

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, April 11, 2017 at 12:00 noon

MEETING ATTENDANCE

Board of Trustees:

Trustee J. Bowen-Eyre, Chair
Trustee L. Ferguson
Trustee J. Hehr
Trustee J. Hrdlicka
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. D. Breton, Superintendent, Facilities and Environmental Services
Ms. J. Everett, Superintendent, Learning
Mr. B. Grundy, Superintendent, Finance/Technology Services
Ms. M. Martin-Esposito, Chief Communications Officer
Ms. K. Fenney, Assistant General Counsel/Corporate Secretary
Ms. K. Maxwell, Recording Secretary

Stakeholder Representatives:

Ms. C. Arbuckle, Senior High School Principals’ Association
Mr. K. Kempt, Alberta Teachers’ Association, Local 38
Mr. T. Killam, Canadian Union of Public Employees (CUPE), Local 40
Mr. S. Klukas, Principals’ Association for Adolescent Learners
Ms. J. Richardson, Senior High School Principals’ Association
Ms. L. Robb, Calgary Board of Education Staff Association
Mr. D. Williams, Principals’ Association for Adolescent Learners

1 | CALL TO ORDER, NATIONAL ANTHEM AND WELCOME

Chair Bowen-Eyre called the meeting to order on the link at 12:00 and O Canada was led by the Westgate Festival Chorus from Westgate School. Trustee Hehr, ward trustee, expressed appreciation on behalf of the Board and the meeting resumed in the Multipurpose Room.

Chair Bowen-Eyre 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. She acknowledged and welcomed staff, the public and representatives from the aforementioned organizations.

The Chair also welcomed Ms. S. Welsh and her Grade 2 students from Banting and Best School who have moved their classroom to the downtown community to investigate the idea of “How can we explore the past through the eyes of young writers?” Students have met with Deputy Chief Church and have worked with Niki Ferri from Bentall Kennedy to learn about the CBE being in a LEED building; and will meet with Trustee Hehr and will explore public art and public parks in the surrounding community.

2 | **CONSIDERATION/APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Ms. K. Fenney, Corporate Secretary noted the addition of a public comment. This item will be moved up the agenda so that it directly follows item 4.2 *Languages Information Report*.

MOVED by Trustee King:

THAT the Agenda for the Regular Meeting of April 11, 2017 be approved, as submitted, subject to the above-noted changes.

The motion was
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

3 | **AWARDS AND RECOGNITIONS**

There were none.

4 | **RESULTS FOCUS**

4.1 **School Presentation – Westgate School**

Director C. Davies, Area 7, welcomed Westgate School to the Boardroom. The school offers French Immersion and Spanish Bilingual programming to 665 students from Kindergarten to Grade 6. He introduced Principal S. Fehr to share how Westgate School have been working on Results 2 – Academic Success; specifically in the area of Languages.

Principal Fehr explained that Westgate School has narrowed their school development plan to focus on oral communication. He noted the school personalizes second language learning using student data to shape instruction. Students Brodie, Adam, Tristan, Sebastian, Emma, London, Devon, Ruby and Karson shared their experiences in either the French Immersion or the Spanish Bilingual program; teacher M. Julien shared a video of a recent Professional Learning Community discussion regarding how to personalize instructional response based on student evidence; and Assistant Principal A. McCrudden noted the intentional work teachers do to advance the ability of students to communicate purposefully and fluently in a second language while simultaneously promoting literacy.

On behalf of the Board, Trustee Hehr expressed appreciation for the presentation.

4.2 **Languages Information Report**

Chief Superintendent Stevenson shared opening remarks noting that this is the 6th in the series of information reports related to the subject areas identified within Results 2:

Academic Success. The report focuses on Language Arts in bilingual school settings, French as a Second Language, and Language and Cultural courses. Superintendent Everett provided highlights of the report noting the CBE offers a total of 10 different language programs including French, American Sign Language, Blackfoot, Cree, Spanish, Mandarin, German, Italian, Arabic and Punjabi. She noted one correction in the report; on page 4-11 it should say the percentage of students meeting learning expectations in German Language Arts from Kindergarten to Grade 6 is 94.7%.

