

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, December 5, 2017 at 12:00 p.m.

MEETING ATTENDANCE

Board of Trustees:

Trustee T. Hurdman, Chair
Trustee A. Adams
Trustee M. Bradshaw
Trustee L. Davis
Trustee M. Dennis
Trustee R. Hehr
Trustee J. Hrdlicka

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. G. Francis, Superintendent, Human Resources/General Counsel
Mr. B. Grundy, Superintendent, Finance/Technology Services
Ms. M. Martin-Esposito, Chief Communications Officer
Ms. K. Fenney, Director, Legal Services, and Corporate Secretary
Ms. T. Minor, Associate Corporate Secretary
Ms. D. Perrier, Recording Secretary

Stakeholder Representatives:

Mr. M. Christison, Senior High School Principals’ Association
Mr. D. Dyck, Senior High School Principals’ Association
Mr. R. Hajee, Principals’ Association for Adolescent Learners (PAAL)
Mr. K. Kempt, Alberta Teachers’ Association, Local 38
Ms. L. Robb, Calgary Board of Education Staff Association
Ms. C. Turner, Elementary School Principals’ Association
Mr. D. Whitbread, Principals’ Association for Adolescent Learners (PAAL)
Mr. M. Wilson, Senior High School Principals’ Association

1 | CALL TO ORDER, NATIONAL ANTHEM AND WELCOME

Chair Hurdman called the meeting to order at 12:00 p.m. on the link and the Grade 9 Concert Band from Louis Riel School led the singing of O Canada. On behalf of the Board of Trustees, Trustee Hrdlicka expressed appreciation to the students for their pre-meeting performance and playing our national anthem.



The Chair called for a short recess, after which the meeting reconvened in the Multipurpose Room.

Chair Hurdman 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 representatives from the aforementioned organizations, members of the public and staff. She introduced Ms. S. Shillington-Vogan and her Grade 2 students from Royal Oak School, who have moved their classroom to the historical Dr. Carl Safran building for the week.

2 | **CONSIDERATION/APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Ms. T. Minor, Associate Corporate Secretary, noted that public comments would be moved to Item 4, and the Results Focus and Operational Expectations items renumbered accordingly. Item 8.2.2, 2017-2018 School Enrolment Report, was removed from the consent agenda for questions.

Trustee Davis shared her desire to withdraw Item 7.3, Proposed Third Party Mathematics Monitoring, and noted her intention to propose a motion on this matter at a later date.

MOVED by Trustee Adams:

THAT the Agenda for the Regular Meeting of December 5, 2017 be approved as submitted, subject to the above-noted revisions.

The motion was
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

3 | **AWARDS AND RECOGNITIONS**

3.1 **Lighthouse Award**

Superintendent Everett introduced this month's Lighthouse Award recipient as The Sheldon Kennedy Child Advocacy Centre (SKCAC). She noted that since its creation, SKCAC has been a leader in addressing issues related to child abuse. The Youth Champion Initiative is a collaborative program between SKCAC, the Canadian Mental Health Association, school administration and teachers that supports student leaders in identifying a concerned school topic and to develop an action plan to address these issues, to promote healthy relationships and positive mental health awareness. Students develop their leadership skills through summits which are held four times a year. During 2016-2017, the Youth Champion Initiative was in 18 high schools in Calgary and area.



Arielle, Ren and Ryleigh, students from Crescent Heights High School, and Mackenzie, Trenton, Yusor and Sarah, students from Robert Thirsk High School commented on their work as youth champions and the impacts that SKCAC has had in their schools.

In attendance from SKCAC were Mr. S. Kennedy, Co-founder, Ms. S. Austin, CEO, and Ms. K. Campbell, Education Coordinator. Mr. Kennedy commented further on their work and expressed appreciation for the recognition. On behalf of the Board of Trustees, Chair Hurdman thanked SKCAC for their valuable work and presented the group with the Lighthouse Award.

