

CALGARY BOARD OF EDUCATION

Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees (the “Board”) held in the Multipurpose Room, Education Centre, 1221 – 8 Street SW, Calgary, Alberta on Tuesday, November 29, 2022 at 11:00 a.m.

MEETING ATTENDANCE

Board of Trustees:

Trustee L. Hack, Chair
Trustee P. Bolger
Trustee N. Close
Trustee M. Dennis
Trustee D. Downey (attended virtually)
Trustee C. May
Trustee S. Vukadinovic

Administration:

C. Usih, Chief Superintendent of Schools
R. Armstrong, Superintendent, Human Resources
D. Breton, Superintendent, Facilities and Environmental Services
K. Fenney, General Counsel
B. Grundy, Superintendent, Finance/Technology Services (attended virtually)
A. Holowka, Superintendent, School Improvement
M. Martin-Esposito, Chief Communications Officer
J. Pitman, Superintendent, School Improvement
P. Minor, Corporate Secretary
M. Graham, Board Administrator

Stakeholder Representatives:

Jennifer Gorkoff, Principal, Jack James High School
Helen Colbourne, Principal, Louise Dean School

1 | **CALL TO ORDER, NATIONAL ANTHEM AND WELCOME**

Chair Hack called the meeting to order at 11:00 a.m. and students from David Thompson School led the national anthem through a video recording.

Chair Hack acknowledged the traditional territories and oral practices of the Blackfoot Nations, which includes the Siksika, the Piikani, and the Kainai. She also acknowledged the Tsuut’ina and Stoney Nakoda First Nations, the Métis Nation (Region 3), and all people who make their homes in the Treaty 7 region of Southern Alberta.

The Chair welcomed staff, union representatives and members of the public to the meeting, including those attending virtually and the principals of both Jack James High School and Louise Dean School.



2 | CONSIDERATION/ APPROVAL OF AGENDA

MOVED by Trustee Dennis:

THAT the Board of Trustees approves the agenda for the Regular Meeting of November 29, 2022.

The motion was
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

3 | AWARDS AND RECOGNITIONS

There were no presentations.

4 | RESULTS FOCUS

There were no reports or presentations.

5 | OPERATIONAL EXPECTATIONS

6 | PUBLIC COMMENT

6.1 Rod Tomlinson, concerned Calgarian

R.Tomlinson spoke to the matter of the Louise Dean School Closure for the Purpose of Relocation; shared his background as a professor of social work practice at the University of Calgary; expressed disagreement with the recommendation; opined that the arrangement disregards research on developmental trauma; referenced a document provided to the Corporate Secretary summarizing that theory; encouraged Trustees to confer with Kindred about this trauma theory.

6.2 Stephanie Fennelly, Executive Director, The Wilberforce Project

S. Fennelly spoke to the matter of the Louise Dean School Closure for the Purpose of Relocation; spoke about personal experience with young mothers; about the support young mothers need, expressed that the Trustees have the opportunity to provide a safe, unique and stand-alone opportunity for the Louise Dean School students.

6.3 Philip Fisher, concerned Calgarian

P. Fisher spoke to the matter of the Louise Dean School Closure for the Purpose of Relocation; expressed disagreement with the recommendation and had concerns about bullying in a regular high school environment.

Pursuant to Board of Trustees' Governance Policies, Board Meeting Procedures, Section J(6)(f), Chair Hack requested that P. Fisher use respectful language.

P. Fisher opined that an enclosed entry way is not satisfactory; expressed concern for the students' safety in transportation.



Recessed for at 11:16am
Reconvened at 11:22am

7 | **MATTERS RESERVED FOR BOARD INFORMATION**

There were no reports or presentations.

8 | **MATTERS RESERVED FOR BOARD DECISION**

8.1 **2021-2022 Year-End Financial Results and Audited Financial Statements**

Trustee Dennis, Chair of the Board of Trustees' Audit & Risk Committee, introduced the report, noting work done with external auditors to ensure accuracy and risk management.

Chief Usih commented on the report that CBE acted prudently and consistently in alignment with its mission, values, reports priorities and the education plan; that programs and services are aligned to support student achievement and well-being within the resources allocated to CBE through Alberta Education; the work to continually strive to balance a number of challenges; and the continuation of strategic investments.

Superintendent Grundy provided an overview of revisions to the report as per updates received this morning from the independent external auditors.

The 2021-2022 Financial Results conclude the process set out in OE-5: Financial Planning and, subject to Board of Trustee approval, will be submitted to the Minister of Education on or before November 30, 2022. The report includes a concise summary of the CBE actions and activities between September 1, 2021 and August 31, 2022, a year that continued to be impacted by COVID-19; ended with a deficit of \$10.9 million, less than 1% of 2021-22 revenues; shows appropriate levels of operating and capital reserves; demonstrates a high degree of financial discipline and sound fiscal management.

