

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, June 17, 2008 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
Mr. D. Dart, Superintendent, Corporate Services – Secretary Treasurer
Ms. 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. S. Wasylyshyn, Executive Assistant to the Trustees
Ms. J. Barkway, Assistant Corporate Secretary
Ms. H. Numrich, Recording Secretary

Stakeholder Representatives:

Ms. J. Regal, Alberta Teachers' Association, Local No. 38
Ms. A. Craig, Calgary Board of Education Staff Association
Mr. B. Anderson, Canadian Union of Public Employees Local No. 40
Ms. U. Steele Principals' Association for Adolescent Learners (PAAL)

Action By

1.0 CALL TO ORDER, NATIONAL ANTHEM AND WELCOME

Chair Cochrane called the meeting to order at 5:02 p.m. Taylor, a student from Colonel Irvine School led in the singing of the national anthem. Chair Cochrane expressed her appreciation on behalf of the Board of Trustees to Taylor. She acknowledged and welcomed guests and representatives from the aforementioned organizations.

2.0 CONSIDERATION/APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Ms. J. Barkway noted changes to the agenda that included the addition of a stakeholder report and two items that were pulled from the Consent Agenda, Item 9.2.3 Ten Year Facilities Plan and Item 9.2.4 Financial Reporting Profile Report.

MOVED by Trustee Ferguson:

THAT the Agenda for the Regular Meeting of June 17, 2008, be approved as amended.

The motion was
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

3.0 SCHOOL/SYSTEM PRESENTATIONS

3.1 Greenview School (Taradale Students)

Ms. McBride provided brief introductory remarks to the presentation and introduced Ms. J. McLaren, Principal. Ms. McLaren provided a brief introduction to the presentation of a song entitled "The Answer Begins with the Ends", written by teacher K. Bauer. She

explained that the song was written as a means to introduce the Ends statements to 23 new staff from across Canada. Ms. McLaren introduced the parent and staff attendees present in the meeting. Song sheets were distributed to Trustees and everyone was invited everyone to join in the singing. Mr. Bauer introduced the following students: Sheena, Tivona, Ghazal, Manjot, Nihayat, Nay-yar, Jackie, Renwar, Syeda and Randeep. Posters drawn by the students depicting the Ends statements were distributed and students provided explanation, describing the posters and what they had learned regarding the Ends statements in their school.

On behalf of the Board, Trustee Ferguson expressed her appreciation as their Ward trustee and congratulated the principal, students and staff for the song they created, for their talent and creativity.

4.0 HONOURS AND RECOGNITIONS

4.1 Recognition of Student Page

On behalf of the Board of Trustees, Chair Cochrane gave recognition to Scott and presented him with a gift for his exemplary service as Board Page for the 2007-2008 school year.

4.2 Lighthouse Award

Ms. M. Levy, System Principal, Corporate Partnerships, introduced the recipient of this month's Lighthouse Award as Heritage Park Historical Village. She stated that interactive school programs are presented throughout the school year at Heritage Park. Students are offered the unique opportunity to experience and explore the lives of Western Canada's pioneers in a fun and lively manner. This learning clearly aligns with Ends 3: Citizenship. Ms. D. Greenwood, Education Coordinator accepted the award on behalf of Heritage Park Historical Village. She informed that educational opportunities are expanding at Heritage Park to include a wetlands site, green programming and additional historical exhibits. Chair Cochrane expressed her gratitude for the fine work Heritage Park does to preserve Calgary's history and for their work with children. She presented Ms. Greenwood with a plaque on behalf of the Board of Trustees.

