

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, October 6, 2009 at 5:00 p.m.

MEETING ATTENDANCE

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:

Ms. N. Johnson, Chief Superintendent of Schools
Mr. F. Coppinger, Superintendent, Facilities and Environmental Services
Mr. D. Dart, Superintendent, Finance and Business Services – Secretary Treasurer
Ms. C. Faber, Superintendent, Learning Innovation
Ms. D. Lewis, Superintendent, Learning Support
Mr. D. Stevenson, Deputy Chief Superintendent of Schools
Mr. C. Davies, Sr. 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. D. Perrier, Recording Secretary

Stakeholder Representatives:

Mr. F. Reaume, Canadian Union of Public Employees, Local 40
Ms. J. Minifie, Calgary Board of Education Staff Association
Ms. J. Regal, Alberta Teachers' Association, Local 38
Ms. L. Shutiak, Calgary Association of Parents and School Councils
Mr. K. Brown, Elementary School Principals' Association

Action By

1.0 CALL TO ORDER, NATIONAL ANTHEM AND WELCOME

Chair Cochrane called the meeting to order at 5:01 p.m. and the singing of the national anthem took place led by Ms. K. Ramsay-Carlson, music teacher at McKenzie Lake School. Chair Cochrane acknowledged and welcomed representatives from the aforementioned organizations.

2.0 CONSIDERATION/APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Ms. Barkway noted that a stakeholder report would be added to the Agenda under Item 5.4.

MOVED by Trustee King:

THAT the Agenda for the Regular Meeting of October 6, 2009 be approved as submitted, subject to the addition as noted above.

The motion was
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

3.0 SCHOOL/SYSTEM PRESENTATIONS

3.1 McKenzie Lake School

Ms. J. Rogerson, Director, Area V, provided an introduction of the presentation, noting that last year the grade one students at McKenzie Lake School completed the Entrepreneurial Adventure program. Ms. Rogerson welcomed Ms. P. Swain, Principal, Ms. P. Maas, Assistant Principal, and teachers Ms. M. Keener, Ms. M. Young and Ms. L. Rankin.

Details were shared about the project and the step-by-step, hands-on involvement of students. The project chosen by students clearly illustrates and demonstrates the citizenship and character education ends statements of the Board of Trustees. The students raised \$1,130.25 from the sale of their "McKenzie McBiscuits", and donated the funds to sponsor the training of four guide dogs from the Alberta Guide Dog Services. At the Bank of Montreal's *Entrepreneurial Adventure Showcase* last May, the "McKenzie McBiscuits" won the *Judge's Choice* national award. Supplementing the teachers' comments was a PowerPoint presentation. A video clip of the students working on their project was made by *Global News* and that concluded the presentation.

On behalf of the Board of Trustees, Trustee Bazinet expressed appreciation for the presentation and congratulations to McKenzie Lake School 2008-2009 grade one students and teachers on their entrepreneurial adventure and achievement.

4.0 HONOURS AND RECOGNITIONS

There were no honours or recognitions.

5.0 PUBLIC CONVERSATION AND INFORMATION

5.1 Report from the Chair and Trustees

Chair Cochrane welcomed Ms. C. Faber, newly appointed as Superintendent of Learning Innovation, and Ms. D. Lewis, newly appointed as Superintendent of Learning Support.

Trustee Kryczka reported on her visit to Elbow Park School, where information was shared about the school's energy conservation efforts and goals.

