

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, November 6, 2007 at 5:00 p.m.

PRESENT:

Board of Trustees:

Trustee P. Cochrane, Chair
Trustee C. Bazinet
Trustee G. Dirks
Trustee L. Ferguson
Trustee P. King
Trustee K. Kryczka
Trustee G. Lane

Administration:

Dr. B. Croskery, Chief Superintendent of Schools
Mr. F. Coppinger, Superintendent, Facilities and Environmental Services
Ms. J. Crarer, Acting Superintendent, Educational Support Services
Mr. D. Dart, Superintendent, Corporate Services – Secretary Treasurer
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. J. Barkway, Assistant Corporate Secretary
Ms. S. Wasylshyn, Executive Assistant to the Trustees
Ms. D. Perrier, Recording Secretary

Stakeholder Representatives:

Ms. G. Burger-Martindale, Calgary Association of Parents and School Councils
Ms. A. Craig, Calgary Board of Education Staff Association
Ms. J. Regal, Alberta Teachers' Association, Local 38

Action By

1.0 CALL TO ORDER, NATIONAL ANTHEM AND WELCOME

Chair Cochrane called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m. and welcomed the two new Trustees, Karen Kryczka, Trustee for Wards 11 and 13, and Pamela King, Trustee for Wards 5 and 10. The singing of the national anthem took place, led by students from Bowness High School, by way of a DVD recording. Chair Cochrane acknowledged and welcomed representatives from the aforementioned organizations.

2.0 CONSIDERATION/APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Ms. Barkway informed that a request was made to add a new item to the Agenda as Item 4.2 – Minister's Education Leadership Recognition Award.

MOVED by Trustee Ferguson:

THAT the Agenda for the Regular Meeting of November 6, 2007, be approved as submitted, subject to the above-noted addition.

The motion was
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

3.0 SCHOOL/SYSTEM PRESENTATIONS

There were no presentations.

4.0 HONOURS AND RECOGNITIONS

4.1 Lighthouse Award

Ms. S. Church, Director, Corporate Partnerships, introduced the recipient of this month's Lighthouse Award as the Salvation Army for their work with the Salvation Army Children's Village. The Salvation Army Children's Village was an orphanage established in Calgary in 1908 and it has evolved from a long-term residential program into a day treatment centre that focuses on the needs of children and their families. In this partnership the Salvation Army Child and Family Services provides treatment services for families and the Calgary Board of Education provides educational support to children in Grades 1 to 6 who are facing challenges in their schools and communities.

Introductions were made of Dr. J. Rook, Executive Director of Community Services of Calgary, and Ms. D. Coutts, Director of Development for the Salvation Army. Dr. Rook shared some comments about the success of the Links Program and noted that he was honoured to accept the Lighthouse Award on behalf of the Salvation Army.

4.2 Minister's Education Leadership Recognition Award

Chair Cochrane shared some background information about the Minister's Education Leadership Recognition Award, noting that it formally recognizes and celebrates significant improvement and/or very high achievement of jurisdiction leadership teams, which are comprised of boards and district administrators. It is based on the Accountability Pillar which was designed by stakeholders as a means of collecting objective criteria and data results from a broad set of measures related to school quality and, as such, the Accountability Pillar provides valuable information with regard to the annual performance of each publicly funded school jurisdiction in the province. The Minister presented the awards at the Alberta School Boards Association's Zone meetings. Deputy Chief Superintendent Hubert and Chair Cochrane were at the ASBA Zone 5 meeting where they accepted the awards presented to our Board of Trustees and to our Administration. Chair Cochrane expressed congratulations to our Board of Trustees and to Chief Superintendent Croskery and the leadership team for their significant work.