5.0 PUBLIC CONVERSATION AND INFORMATION

5.1 Report from the Chair and Trustees

- Trustee Kryczka reported that she had participated in the Alternative High School graduation and noted the strength of this program.
- Trustee Ferguson reported that she attended a school assembly at Greenview School to present the provincial first prize to a grade 6 student for the Alberta Transportation Safety Poster Contest. She noted that this is an example of encouraging students to develop their gifts and the kinds of opportunities being offered to help them understand citizenship responsibilities.
- Trustee King attended a "Death By Chocolate" reception where the Developmental Disabilities Resource Centre recognized Penbrooke Meadows School for their work.
- Trustee Lane attended a Stampede breakfast at Captain John Palliser School.

5.2 Report from the Chief Superintendent

Dr. Croskery reported on the following events: Deputy Chief B. Hubert attended a 50th anniversary open house and art walk at Cambrian Heights School; Dr. Croskery attended a reception to celebrate the kick off to the Canadian Leadership Conference recognition at the Glenbow Museum opened by the Governor General; he attended the Jack James High School graduation where Trustee King made a presentation on behalf of the Board; he attended the Aboriginal graduation at Jack James High School along with Superintendent J. Crarer, Trustee Ferguson and other Calgary Board of Education administration and noted that there were 90 graduates. This has increased from 20 just ten years ago.

5.3 Public Question Period

There were no questions from the public.

5.4 Stakeholder Reports

Anne Craig, Director - Staff Association

Ms. Craig distributed two documents: a letter from Mr. C. Hosfield, Labour Relations Director to Ms. J. Minife, Chairperson, Staff Association; and a letter of understanding including Clause 8.13.1 of the Collective Agreement between the Staff Association and the Calgary Board of Education.

With regards to the letter from Mr. Hosfield, Ms. Craig voiced her agreement with the statement that contract language that limits decision making should not be included in the collective agreement and stated that this was never asked for. She also indicated her agreement to management's right to organize and direct schools and stated that this is not something that Staff Association wants to interfere with.

Ms. Craig then referred to point 1 in the letter of understanding, Clause 8.13.1 with regards to the inclusion of a non-voting Staff Association member on the Job Evaluation Committee. She stated that the last Job Evaluation Committee meeting that a Staff Association member attended was February 21, 2007. Ms. Craig strongly indicated her desire that this contractual agreement be followed and that Staff Association wants to be involved and included in these meetings.

In conclusion, Ms. Craig stated that she believes the task force arranged by Dr. Croskery will allow both parties to invest time in repairing the disconnect.

5.5 Trustee Inquiries

There were no Trustee inquiries.

6.0 ACTION ITEMS

6.1 Request for Monitoring of EL-6: Instructional Program.

MOVED by Trustee Ferguson:

THAT the Board of Trustees directs the Chief Superintendent to provide to the Board at the first Board meeting in September 2008, a report monitoring compliance of EL-6, with specific reference to sub-points 5 and 8 of EL-6 in relation to the National Sports Development alternative program at A.E. Cross School.

In support of the motion, a Trustee noted that the National Sports Development program enrolment at A.E. Cross School has been declining and it is her understanding that it will not

be offered there next year. She stated that a private school has partnered with the National Sports Development to open a similar program. Therefore, she requested that the Board be provided with information from Administration as to the effectiveness of this program, what has been done to encourage its development and what is being done to ensure achievement of the Ends policies in regards to this program.

The motion was
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

7.0 MONITORING AND RESULTS

7.1 Executive Limitations 1: General Executive Constraint – Annual Monitoring Report

Dr. Croskery introduced the report and thanked the resource persons Ms. L. Angelo, Mr. D. Hoerz and Mr. R. Peden for their work on the report. Chair Cochrane reminded Trustees of the criteria to judge the report.

MOVED by Trustee Bazinet:

That the Chief Superintendent has reasonably interpreted the provisions of EL-1, General Executive Constraint and the Board of Trustees finds the Chief Superintendent to be in compliance.

Comments in support of the motion included:

- The report speaks of what is expected from the Chief Superintendent and the Trustee's belief that Dr. Croskery has always been a wonderful role model, highly professional, respectful, objective, informed, and is always a strong representative for CBE.
- It makes sense that this report is in compliance as it is this EL that the other EL's fall in line with and they have been compliant.
- The report shows illustrative examples of a great "tone at the top".