With the aid of a PowerPoint and video presentation, Specialists A. Fleischer and R. Radetzky, supported by Director D. Roulson, provided detailed information related to student achievement in Languages during the 2015-16 school year. They reviewed outcomes and report card data, by grade and stem, for the Language Arts in Bilingual Programs of Study, French as a Second Language and the Language and Culture Programs of Study. The presentation concluded with actions planned for 2016-17.

Administration responded to trustee questions on issues including: whether the slight decline in student achievement in grade 7 is related to late immersion; the number of students in the Chinese (Mandarin) bilingual program; attrition rates for bilingual programs; the relationship between the high achievement results and the fact that languages are a program of choice and/or for the student it is a heritage language; whether language programs are available in all areas of the city; the Nose Creek French as a Second Language intensive Grade 5 and 6 program; curriculum development and the curriculum re-design; how it is decided which languages are offered at which schools; whether there are any common performance tasks or assessments across the system or province; and frequency of meetings for the professional learning communities.

The Chair noted this report is being received for information as part of the Results 2: Academic Success and will be rolled-up with the other information reports and monitored later in the year.

6 | PUBLIC COMMENT

Mr. M. Shaikh, Chair, EducationMatters shared that in 2016 the organization distributed \$1.56 million in grants and \$430,000 in student awards to support student development, and received over \$1.6 million in donations. Since the organization's 2003 inception it has distributed \$11 million in program grants and student awards, received \$15 million in gifts from donors, and grown its endowment portfolio to 4.8 million. He noted the organization believes students come first and every student matters.

The Chair thanked Mr. Shaikh and acknowledged the several members of the EducationMatters board in the audience.

5 | OPERATIONAL EXPECTATIONS

5.1 OE-9: Communicating With the Public – Annual Monitoring

Chair Bowen-Eyre noted that this report was introduced at the April 4, 2017 meeting where trustees posed questions and received clarification on various issues. The Board must now formally act on the monitoring report to determine compliance with this policy.

MOVED by Trustee Stewart:

1. **THAT the Board of Trustees finds that the Chief Superintendent is in compliance with the provisions of OE-9: Communicating With the Public; and**
2. **THAT the Board of Trustees commends the Chief Superintendent for the development of a community engagement framework that seeks the advice, viewpoints, comments and opinions from the public with clear expectations for how we input these views.**

In debate of the motion trustee comments included: the AERR (Annual Education Results Report) and the Three-Year Education Plan more than meets the requirements of sub-section 9.2, therefore the Chief Superintendent is in compliance with OE-9 without any exceptions; the transportation engagement enabled the public to efficiently communicate their concerns and as result there was a noted decrease in direct communications to trustees regarding transportation; and the *dialogue* framework has created a cultural transformation within the CBE and the broader community of Calgary facilitating conversations between stakeholders.

The Chair called for a vote on the motion.

The motion was
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Recessed: 1:30 p.m.
Reconvened: 1:55 p.m.

5.2 Budget Assumptions Report

Chief Superintendent Stevenson provided opening remarks explaining that the Budget Assumptions Report (BAR) 2017-18 lays out the plan for next year's budget. He noted the CBE expects to receive \$1.4 billion in funding; however due to unfunded expenses such as salary grid movement, the carbon tax, increasing utility costs and the costs of operating new schools, a \$38.6 million deficit is projected. He noted a system-wide approach guided by the CBE's values; students come first, learning is our central purpose, and public education serves the common good; will be used to close this funding gap.

Superintendent Grundy shared highlights of the BAR noting projected overall revenue, Alberta Education funding, Resource Allocation Method (RAM) funding, and the expected available operational and capital reserves. He detailed various measures the report proposes for closing the \$38.6 million funding gap. He noted the proposed measures will prioritize "staff over stuff".