5.0 PUBLIC CONVERSATION AND INFORMATION

5.1 Report from the Chair and Trustees

Trustee Lane reported on his participation in making the presentations to the winners for the 3rd Annual North American Debate Championships, which were held at William Aberhart High School and Calgary French and International School. He noted that 56 teams, including 112 students from across Canada as well as from Germany, participated in six rounds of impromptu British parliamentary-style debate. The top two Canadian teams will attend the Oxford School's tournament in England in March 2008. William Aberhart High School placed fourth in the competition.

Trustee Ferguson commented on her visit to Buchanan School last week where a birthday celebration was held for a former teacher and resident of their community who turned 101 years of age.

Trustee Bazinet commented on her visit to Riverbend School where a pianist by the name of Hong Xu, who had won the Honens Piano Competition, played for students. He is currently studying piano in New York City on a scholarship and he returns to Calgary twice each year to play with the Calgary Philharmonic. During these trips he also visits Calgary schools to share with students about playing piano and about life as a student in New York City.

Trustee Kryczka reported that she and Trustee Bazinet took a tour of Nellie McClung School and learned about the school's Gifted and Talented Education (GATE) program. They also had a question and answer session with two classes of students.

Trustee Dirks shared information about his recent visits to Arbour Lake School, noting that prior to the election an open house was held for parents and students to tour the school. He pointed out his surprise to find that the school has a Robotics class, which is one of only five across Canada in the public school system. He noted that on his second visit to the school he was able to connect with staff from the Facilities department who were working on the sewer problems at the school, and on behalf of the parents he expressed thanks to those people and to the staff in Communications for their excellent work in keeping everyone informed.

Trustee King commented on her visit to Pineridge School to thank the school administration and students for the use of their school gymnasium for four days as an advance polling station for the 2007 Elections. She noted that she also visited Forest Lawn High School, Jack James High School and Sir Wilfred Laurier School.

5.2 Report from the Chief Superintendent

Chief Superintendent Croskery gave a verbal response to a directive from the Board of Trustees that the Chief Superintendent considers taking the lead role of resourcing the imagineCALGARY Collaborative Action Committee, with such resourcing to be limited to in-kind contributions, and report back on the feasibility of supporting the annual objectives of the imagineCALGARY Collaborative Action Committee. To provide some context he relayed information about the Calgary Board of Education's involvement in other broader community activities and agencies, noting we have representatives on 30 community committees and, with respect to partnership work and project work, we are involved with at least 294 projects or institutions. He pointed out that the annual objectives for the Collaborative Action Committee of imagineCALGARY have yet to be formed and we should not get ahead of their work, and when their objectives are known a coherent response to the Board's directive can be formed. Chief Superintendent Croskery noted he would be open to further direction, if any, from the Board.

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

- The Calgary Board of Education received an award from the Calgary Immigrant Women's Association in recognition of our long-term partnership.
- On October 19th the *Iron Science Teacher Challenge* (modeled after the television show *Iron Chef*) was held at the Telus World of Science. A team of teachers from the Juno Beach Academy of Canadian Studies was declared the winner and they will compete in the national finals at the University of Calgary on November 22, 2007.
- October 3rd was the annual *Raise a Reader* campaign.
- Elder Olive Manitopyes (Askee ka pim motatak, which translated in English is "Earth Walker Woman") passed away on October 25, 2007. She was a very strong supporter of public education and of our Aboriginal Family School *Piitoayis*.
- A graduate student from Discovering Choices wrote to the teachers at Westbrook's Outreach Program, praising them for their teaching skills, which he attributed for his success.

5.3 Public Question Period

There were no questions from the public.

5.4 Stakeholder Reports

There were no stakeholder reports.

5.5 Trustee Inquiries

There were no Trustee inquiries.

6.0 ACTION ITEMS

There were no action items.

