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees.

9.1.3 Liaison Report – CAPSC Calgary Association of Parents and School Councils

THAT the Board of Trustees receives the attachments with respect to the Calgary Association of Parents and School Councils (CAPSC) for information and be considered as the liaison report for that organization.

9.1.4 Committee Report – Policy Committee Work Plan

THAT the Board of Trustees approves the Policy Committee Prioritized Work Plan as outlined in the report that was submitted with the agenda for the May 1, 2007 Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees.

Chief Superintendent Consent Agenda

9.2.1 Monthly Update

THAT the Board of Trustees receives the report for information, in the form as submitted with the Agenda for the Regular Meeting held May 1, 2007.

9.2.2 Report on Financial Status of Operating Budget as at February 28, 2007 and Projected Financial Results for the Year Ended August 31, 2007.

THAT the Board of Trustees receives the information regarding all budget revisions made during the period December 1, 2006 to February 28, 2007 inclusive (identified in the Analysis section of the report and in Attachments I and II), for monitoring information and for the record and;

THAT the Statement of Revenue and Expense for the period September 1, 2006 to February 28, 2007 and Forecast Annual Revenue and Expense for the year ending August 31, 2007 and notes thereto (Attachments III and IV, respectively) be received for monitoring information and for the record.

9.2.3 Second Quarter Capital Budget Status Report as at February 28, 2007

THAT information on all budget revisions and transfers, as outlined in the report for the period December 1 to February 28, 2007 inclusive, be received for monitoring information and for the record.

THAT attachments I to IV, reflecting actual capital Expenditures for the period December 1 to February 28, 2007 and forecast expenditures for the year ending August 31, 2007, be received for monitoring information and for the record.

THAT an additional Capital Reserve funding commitment of \$200,000 be approved to complete the Radisson Park School project.

10.0 TRUSTEE NOTICES OF MOTION

There were no Trustee notices of motion.

10.0 ADJOURNMENT

Vice- Chair Bazinet declared the meeting adjourned at 10:34 p.m.