

## 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, March 3, 2009 at  
5:00 p.m.

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### 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. B. Hubert, Chief Superintendent of Schools  
Mr. F. Coppinger, Superintendent, Facilities and Environmental Services  
Mr. D. Dart, Superintendent, Corporate Services – Secretary Treasurer  
Mr. D. Stevenson, Acting Superintendent, Learning Enhancement  
Ms. N. Johnson, Acting Deputy Chief Superintendent of Schools  
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. Wasylyshyn, Executive Assistant to the Trustees  
Ms. H. Numrich, Recording Secretary

#### Stakeholder Representatives:

Ms. J. Minifie, 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 the singing of the national anthem took place led by Sam, a student from Bowness High School. Chair Cochrane thanked Sam and acknowledged and welcomed representatives from the aforementioned organizations. She also welcomed SAIT PolyTechnic broadcast journalism students and their instructor to the boardroom.

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

Ms. Barkway noted that there would be one Stakeholder Report and that Item 9.2.1 Chief Superintendent's Monthly Update had been pulled from the Consent Agenda.

MOVED by Trustee Dirks:

**THAT the Board of Trustees approves the Agenda for the Regular Meeting of March 3, 2009, as submitted, subject to the above noted changes.**

The motion was  
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

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

#### **3.1 Bowness High School**

Ms. M. McBride, Area Director, introduced the presentation from Bowness High School that would highlight Personal Development at the school and also introduced Mr. P. Tuck, Principal of Bowness High School. Mr. Tuck stated that Bowness High School encourages personal development by its unique graduation requirements to “walk the stage”. Students are required to have a portfolio, be involved in an activity at the school and contribute at least 5 hours to community service. He acknowledged the work of AISI Learning Leaders, Ms. P. Hamlin and Mr. A. Laberge for their contribution to guiding the presentation, noting that the film was made entirely by students. He introduced the student presenters, Claire, John and Arden.

Claire shared how she, Arden and John had developed the presentation to portray the school spirit and slogan at Bowness High School, “Once a Trojan, Always a Trojan”. She stated that students love the school, it is a community and a family that works well together.

A DVD made by the students clearly demonstrated the pride and excellence evident at Bowness High School and included many aspects of how students learn personal development there. Students were interviewed and spoke of the team spirit created by their involvement in extra-curricular activities, volunteering and leadership skill development. The movie included students actively participating in various activities, some of which included music, dance, sports, academics, computers, shop and cosmetology.

Claire, John and Arden shared how they had each personally experienced personal development through interactive programs, extra-curricular activities and volunteering.

Trustee Dirks thanked the students for a fantastic presentation of images, anecdotes and statements of how Bowness High School is impacting their lives. He stated that Trustees are very proud of them, for they are the future and look forward to seeing how they will make our society a great place in the future, just as they are making Bowness High School a great place to be.

### **4.0 HONOURS AND RECOGNITIONS**

## **5.0 PUBLIC CONVERSATION AND INFORMATION**

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

Trustee Kryczka reported that she had attended a meeting of the Air Crew Association where she shared a message on why she had decided to be a politician, the essence of public service and her desire to make a difference. She and other Trustees also attended public Consideration of Closure School meetings and toured three schools including Harold W. Riley School, West Dover School and Valley View School. Trustee Kryczka attended Jenny Elliott School for the national launch of a new website devoted to on-line safety. It is approved by Alberta Education as a curriculum resource in collaboration with the Canadian Child Protection Agency and Shaw Cable.

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

Chief Superintendent B. Hubert provided highlights of the following issues and events: She presented a plaque that was received by the CBE from Alberta Venture magazine for ranking as number 5 of the top 50 not-for-profit organizations in Alberta for making a contribution to business in Alberta. Ms. Hubert highlighted an article from the Calgary Herald regarding Olympic Heights school principal, Ms. B. Bannon, recognized by Global Television's Women of Vision for her leadership at the school and noted how their school is an example of Ends 3 Citizenship, teaching children to become global citizens by making a contribution outside of their own country. Chief Superintendent Hubert attended the closing ceremony for Korean teachers at the Education Centre with Chair Cochrane and other Education Centre staff; attended and chaired a meeting with Mr. D.K. Lee, President of Rotary International with Executive Director B. Kuester and Superintendent D. Dart. She acknowledged the International Bureau staff and the principal, Mr. A. Rajan and staff at Crescent Heights High School for their excellent work in hosting the event with proper protocol and graciousness. She attended a Canadian Citizenship Ceremony at Douglas Harkness School with Trustee King, a celebration of National Flag Day; attended a meeting of Metro Superintendents in Edmonton including School Superintendents from Edmonton Public, Edmonton Catholic, and Calgary Catholic Schools.

