

## 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 4, 2008 at 5:00 p.m.

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### MEETING ATTENDANCE

#### Board of Trustees

##### Present:

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

##### Absent:

Trustee P. King

#### Administration

##### Present:

Dr. B. Croskery, Chief Superintendent of Schools  
Ms. B. Hubert, Deputy Chief Superintendent of Schools  
Mr. D. Dart, Superintendent, Corporate Services – Secretary Treasurer  
Mr. C. Davies, Executive Assistant to the Chief Superintendent of Schools  
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:

Mr. B. Anderson, Canadian Union of Public Employees, Local 40 (arrived at 5:03 p.m.)  
Ms. C. Kehoe, Calgary Association of Parents and School Councils (arrived at 5:52 p.m.)  
Ms. J. Regal, Alberta Teachers' Association, Local 38  
Mr. B. Unterschultz, Elementary School Principals' Association

### **1.0 CALL TO ORDER, NATIONAL ANTHEM AND WELCOME**

Chair Cochrane called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m. The singing of the national anthem took place led by students from King George School, through a video recording, who sang verses of the national anthem in English, French and Mandarin. Chair Cochrane acknowledged and welcomed representatives from the aforementioned organizations.

### **2.0 CONSIDERATION/APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

MOVED by Trustee Ferguson:

**THAT the Agenda for the Regular Meeting of November 4, 2008, be approved as submitted.**

The motion was  
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Action By

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

#### **3.1 King George School**

Ms. S. Church, Director, Area II, provided opening remarks and introduced Ms. D. Unruh, Principal, King George School. Ms. Unruh noted the attendance of Ms. C. Cheung, Assistant Principal, and stated they have been working with their students over the last five years around character education and personal development. She noted the students were unable to participate in this presentation because their multi-cultural activities kicked off this evening at King George School. A DVD was shown of students from both the French Immersion program and the Mandarin Bilingual program, who are taking traditional martial arts, Chinese calligraphy, or traditional Chinese dance. In the video, students sang a song about world peace and harmony; students and a teacher individually shared how they are unique, what is required of themselves to be the best they can be, and some information about their goals; a visiting teacher from China shared some of the differences she has experienced with teaching in China versus teaching in Canada.

On behalf of the Board, Trustee Lane thanked Ms. Unruh and Ms. Cheung for sharing the presentation and the video. He noted he was refreshingly interested in the fact that the discovery and cultivation of gifts, interests and values is not just being done with the students at King George School, but with the teachers as well. He congratulated them on this work.

#### **4.0 HONOURS AND RECOGNITIONS**

There were none.

#### **5.0 PUBLIC CONVERSATION AND INFORMATION**

##### **5.1 Report from the Chair and Trustees**

Trustee Kryczka reported that she visited Emily Follensbee School on Friday, October 31<sup>st</sup> for their parade and dance. On Thursday, October 30<sup>th</sup>, she attended the Kafe 12 partnership working group for EducationMatters. She attended an awards celebration and lunch at Alternative High School. She noted as an aside from Trustee business, on October 26<sup>th</sup> she was at the Palliser as a judge for 40 contestants for the "Little Miss and Junior Miss Competition".

Chair Cochrane shared that she was absent from the October 21<sup>st</sup> public Board meeting because she was in Seoul, South Korea, as part of the CBE delegation sent to sign a Memorandum of Understanding with the Seoul Metropolitan Office of Education. She noted that education there is highly revered and seen as an absolute necessity. She noted further that the CBE has a truly strong reputation in Seoul and the nation as a whole, which bodes very well for our global and international relations and as we try to give our students and schools the opportunity to become global citizens, this partnership should serve us very well.

##### **5.2 Report from the Chief Superintendent**

Chief Superintendent Croskery provided highlights of the following issues and events:

- He commented on being a part of the CBE delegation to Seoul and noted the signing of the Memorandum was a very formal event. There are only four school districts that have a formal Memorandum of Understanding with Seoul, those being Moscow, Beijing,

Action By

Tashkent, and the CBE. The school district in Seoul has 1.5 million students and 75,000 teachers. He brought to the meeting a reproduction of an ornament associated with one of the Kings of Korea from the 6<sup>th</sup> Century AD, which was presented by the Seoul Metropolitan Office of Education to the CBE for the signing of the Memorandum.

- On October 31<sup>st</sup> he visited the Faculty of Education at the University of Lethbridge, which is an extraordinarily small faculty that it is very dedicated to the training of teachers.

5.3 Public Question Period

There were no public questions.

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

Chief Superintendent Croskery acknowledged and thanked the staff who worked on the monitoring report. He noted this is a very significant role for him to play in ensuring that Trustees, in representing the citizens of Calgary, have the best information possible and the best counsel that the Chief Superintendent can provide.

