

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, September 3, 2013 at 3:00 p.m.

MEETING ATTENDANCE

Board of Trustees:

Trustee P. Cochrane, Chair
Trustee C. Bazinet
Trustee J. Bowen-Eyre
Trustee L. Ferguson
Trustee P. King
Trustee G. Lane
Trustee S. Taylor

Administration:

Ms. N. Johnson, Chief Superintendent of Schools
Mr. D. Stevenson, Deputy Chief Superintendent of Schools
Mr. F. Coppinger, Superintendent, Facilities and Environmental Services
Ms. C. Faber, Superintendent, Learning Innovation
Mr. D. Parsons, Superintendent, Learning Services
Mr. A. Jain, Acting Superintendent, Finance and Supply Chain Services
Dr. C. Oishi, Superintendent, Human Resources
Mr. G. Francis, General Counsel, Legal Services
Mr. R. Peter, Chief Communications Officer
Ms. J. Barkway, Corporate Secretary
Ms. D. Perrier, Recording Secretary

Stakeholder Representatives:

Mr. R. Anderson, Canadian Union of Public Employees, Local 40
Ms. L. Robb, Calgary Board of Education Staff Association
Mr. F. Bruseker, Alberta Teachers' Association, Local 38

1 | **CALL TO ORDER, NATIONAL ANTHEM AND WELCOME**

Chair Cochrane called the meeting to order at 3:00 p.m. and O Canada was led by students from Lord Beaverbrook High School's symphonic band and choir by way of a DVD recording.

Chair Cochrane acknowledged and welcomed representatives from the aforementioned organizations.

Chief Superintendent Johnson introduced and welcomed Mr. D. Parsons, Superintendent of Learning Services.

2 | **CONSIDERATION/APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Ms. J. Barkway, Corporate Secretary, noted that the proposed changes to the Agenda include the removal of Item 9.1, Chief Superintendent's Update from the Consent Agenda, for consideration following Item 8.3.

MOVED by Trustee King:

THAT the Agenda for the Regular Meeting of September 3, 2013, be approved as submitted, subject to the revision noted above.

The motion was
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

3 | **AWARDS AND RECOGNITIONS**

There were none.

4 | **RESULTS FOCUS**

4.1 **Summer Review**

Chief Superintendent Johnson provided a verbal update of the events that transpired in relation to the floods that occurred in June. A number of CBE schools were in the flood zone. Many decisions had to be made very quickly - some impacting our entire system, and others impacting only a single community. Throughout the floods and in the weeks since, the CBE has worked with various groups, including the Calgary Emergency Management Agency team "CEMA" to make decisions that put our students and their safety and their learning first. The decision to close schools and administrative offices was made to keep as many Calgarians off the roads as possible, as requested by the Mayor. The official spokesperson for our organization throughout the floods was the Mayor and Chief Burrell from the Calgary Fire Department. Through the assistance of CEMA, the CBE was able to access and evaluate each of its buildings in the flood affected areas and to develop a plan for action. The CBE assisted CEMA and The City of Calgary by providing space in many of its facilities for information and reception centres, for flood-aid distribution locations and for emergency shelters.

Many of the decisions during the first few days were made by the CBE senior leadership team, including issues surrounding personnel, logistics, facilities and human resources matters. Through CBE channels such as the website, staff insite, email, the public information line and media releases, information was shared about busing for students to write Diploma Exams, which was optional, when to report to work, and when to stay home and work if that was possible.

Chief Superintendent Johnson worked in concert with Chief Superintendent Strother of the Calgary Catholic School District to serve the entire Calgary community rather than individual school districts. The decision to keep schools closed from June 24-26 and

opening the schools for June 27 was made with the best interests of students and staff in mind, as well as the critical need to continue to follow the directions from CEMA.

She expressed appreciation for the hard and steadfast work of many individuals throughout this crisis, including CBE staff and the CBE senior leadership team, the Chief Superintendent of Calgary Catholic School District, and Alberta Education Field Services Manager and Zone 5 Manager. She also thanked the Government of Alberta and Alberta Education for their support. She extended special thanks to Superintendent Coppinger and to a number of CBE individuals for their constant and unwavering assistance in handling extensive issues.

Weekly meetings are held via teleconference between the CBE, Calgary Catholic, Christ the Redeemer, Foothills and the Canadian Rockies school districts and Alberta Education to keep up to date and to keep moving forward. Many people, including the Deputy Minister and Assistant Deputy Minister, have toured schools to see where progress is being made. Our schools and communities have played an important role in the decision making. Early in July, parents articulated their priorities which helped to focus attention on the best possible solution to address returning to school for all students. About 200 people showed up for a meeting in Area IV, many of whom had just been evacuated from their homes, and regardless of their recent tragedies the most important thing for them was to ensure that their children have a school to attend in the fall. The Minister of Alberta Education attended that meeting as an observer.

The CBE was hopeful that Rideau Park School would open in September, and began to make preparations to accommodate students from Elbow Park School elsewhere. We still do not have the official report on Elbow Park School from the insurance company and are hopeful to have that report by the end of this week. Rideau Park School opened for students on September 3, 2013.