The motion was
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

7.2 Annual Report for Ends 3: Citizenship

Dr. Croskery provided brief introductory remarks and thanked the resource staff Mr. B. Boese, Mr. J. Jones, Ms. K. Kelm and Ms. M. McBride for their work in compiling the information for this monitoring report.

Deputy Chief B. Hubert expressed thanks to the Taradale students from Greenview School for their presentation of the Ends. She stated that the report is slightly different this year, with a greater focus on how well students are doing at becoming responsible citizens. She expressed thanks to Mr. J. Jones for his extensive work on the report.

Chair Cochrane noted that Trustees must determine whether reasonable progress has been made to the ultimate achievement of this End result; that the emphasis is on progress, not compliance.

The questions and discussion between Trustees and Administration is summarized as follows:

- Case studies are being conducted to address the Character Ends at seven schools using the information obtained from last year's case studies. Teams throughout the district are looking at how the Ends are being met and ensuring that there is focus on the Ends through a variety of perspectives.
- In regards to the lower student Internet usage indicated in the report, the number of logins refers to the number of students who use the Calgary Board of Education Internet access at school. It is apparent that if 96 per cent of students report that they are using the Internet, they are doing so at home as well as at school.
- There is no capability to measure outcomes of student use of technology at the present time, i.e., how it is being used. Technology allows students to connect with others, often with those not in close proximity, even internationally. Usage by grade is not measured.
- The International Certificate Program is an exciting new initiative being launched by Ms. S. McLeod, System Principal, International Bureau. This program is an international achievement somewhat similar to the International Baccalaureate program; however, it will be inclusive of all students. Ms. S. McLeod has dialogued with principals and teachers to develop this concept of studies. Accomplishments over a period of years could be compiled in a portfolio and include such things as humanitarian work, volunteerism, international travel and personal achievements. It is hopeful that Alberta Education will assist with this and that it might be made available to Calgary Board of Education staff as well. It is suggested that the certificate would be presented upon high school graduation. The International Bureau is currently looking for a learning leader for the development of the certificate to be available to all schools.
- Many schools are reporting activities that they have been successful with in developing the Citizenship Ends. Schools customize the opportunities for students to work towards achieving the Ends specific to their school or community. Some of these successful programs have been showcased in the boardroom through school presentations and Chief Superintendent Updates throughout the year. Global citizenship is at work in many schools and students are learning about one another's backgrounds and experiences. AISI projects involve teachers sharing information about their projects on-line and are accessible to other teachers in other schools if they are looking for ideas to use that have worked for others.

MOVED by Trustee Ferguson:

THAT the Board has reviewed the scheduled monitoring report on Ends 3 Citizenship and concludes that reasonable progress is being made toward the ultimate achievement of this Ends policy.

Comments in support of the motion included:

- Strong examples of progress towards Ends 3 are shown in this report.
- There has been a significant progress made towards measuring outputs, not just inputs. Opportunities are offered but knowledge, attitude and skills are required for citizenship to be practiced.
- The report includes evidence that hard work is being done towards this Ends statement and examples of how it is being included in the Three Year Education Plan and school development plans are appreciated.

- It is exciting to see that ways to measure and report this type of information have been discovered. Anecdotal information is equally important and is confirmation of the important work taking place in the classroom. Orientation for new staff members that includes explanation and review of the Ends statements is excellent to see.

The motion was
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

MOVED by Trustee Ferguson:

THAT the Board of Trustees commends the Chief Superintendent on the following area of success: increasing participation of students in, and the development of, learning activities for citizenship that are tailored to the unique school environment.

A Trustee spoke in favour of the motion stating that the report indicates the increasing number of activities and culture in the schools that work towards customizing citizenship opportunities for students. This is an important part of individualizing learning for students.