Chair Cochrane reviewed the criteria against which the Trustees are to judge the monitoring report, including that of reasonable interpretation of the policy, compliance with the provisions of the policy or disclosure of how compliance would be met, and whether sufficient information has been provided. She noted further that the particular vote with regard to compliance should in no way be considered as a vote of non-confidence.

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

- With respect to reporting relevant trends affecting the school district, Administration noted information pertaining to global trends could be incorporated into future monitoring reports on EL-3.
- Further information was provided on how follow-up is provided to stakeholders about certain decisions that are made by the Board of Trustees. Dependent on the issue at hand, it may be communicated by the Area office or through the work with parents and school councils. The issue itself will determine the degree of formality or informality that is adopted for follow-up.

Action By

- Some discussion took place with respect to sharing information about significant events that occur in the schools or the school district and with respect to when and how individual ward Trustees or the Board of Trustees is informed. It was noted that Communications Services has established an internal formalized process in this regard.
- Administration took under advisement that where a particular issue involves a student who attends a school in a different ward from their resident ward, the issue would be shared with the two relevant Trustees. It was noted that where an incident may draw media attention, it is most likely that the entire Board would be made aware of it.
- A concern was expressed about the wording of point 1.d., page 7-6 of the report, as it appears to infer a separation between the Board of Trustees, Trustees and the corporate Calgary Board of Education. Administration agreed that the Board of Trustees is actually the corporate body, and noted that future reporting on this particular section of the policy could be written to better clarify this point.

MOVED by Trustee Bazinet:

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

In debate of the motion, Trustees expressed overwhelming support, noting that much of the work is evidenced as being done throughout the year, and communication from Administration to Trustees and to the system overall has been very good. A Trustee expressed the belief that the importance of this Executive Limitation is that the Board could not function effectively if they don't have the information, the counsel and the support that is required for them to make prudent analysis and wise decisions.

Chair Cochrane called for the vote on the motion.

The motion was  
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Motion Arising:

MOVED by Trustee Lane:

**THAT the Chief Superintendent be commended for the ongoing efforts to develop and improve a public affairs strategy, especially with regard to enhancing communication tools to support public engagement with stakeholders.**

The motion was  
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

**8.0 POLICY DEVELOPMENT AND REVIEW**

There were no items.

**9.0 CONSENT AGENDA**

Chair Cochrane declared the following items to be adopted as submitted:

9.1 Board Consent Agenda

9.1.1 Approval of Minutes

- Regular Meeting held October 21, 2008
- Regular Meeting held October 28, 2008

**THAT the Board of Trustees approves the Minutes of the Regular Meetings held October 21, 2008 and October 28, 2008, 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 dated October 6, 2008 to Board Chair Pat Cochrane, from Mr. O. Tobert, City Manager, The City of Calgary, regarding Notice of School Program and Facility Closure at Ernest Manning High School.**
- **Letter dated October 8, 2008 to the Honourable Dave Hancock, Minister of Education, from Board Chair Pat Cochrane, regarding the Board's approval to close Ernest Manning High School and all programs and schools therein.**

9.2 Chief Superintendent Consent Agenda

9.2.1 Chief Superintendent's Monthly Update

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

9.2.2 Report on Financial Status of Operating Budget as at August 31, 2008 and Preliminary Financial Results for the Year Ending August 31, 2008

**THAT information regarding all transfers to and from operating and capital reserves and budget revisions made during the period June 1, 2008 to August 31, 2008 inclusive (identified in the Analysis section IV of the report and in Attachments I and II), be received for monitoring information and for the record.**

**THAT the unaudited Statement of Revenue and Expense for the period September 1, 2007 to August 31, 2008 and notes thereto (identified in the Analysis section IV of the report and in Attachments III and IV, respectively) be received for monitoring information and for the record.**

**THAT the 2007/08 designated operating funds requested for carry forward to 2008/09, amounting to \$11.5 million (identified in the Analysis section IV of the report), be approved.**

**THAT the 2007/08 Statement of Operating and Capital Reserves and Other Designated funds, (Attachment V) be received for monitoring information and for the record.**

Action By

9.2.3 Capital Budget Status Report as at August 31, 2008

**THAT information regarding all budget revisions and transfers, as outlined in the report for the period June 1 to August 31, 2008 inclusive, be received for monitoring information and for the record.**

**THAT Attachments I to V, reflecting actual capital expenditures for the period June 1 to August 31, 2008 and forecast project variances for the year ending August 31, 2008, be received for monitoring information and for the record.**

**THAT the 2007/08 designated capital project funds requested for carry forward to 2008/09 amounting to \$7.06 million (Attachments I, III and V) be approved.**

**10.0 TRUSTEE NOTICES OF MOTION**

There were no notices of motion.

**11.0 ADJOURNMENT**

Chair Cochrane declared the meeting adjourned at 6:00 p.m.

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Chair

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Assistant Corporate Secretary  
November 4, 2008