

Board Chair Statement | May 26, 2020

The following statement was read by Board Chair Marilyn Dennis at the beginning of the public board meeting on May 26, 2020.

Good afternoon,

Last week, we received a copy of the report related to the Financial Cost Management and Governance Review of the CBE and the associated Ministerial Order. If this report were a report card, it would reflect success in some areas, but less than exemplary performance in others.

We appreciate the observations and recommendations outlined in the Auditors Report. It gives us the opportunity to see ourselves through a different lens. We will reflect on those recommendations as we continue to adjust. There is always room for improvement. As your democratically, locally elected school board, we are up to the task.

Comments have been made recently that while some of the necessary changes have been occurring, the rate at which change is happening is too slow. We wholeheartedly agree. This is why over the last number of months the Board has been considering its processes and what we need to do differently to help us work more effectively and efficiently.

We have work to do in order to comply with the directives contained in the Ministerial Order. This work is our responsibility and we will do it. In cooperation with the Chief Superintendent, we have already begun to identify who will lead the work on each of the directives in the Ministerial Order. We will assess each of the corrections that are called for. We will start immediately to develop a work plan to fully implement the directives according to the timeline imposed on us. We are moving as quickly as possible and we will not fail you.

The situation we are in today has created some turmoil – for that we apologize. We can assure you, that even in the midst of this, we will stay focused. We will serve our students, the citizens of Calgary and this organization with the dignity they deserve. We will govern with integrity. Our public dialogue will continue to be respectful, truthful and transparent.

As we work, we are committed to providing you regular updates on our progress. We accept that a number of things have happened in the past, we accept responsibility and we are moving forward. That was then, this is now.

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**Calgary Board
of Education**

The Minister has given us six months and we are taking advantage of this opportunity to become the best board possible.

We will continue to make decisions in the best interest of the more than 126,000 students we serve.