### **5.3 Public Question Period**

There were no public questions.

### **5.4 Stakeholder Reports**

#### **5.4.1. Helen Mowat**

Ms. Mowat stated that she was speaking as a representative for children. She referred to a book authored by Dr. Lane, a psychologist, psychiatrist and doctor and read a statement from the book regarding the definition of "normal". Ms. Mowat referred to page 10 of the CBE's Report to the Community, referencing character development. It is her belief that it is important for principals to always model the right intention. She stated that she would like to see truth, transparency, honesty

and integrity in children and believes that children should learn to “be” rather than “do”, to respect their environment and others.

#### 5.5 Trustee Inquiries

There were no Trustee inquiries.

### 6.0 ACTION ITEMS

#### 6.1 Consideration of Closure – Regular Program at Harold W. Riley School

Trustees posed questions regarding the report and a summary of the discussion follows:

- Mr. Carlton stated that there had not been any consideration given to an alternative program at Harold W. Riley School during the engagement process. Past experience has shown that the placement of an alternative program in a school with declining enrolment does not save the regular program. He also stated that there was no indication from parents of any interest in any other program. He noted that parental interest in the Traditional Learning Centre program is in the north part of the Area and that they have been looking at this opportunity with the Area Director there over the past few years.
- Mr. Carlton stated that the projected enrolment figures in the kindergarten to grade 6 regular program for Harold W. Riley School for the next 4-5 years are as follows: 70 in 2009/10; 72 in 2010/11; 71 in 2011/12; and 67 in 2012/13, with no out of area attendance students. The numbers would increase slightly with out of attendance area students to 80 in 2009/10; 87 in 2010/11; 92 in 2011/12; and 92 in 2012/13. Out of attendance area students are at the discretion of the principal, dependent on space and resources available.

MOVED by Trustee Bazinet:

**THAT the Board of Trustees approves the Minutes of the Public Meeting of February 4, 2009 as attached to the report; and**

**THAT the Board of Trustees receives the report entitled *Consideration of Closure of the Regular Program (Kindergarten to Grade 6) at Harold W. Riley School* for information and for the record.**

The motion was

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

As Ward Trustee, Trustee P. Cochrane spoke to the Principal of Harold W. Riley School, acknowledging that the school is well loved, and expressed thanks for the amazing work that has been done there for students. Chair Cochrane stated that since the public meeting Trustees have received correspondence from the Ward Alderman regarding the importance of schools as public institutions and his request that if it is closed, that it still be a source of social support for the community. Trustees also heard from one constituent expressing concern that if the decision is made to close Harold W. Riley School, he and a number of other parents are concerned that those students currently attending Harold W. Riley School will be

moved to Valley View School. Their concerns come from a provincial audit on the condition of school buildings that was done a number of years ago, and the sense that the Harold W. Riley School building is in much better condition than Valley View School. The Board of Trustees has also received a document with 642 signatures, in agreement to keep Harold W. Riley School open. This document is not classified as an official petition under the School Act; however, it is a strong statement from the community that it is a much appreciated school.

Motion Arising

MOVED by Trustee Ferguson:

**BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Kindergarten to Grade 6 Regular Program at Harold W. Riley School be closed effective June 30, 2009.**

Trustee comments in support of the motion are summarized as follows:

- While acknowledging the outstanding quality of the learning environment that has been available in the past at Harold W. Riley School, and the passion of parents, the current catchment area for Harold W. Riley School is very small and has contributed to a decline in enrolment.
- There are four elementary schools in close proximity of one another, making it impossible to expand the catchment area. These communities are in an area that is built out; the school is no longer needed for overflow from Erin Woods community.
- Projected enrolment figures are low. Consolidating programs will provide opportunities for stronger programs well into the future.
- An alternative program will not address the continuing decline in enrolment of the regular program.
- Trustees are entrusted to effectively utilize resources of the CBE to benefit the majority of students and to provide a strong regular program for students in the residential districts of West Dover, Southview and parts of Forest Lawn, this is best accomplished by congregating students at the remaining schools.
- After touring Valley View School, Trustees believe that students will be well taken care of there and that the class size initiative will keep class sizes small. This is the best use of resources; it will be a positive change.
- The provincial audit was based on the theoretical life cycle of many components of a school. It is often the case that they last beyond the expected life cycle.
- There are no unusual circumstances in this case to justify keeping open a small regular program.