The motion was
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

A Trustee spoke of the importance of commending the Chief Superintendent for new innovations that enhance educational experiences for students. The International Certificate Program is evidence of this. The Ends statements deliberately include involvement in global citizenship and this program supports that Ends.

MOVED by Trustee Dirks:

THAT the Board of Trustees commends the Chief Superintendent for reinforcing the value of citizenship and the development of an effective citizenry through the development and eventual implementation of an International Certificate for high school students.

A Trustee noted that it is an increasingly international world; being prepared will advantage students.

The motion was
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

MOVED by Trustee Ferguson:

THAT the Board of Trustees commends the Chief Superintendent for the decision to shift to measuring learning outcomes as data sources in this year's Ends 3 monitoring.

Comments in support of the motion included:

It was noted that it is important that the monitoring focus provide information on student outcomes in order that we understand how students are developing in the area of citizenship.

The motion was
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

MOVED by Trustee Bazinet:

THAT the Board of Trustees approves the reasonable interpretation, indicators and measures provided in this report for the purposes of monitoring in the 2009 monitoring cycle.

A Trustee noted that measuring outcome data should be continued for next year as it is a key factor in determining progress being made towards the Ends and will provide continuity in the measures being used.

The motion was
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Recessed at 6:37 p.m.
Reconvened at 6:50 p.m.

7.3 Ends 4: Consideration of Indicators, Benchmarks & Targets

Chair Cochrane noted that when Ends 4 was discussed previously, the indicators, benchmarks and targets were not approved.

MOVED by Trustee Bazinet:

THAT the Board of Trustees approves the indicators, benchmarks and targets provided, to be reported on in the 2009 Annual Monitoring Report.

The motion was
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

7.4 Follow Up – Math Test Results

A late report was distributed to Trustees. Dr. Croskery provided introductory remarks. He noted that the usual procedure would be for the report to be reviewed by Superintendent's Team before coming to the Board, but due to the critical time and importance of the issue, it was presented to the Board first. He introduced Ms. L. Flanagan, a retired Calgary Board of Education principal who recently completed an intensive study on math test results and authored the report.

Ms. Flanagan advised that she had reviewed math test results of students in grades 3, 6 and 9 as well as grade 3 language arts with the Learner Assessment Branch of Alberta Education as these were the areas of concern noted by both the Calgary Board of Education and Alberta Education. She recognized that the Calgary Board of Education serves a diverse student population with a high percentage of English as a Second Language and special learning needs students and that it is pleasing to see that test results still show that Calgary Board of Education students are doing much better than the province on most measures. She stated that the challenge has been, and will continue to be, providing personalized instruction for all students.

In terms of recommendations for improvement in mathematics results, Ms. Flanagan suggested that teachers be provided with additional support and that where students and teachers are experiencing success, their approach be shared and made available to others, particularly to new teachers. She also suggested that AISI projects be intentionally focused around math. She noted that Alberta Education is in the process of phasing in a new mathematics curriculum as they recognize that it requires modification.

Trustees responded that they needed to read the report before commenting, and requested that they be provided with an Administrative perspective of the report as well.

MOVED by Trustee Dirks:

THAT this report be received for information and placed on the agenda for the first meeting in October 2008, with thanks to former principal L. Flanagan for her work on this report.

The motion was
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

7.5 EL-7 Monitoring of PeopleSoft

Dr. Croskery introduced the report expressing thanks to the resource staff that worked on it, Ms. B. Spilker and Mr. J. Shenher. He stated that EL-7 focuses on how employees are treated and that this is exceptionally important both to Administration and to the Chief Superintendent. He commented on the implementation of PeopleSoft, the process used and some of the issues that have arisen. He noted that Administration has worked very hard to be responsive to issues, have been available to associations and individuals, and tried to show people that they cared very much. He noted that this would continue and that the implementation phase is still in progress.