7.0 MONITORING AND RESULTS

7.1 Annual Monitoring Report for Executive Limitations 3: Information, Counsel and Support to the Board of Trustees

Chair Cochrane reviewed the criteria against which the Trustees are to judge the monitoring report on Executive Limitations 3: Information, Counsel and Support to the Board of Trustees, including that of reasonable interpretation of the policy, whether the Board is satisfied that the Chief Superintendent is in compliance with the policy provisions or has disclosed procedures to establish compliance, and whether sufficient information has been provided. She noted further that any decision or comment of the Board of Trustees with regard to non-compliance is in no way intended to be a vote of non-confidence for the Chief Superintendent.

Trustees posed questions, which were responded to by Administration, and the discussion is summarized as follows:

- Chief Superintendent Croskery responded to a question about point (l) on page 10 of the report, noting that the wording requires clarification. He pointed out that the important issue is that he follows his duty in reporting all matters delegated to him that are required by law or contract to be Board-approved, and that such reporting include adequate information. It is the Board's decision as to whether those items should appear on the Consent Agenda or not.
- In response to a question of the strategic repositioning of Human Resources, Chief Superintendent Croskery provided a summary of the work that has been undertaken over the past three years. He noted that because of the need to focus more on the strategic work the decision was made to outsource the technical and routine work of Human Resources to Telus Sourcing Solutions. He pointed out that the strategic repositioning of Human Resources is complex and lengthy work that is continuing towards the achievement of a model designed by David Ulrich.
- Information was shared with regards to enhancements being made throughout the system and by individual schools to improve two-way communication, as well as on the interpretation of the term *effective* in relation to this policy provision.
- It was noted that the first paragraph under point (d) on page 6 of the report should be clarified in that the Board of Trustees is the corporate entity.

MOVED by Trustee Bazinet:

THAT the Chief Superintendent has reasonably interpreted the provisions of Executive Limitations 3: Information, Counsel and Support to the Board of Trustees, and the Board of Trustees finds the Chief Superintendent to be in compliance with the policy.

The motion was
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

MOVED by Trustee Bazinet:

THAT the Chief Superintendent be commended for exemplary performance in communicating the relevant trends affecting the school district.

The motion was
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

MOVED by Trustee Dirks:

THAT the Chief Superintendent be commended for the quality of work done in supporting the Board of Trustees in the development of public affairs strategies with regards to effective two-way communication, and in particular with the development and production of the Trustee-zine, a new media magazine posted to our website.

The motion was
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

8.0 POLICY DEVELOPMENT AND REVIEW

8.1 Impact Statement for Proposed Amendments to Executive Limitations 17: imagineCALGARY Partnership

Chief Superintendent Croskery provided brief comments and conveyed that the Administration would be well advised if the Board of Trustees could provide a greater degree of specificity of their expectations for reporting on aspects of imagineCALGARY.

Trustees posed questions, which were responded to by Administration, and the discussion is summarized as follows:

- Chief Superintendent Croskery noted that the determination of our staff members who will be participants on the various community committees is done in an organized manner, and this is generally done at the beginning of each school year. Sometimes people need a change if they've been on the same committee for a length of time and it is given consideration. In addition, consideration is given to priorities. He pointed out that it is extremely easy in a large city such as ours to be diverted away from our core purposes and we often have extremely worthy organizations whose mandate is not congruent with ours asking us to join with them on their agendas.
- We receive requests for our participation from approximately 400 groups every year, and some of those commitments are quite intensive.
- In response to a question of the necessity to define proactive involvement with imagineCALGARY, Chief Superintendent Croskery elaborated. He stated there is a

need to be very clear with imagineCALGARY, with what it is they are expecting of us on each of their agendas, how it is that their expectations fit with our mandate, and what resources we have to support those expectations. A Trustee commented on her understanding that the policy indicates that it would be the Calgary Board of Education who defines which of those targets would be within its mandate; thereby it would be up to us to choose the targets that align with our purpose. Chief Superintendent Croskery noted that the observation here is that we must first ask imagineCALGARY what it is that they are asking from us and what their objectives are.