Administration responded to trustee questions on issues including: projected impact of the budget assumptions on a typical school; changes to the Resource Allocation Method (RAM); details related to, and the potential impact of, Bill 1 the proposed legislation to reduce school fees; service unit reductions, and more specifically the impact on schools and union processes for managing staff cutbacks; capital, operating and school-based reserves; supports for students with complex needs and LEAD (Literacy, English and

Academic Development) classes; funding required to maintain current service levels; daily cost to operate the CBE; expenses the province does not fund; possible efficiencies related to delivering custodial services; examples of possible long term savings; Infrastructure Maintenance & Repair (IMR) funding; the continuing conversation with Alberta Education to define basic education and the appropriate level of funding; parent donations to schools; aligning school start and end times to create transportation efficiencies; and the process for determining budget balancing strategies.

Chair Bowen-Eyre noted that the Budget Assumptions report was provided for information to the Board and no decision was required.

6 | PUBLIC COMMENT

This appears after *Item 4.2*

7 | MATTERS RESERVED FOR BOARD ACTION

7.1 Proposed Amendment to Governance Policies: External Resource Allocation Review

Chair Bowen-Eyre asked Trustee Hurdman to introduce the report and Trustee Hurdman indicated the report could go directly to comments and questions on issues including: cost, scope, timing, goals and potential benefits of an external review; the Toronto and Vancouver Schools Boards use of an external review during a time of crisis; and the process and timing of the trustee agenda request for this amendment.

Administration responded to questions on issues including: practices of other school boards related to external reviews and the use of benchmarks to compare the CBE to other jurisdictions.

A recess was called so trustees could consult with the Corporate Secretary regarding options for handling the two motions noted in the report.

Recessed: 3:40 p.m.
Reconvened: 4:12 p.m.

Trustee Hurdman continued answering questions on issues including: benefit of limiting the review to centralized services; the intent of the review related to contracting out services and centralized versus site-based support; and how the proposed amendment would be different from B/CSR-5, 5.2 b which allows for an external review by a third party.

MOVED by Trustee Hurdman:

- 1. THAT the Board of Trustees gives first reading to the amendment of GC-3: Board Job Description, and**
- 2. THAT the Board of Trustees directs the Chief Superintendent to inform the Board prior to May 23, 2017, of organizational impacts that would result from these proposed changes.**

In debate of the motion trustee comments included: an external resource allocation review would ensure efficient use of resources, increase the public's trust, and provide expert support to an elected board; a review is unnecessary as the CBE operates in a very efficient manner and exists in a highly regulated environment; governance policy B/CSR-5, 5.2 allows for an external review; the scope of the proposed review would exclude the majority of costs and cost drivers; the system regularly reviews best practices and utilizes outside expertise when necessary; the review would be an additional cost during a time when there is a funding gap; the amendment aligns with the Board's values and is not overly prescriptive, an external review could provide concrete evidence of underfunding; and concern was expressed that there is not enough information to make an informed decision on this matter at this time.

MOVED by Trustee Hehr:

THAT the Board of Trustees refers the proposed policy amendment to GC-3 to an ad hoc committee to assess and make recommendations on the feasibility of the engagement of a third party for an internal resource allocation review.

Trustee Hehr responded to questions on issues including: whether this could be referred to the Audit Committee or a new ad hoc committee would be created; membership, terms of reference and mandate; and how this motion is different from asking the Chief Superintendent for organizational impacts.

The Corporate Secretary and Chair provided policy clarification regarding: the creation of an ad hoc committee; the establishment and adoption of terms of reference; the use of an existing ad hoc committee; the purpose of the ad hoc committee; and whether the motion to create an ad hoc committee would be a motion arising out of a past motion or a motion of referral.

Following discussion, the Board Chair re-stated Trustee Hehr's motion which included friendly amendments that were accepted by Trustee Hehr, as follows:

THAT the Board of Trustees refers the proposed policy amendment to GC-3 to an ad hoc committee to assess and make recommendations on the implications of the engagement of an external third party for an internal resource allocation review.

The Board Chair made a friendly amendment that the motion will need a date by which the committee will report to the Board. Trustee Hehr responded her recommended date is November 30, 2017.

For clarification purposes the motion, incorporating the date, reads as follows:

THAT the Board of Trustees refers the proposed policy amendment to GC-3 to an ad hoc committee to assess and make recommendations on the implications of the engagement of an external third party for an internal resource allocation review, and report back to the Board by November 30, 2017.