Trustees posed questions to which Administration responded and a summary of the discussion is provided as follows:

- Stakeholder reports received by the Board indicated that there were an unacceptably high number of delays and errors in the payroll function. Administration has taken steps to address these issues as quickly as possible and have been working long hours with notable success in resolving issues. They have provided information regarding the number of employees impacted, turn around time, and there are clear indicators that concerns are being addressed.
- When the last teacher contract was finalized there was provision made that substitute teachers move onto the salary grid after one day of substitute teaching. This difference in salary was not reflected on the payroll for some time and affected many substitute teachers. Administration expressed appreciation to the Staff Association for monitoring concerns and bringing them to their attention.
- Concerns from other associations were also mentioned including CUPE who brought 6 issues in writing to Dr. Croskery. Dr. Croskery moved to address the issues that needed to be addressed, and tried to be responsive to any concerns. He has not had a chance to speak with Mr. Anderson regarding the response.
- Dr. Croskery noted that a high level of performance is expected from the contractor regarding employee pay. He stated that a very small number of employees did not receive their pay on time and those who were affected were exceptional circumstances. Administration worked hard to respond to any undue individual financial hardships.

MOVED by Trustee Bazinet:

THAT this report be received for information.

The motion was
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

7.6 Governance Policies re: Board of Trustees' Committees

Trustee Bazinet introduced the report noting that it is her opinion that two of the existing committees are no longer required at this time and that the wording in some of the terms of reference should be changed for consistency.

MOVED by Trustee Bazinet:

THAT the Board of Trustees approves the amended Terms of Reference, as attached, for the following Committees: Audit Committee, Board Evaluation Committee, School Naming Committee, and Trustee Remuneration Committee; and

THAT the Board of Trustees approves the dissolution of the Board of Trustees' Linkages Committee; and

THAT the Board of Trustees approves the dissolution of the Board of Trustees' Policy Committee; and

THAT the Board of Trustees approves the deletion of GP-3E: Initiation of Policy Development – Issue Identification and Problem Specification.

Comments in support of the motion included:

- Although they have served well in the past, it is time to make this move.
- It is important to review at policies on a regular basis. We have learned a lot about how we operate effectively and how we do not. We have learned better how to rely on the services of the support staff for policy and linkages work.

The motion was
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

8.0 POLICY DEVELOPMENT AND REVIEW

9.0 CONSENT AGENDA

Chair Cochrane declared the following items on the Consent agenda to be approved as submitted with the Regular Agenda of June 17, 2008 as follows:

9.1 Board Consent Agenda

9.1.1 Approval of Minutes

THAT the Board of Trustees approves the Minutes of the Regular Meetings held May 27, 2008 and reconvened on May 30, 2008 and the Regular Meeting held June 3, 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 May 5, 2008 to Board Chair Pat Cochrane from the Honourable Dave Hancock, Minister of Education confirming the January 30, 2008 announcement of the planning and construction of 14 new schools

to be built using a public-private partnership approach, including the following CBE Schools:

- Northwest – Grades 10-12;
- Coventry Hills – Grades 5-9;
- Panorama – Grades 5-9;
- Taradale – Grades 5-9;
- Tuscany – Grades 5-9; and

advising that Alberta Education will be in contact with the superintendent of schools to provide additional details of this initiative.

- Letter dated May 28, 2008 to the Honourable Dave Hancock, Minister of Education from Board Chair Pat Cochrane confirming Administration's welcomed involvement in the planning and delivery of Phase II of the Alberta Schools Alternative Program including the approval of four new middle schools and a new high school for northwest Calgary.
- Letter dated June 3, 2008 to Board Chair Pat Cochrane from the Honourable Jack Hayden, Minister of Alberta Infrastructure regarding approval of the Calgary Board of Education's request to transfer land to the City of Calgary.
- Letter dated June 6, 2008 to Board Chair Pat Cochrane from the Honourable Dave Hancock, Minister of Education acknowledging receipt of Board Chair Pat Cochrane's letter dated May 7, 2008 advising of the closure of the Kindergarten to Grade 6 Mandarin bilingual program at Langevin School effective June 30, 2008.

