

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, January 7, 2014 at 3:00 p.m.

MEETING ATTENDANCE

Board of Trustees:

Trustee S. Taylor, Chair
Trustee J. Bowen-Eyre
Trustee L. Ferguson
Trustee J. Hehr
Trustee T. Hurdman
Trustee P. King
Trustee A. Stewart

Administration:

Ms. N. Johnson, Chief Superintendent of Schools
Mr. D. Stevenson, Deputy Chief Superintendent of Schools
Mr. E. Heeger, Director, Capital Planning and Development
Ms. C. Faber, Superintendent, Learning Innovation
Mr. B. Grundy, Superintendent, Finance and Supply Chain Services
Dr. C. Oishi, Superintendent, Human Resources
Mr. D. Parsons, Superintendent, Learning Services
Mr. B. Brunton, Chief Communications Officer
Mr. G. Francis, General Counsel, Legal Services
Ms. J. Barkway, Corporate Secretary
Ms. J. Manfield, Recording Secretary

Stakeholder Representatives:

Ms. L. Robb, Calgary Board of Education Staff Association
Mr. F. Bruseker, Alberta Teachers' Association, Local 38
Ms. J. Miller-Drysdale, Calgary Association of Parents and School Councils
Ms. K. Lloyd, Calgary Association of Parents and School Councils
Mr. B. Johnson, Principals' Association for Adolescent Learners (PAAL)

1 | CALL TO ORDER, NATIONAL ANTHEM AND WELCOME

Chair Taylor called the meeting to order at 2:58 p.m. on the Link and O Canada was led by students from the Panorama Hills School Grade 3 Choir. Chair Taylor and Trustee Ferguson thanked the students on behalf of the Board of Trustees for their performance.

The meeting reconvened in the Multipurpose Room. Chair Taylor acknowledged and welcomed representatives from Administration and the aforementioned organizations. She also welcomed new Chief Communications Officer, Mr. Bill Brunton.

2 | **CONSIDERATION/APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Ms. J. Barkway, Corporate Secretary, noted that the proposed changes to the Agenda include the addition of six public comments under Agenda Item 6.

MOVED by Trustee King:

THAT the Agenda for the Regular Meeting of January 7, 2014, be approved as submitted, subject to the revision noted above.

The motion was
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

3 | **AWARDS AND RECOGNITIONS**

3.1 **CAPSC to CBE School Traffic Safety Week**

Chief Superintendent Johnson stated that the CBE was recognized by the Calgary Association of Parents and School Councils (CAPSC) for the CBE's assistance with the Calgary School Traffic Week initiative, and was presented with a framed certificate by Ms. Karen Lloyd, Vice-President of CAPSC, and Ms. Jillian Miller-Drysdale, Traffic Safety Coordinator. Chief Superintendent Johnson explained that the initiative started as an isolated school issue and grew into a collaborative way to develop learning opportunities and improved safety for students in that particular school, as well as for students in public, separate, and private schools throughout the city. The initiative brought together provincial, municipal, school board and corporate sources together to ensure success. She expressed gratitude to Ms. Lloyd and Ms. Miller-Drysdale for all their work, and commended them for creating a fine example of what can be accomplished when we work together on behalf of students.

4 | **RESULTS FOCUS**

4.1 **School Presentation – Panorama Hills School – Results 5**

Ms. S. Church, Area II Director, provided a brief introduction of the presentation, noting that Panorama Hills School is a Kindergarten to Grade 3 school of 630 students. She stated that the presentation will demonstrate the students' understanding of how they focus on developing strong character. She introduced Principal S. Goldenberg and grade 3 student Alisha to begin the presentation.

Principal Goldenberg explained that students and teachers use a common language to talk about how people feel and to share; they accomplish this by modelling cooperation and understanding between individuals and cultures. She added that Results 5, Character is alive at the school as they focus daily on treating others with respect and compassion, while supporting students in making responsible decisions. Grade 3 student Alisha stated she is a member of the student voice, and that each month student voice decides what virtue they need to practice most, noting that this year they have been practicing respect and generosity. She added that the video tells the story of how all students practice the monthly virtues and use them in the classroom every day.