5.2 Report from the Chief Superintendent

Chief Superintendent N. Johnson introduced and welcomed Ms. D. Lewis and Ms. C. Faber to Superintendents' Team and to the Board Room. Chief Johnson shared information about the following issues and events:

- Legal Affairs will be repositioned from Corporate Services to the Chief Superintendent's office.
- A Leadership meeting to be held on October 7, 2009 is about the relationship between the teacher and the student in the presence of curriculum and moving towards the implementation of a learning model that personalizes learning for all of our students.
- The September 30th enrolment summary indicates that the Calgary Board of Education has 102,413 students. This translates to an additional 591 students, compared to September 30, 2008. This year's enrolment is just 32 students less than our projected enrolment, which gives us a projection accuracy of 99.9 per cent. Director P. Carlton and his staff at Community Engagement and Operational Planning were acknowledged for compiling the required data in order to report to the Board in a timely fashion.
- She met on two occasions with Calgary Police Chief R. Hansen, Dr. L. Miller, Chief Superintendent of Calgary Catholic School Division, and Mount Royal University Faculty Members to discuss the *Safe Community* initiative. She also spoke about this matter today with The Honourable Alison Redford, Minister of Justice and Attorney General.

5.3 Public Question Period

There were no public questions.

5.4 Stakeholder Reports

5.4.1. Ms. H. Mowat, Member of the Public

Ms. Mowat expressed her concern and disagreement with the methods used today to teach children. She shared her belief that humans have not just five senses, but thirteen senses of the ancient wisdom and enlightenment. Ms. Mowat noted that Trustees are elected to work in the interests of students and society, but she felt that most students today can not give back to society that which society gives to them. She asked why we are not educating towards that goal.

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 Provincial Achievement Tests/Diploma Exams Results

Deputy Chief Superintendent D. Stevenson provided opening remarks and thanked Dr. B. Boese, Director, Learner Enhancement, Superintendent C. Faber, and resource staff for this work. The Calgary Board of Education's provincial achievement tests and diploma exams results for the 2008-2009 school year indicate significant success for our students. Deputy Chief Stevenson stated that a challenge is to position and communicate this data within the context of our system Ends, particularly with respect to Citizenship, Personal Development and Character. For our staff, positioning these results within the context of the Three-Year Education Plan, that addresses all system Ends, is critical.

Chief Superintendent N. Johnson added that our mission requires that we look at multiple measures of learning over time. Data is personalized so that each student's learning is understood in context and reflects the many ways a student comes to know and master learning outcomes. The data we gather on a day-to-day basis helps to inform our work and provides opportunities to engage each learner and their parents in working together to explore and enhance learning across the system Ends. Leveraging the results of the 2008-09 provincial achievement tests and diploma exams contributes to building our capacity as a system, to connect our work across our organization and to ask all staff to see a line of sight between their work and success for students. We want to share the pride we feel in these results and to share in that recognition in this public forum. There may be further points of leverage in our support of review processes that continue to examine how we gather student data, what it means and what impact that data has on strengthening our learning environment and the success for each student.

Mr. R. Bauer, Specialist, Accountability Services, provided an overview of the contents of the report through a PowerPoint presentation.

Trustees posed questions, which were addressed by Administration and a summary of the discussion is as follows:

- Individual schools review these results to make a comparative analysis. The school staff looks at their grade level achievement results along with internal measures; they also disaggregate the various pieces which forms a critical part of the school development planning process. The Area Director examines the school development plan to ensure that gaps and the accountability pillar survey summary are attended to. This work will be integrated with the Alberta Initiative for School Improvement (AISI) work and will be done within each of our Areas with a family of schools. The school starts this work by setting their plan at the end of October, based on a review of all the data sources that they have, and they form the strategies that they are going to use to move the work forward. During the year, those strategies are measured periodically, conversations are held and informal reporting is done. This reporting and feedback occurs in professional learning communities in our schools, and it is centred on student work.