4 | PUBLIC COMMENT

4.1 Ms. L. Peace, Parent and Co-founder of The Skipping Stone Foundation

Ms. Peace shared her pronouns as “she, her and hers”. She stated that she has three sons, all CBE students and one of whom is transgender. She noted she is the co-founder of The Skipping Stone Foundation, a not-for-profit organization that supports and empowers trans and gender diverse youth. Ms. Peace expressed her appreciation to the CBE for making progress in supporting LGBTQ students and shared that she firmly believes the CBE is leading the charge in this. Ms. Peace noted the guidelines set out by CBE and the work of the SOGI team has been very successful. She expressed appreciation for the support her son received from the CBE during his transition. She noted there is a need for more professional development, training and discussions about how to actually implement the CBE’s guidelines, for the creation of a system-wide code of conduct, and through training be able to develop the capacity for everyone to operate from the same foundation.

4.2 Ms. E. Kelly, on behalf of the Calgary Sexual Health Centre (CSHC)

Ms. Kelly commended the work the CBE has been doing and continues to do to create safe and caring spaces for students and staff. She noted it is encouraging to see the CBE take a leadership role within the province to advocate for students through supporting events such as the Provincial Gay-Straight Alliance Conference. Ms. Kelly stated that the CSHC initiated the first provincial GSA network in 2012 and has seen GSAs within Alberta grow. She noted the proposed changes to the CBE Mission Statement to replace “his” and “her” to “their” is a significant sign to students, parents and community that CBE supports all identities. Ms. Kelly referenced the CBE’s Operational Expectations policy 11.2 and she noted that a whole school approach is needed to create a sense of belonging and a respect for diversity. She shared that CSHC is currently working with another school district and she felt that similar training would be excellent for CBE staff.

4.3 Ms. B. Silva, Communications Director, Support Our Students Alberta (SOS Alberta)

Ms. Silva noted it was her intent to speak to Item 7.3, Proposed Third Party Mathematics Monitoring, which was withdrawn from the agenda. Instead, she shared comments relative to Item 7.1, Proposed Amendments to CBE Mission Statement, for which SOS Alberta (Support Our Students Alberta Public Education Advocacy) is supportive. She

shared that SOS Alberta has proactively supported children of all walks, religions, identities and abilities, and they know that marginalized and disengaged children all too often become marginalized and disengaged adults. She noted that this can be prevented and that language matters. SOS Alberta has done collaborative work in support of Bill 24 and will continue to advocate for safe and caring spaces and accessible education for all students across Alberta.

4.4 Mr. K. Kempt, President, Alberta Teachers' Association, Local 38

Mr. Kempt withdrew his request to make a public comment at this time.

5 | **RESULTS FOCUS**

5.1 Louis Riel School Presentation

Ms. S. Smith, Director, Area 6, introduced the presentation and shared comments about the learning environment at Louis Riel School. She noted the presentation would demonstrate the intentional work at Louis Riel School around Results 2: Academic Success. She introduced Ms. H. Goodman, Principal, Ms. M. Bennett, Assistant Principal, and Ms. R. George, Learning Leader of Literacy, and noted they would share aspects of their school development plan, which focuses on instructional strategies to improve reading comprehension across the disciplines.

Ms. Goodman, Ms. Bennett and Ms. George commented on student achievement at Louis Riel School as seen through provincial achievement tests and report cards. They spoke about the school's significant focus on literacy over the past couple of years, the ways in which teacher capacity and practice has developed, and their vision for the future. A video presentation was shown of learning leaders and students sharing their reading comprehension strategies.

On behalf of the Board of Trustees, Trustee Hrdlicka expressed appreciation for the school presentation.

5.2 Results 2 Report Card Information Report: Part 1 Language Arts, Languages and Social Studies

Chief Superintendent Stevenson provided opening comments, noting this is the first of two report card information reports, with the second report to be presented to the Board in January 2018. Superintendent Everett provided a summary of the contents of the report: the data in the report represents report card assessments of multiple activities; over 110,000 inputs of data; includes information from K-9 across grades and within individual stems; and overall performance for K-12 and K-9. She noted the overall results in English Language Arts was over 90%; Additional Language Arts was over 91%; and Language and Culture was over 89%.

Administration responded to trustee questions on matters including: how overall achievement is determined; the report being on overall student achievement; the outcomes based reporting method that is used; standardized teacher assessment



practices; rationale for the reporting variance between the provincial achievement tests at the acceptable level and the 2016-17 report card results; the breakdown of percentage of students that achieve at the specific levels for the stem “reads to explore, construct and extend understanding” and the corresponding number of students that are English Language Learners or have an Individualized Program Plan; Knowledge and Employability data; and expectations for improvement in the dash 2 courses.

