

CALGARY BOARD OF EDUCATION

Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees (the “Board”) held on Tuesday, April 28, 2020 at 12:00 p.m. through Skype

MEETING ATTENDANCE (Virtual)

Board of Trustees:

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

Administration:

Mr. C. Usih, Chief Superintendent of Schools
Mr. R. Armstrong, Superintendent, Human Resources
Mr. D. Breton, Superintendent, Facilities and Environmental Services
Ms. K. Fenney, General Counsel
Mr. B. Grundy, Superintendent, Finance/Technology Services
Ms. M. Martin-Esposito, Chief Communications Officer
Ms. J. Pitman, Superintendent, School Improvement
Dr. D. Yee, Superintendent, School Improvement
Ms. T. Minor, Corporate Secretary
Ms. D. Perrier, Board Administrator

1 | CALL TO ORDER, NATIONAL ANTHEM AND WELCOME

Chair Dennis called the meeting to order at 12:06 p.m. and O Canada was led by students from Fish Creek School by way of a pre-recorded video.

Chair Dennis 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 staff and the public participating in the virtual public Board meeting..

Chair Dennis provided the following remarks:

“This week is Education Week in Alberta. Every year, we have the opportunity to recognize the important role that education plays in our society. The current theme is ‘Learning is a Journey.’ I think we can safely say that this year, we have all been on an incredible learning journey.



Since in-school classes were cancelled in mid-March due to COVID-19, we have all had to adapt to new ways of working, teaching and learning.

This is different. We know that we can't possibly replicate what normally happens when students and educators are in classrooms side by side, but we can celebrate the many ways that teaching, learning and connecting are still happening.

Our system did a remarkable job of adjusting quickly. It has not been without challenges, but significant progress has been made and we continue to do our very best to support our students. Over 98 per cent of our 125,000+ students have moved to online learning, 14,000 Google Meet sessions are happening every week and over 6,000 Google Classroom sites have been created since spring break, serving about 80,000 students. Our middle school and high school students attend about 4,500 virtual classroom sessions every week.

Education is a community endeavour and this has never been highlighted more than it is now. We are all in this together! The University of Calgary is calling out for volunteer tutors to provide support to hundreds of students, families are becoming even more involved as they work hard to support their children learning from home and community partners are stepping forward in greater ways to support students.

Many families rely on schools to help feed their children. To date, we have distributed \$109,000 in grocery gift cards to schools that are in turn providing them to students and families. We have plans to distribute approximately \$280,000 to support students for May and June.

CBE nutrition partners have always worked to support children facing food insecurities. With the cancellation of classes, these partners realized that many students and families would be missing the nutrition supports they access daily. With deep gratitude, we recognize Brown Bagging for Calgary Kids, Calgary Meals on Wheels and the Calgary Food Bank, Breakfast Clubs of Canada and President's Choice Children's Charities.

Much work has been done to support students in getting access to the technology they need in this environment of remote learning. As of last week our IT department and schools had handed out approximately 2,400 student loaner devices - laptops, Chromebooks, iPads. The CBE continues to collaborate with the Electronic Recycling Association and Computers for Schools to obtain computers that can be passed on to students. Both of these organizations receive donations of used computer equipment, does the work of wiping the hard drive and then makes the equipment available to families through the CBE.

In addition, EducationMatters, Calgary's public education trust, has raised more than \$33,000 to buy technology for students who need it. Thank you to everyone who has made contributions to this campaign.

Connection is important. Relationships are important. We have seen parades where staff drive through the streets of the neighbourhoods where their schools are located in order to wave to their students. We are seeing videos created by staff and messages in school



windows letting students know that our staff are thinking of them, are missing them and are looking forward to when they can be learning and teaching side by side in our classrooms once again. Tributes from students to workers providing essential services, music teachers making music outside of long-term care residences, and students creating a positive message hotline for seniors in isolation. Every one of these actions have impact and remind us all that we are not taking this journey alone.

These are challenging times and adjusting to learning at home and being separated has not been easy. We are incredibly grateful for the way our students, staff, families and community have come together to face the challenges presented by this COVID-19 crisis.

Thank you so much. Take care and stay well.”

2 | **CONSIDERATION/APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Ms. Minor, Corporate Secretary, noted a request for the removal of Item 9.1.2, Revisions to the Schedule of Regular Meetings, from the consent agenda.

MOVED by Trustee Hurdman:

THAT the Board of Trustees approves the agenda for the Regular Meeting of April 28, 2020 as submitted, subject to the above-noted change.

The motion was
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

3 | **AWARDS AND RECOGNITIONS**

There were no awards or recognitions.

4 | **RESULTS FOCUS**

There were no reports or presentations.

5 | **OPERATIONAL EXPECTATIONS**

There were no reports.

6 | **PUBLIC COMMENT**

There were no public comments.

7 | **MATTERS RESERVED FOR BOARD INFORMATION**

There were no items.



8 | **MATTERS RESERVED FOR BOARD DECISION**

8.1 **Results 4: Personal Development – Annual Monitoring**

Chief Superintendent Usih provided context to the annual monitoring report for R-4: Personal Development, which provides evidence from the 2018-2019 school year.