- With respect to the achievement variations from one school to another, there are many factors that influence student learning. Recently within our system, staff teams have gone into our schools to try to understand the context in each building that results in student achievement. The focus this year is on these achievement variations.
- In schools where there is a high mobility of students, such as Connaught School, a review includes the cohort of students who have stayed for a period of time at the school. A good comparison can be made even with a small cohort over a period of time. For schools that have varying grade levels, it is possible to reference the records of students because those follow the student.
- With respect to the French Language Arts diploma exams, there is not a separate test for students who take French Immersion – the French Immersion students write the French Language Arts 30-1.
- The raw student achievement data is made available to each respective school.
- In a number of our high schools, and particularly through the work of professional learning communities, staff teams are looking very closely at the ways in which they are marking and setting standards for their students in order to more closely align school standards with the test results at the provincial level.
- Discussion was held about participation rates for writing the diploma exams. The variance between our participation rates and the province's is determined by choices our students have with regard to course selections. Approximately five percent of our students are typically exempted from writing the diploma exams for various reasons. We are above the provincial average in terms of our ability to accommodate students in the classroom so they are able to participate in writing the exams. Another consideration to keep in mind is that we have students who will repeat their writing of some exams in their fourth and fifth years of high school.
- A concern was noted about the grade 9 Math results showing that 30% of the students are not achieving at the acceptable standard. Information was shared about a new curriculum in grade 10 starting in September 2010, which is called Math 10C. This curriculum will combine Applied Math 10 and Pure Math 10 in order to give students one more standard year before they move into academic or diploma streams for learning Math. There will also be a Math 10-3 program for students who have more tactile learning needs. The strategic work for improving Grade 9 Math results is continuing.
- In response to a concern expressed about particular schools having less than 75% of their students writing the provincial achievement tests, Administration commented that some of those schools may have a higher number of English language learners. Connaught School, for example, has a high number of students who are exempted from writing the exams because of extenuating circumstances.
- In speaking to the CBE trends that show the English 30-1 and English 30-2 acceptable standard results are down from the past year, Administration noted this may be an early indicator of some of the disparity and disconnect that exists between how students are working and learning in their school-based environments and the kind of testing that is now being offered. In addition,

many of our students may not have access to the technologies that they require for some of their writing. As we go forward we need to ensure that all students have the proper writing tools and learning environment so that they can optimize their success.

MOVED by Trustee Bazinet:

THAT the Board of Trustees receives the report titled "Summary of the 2008-2009 Provincial Achievement Test and Diploma Examinations" for information and for the record.

The motion was
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

7.2 Annual Monitoring Report – Executive Limitations 4: Treatment of Parents and Citizens

Mr. C. Davies, Senior Executive Assistant to the Chief Superintendent, provided brief comments about the report.

Chair Cochrane reviewed the criteria against which the Trustees are to judge this report, including that of reasonable interpretation of the policy, compliance with the provisions of the policy, and whether sufficient information has been provided. She noted also 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 are summarized as follows:

- Questions were raised about statements that are made in the report, particular to the inclusion of staff with regard to involvement in decision-making and with regard to appreciation of staff. Chief Superintendent N. Johnson noted that at the time of writing this report it was likely not a consideration to recommend revisions to Executive Limitations 4 and/or 7. Mr. Davies added that this is an important point that requires the Administration to contemplate a connection between those two policies.
- With respect to the manner of logging complaints, Administration noted that this particular issue is constantly being reviewed for refinement to provide the best information possible. A Trustee questioned whether it would be possible to provide a tally of the number of complaints received in the different categories. Administration noted that it may be possible, but to get a precise picture we would have to delineate some strict parameters around how this information is reported throughout the system. It was noted that the variance in the number of complaints logged from each of the Areas could be due to the difference in sizes of the Areas, which could result in a higher volume of complaints relating to transportation. Additionally, some system strategies have evolved, which have likely resulted in a lower volume of complaints in particular categories.
- A Trustee questioned whether there was a CBE policy in relation to staff email addresses and their availability to the public. Administration responded that policies are in place around the release of individual names; however, based on a

practice or in compliance with staff support, individual teacher names may be provided in some instances in newsletters, which are sometimes posted on school websites. Our expectation is that teachers are aware and support that this information is available to parents in this format. It is encouraged, however, that school addresses be used as a connection by parents.

MOVED by Trustee Bazinet:

THAT the Chief Superintendent has reasonably interpreted the provisions of Executive Limitations 4: Treatment of Parents and Citizens, and that the Board of Trustees finds the Chief Superintendent to be in compliance.