On behalf of the Board of Trustees, Trustee Ferguson thanked Principal Goldenberg and student Alisha for their presentation, and all the students and staff who contributed to the captivating video presentation. She stated that the video demonstrated how teachers and students are integrating their academic skills with the attributes of good character as they work through their day.

5 | OPERATIONAL EXPECTATIONS

5.1 OE-6: Financial Administration – Annual Monitoring Report

Superintendent Grundy provided a brief review of the contents of the report. He stated that the report includes eleven policy provisions, demonstrated through sixteen indicators, of which all but three are in compliance. He noted that two payroll indicators for policy subsection 6.1 continue to be out of compliance. Administration hopes to achieve compliance in these areas through the implementation of the pay-cycle alignment process, and as employees become proficient in the use of our eHR system. He also noted that Administration will providing a new interpretation and indicator for policy subsection 6.4, as the benchmark selected was found to be too high.

Chair Taylor noted that Trustees are to determine whether the Chief Superintendent is in compliance with OE-6: Financial Administration, based on the Board's previously approved interpretation and indicators. She pointed out that any decision or comment of the Board of Trustees around non-compliance of the operational expectations, or any part of it, is in no way intended to be a vote of non-confidence for the Chief Superintendent.

The following is a summary of Administration's responses to Trustee questions:

- The fees included in bad debt expense for policy subsection 6.4 include instructional supplies and materials (ISM), noon supervision, and transportation fees.
- Administration is currently reviewing the Administrative Regulation regarding signing authority amounts and is looking at increasing the levels shown on page 5-5.
- Administration has established mitigation strategies which include a review of processes, quality control measures, and training of personnel to address the non-compliance issues for policy subsection 6.1.
- On page 5-13, Administration clarified that the collection of bad debts received through collection agencies is closer to 30%; therefore closer to 70% is uncollectable. Administration is reviewing other jurisdictions to compare if they have similar trends, or use other alternatives rather than collection agencies.
- The Agreement on Internal Trade referred to on page 5-5 is an agreement that requires us to insert a competitive process and reflects a best practice.
- The reason "Not Applicable" is indicated rather than "Compliant" for policy subsection 6.7 is that there is no outstanding debt; therefore there is nothing to be in compliance with.

MOVED by Trustee Bowen-Eyre:

THAT the Board of Trustees approves that the Chief Superintendent is in compliance with the provisions of OE-6: Financial Administration.

MOVED by Trustee Stewart:

THAT the motion be amended by the addition of “*with the exception of policy subsection 6.4*”.

Trustee comments in debate of the amendment are summarized as follows:

- The exception should be noted as we need to keep a closer look at this indicator; last year we were only at 2.6%.

The motion to amend was
CARRIED.

In favour: Trustee Bowen-Eyre
Trustee Ferguson
Trustee Hurdman
Trustee King
Trustee Stewart
Trustee Taylor

Opposed: Trustee Hehr

Trustee comments in debate of the main motion are summarized as follows:

- Several trustees expressed that the report indicated that the financial condition of the organization is solid; there are areas that need some revision which is indicated in the report; most indicators are in compliance.
- It was suggested that we may need more than one indicator for policy subsection 6.4.
- A trustee noted appreciation for comments made around bad debt collection, and was pleased that Administration will be reviewing this policy subsection.

Chair Taylor called for the vote on the motion.

The motion was
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

6 | **PUBLIC COMMENT**

6.1 Ms. Karen Lloyd, Vice-President, Calgary Association of Parents and School Councils (CAPSC)

Ms. Lloyd introduced herself and distributed a review compiled by CAPSC executives of a forum that was held on December 2, 2013 regarding Nose Creek School and Coventry Hills School proposed change to the modified school calendar. She stated that CAPSC representatives attended the meeting to support the school councils, observe the processes in the forum, and gather information that may be helpful to other schools. She acknowledged the assistance of Mr. Robert Hurdman in the compilation of the review. She stated that the forum was well conducted and that administration did an

excellent job of working with the parents with their concerns, which are included in the review. One concern noted was that parents of the two schools would like to have information provided at the same time.

6.2 Katherine Boggs, Parent

Ms. Boggs stated that she wished to present her strong objection to the proposed move of the GATE programs out of Nellie McClung and John Ware Schools. She stated her request for a strategic two-way dialogue because *“everybody has a part to play in public education”* as quoted from the CBE Three-Year Education Plan. They would like to meet with Trustees, Superintendents and Directors to open a transparent discussion regarding the proposed move. She added that she objects because although GATE students are gifted, they also have significant issues with sensitivity, an overwhelming sense of justice, anxieties and transitions. She expressed her opinion that the data from the community engagement process supports leaving the GATE programs where they are.

6.3 Peter Ling, Parent

Mr. Ling noted he has been a parent of GATE students for eleven years; one child is already in college after finishing GATE, and the other in grade 6. He voiced his concern and objection against the move of the GATE program from Nellie McClung and John Ware to Louis Riel. He noted that although he appreciates the process, looking back he feels the original intention and the current results are very different and controversial. He noted that for junior high, the grade 7 students will be in Louis Riel, and grades 8 and 9 will be in John Ware which he considers a big split, and as the school is 2.6 km away, transportation will be an obstacle. He stated that GATE parents want their children to have access to Southland Leisure Centre as a resource, and that it is one of the main reasons that GATE parents and students like the GATE program more than private schools.

6.4 Sherry Ma, Parent

Ms. Ma stated that she has two children in the GATE program at Nellie McClung School, and is here today to present her strong objection to the proposed move of the GATE program out of Nellie McClung and John Ware Schools. She quoted enrolment numbers from 2012 data and expressed her opinion that Louis Riel's low enrolment issue is due to choosing not to attend the regular program. She described a few assumptions based on CBE enrolment projections, and she concluded that without consideration of future growth, Louis Riel School will not be able to accommodate GATE siblings into the science program. She added that John Ware's instructional space usage would drop from 77% to below 50% after GATE phase-out, which would create a new low enrolment problem. She feels that the CBE's proposal would not work, and would like to meet with Trustees and Superintendents to find a better solution.

6.5 Warren Klassen, We Love Our Schools Group

Mr. Klassen stated that he is also here to speak against the move of the GATE program from Nellie McClung and John Ware to Louis Riel School. He stated his opinion that six out of the seven guiding principles in the GATE public input process run by the CBE

were not met by the decision that was chosen; two of which were minimizing disruption and keeping cohorts together. CBE's choice of Scenario 1 has all GATE staff and 350 gate students changing schools. He believes that Scenario 2 would be less disruptive and would have adequately addressed enrolment problems at both Nellie McClung and Louise Riel Schools. Reserving Nellie McClung for PDP and GATE students only would minimize travelling outside the home area. Scenario 2 would have kept all three schools in the 70-80% utilization rate. He also expressed a safety concern over the number of students who would need to travel outside their home area to attend school in Scenario 1; the number of students would likely decrease in Scenario 2. He concluded by stating that at the open house, parents were overwhelmingly against the move of the GATE program.

6.6 Nathan MacBey, Chair, Elbow Park Parents Council

Mr. MacBey commenced by thanking CBE Administration, Trustees and the provincial and municipal governments for their help in the post-flood recovery efforts at Elbow Park School. He stated that there is growing optimism in the community, that the school provides a sense of community and stability, and is the cornerstone of a vibrant, growing inner-city community. He noted that the School Council and the community fully support the rebuilding of the school, and that every effort will be made to incorporate and retain the historical features into the new school. He confirmed his understanding that the rebuild of Elbow Park School would have no impact on the CBE's Three-Year Capital Plan and would encourage the healing process of the community.

Recessed at 4:20 p.m.

Reconvened at 4:35 p.m.

7 | MATTERS RESERVED FOR BOARD ACTION

7.1 Elbow Park School – Restore vs Replacement

Chief Superintendent Johnson introduced the report and stated that Administration seeks support to move forward in securing a replacement for Elbow Park School which was damaged by the devastating flood in June 2013 and is unusable in its current condition. In considering repairing or replacing the school, the CBE sought to be prudent in considering financial costs and to continue to honour the focus on the public good.

Superintendent Coppinger added some technical background. Although the school's classrooms were not flooded, the flooding of the grounds compromised the foundations; this caused differential settlement and major structural cracking throughout the school. The engineering assessment indicated the possibility of an imminent school collapse. Preliminary cost estimates prepared by the insurance company indicated that repairing the school is considerably more expensive than the replacement cost. Administration is recommending the replacement of the school for the reasons as indicated on page 7-3 of the report.

The following is a summary of Administration's responses to Trustee questions:

- Negotiations with the insurance company on the contribution they will make to the replacement cost will be revealed publicly once negotiations are complete. The

anticipated replacement cost will be slightly more than standard school due to the community's desire that the historical library and appearance of the building be recognized in completing the engineering design.

- Administration does not foresee issues around insurability of the new school; the engineering design will respect flood conditions. The CBE is covered by an insurance consortium and premiums will increase for all school boards. The school is not situated in the flood zone according to maps prepared by the City.
- The Minister has asked the CBE to ensure that appropriate negotiations are made with the insurance company; the remaining costs will be drawn from the flood recovery fund and will not impact the CBE's Three-Year Capital Plan.
- Support for replacement of the school was received from co-chairs of the school council, principals, school staff, and the community association by way of a survey. It was noted that there were more responses to the survey than there were parents of the school.
- In response to a question about whether it was possible to build a larger school to accommodate students from Christine Meikle school, Administration explained that Christine Meikle school is a special needs school which needs to be located near a hospital, and that a condition of the insurance company is that funds be only used for restoration or replacement of the school.
- This will be a joint project with Alberta Education, Alberta Infrastructure, and CBE Administration, with input from community groups. Administration will engage a cost consultant that will provide accurate estimates of the proposed design. The cost of demolition and removal of hazardous materials will be covered by the insurance company and will not be part of the provincial contribution.
- Once approval is received from the Board and the province, it is anticipated that design could proceed immediately and the school could be ready by September 2016.
- The differential cost between a restoration and a replacement building is estimated to be 55%.
- Although they have no authority over the CBE, the Calgary Heritage Authority will be involved in developing the design of the replacement school.

MOVED by Trustee Bowen-Eyre:

THAT the Board of Trustees endorses Administration's recommendation to seek support, approval and flood relief funding from the Minister of Education for the replacement of Elbow Park School damaged by the floods in June 2013, as outlined in this report, contingent on the understanding that this request is distinct from the annual Three Year Capital Plan and will not adversely affect the decision or timing of new school announcements or major modernizations for other communities in Calgary.

MOVED by Trustee Hurdman:

Whereas the Board of Trustees is of the opinion that it is in the public interest that matters on the Agenda for the Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees, Tuesday, January 7, 2014, 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.

In favour:	Trustee Bowen-Eyre Trustee Ferguson Trustee Hurdman Trustee King Trustee Stewart Trustee Taylor
Opposed:	Trustee Hehr

MOVED by Trustee Hehr:

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

The motion was
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

The meeting reconvened in the Multipurpose Room at 5:59 p.m. At 6:00 p.m. Chair Taylor received consent from the Board to continue to the end of the Agenda.

Chair Taylor restated the motion on the floor.