6 | OPERATIONAL EXPECTATIONS

6.1 OE-5: Financial Planning – Annual Monitoring

Chief Superintendent Stevenson provided opening remarks, noting that Administration believes itself to be in full compliance with all indicators within this operational expectations policy. He stated that the budget assumptions report presented in April 2017 and the subsequent budget report presented in June 2017 fully disclosed the CBE’s spending plan in support of the Board of Trustees’ approved Three-Year Education Plan, and noted that financial information is provided on a comparative basis to the prior year, by service units, by major category of revenue and expenditure, and on both summary and detail basis. Chief Stevenson stated that supporting information is comprehensive and in plain language and, together, these qualities support his commitment to public accountability and transparency. As further evidence, he noted that the Association of School Business Officials International awarded the CBE its Meritorious Budget Award for 2016-17 school year; and the CBE is in receipt of a clean audit opinion for the 2016-17 financial statements; deficit that was projected for the 2017-18 school year was fully covered by the use of operating reserves, and those reserves are projected to continue to exceed the targeted 1% of total expenses as of August 31, 2018. He stated that given the challenges inherent in public education, the CBE is in sound financial shape.

Administration addressed a trustee’s question in relation to policy subsection 5.8, and what the future fiscal situation means for conservative budgeting within the CBE and the options for consideration going forward.

6.2 OE-11: Learning Environment / Treatment of Students – Annual Monitoring

Chief Superintendent Stevenson provided opening remarks. Superintendent Everett highlighted the contents of the report and spoke to the matter of capacity building for indicator 11.4.2, which reported non-compliance.

Administration responded to trustee questions related to the Accountability Pillar Survey question on safe and caring schools.

Chair Hurdman asked trustees to identify their intentions to bring forward any motions related to compliance, exceptions or commendations for OE-5: Financial Planning, and for OE-11: Learning Environment/Treatment of Students, to the Corporate Secretary and to trustees by end of day Wednesday, December 6, 2017. She stated that if no motions come forward, the items will be placed on the Consent Agenda for the January 9, 2018

Regular Meeting with the motion that the Board approves that the Chief Superintendent is in compliance with the provisions of OE-5 and OE-11.

Recessed: 1:34 p.m.

Reconvened: 1:48 p.m.

7 | **MATTERS RESERVED FOR BOARD ACTION**

7.1 **Proposed Amendments to CBE Mission Statement – First Reading**

Trustee Hrdlicka provided an introduction to her proposal to amend the CBE Mission Statement, Results Policy 1. Trustee Hrdlicka stated her pronouns are she and her, and noted the practice of recognizing pronouns will become quite common at public events. She noted this practice creates safe and respectful learning environments at the CBE for LGBTQ2+ students, staff and families. She highlighted some of the steps and initiatives the CBE has taken in creating learning environments that are inclusive to all students, to enable them to focus on learning.

Administration responded to questions posed by trustees on issues including: changing the phrase “each student” to “all students”; the extent to which the Mission Statement is prevalent throughout the CBE; and the date for receipt of an impact statement from the Chief Superintendent, as proposed in the report.

Trustee Dennis raised a point of information regarding the history of the word “each student” in the Mission Statement. Chief Superintendent Stevenson advised that the inclusion of the word “each” in the Mission Statement was an intentional decision of prior boards to focus district strategy on each student. Director Roulson provided information on the evolution of the use of the word “their” as a singular pronoun.

MOVED by Trustee Hrdlicka:

- 1. THAT the Board of Trustees gives first reading to the amendment of Results Policy 1: Mission, as provided in the report; and**
- 2. THAT the Board of Trustees directs the Chief Superintendent to inform the Board prior to February 6, 2018 of significant organizational and financial impacts, if any, that would result from this proposed change.**

Trustee Dennis requested that the Impact Statement to be prepared by the Chief Superintendent also address the use of the phrase “all students”. Chair Hurdman received agreement from the Board of Trustees that the requested information be provided in the impact statement.

In debate of the motion trustee comments included: the leadership role that the CBE has attained to date in this area is commendable, but there is more work to be done; it is critical that the CBE’s mission statement supports inclusive learning environments for all students; it is important that people feel safe and included in our schools; revising the wording of this policy statement sends a message to the community that the Board



values each and every student; and broadening the mission statement to read “his, her and their” merits review in the Chief Superintendent’s impact statement.

Chair Hurdman called for the vote on the motion.

The motion was
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

7.2 Proposed Revisions to Board Meeting Procedures – First Reading

Trustee Davis provided opening remarks and highlighted the contents of the report. She spoke to the issue of trustees having a fiduciary duty to properly prepare for meetings and she reviewed the Board Meeting Procedures as they are currently worded.

MOVED by Trustee Davis:

1. **THAT the Board of Trustees gives first reading to the following amendments to its Board Meeting Procedures, under *G. Distribution of Agenda – Regular Meetings* be amended as follows:**
 - a. **“1. All regular meeting Agenda information will be circulated by the Corporate Secretary to Trustees and members of Administration, as appropriate, 14 days prior to the applicable meeting. In order to meet this schedule, signed reports and all information required to prepare the Agenda must be received in the Corporate Secretary’s Office by noon, 15 days prior to the meeting.”**
 - b. **“4. Agenda information for public meetings, including reports attached to the Agenda, shall be made available in an electronic format by the Corporate Secretary to the media and public 7 days prior to the respective meeting.”**
2. **THAT the Board of Trustees directs the Chief Superintendent to provide an impact statement of significant organizational impacts, if any, that would result from the proposed amendments. Such impact statement to be provided by February 13, 2018.**

In debate of the motion trustee comments included: anticipation that this is seen as collaborative between trustees and administration; an understanding that there are certain reports for which the proposed timelines may be conflicted; receiving reports 14 days in advance of a meeting is a nice idea, but the CBE is a large organization and it is a challenge to direct the Chief Superintendent to meet this obligation; looking forward to receiving the impact statement and whether this is doable; the proposal speaks to the fiduciary duty of trustees and enabling trustees to comprehensively do their work; it does take some time for a trustee to develop the capacity to get the work done; reports for decision are spread over two Board meetings, where at the first meeting a question and answer session is held, and at the second meeting the trustees debate and make their decision; the complexity of the organization demands that trustees have careful and



deliberate thought and oversight; and these timelines are important for the public to have confidence that their elected trustees are able to fulfill the commitments they made.

Chair Hurdman called for the vote on the motion.

The motion was
CARRIED.

In favour: Trustee Adams
 Trustee Bradshaw
 Trustee Davis
 Trustee Dennis
 Trustee Hehr
 Trustee Hurdman

Opposed: Trustee Hrdlicka

8 | **CONSENT AGENDA**

The Chair noted that Item 8.2.2 was removed from the consent agenda for questions and discussion at this time.

8.2.2 2017-2018 School Enrolment Report

Administration responded to a trustee's questions about the enrolment increase for Grades 4 to 6 and Grades 7 to 9; the decline in enrolment for Grades 1 to 3; and the process undertaken when an alternative program is at capacity and unable to accommodate all students who register for it.

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

8.1 First Quarter Budget Variance Report for 2017-18 Operating and Capital Budgets and Fall 2017 Budget Update – Revised

THAT the Board of Trustees authorizes submission of the Fall 2017 Budget Update to Alberta Education, as shown in Attachment I of the December 5, 2017 report.

8.2 Items Provided for Board Information

8.2.1 Chief Superintendent's Update

8.2.3 EducationMatters Financial Statements as at October 31, 2017

Chair Hurdman stated the Board of Trustees would meet in camera to discuss two labour issues and one land issue. She noted this is the last public Board meeting until the New Year and she wished everyone happy holidays.

Recessed: 2:42 p.m.

Reconvened: 3:05 p.m.



9 | **IN-CAMERA SESSION**

Motion To Move In Camera

MOVED by Trustee Adams:

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, December 5, 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 Bradshaw:

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

The motion was
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Motion To Action In-Camera Recommendation

MOVED by Trustee Bradshaw:

THAT the Board of Trustees approves the process for the Chief Superintendent's summative evaluation, as outlined in the attachment to the December 5, 2017 private report.

The motion was
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

10 | **ADJOURNMENT**

Chair Hurdman declared the meeting adjourned at 3:21 p.m.