Trustee Bazinet shared rationale for the motion, noting that this is a very comprehensive report. She noted the belief that the report very closely describes what Trustees hear from parents; and feedback is positive with respect to how our communities are involved at the school level.

Chair Cochrane called for the vote on the motion.

The motion was
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Motion Arising:

MOVED by Trustee Ferguson:

THAT the Chief Superintendent be commended for extensive efforts to develop and maintain respectful communications and interactions with parents and citizens.

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 September 22, 2009
- Regular Meeting held September 29, 2009

THAT the Board of Trustees approves the Minutes of the Regular Meetings held September 22 and September 29, 2009, 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:

- Correspondence dated September 14, 2009 to Board Chair Pat Cochrane from Deputy Minister Keray Henke, Alberta Education, regarding budget and funding for various capital projects.
- Correspondence dated September 21, 2009 to Board Chair Pat Cochrane from The Honourable Dave Hancock, Minister of Education, regarding the pursuit and development of a tripartite agreement between the Ministry of Education, Alberta's First Nations and the Government of Canada, in order to improve First Nation student achievement, excellence and success.

9.2 Chief Superintendent Consent Agenda

9.2.1 Chief Superintendent's Update

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

10.0 TRUSTEE NOTICES OF MOTION

There were no Trustee notices of motion.

Recessed: 6:58 p.m.

Reconvened: 7:20 p.m.

11.0 IN-CAMERA ISSUES

11.1 Motion to Move In Camera

MOVED by Trustee Dirks:

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

The motion was
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

At 7:59 p.m. Chair Cochrane received the consent of the Board to continue the meeting past the scheduled adjournment time, to the completion of the agenda.

11.2 Motion to Revert to Public Meeting

MOVED by Trustee King:

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

The motion was
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

11.3 Motions to Action In-Camera Recommendations

MOVED by Trustee King:

THAT the report and presentation on the new Education Centre Interior Design Development be received for information and for the record.

The motion was
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

MOVED by Trustee Ferguson:

THAT the report regarding the new Education Centre – Systems Furniture Contracts be received for information.

The motion was
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

MOVED by Trustee Lane:

THAT the September 30th Student Enrolment Summary 2009 be received for information and for the record, and that this information be released publicly.

The motion was
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Chair Cochrane declared the following item on the Consent Agenda approved as presented:

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

- **Correspondence dated September 24, 2009 to The Honourable Dave Hancock, Minister of Education, from Board Chair Pat Cochrane, regarding The City of Calgary Annexation.**

12. ADJOURNMENT

MOVED by Trustee King:

THAT on adjournment, the meeting be adjourned to the call of the Chair.

The motion was
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

The meeting adjourned at 9:32 p.m.

The Regular Meeting of October 6, 2009 reconvened in the Board Room, 515 Macleod Trail SE, Calgary, Alberta, on Wednesday, October 14, 2009 at 10:30 a.m.

MEETING ATTENDANCE

Board of Trustees

Present:

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

Absent:

Trustee G. Lane

Administration:

Ms. N. Johnson, Chief Superintendent of Schools
Mr. F. Coppinger, Superintendent, Facilities and Environmental Services
Mr. D. Dart, Superintendent, Finance and Business Services – Secretary Treasurer
Ms. C. Faber, Superintendent, Learning Innovation
Ms. D. Lewis, Superintendent, Learning Support
Mr. D. Stevenson, Deputy Chief Superintendent of Schools
Mr. C. Davies, Sr. Executive Assistant to the Chief Superintendent of Schools
Ms. B. Kuester, Executive Director of Communications
Mr. R. Peden, Director and General Counsel, Legal Affairs
Mr. J. Anderson, Acting Director, Corporate Financial Services
Ms. S. Wasylyshyn, Executive Assistant to the Trustees
Ms. D. Perrier, Recording Secretary

Chair Cochrane called the meeting to order at 10:31 a.m.

MOVED by Trustee King:

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

The motion was
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

MOVED by Trustee King:

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

The motion was
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

ADJOURNMENT

Chair Cochrane declared the meeting adjourned at 11:18 a.m.

Action By: