

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, October 7, 2014 at 12 noon.

MEETING ATTENDANCE

Board of Trustees:

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

Administration:

Mr. D. Stevenson, Chief Superintendent of Schools
Ms. S. Church, Deputy Chief Superintendent of Schools
Mr. F. Coppinger, Superintendent, Facilities and Environmental Services
Ms. C. Faber, Superintendent, Learning Innovation
Ms. C. Male on behalf of Mr. B. Grundy, Superintendent, Finance and Supply Chain Services
Dr. C. Oishi, Superintendent, Human Resources
Mr. B. Brunton, Chief Communications Officer
Mr. G. Francis, General Counsel, Legal Services (arrived at 1:50 p.m.)
Ms. J. Barkway, Corporate Secretary
Ms. D. Perrier, Recording Secretary

Stakeholder Representatives:

Mr. F. Bruseker, Alberta Teachers’ Association, Local 38
Ms. K. Lloyd, Calgary Association of Parents and School Councils
Mr. J. Pantazopoulos, Calgary Association of Parents and School Councils
Ms. L. Robb, Calgary Board of Education Staff Association
Mr. T. Cave, Principals’ Association for Adolescent Learners (PAALS)

1 | CALL TO ORDER, NATIONAL ANTHEM AND WELCOME

Chair Bowen-Eyre called the meeting to order at 12:01 p.m. and O Canada was led by Brittin, a grade 12 student from Central Memorial High School.

Chair Bowen-Eyre acknowledged and welcomed senior administrators and representatives from the aforementioned organizations. She also welcomed Ms. S. Hansen and her grade one students from Royal Oak School, and noted they are working in the historical classroom this week and learning about democracy in Calgary and in the boardroom.



Chair Bowen-Eyre provided clarification around the Board's acceptance of Trustee Taylor's resignation, stating the following:

"The CBE Board of Trustees called a special public meeting on Friday, October 3, 2014, after receiving a request from Trustee Sheila Taylor for a leave of absence. Prior to the commencement of the meeting, Trustee Taylor submitted her letter of resignation to the CBE's corporate secretary. The resignation was considered and it was unanimously accepted by the Board at the special meeting on October 3, 2014. The Board was prepared to entertain a motion allowing Trustee Taylor to be absent from three meetings, as is provided for in the School Act; however, the School Act does not allow a board to relieve a trustee from all of the duties and obligations that are present."

She noted that after the October 3, 2014 special meeting, she released the following statement:

"On Wednesday, October 1, 2014, the Board of Trustees received a request for a leave of absence from Trustee Taylor. Upon a review of the School Act we believe that leaves are not permitted. As a result, we met with Trustee Taylor and reviewed the matter. We respect her decision to resign. This reflects our shared understanding of the interpretation of the School Act."

On behalf of the Board of Trustees, Chair Bowen-Eyre thanked Ms. Taylor for her years of service to CBE students, parents, and schools that she has worked with. She stated that Ms. Taylor's contributions to the Board are respected and it was a pleasure working with her. The Board wishes Ms. Taylor all of the best.

Chair Bowen-Eyre pointed out that the School Act authorizes a board to hold a by-election in a case such as this; however, so long as there is only one vacancy on the board it is not required to hold a by-election. It is extremely costly to hold a by-election and preliminary research indicates that at this point, specific to Wards 11 and 13, it would cost approximately \$150,000. The Board will consider its options, the logistics of holding a by-election, consult with members of the public, and move forward in the best interests of CBE students. The Chair expressed assurance to students, parents and staff that the Board will look after the interests of Wards 11 and 13 going forward. The Board is committed to ensuring the guiding principles for all behaviour and action of the CBE continues to be that students come first, learning is our central purpose and public education serves the common good.

2 | CONSIDERATION/APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Corporate Secretary J. Barkway noted one request for public comment under Item 4.0.

MOVED by Trustee Hehr:

THAT the Agenda for the Regular Meeting of October 7, 2014 be approved as submitted.

The motion was
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.



3 | **AWARDS AND RECOGNITIONS**

3.1 **Lighthouse Award**

Superintendent Faber shared that the Lighthouse Award recipient this month is Free the Children, which is an international charity and educational partner that believes in a world where all children are free to achieve their fullest potential as agents of change. The CBE has partnered with Free the Children for eight years and last year had 130 schools participate in the “We Act” program.

Two students shared their experiences with the program: Iman, a grade 9 student at Simon Fraser School, and Logan, a grade 11 student at Robert Thirsk School. They commented on the importance for all generations to take responsibility to make change happen for children worldwide. The opportunities they experienced through the program included feelings of empowerment, inspiration and motivation, leadership skills, and seeing first-hand how their work through this program has impacted change and has brought effective results for children in need.

On behalf of Free the Children, Ms. T. Schiewe provided comments of appreciation for the partnership and elaborated on the benefits achieved through student participation in projects that have been completed and projects that are underway. Chair Bowen-Eyre presented the Lighthouse Award to the group representing Free the Children and, on behalf of the CBE, shared words of appreciation for the partnership.

4 | **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Chair Bowen-Eyre noted that Ms. Lloyd had provided a written request to give a 5-minute public speech at this meeting, to which the Board gave its consent.

4.1 **Ms. K. Lloyd, President, Calgary Association of Parents and School Councils (CAPSC)**

Ms. Lloyd stated that CAPSC has been the recognized vehicle for school parent action in the city of Calgary and with the CBE for many years. She noted that school parents are a critical and valued part of the education picture. She expressed her belief that the partnership between CAPSC and the Board is necessary for the benefit of the children. Ms. Lloyd shared comments about how CAPSC differs from a school council and from the Council of School Councils (COSC). She stated that CAPSC provides the city with a positive, collaborative school parent action group and it is her belief that in order to be effective this action group needs to be 4 things:

1. It has to be independent of the Board.
2. The organization has to have its own legal identity so that it can have its own insurance and liability.
3. There must be “ties that bind” between the Board and the parent action group. If funding is cut, then there are no “apron strings” left between the two groups and it would be very easy for parents to become less supportive.



4. The effective parent action group should have recognized stakeholder status with the Board.

Ms. Lloyd commented on the various actions CAPSC has undertaken in support of schools and she gave a brief explanation of how CAPSC manages its funds. In conclusion she remarked that it is in the Board's best interest both structurally and even financially to continue to support CAPSC with a small grant of \$3000 and with the stakeholder status.

5 | RESULTS FOCUS

There were no items.

6 | OPERATIONAL EXPECTATIONS

6.1 OE-3: Treatment of Owners – Annual Monitoring

Chief Superintendent Stevenson provided a brief summary of the Operational Expectations policy and noted that the report indicates compliance, with exceptions in sections 3.1 and 3.2.

Chair Bowen-Eyre pointed out that trustees are to determine whether the Chief Superintendent is in compliance with OE-3: Treatment of Owners, and if the Board is satisfied that its policy values are being complied with. She noted that any decision or comment of the Board of Trustees around non-compliance of the Operational Expectations policy, or any part of it, is in no way intended to be a vote of non-confidence for the Chief Superintendent.

In keeping with the new Board Meeting Procedures, the Chair clarified that Board decisions may be spread over two public Board meetings – the first meeting will accommodate questions and a more fulsome discussion prior to making any decision at the second meeting.

Administration responded to trustee questions on issues including: the variance in volume of complaints received; communications to the public on how the CBE receives and processes complaints; reasons why unique settings do not have a school council; the records management program timeline towards adherence to Generally Accepted Recordkeeping Principles and building organizational capacity.

Chair Bowen-Eyre asked trustees to identify their intentions to bring forward any motions related to compliance or commendation with OE-3: Treatment of Owners. Trustee Stewart indicated her intention to bring a motion forward that the Chief Superintendent is in compliance with the exception of policy section 3.1. Trustee Ferguson indicated her intention to bring forward a motion commending the Chief on the increase of parental involvement as measured by Alberta Education's Accountability Pillar Survey.

Chair Bowen-Eyre stated that the report will be placed on the agenda for the regular meeting of the Board on October 14, 2014 for decision.



7 | **MATTERS RESERVED FOR BOARD ACTION**

7.1 **Trustee Liaison Report - Calgary Association of Parents and School Councils (CAPSC)**

As trustee liaison to CAPSC, Trustee Hurdman provided introductory remarks. Chair Bowen-Eyre affirmed that Ms. Lloyd and Mr. Pantazopoulos were available to assist with responses to questions. The Chair clarified that the report was before the Board today for questions and discussion, and it would be on the October 14, 2014 meeting agenda for debate.

Ms. Lloyd answered some questions posed by trustees and shared her perspective on various issues that were raised. A summary of the discussion is as follows:

- Information was shared about how CAPSC evolved and became the official voice of parents as a stakeholder group with the CBE. It was noted that the CBE has school council representation on the Alberta School Councils Association (ASCA), and the trustees currently share with school councils, through the Council of School Councils (COSC), system work and educational issues. In the past, the CBE had a Key Communicator program where a school council representative attended system meetings.
- Discussion ensued on past and future initiatives to build the CAPSC membership.
- A trustee commented on the Board's offer to pay for school council memberships on ASCA, and suggested that the Board could discuss offering a choice to school councils to have a paid membership on either ASCA or CAPSC.
- Ms. Lloyd shared her understanding of the differences between ASCA and CAPSC and the work done by each group. She noted that CAPSC has just recently been granted associate membership status with ASCA. ASCA provides workshops, training, online support, engagement, and a host of other services that encompass the entire province. CAPSC is focused essentially on the concerns of Calgary parents and residents in support of local school issues.
- Administration noted that the CBE provides additional supports to CAPSC but the amount is not quantifiable. That support has been given through communications, the use of facilities and the provision of professional staff to give presentations to CAPSC. The understanding now is that all requests from CAPSC for access to support would come through the Board of Trustees to the Chief Superintendent so that those costs can be quantified in the future.
- The CBE grant that was awarded to CAPSC in the past, in the amount of \$7800 covered the costs of insurance, a communications contract and other incidental costs. Ms. Lloyd informed that CAPSC's role has moved towards an action committee and it is necessary to have independent status in order to have insurance and liability to perform city-wide events and initiatives.
- Groups that are registered under the Alberta Societies Act can more easily access grants. CAPSC has applied for grants in the past but, typically, they are designed for a school or a much larger group. The Alberta Traffic Safety grant was an exception