Administration responded to trustee questions on matters including: the number of students who returned to school after dropping out; rationale for tracking students who dropped out and returned to post secondary education; the difference between credit rescue and credit recovery; the varied supports available at high school career centres and the collaborative undertaking for those opportunities to be available to all high school students; staff accessibility to the Go To Educator curriculum and training and Mental Health Online Resources for Educators modules; the risk-taking summary measure that decreases year by year from Grades 5 to 12; the physical health summary measure showing decreases year by year from Grades 5 to 12; cell phone policies, which are not mandated but are developed in collaboration with parents, students and the school community; the work that is being undertaken to develop a matrix language of bullying; examples of how student voice is encouraged from the entire breadth of students; the emotional healthy summary data and what it shows across schools; access to technology in a sustainable way; ways in which emotional wellbeing for individual students is collected; the technological communication summary measure; and the CBE's Digital Citizenship policy.

Recessed: 1:49 p.m.

Reconvened: 2:01 p.m.

MOVED by Trustee Hrdlicka:

THAT the Board of Trustees has reviewed the monitoring report on Results 4: Personal Development and concludes that reasonable progress is being made toward the ultimate achievement of this Results policy.

MOVED by Trustee Hrdlicka:

THAT the motion be amended by the addition of “with the exception of policy subsection 4.5.”

Trustee debated the amendment with comments including: the report shows there is a decline in overall agreement for three of the four indicators for policy stem 4.5; overall achievement for social health has declined the past year throughout all grades; there is clear evidence in this report that an exception is warranted; this is an area that needs attention; emotional health, while increased somewhat, requires further improvement; engagement with our communities is important to help see improvements overall and not just for students but for the community as well; it is clear students have an understanding of the choices they are making and have the ability to make different choices; the greater influences put on students by the system is appreciated; this is an important policy because it highlights student voice for what they are actually going through with social,



emotional, physical and mental health; and this is critical to students to be active citizens, to be engaged in their own lives and to build strong economies.

Chair Dennis called for the vote on the amendment.

The amendment was
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Trustees debated the motion, as amended, with comments including: in view of the policy overall, student strengths are improving in many areas and progress is being made towards the ultimate achievement of this results policy; reasonable progress is evident, especially through the report card data; schools have a wellbeing goal as part of their school development plans and it will be beneficial to see that data; results in the area of technology is impressive; and the report digs deep and shows where we are doing well and what the challenges are.

Chair Dennis called for the vote on the motion.

The motion was
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

9 | **CONSENT AGENDA**

Chair Dennis noted the following items approved as submitted with the consent agenda:

9.1 **Items Provided for Board Approval**

9.1.1 OE-2: Learning Environment/Treatment of Students

THAT the Board of Trustees approves that the Chief Superintendent is in compliance with the provisions of this policy.

9.1.2 Minutes of the Regular Meetings held:

- March 10, 2020
- March 17, 2020
- April 7, 2020

THAT the Board of Trustees approves the Minutes of the Regular Meetings held March 10, March 17, and April 7, 2020 as submitted.

9.2 **Items Provided for Board Information**

9.2.1 Impact of Proposed Changes to OE-2: Learning Environment/Treatment of Students and OE-3: Instruction Program

Chair Dennis stated that the Board would meet in camera following the public portion of the meeting to discuss one legal, two labour and three strategic planning matters. She noted the next public Board meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, May 19, 2020.



Recessed: 2:10 p.m.
Reconvened: 2:31 p.m.

10 | **IN-CAMERA SESSION**

All Trustees and Superintendents confirmed they were alone and in a location that no other person could hear them or any part of this meeting.

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, April 28, 2020, 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 Hehr:

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

The motion was
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

11 | **ADJOURNMENT**

MOVED by Trustee Hurdman:

THAT on adjournment the meeting adjourns to the call of the Chair.

The motion was
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

The meeting adjourned at 4:34 p.m.



Chair Dennis reconvened the April 28, 2020 Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees at 1:00 p.m. on Thursday, April 30, 2020 through Skype.

MEETING ATTENDANCE (Virtual)

Board of Trustees:

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

Administration:

Mr. C. Usih, Chief Superintendent of Schools
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Ms. J. Pitman, Superintendent, School Improvement
Dr. D. Yee, Superintendent, School Improvement
Ms. T. Minor, Corporate Secretary

All Trustees and Superintendents confirmed they were alone and in a location that no other person could hear them or any part of this meeting.

MOTION TO MOVE IN-CAMERA

MOVED by Trustee Hrdlicka:

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, April 28, 2020 and reconvened on April 30, 2020, 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.

Trustee Bradshaw departed a portion of the meeting due to a declared pecuniary interest in accordance with Section 88(1) of the *Education Act*.



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.

MOTIONS TO ACTION IN-CAMERA RECOMMENDATIONS

MOVED by Trustee Adams:

THAT the Board of Trustees approves revisions to the Schedule of Regular Meetings, to:

- 1. remove the public meeting scheduled for Tuesday, May 12, 2020 at 12:00 p.m. in the Multipurpose Room at 1221 - 8 Street SW, Calgary, Alberta; and**
- 2. add a private meeting to be held on Tuesday, May 12, 2020, commencing at 12:00 p.m. in Room T224 at 1221 – 8 Street SW, Calgary, Alberta.**

The motion was
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

ADJOURNMENT

Chair Dennis declared the meeting adjourned at 3:45 p.m.