In debate of the motion trustee comments included: the ad hoc committee would define the scope of the review which would enable Administration to provide a more precise

impact statement; defining the scope is not needed as the policy would allow for a variable scope; alternate approaches could be explored to examine inadequate funding; an ad hoc committee would be time-intensive; the need for additional information before making a decision should be respected; the ad hoc committee might not provide the needed information; the appropriate venue for bringing forward the creation of an ad hoc committee is the agenda planning committee which allows terms of reference to be developed for Board approval; with an ad hoc committee the proposed amendment would be discussed for a longer period of time which potentially could result in a more precisely worded amendment.

The Chair called for a vote on the motion.

The motion was
DEFEATED.

In favour: Trustee Bowen-Eyre
Trustee Ferguson
Trustee Hehr

Opposed: Trustee Hrdlicka
Trustee Hurdman
Trustee King
Trustee Stewart

In the second round of debate on the main motion, trustee comments included: the proposed policy amendment possibly overrides the Chief Superintendent's responsibility; the CBE is not in crisis and therefore does not need an external review; in times of crisis, stability or surplus a review would ensure funding is appropriately allocated; having a policy which directs a regular external review removes the potential for a conflict-motivated use of governance policy B/CSR-5, 5.2; better communication of already existing oversight mechanisms, internal controls and efficacy reviews could be used to increase public trust; it may be more impactful to work with the province to change the funding framework; and an external resource allocation review could provide evidence of underfunding.

The Chair called for a vote on the motion.

The motion was
DEFEATED.

In favour: Trustee Hrdlicka
Trustee Hurdman
Trustee Stewart

Opposed: Trustee Bowen-Eyre
Trustee Ferguson
Trustee Hehr
Trustee King

8 | CONSENT AGENDA

The Chair noted that items on the consent agenda are approved with the agenda as follows:

8.1 Locally Developed Courses

1. THAT the Board of Trustees approves the following newly developed senior high Locally Developed Courses** for use in Calgary Board of Education schools from September 1, 2017 to August 31, 2021:

Academic Success for English Language Learners

Level: 15, 25, 35 Credits: 3 and 5

Design Thinking for Innovation

Level: 15, 25, 35 Credits: 3 and 5

Film & Media Art

Level: 15, 25, 35 Credits: 3 and 5

Expanded Core Curriculum-Visually Impaired Technology

Level: 15, 25, 35 Credits: 3 and 5

2. THAT the Board of Trustees approves the following newly acquired senior high Locally Developed Courses for use in Calgary Board of Education schools from September 1, 2017 to their expiry date:

Edmonton School District No. 7

Dance Twelve-Year

Level: 15, 25, 35 Credits: 3 and 5

Northern Lights School Division

Russian Language and Culture (3Y)

Level: 15, 25, 35 Credits: 5

3. THAT the Board of Trustees approves the following newly acquired elementary and junior high Locally Developed Course for use in Calgary Board of Education schools from September 1, 2017 to their expiry date:

Edmonton School District No. 7

Dance Twelve-Year

Grade: 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9

4. THAT the Board of Trustees approves the following renewed elementary Locally Developed Course for use in Calgary Board of Education schools from September 1, 2017 to August 31, 2021:

French as a Second Language

Grade: K, 1, 2, 3

5. THAT the Board of Trustees approves the following expiring Locally Developed Course be removed from the approved senior high listing effective September 1, 2017:

Film Studies

Level: 15, 25, 35

Credits: 3 and 5

*** Alberta Education is currently reviewing these courses for significant overlap and adherence to Alberta Education Policy 1.2.1 – Locally Developed Course. Board approval of the above locally developed course is requested, provisional on confirmation of a successful review by Alberta Education.*

8.2 Items Provided for Board Information

8.2.1 Chief Superintendent's Update

8.2.2 Construction Projects Status Update

Recessed: 5:40 p.m.

Reconvened: 5:49 p.m.

9 | **IN-CAMERA SESSION**

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 April 11, 2017 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.

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.

10 | **ADJOURNMENT**

Chair Bowen-Eyre declared the meeting adjourned at 6:18 p.m.