Chair Cochrane called for the vote on the motion.

The motion was  
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

6.2 ASBA Survey – Infrastructure Issues

Chief Superintendent Hubert introduced the report and stated that all Superintendents were able to contribute to the survey. Superintendent Coppinger

noted that education infrastructure is becoming a priority in the United States and it is hoped that the same will happen in Alberta.

Chair Cochrane explained that Board approval of the survey is required prior to sending it to the Alberta School Boards Association (ASBA).

Trustee Bazinet stated that the ASBA has three main advocacy initiatives that include infrastructure, high school completion and transportation. The data from this survey will be collected from school boards to inform the ASBA as they advocate on behalf of boards.

Trustees posed questions or comments that are summarized as follows:

- A trustee commented that the list is comprehensive, but it is very difficult to prioritize. The first 3 are definitely the top priorities.
- The need for new schools in new areas outranks the aging buildings at times and at other times, it is the opposite. In the School Capital Plan, the ratio is 2:1 for aging buildings in comparison to new school requests.

MOVED by Trustee Dirks:

**THAT the Board of Trustees approves the response to the ASBA infrastructure survey as circulated and authorizes that it be submitted to the ASBA.**

Trustees comments in support of the motion included:

- Administration comments have been heard and provide justification regarding the rating; it is a reasonable rating to send to the ASBA.
- This is important information and excellent that it will be going to the ASBA and on to the government.
- Replacing aging schools must be addressed soon before there are significant problems.

The motion was  
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

## **7.0 MONITORING AND RESULTS**

## **8.0 POLICY DEVELOPMENT AND REVIEW**

## **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 February 3, 2009
- Regular Meeting held February 17, 2009
- Regular Meeting held February 24, 2009

**THAT the Board of Trustees approves the Minutes of the Regular Meetings held February 3, February 17, and February 24, 2009, as submitted.**

9.2 Chief Superintendent Consent Agenda

9.2.1 Chief Superintendent's Update

With regards to the Waiver of Student Fess information on page 9-2, a Trustee questioned whether the same number of students would qualify for a waiver of fees under the new process. Will families still qualify at the same income level as they did when the Alberta Health Care Premium subsidization was used? How will this be communicated to parents?

Superintendent Dart explained that the Alberta Child Health Benefit Program was carefully considered. It does have a wider range of income thresholds to qualify more families for waivers and it is staged depending on the number of children in a family, so it should be equivalent or better. He noted that it is dependent on individual family incomes.

Director Braun stated that this information was provided to parents just before Christmas for those who enrolled in January and will be made available again in the June notice to parents regarding student fees for the upcoming year. It will also be posted on the website and another reminder sent in September. Mr. Braun indicated that Administration will do their best to communicate this information to parents.

MOVED by Trustee King:

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

The motion was  
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

**10.0 TRUSTEE NOTICES OF MOTION**

There were no Trustee Notices of Motion.

Recessed at 6:09 p.m.  
Reconvened at 6:30 p.m.

Vice-Chair Bazinet assumed the Chair as Chair Cochrane was meeting with the media and did not immediately return to the meeting.

**11.0 IN-CAMERA ISSUES**

11.1 Motion to Move In Camera

MOVED by Trustee Lane

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

The motion was  
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Absent: Trustee P. Cochrane

At 6:33 p.m. Chair Cochrane resumed the Chair.

At 7:53 p.m. Chair Cochrane received the consent of the Board to continue past the stated adjournment time of 8:00 p.m., to the end 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.

MOVED by Trustee Dirks:

**THAT the Board of Trustees receives the status report on the New Education Centre administrative building and the modernization and addition projects at Dr. Carl Safran Centre for information.**

The motion was  
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

#### 12. ADJOURNMENT

Chair Cochrane declared the meeting adjourned at 8:35p.m.