9.1.3 Calgary Association of Parents and School Councils Funding Request

THAT the Board of Trustees approves the funding request for the Calgary Association of Parents and School Councils for the 2008/09 school year, in the amount of \$7,800.

9.2 Chief Superintendent Consent Agenda

9.2.1 System Student Accommodation Plan 2008-2010 (EL-3, EL-14, EL-14E)

THAT the System Student Accommodation Plan 2008-2010 as outlined in Attachment II of this report be received for information and for the record.

9.2.2 Eco-Sites – Alternative Energy Projects

THAT this report be received for information.

9.2.5 Locally Developed Courses – Correction of approval

THAT the following Calgary Board of Education senior high school locally developed courses be renewed for use in Calgary Board of Education schools for the period September 1, 2008 to August 31, 2011:

- English as a Second Language Introduction to Canadian Studies 15, 25

9.2.3 Ten Year Facilities Plan

Mrs. Barkway informed that there were some errors that had been noted throughout the report.

MOVED by Trustee Ferguson:

THAT the Ten-Year Facilities Plan 2008-2017 (Attachment I), with appropriate identified corrections, be approved by the Board of Trustees as a basis for long term capital planning for the Calgary Board of Education.

The motion was
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

9.2.4 Financial Reporting Profile Report

Director W. Braun responded to a Trustee question regarding clarification of a statement in the report that reads: "The Calgary Board of Education has maintained all its assets in a better and newer condition than Metro boards and the provincial average for all jurisdictions". He stated that in comparison to the four Metro boards over the past 5 years the Calgary Board of Education assets have increased more in value. He explained that this is because of new schools being built and older schools having been divested of. Mr. Braun noted that this trend would likely continue as 15 new schools were recently approved. He remarked further that the value of equipment and vehicles is also increasing, as Administration has been proactive to replace them through the capital budget process.

Director Braun explained that repairs to some of the schools that are older and have deferred maintenance issues will improve the value of the school for educational use, but it will not increase the value of the building. A school building is usually amortized over 40 years; therefore if a building is 20 years old the value decreases by 50 per cent.

MOVED by Trustee Dirks:

THAT the report be received for information.

The motion was
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

10.0 TRUSTEE NOTICES OF MOTION

There were no Trustee notices of motion.

Recessed at 7:40 p.m.
Reconvened at 7:55 p.m.

Chair Cochrane received the consent of the Board to continue to the end of the agenda past the agreed upon end time of 8:00 p.m.

11.0 In-Camera Issues

11.1 Motion to Move In-Camera

MOVED by Trustee Ferguson:

THAT the Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees moves in camera.

The motion was
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

11.2 Motion to Revert to Public Meeting

MOVED by Trustee Ferguson:

THAT the Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees moves out of in camera.

The motion was
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

11.3 Motion to Action In-Camera Items

MOVED by Trustee King:

THAT a total budget of \$844,714 for the Sunalta School Gymnasium Wall Replacement Project be approved; and

THAT the tender submitted by Bayview Constructors Inc., in the amount of \$600,000.00 for the Construction Cost of the Sunalta School Gymnasium Wall Replacement Project, be approved.

The motion was
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

MOVED by Trustee Kryczka:

THAT the Board of Trustees authorizes the Chief Superintendent to enact the public communications plan as discussed in the in camera portion of the meeting.

The motion was
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

12.0 ADJOURNMENT

MOVED by Trustee King:

THAT on adjournment the Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees that commenced on June 17, 2008 be adjourned to meet at the call of the Chair.

The motion was
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

The meeting adjourned at 10:29 p.m.