Chief Superintendent Johnson stated that the Board would be kept informed of the progress on the project through Construction Project Status reports.

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

- In support of the motion, trustees remarked that the replacement option provides opportunities to have state of the art technology incorporated into the new building which will enhance the curriculum and students learning, and will serve the community for decades to come. Trustees realize the historical value and are satisfied that the design will incorporate aspects of the old school to maintain its character. They noted that it is also a desire of the community to rebuild the school and the province has made a commitment to the community. The rebuild will be completely funded through insurance and the flood recovery program and will have no financial impact to the CBE or affect the Three-Year Capital Plan. It is in the best interests of students, the organization, and the province that we support the recommendation outlined in the report.
- A trustee stated that she is not comfortable about whether the project would be fully covered by insurance and the province; there is only a verbal agreement and nothing in writing at this point. There may be challenges with any unforeseen cost overruns. A concern was also noted around the state of the construction labour force in Calgary as there are many other projects occurring at the same time and there may be a

shortage of labour. It was also noted that there are many other communities in Calgary where students have to travel to other communities for school.

The motion was
CARRIED.

In favour: Trustee Bowen-Eyre
Trustee Ferguson
Trustee Hehr
Trustee Hurdman
Trustee King
Trustee Taylor

Opposed: Trustee Stewart

Chair Taylor declared the following items on the Consent Agenda to be approved as presented, as follows:

8 | **BOARD CONSENT AGENDA**

8.1 Approval of Minutes

- Regular Meeting held December 3, 2013
- Regular Meeting held December 10, 2013
- Regular Meeting held December 17, 2013

THAT the Board of Trustees approves the minutes of the Regular Meetings held December 3, December 10, and December 17, 2013, as submitted.

8.2 Correspondence

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

- Email dated December 16, 2013 from Honorable J. Johnson, Minister of Education regarding further announcements for funding of school capital projects in the coming months.

8.3 CBE Response to 2014-2017 Alberta School Board Association (ASBA) Strategic Plan Survey

THAT the Board of Trustees approves the survey response, as attached, for submission to Alberta School Boards Association as the Calgary Board of Education's input for the ASBA Strategic Plan 2014-2017.

9 | **CHIEF SUPERINTENDENT CONSENT AGENDA**

There were no items.

The meeting recessed at 6:23 p.m. Vice-Chair Bowen-Eyre reconvened the meeting at 6:45 p.m. Chair Taylor attended the meeting at 6:47 p.m.

10 | IN-CAMERA ISSUES

MOVED by Trustee Hehr:

THAT the Agenda for the Private Meeting of January 7, 2014 be amended to include a new emergent item.

The motion was
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

10.1 Motion to Move In Camera

MOVED by Trustee King:

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, Tuesday, January 7, 2014, 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 UNANIMOUSLY.

10.2 Motion to Revert to Public Meeting

MOVED by Trustee Stewart:

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

The motion was
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

10.3 Motions to Action In-Camera Recommendations

MOVED by Trustee Stewart:

THAT the Calgary Board of Education Aspen Hills school site at Aspen Stone Boulevard SW and Aspen Hills Drive SW be transferred to the Calgary Catholic School District (CCSD) in exchange for their current site at Aspen Summit Drive SW just south of 13th Avenue SW.

The motion was
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

MOVED by Trustee Hehr:

THAT the Board of Trustees receives the correspondence attached to the private report of January 7, 2014, for information and for the record.

The motion was
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

MOVED by Trustee Bowen-Eyre:

THAT the Board of Trustees approves, in principle, the Objective/Mission and Guiding Principles as attached to the report, recognizing that further discussion and work is required to refine and clarify these statements.

THAT the Board of Trustees undertakes the procurement of interim Chief Superintendent services, as discussed in camera; and

THAT the decision be communicated as discussed.

The motion was
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

11 | **ADJOURNMENT**

Chair Taylor declared the meeting adjourned at 9:57 p.m.