because of CAPSC's success in the previous year with the traffic safety awareness program, which was beneficial to the entire population of the city.

- CAPSC has the use of a CBE facility once a month at no cost. Administration agreed to provide information at a later date to the Board showing what the costs would be if rent or a lease payment was applied.
- It was noted there are other groups and organizations that access CBE facilities at no cost. The Superintendent's team reviews requests for free use of CBE space on an annual basis and may grant approval if it is deemed that the organization contributes more than the cost of the space.

Chair Bowen-Eyre noted that the item would be placed on the October 14, 2014 Regular Board meeting agenda for consideration of the recommendation.

Recessed: 1:30 p.m.

Reconvened: 1:50 p.m.

7.2 New School, Modernization and Modular Ranking Criteria

Superintendent Coppinger provided opening remarks and Ms. D. Unruh, Director, Planning and Transportation, provided an overview of the ranking criteria for new schools, modernizations and modular classrooms, and the public involvement in this process. Ms. A. Trombley, Manager, Planning, shared the current criteria used for ranking and the revised criteria based on public feedback. A PowerPoint slideshow supplemented the written and verbal presentation.

Administration responded to questions pertaining to the new criteria for school capital planning priorities, public participation throughout the process, ongoing methods of communication, and the analysis for determining future high school needs. Additional questions and responses are summarized as follows:

- With respect to a question of whether there are shifts in priorities as a result of the new criteria, Administration noted that the new three-year school capital plan reflects the latest growth projections, which is more of a factor for shifts in prioritization. If the new formula were applied to last year's projection it would amount to one or two changes in ranking, but all schools ranked at the top of the list would remain there.
- Reference was made to the notes at the bottom of page 7-26 of the report, pertaining to the ranking methodology for starter schools. It is possible that in the future we may see three phases of development in starter schools and the ranking would initially begin with deducting the total number of students that the first phase could accommodate.
- Administration informed that the ranking criteria for new schools and modernizations have been periodically reviewed since 2002 and this new criteria should be valid for the next three to four years, depending on the political element involved. This is the first time for ranking modular classrooms.



At 2:58 p.m. Chair Bowen-Eyre received the consent of Board to continue the meeting to the completion of the agenda.

Chair Bowen-Eyre noted that the Board will debate the recommendation to approve the new school, modernization and modular ranking criteria on October 14, 2014.

8 | **CONSENT AGENDA**

Chair Bowen-Eyre declared the following items to be adopted as submitted.

8.1 Approval of Minutes

- Regular Meeting of the Board held September 16, 2014
- Regular Meeting of the Board held September 23, 2014

THAT the Board of Trustees approves the minutes of the Regular Meetings held September 16 and September 23, 2014, as submitted.

8.2 Disposition of Reserve Lands - Tuscany

THAT the Board of Trustees approves the disposition of a 1.5 acre portion of reserve lands in the community of Tuscany to the City of Calgary, subject to approval by the Minister of Education.

8.3 Items Provided for Board Information

The following reports were provided to the Board for information.

8.3.1 EducationMatters Financial Statements as at July 31, 2014

8.3.2 Chief Superintendent's Update

8.3.3 Trustee Liaison Report – Alberta School Boards Association (ASBA) Board of Directors

Chair Bowen-Eyre shared that the items on the in-camera agenda include confidential personal information and system information that is embargoed until an announcement is made by the Minister of Alberta Education on October 8, 2014.

Recessed: 3:05 p.m.

Reconvened: 3:22 p.m.

9 | **IN-CAMERA ISSUES**

9.1 Motion to Move In Camera

MOVED by Trustee Hurdman:

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, October 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.

9.2 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.

9.3 Motion to Action In-Camera Recommendation

MOVED by Trustee King:

THAT the Board of Trustees approves the recommendation as contained in the 2014 Calgary Board of Education's Distinguished Alumni Selection Committee report.

The motion was
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

10 | ADJOURNMENT

Chair Bowen-Eyre declared the meeting adjourned at 5:09 p.m.