Administration responded to trustee questions on the report including: transportation fees; the comprehensive service transformation initiative; the Master Service Agreement with Southland Transportation; inflation-adjusted funding per-student; specialized learning supports funds; Compliance Review Funding; future financial outlook; external services; lunch room supervision program and hiring practices; the financial health matrix and working capital; and sustainability and risk management with respect to fees particular to instrument rentals.

Recessed: 12:10 pm
Reconvened: 12:33 pm

Administration continued to respond to trustee questions on the report including: financial health and average teacher salary and benefits; the National Sports School transfer to Palliser School Division; and expenses related to school activities and events.

MOVED by Trustee Dennis:



THAT the Board of Trustees approves the Financial Results of the Calgary Board of Education for the year ended August 31, 2022, including the Audited Financial Statements for the year ended August 31, 2022 and the Independent Auditors' Report dated November 29, 2022, for submission to the Minister of Education.

In debate of the motion, Trustees made comments on: the demonstration of the CBE's well-rounded, well managed, transparent activity; budget restraints and the financial health matrix; the challenging long term outlook and the potential impacts of the reduction of per-student funding and inflation.

Chair Hack called for a vote on the motion.

The motion was
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

8.2 Consideration of Closure for the Purpose of Relocation of Louise Dean School

Chief Superintendent Usih introduced the item, stating that the report addresses compliance with legislation and the Board's policy, in conjunction with the motion passed on September 27, 2022 to commence public input for the purpose of considering closure of the Louise Dean School for the purpose of relocation to Jack James High School.

Superintendent Holowka provided an overview on the current Louise Dean School location and the cost to renovate the space; the declining rates of teen pregnancy in Calgary; the declining rate of enrollment at Louise Dean School; and the impact on Kindred's ability to continue to provide essential support at a stand-alone location.

Superintendent Breton provided an overview of the CBE's compliance with the *Education Act* and the Board of Trustees' Governance Policy 3E: Closure of Schools Procedure.

Administration responded to trustee questions on the report including: the reasons for the recommendation of Jack James High School as the new site for Louise Dean School; the flexibility in programming logistics that would be available to Louise Dean School students; clarity on the plans to provide separate space for Louise Dean School; alternative options for service provider partnerships; the ability of Kindred to support Louise Dean Students on-site in the new location; the proposed construction timeline; clarity regarding Jack James High School's unique status as Integrated Occupational Program (IOP), now known as Knowledge and Employability (K&E); impact on current Jack James High School childcare program; negative commentary directed towards Jack James High School students and the surrounding community and the current character and behaviour of Jack James students; how the planned renovations at Jack James High School account for typical and possible future attendance at Louise Dean School; plans to ensure Jack James student learning will not be adversely impacted by the modifications; clarity on the Kensington School being listed as surplus and the CBE's ability to sell the property; clarity about the CBE capital reserves and how much is available for discretionary spending; clarity on rental income from CBE properties leased to charter schools; clarity on the benefits to Jack James students in this recommendation; other neighbourhood programs or facilities that would benefit the Louise Dean School students; clarity on safety



procedures that will be in place for the Louise Dean School childcare program; clarity on whether middle schools were considered as potential sites given more recent enrollment numbers; whether the Jack James High School location reduces barriers for attendance to students who are pregnant or young mothers who are not currently attending Louise Dean School; clarity on potential impact on programming and learning spaces at Jack James High School; clarity on spaces the Louise Dean School students will be able to access at Jack James High School (ie. Library, gym) and how students will be received in those spaces; clarity regarding gym space and completion of physical activity requirements for graduation; clarity on availability of indoor gym space for the children of Louise Dean students; and clarity on the availability of designated social gathering space for Louise Dean students.

Recessed: 1:56 pm
Reconvened: 2:05 pm

Administration continued to respond to trustee questions on the report including: the transition of current CTS programs offered at Louise Dean School; whether the Louise Dean School will continue to be an independent coded school and retain its own name; support for Indigenous students at Jack James High School; justification for not co-locating Louise Dean School with other alternative programs; consultation with Louise Dean School students and staff regarding transit access.

MOVED by Trustee Close:

THAT pursuant to Section N(10)(j) of the Board Meeting Procedures, the Board of Trustees authorized that no Trustee shall speak more than twice for five (5) minutes on each of the motions contained in the Louise Dean School Closure for the Purpose of Relocation Compliance Report.

In debate of the motions, trustees made comments on: the procedures noted currently state 3 minutes per comment, but given the nature of the discussion the recommendation is for 5 minutes; and the appropriateness of five minutes given the nature of the issue at hand.

Chair Hack called for a vote on the motion.

The motion was
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

MOVED by Trustee May:

THAT the Minutes of the Public Input Meeting for Louise Dean School held on November 1, 2022, Attachment I to this report, are approved by the Board of Trustees.