- A Trustee noted that since the committees are in the formation stage, committee objectives and work plans have not yet been established. In response to suggestions made by a Trustee, Chief Superintendent Croskery noted his understanding that Trustees are very supportive of this initiative in principle, as is the Administration, but he felt that in order to be good stewards of taxpayer dollars we must ask on a case-by-case basis what it is that people are asking us to do. He noted further that Administration could look into the potential for resourcing the Collaborative Action Committee in the ways suggested, including the provision of space for meetings, taking minutes of meetings, and distribution of materials.

MOVED by Trustee Ferguson:

1. **THAT the Board of Trustees receives the report *Impact Statement for Proposed Amendments to EL-17: imagineCALGARY* for information.**
2. **THAT the report be referred to the Board of Trustees' Policy Committee for review and to bring forward recommendations to the Board of Trustees at the public meeting to be held November 27, 2007.**

The motion was
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

9.0 CONSENT AGENDA

There were no objections to the Board Consent Agenda or the Chief Superintendent Consent Agenda and Chair Cochrane declared the items to be adopted as submitted.

9.1 Board Consent Agenda

9.1.1 Approval of Minutes

- Special Meeting of the Board of Trustees held October 17, 2007
- Organizational Meeting of the Board of Trustees held October 23, 2007

THAT the Board of Trustees approves the Minutes of the Special Meeting held October 17, 2007 and the Minutes of the Organizational Meeting held October 23, 2007, as submitted.

9.1.2 Correspondence

THAT the Board of Trustees receives the following correspondence for information and for the record, in the form as submitted:

- **Letter to Board Chair Pat Cochrane from the Honourable Ron Liepert, Minister of Education, and the Honourable Luke Ouellette, Minister of Infrastructure and Transportation, indicating approval of additional funding in the amount of \$8,185,218 for the construction of the new Shawnessy/Somerset Middle School in Calgary.**
- **Letter to Board Chair Pat Cochrane from the Honourable Ron Liepert, Minister of Education, indicating approval of the Calgary Board of Education receiving three new steel-framed modular classrooms.**

- Letter dated October 26, 2007, to Alberta School Board Trustees from Board Chair Pat Cochrane, regarding the CBE Board of Trustees' endorsement of the candidacy of Carol Bazinet for the position of Vice-President of the Alberta School Boards Association.
- Letter dated October 23, 2007, to Board Chair Pat Cochrane from Mr. Keray Henke, Deputy Minister of Alberta Education, indicating approval of additional funding in the amount of \$40,262 for the movement and set-up costs of one portable from Coventry Hills School to Colonel Walker School.
- Letter to Board Chair Pat Cochrane from the Honourable Ron Liepert, Minister of Education, and the Honourable Luke Ouellette, Minister of Infrastructure and Transportation, indicating that funding in the amount of \$35 million has been approved for the Calgary Board of Education to support major modernization at Western Canada Senior High School.
- Letter dated October 2, 2007, to Board Chair Pat Cochrane from the Honourable Luke Ouellette, Minister of Infrastructure and Transportation, indicating approval of the transfer of a portion of the Discovery Ridge School site to the City of Calgary.

9.2 Chief Superintendent's Consent Agenda

9.2.1 Chief Superintendent's Update

THAT the Board of Trustees receives the Chief Superintendent's Update dated November 6, 2007, for information.

9.2.2 Capital Budget Status Report as at August 31, 2007

1. **THAT information regarding all budget revisions and transfers, as outlined in the report dated November 6, 2007, for the period June 1 to August 31, 2007 inclusive, be received for monitoring information and for the record.**
2. **THAT attachments I to IV of the report, reflecting actual capital expenditures for the period June 1 to August 31, 2007, be received for monitoring information and for the record.**

10.0 TRUSTEE NOTICES OF MOTION

There were no Trustee notices of motion.

11.0 ADJOURNMENT

Chair Cochrane declared the meeting adjourned at 6:29 p.m.