The motion was:
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Trustee Bolger provided an overview of the public written submissions received from September 28, 2022 to November 22, 2022 at the Area Four office and the Board of



Trustees' Office. 67-80 people also attended the virtual public input meeting on November 1, 2022, including approximately 20 CBE staff. Written submissions received by trustees included approximately 310 emails, letters and voicemails. Approximately fifty were from people with personal experiences with the Louise Dean School. 253 were from citizens at large, five had connections to Jack James High School and six were from groups or entities. One group calling themselves "Save Louise Dean" included 11 student testimonials, 154 statements from individuals, and a list of over 4500 names and locations from approximately 318 towns and cities within 7 different countries. No supporting statement was included indicating what these names were intended to illustrate, but we can assume it was to "save Louise Dean School." Trustee Bolger noted that in accordance with the *Education Act* and the Board of Trustees' Governance Culture 1: Board Purpose policy, the Board and Trustees serves and represents the citizens of Calgary only.

Three themes were evident in the written submissions:

1. Importance and impact of the Louise Dean Program
2. The desire to keep Louise Dean at a stand-alone site
3. Concerns about the proposed site for relocation, related to safety, bullying, and transportation

Trustee Bolger noted misconceptions in the feedback regarding the recommendation to relocated Louise Dean School to Jack James High School.

MOVED by Trustee Close:

THAT the Board of Trustees approves the closure of the Louise Dean School effective June 28, 2024 for the purpose of relocation.

In debate of the motion, trustees made comments on: the difficulty of the decision; the importance of the program; the importance and strength of partnership with Kindred; the importance of the sheltered program; fiscal concerns with regard to ongoing deferred maintenance funds and aging buildings; the positive attributes of Jack James High School; the positive attributes of the community and community resources; transportation; disappointment about the number of disparaging comments made about the Forest Lawn and Jack James High School community by the public and media; availability of additional academic options for Louise Dean students at Jack James; proximity to additional students who would benefit from the services of Kindred; unsustainability of the Kensington School location; legislative and regulatory process followed; the importance of listening to students; the miscommunication about the closure of Louise Dean program and the desire to have the community know the CBE is committed to the Louise Dean program and its students; benefits of a stand alone site; the consequences of the underfunding of schools; the difficulty with selling surplus sites due to Government of Alberta requirements that the space be leased to charter schools; acknowledgement of the difficulty of the situation; long term sustainability of the Louise Dean program; standards of GC-3E: Closure of Schools Procedure that have been met or exceeded; school safety; the unique nature of the Louise Dean program; clarity on public misunderstandings regarding the recommendation; the fiduciary duty of trustees to act in the best interest of the CBE; the benefits of moving forward and maintaining necessary partnerships; the potential future of Louise Dean School; encouragement for the community and stakeholders to support the Louise Dean program and students by



donations through EducationMatters; and the need for consistency and stability for the Louise Dean students.

Chair Hack called for a vote on the motion.

The motion was
CARRIED

In favour: Trustee May
Trustee Vukadinovic
Trustee Hack
Trustee Bolger
Trustee Close
Trustee Dennis

Opposed: Trustee Downey

9 | **CONSENT AGENDA**

9.1 **Items Provided for Board Decision**

9.1.1 Meeting Minutes

- Regular Meeting held October 11, 2022
- Regular Meeting held October 25, 2022

THAT the Board of Trustees approves the Minutes of the Regular Meeting held October 11, 2022 and the Regular Meeting held October 25, 2022 as submitted.

9.1.2 OE-4: Treatment of Employees – Annual Monitoring

THAT the Board of Trustees approves that the Chief Superintendent is in compliance with the provisions of OE-4: Treatment of Employees.

9.2 **Items Provided for Board Information**

9.2.1 **Fourth Quarter Budget Variance Report**

Chair Hack noted that the Board would meet in-camera following the public portion of the meeting to discuss one legal, one land, two labour and two strategic planning matters. She noted the next public Board meeting will be held on Tuesday, December 13, 2022.

Recessed: 3:19 p.m.
Reconvened: 3:42 p.m.

10 | **IN-CAMERA SESSION**

Chief Usih and Superintendent Grundy confirmed they were alone and in locations that no other person could hear them or any part of this meeting.

Motion to Move In-Camera



MOVED by Trustee Dennis :

Whereas the Board of Trustees is of the opinion that it is in the public interest that matters on the private agenda for the Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees, November 29, 2022 be considered at an in-camera session; therefore, be it

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

The motion was
CARRIED

Absent: Trustee Downey

Motion to Revert to Public Meeting

MOVED by Trustee Bolger:

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

The motion was
CARRIED

Absent: Trustee Downey

Motions to Action In-Camera Recommendations

11 | **ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting terminated at 4:54 p.m.