The CBE met with smaller stakeholder groups of parents throughout July and August and heard that parents felt it was very important to keep the children together in their learning environment. Chief Johnson noted that at Eugene Coste School all but about 25 students were in attendance today, the first day back to school. The government's offer of 12 modular school units to accommodate the students from Elbow Park School for the next two years is appreciated. Students will be accommodated at Eugene Coste for only a temporary period of time, and with our growing population in Calgary, this school building will be much needed in the near future. Calgary Board of Education staff also met with community associations over the summer, at which time they also heard from City of Calgary council members, to consider several issues surrounding the placement of the modular schools. With respect to concerns of traffic and safety, the CBE continues to look at options such as staggering start and end times, parking solutions, and offering busing for Elbow Park students to the modular schools.

Chief Superintendent Johnson encouraged that everyone continue to work together as a community and to continue to provide ideas and solutions.

5 | **OPERATIONAL EXPECTATIONS**

5.1 **OE-2: Temporary Chief Superintendent Succession – Annual Monitoring**

Chair Cochrane noted that Trustees are to determine whether the Chief Superintendent is in compliance with OE-2: Temporary Chief Superintendent Succession, 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:

- A question was asked about the Board-approved indicator of compliance and whether the signed document confirming the names, positions and order of designates to the Chief Superintendent should be changed, in acknowledging that new employees may be hired throughout the year. It was pointed out that every time that the Chief Superintendent is away the Board is provided with a signed document indicating who the designated employee will be in the Chief's absence.
- The Chief Superintendent is required to submit an "Authorization for Travel" document for every proposed business trip. It was also noted that electronic access is always available for communicating.
- Consideration for when this policy takes effect is determined by whether or not the Chief Superintendent is in close enough proximity in the event of an emergency.
- The Chief Superintendent is accessible through her cell phone on weekdays and weekends should an emergency arise, unless she has designated another employee for temporary succession in her absence.

MOVED by Trustee Ferguson:

THAT the Board of Trustees approves that the Chief Superintendent is in compliance with the provisions of OE-2: Temporary Chief Superintendent Succession.

The motion was
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Motion Arising:

MOVED by Trustee Bowen-Eyre:

THAT the Board of Trustees requests that the Chief Superintendent reviews the interpretation, including the indicator of compliance, and submits a report to the Board for consideration by October 8, 2013.

In debate of the motion a trustee expressed the belief that it is necessary to revisit the interpretation and the indicators so that everyone has the same understanding in terms of temporary succession and what that means to the Board.

Chair Cochrane called for the vote on the motion.

The motion was
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

6 | PUBLIC COMMENT

There were no public comments.

7 | MATTERS RESERVED FOR BOARD ACTION

There were no items for consideration.

8 | BOARD CONSENT AGENDA

Chair Cochrane reminded the Board that Item 9.1 was removed from the Chief Superintendent's Consent Agenda. She declared the remaining items on the Consent Agenda to be approved as presented, as follows:

8.1 Approval of Minutes

- Regular Meeting held June 25, 2013

THAT the Board of Trustees approves the minutes of the Regular Meeting held June 25, 2013.

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 June 24, 2013 from Hon. Jeff Johnson, Minister, Alberta Education to School Board Chairs regarding Rebuilding our Schools and Communities.**
- **Letter dated June 20, 2013 from Mr. Neil Fenske, Executive Director, Alberta Education to Pat Cochrane, Board Chair regarding the joint protocol between the ASBA and Alberta Education for the release of the 2012/2013 Provincial Achievement Test and Diploma Examination Results.**
- **Letter dated August 15, 2013 from Mr. Wayne Drysdale, Minister, Alberta Infrastructure regarding the Capital for Emergent Projects (CEP) program.**
- **Letter dated August 8, 2013 from Hon. Jeff Johnson, Minister, Alberta Education to Pat Cochrane, Board Chair regarding the Three-Year School Capital Plan 2014-2017.**

8.3 CAPSC Funding Request

THAT the Board of Trustees approves the funding request for the Calgary Association of Parents and School Councils for the 2013/14 school year, in the amount of \$7,800.

9 | CHIEF SUPERINTENDENT CONSENT AGENDA

9.1 Chief Superintendent's Update

Trustees posed questions, which were addressed by Administration and are summarized as follows:

- Chief Superintendent Johnson commented on the redesign of report cards, noting that before the process was fully underway it somehow became public information. She acknowledged that to evolve and ultimately improve the report card and progress reporting we need to involve and consult with parents and guardians. She stated that it is important to have a consistent, system-wide practice that adapts to the province's move to a competency-based curriculum. It is the intent to look at a few schools to test this work out and to involve the entire community in those conversations.

Chief Superintendent Johnson stated that this is not a new initiative – it is a provincial initiative that stems from the work of Inspiring Education, which started a number of years ago. There are risks associated with change and those must be identified, understood and handled adequately.

- In regards to the budget cuts and impacts on our high schools, a better understanding of core class sizes will be known by September 30. The principals of high schools indicated in a survey that their mitigating strategies were based on values and on the focus that students come first. Each school has approached mitigation factors in a slightly different way, but they had common values.

The province has indicated that 27 students per high school classroom is an average over a system and that has nothing to do with core courses. The decision on the number of students per classroom is left to the principal of the high school.

Chief Superintendent Johnson commented on the feedback received from parents, staff and students, pertaining to the budget cuts to high schools. She noted that the feedback has for the most part been situational. She acknowledged that stress is being felt, as it is for our post-secondary students. We received no funding from the province for class size initiatives over and above Kindergarten to Grade 3. This issue did not rate among the calls received on the public information line of Communications over the summer.

- In response to a question about the data collected from students, teachers and parents, as noted in the first bullet under High School Success on page 9-3 of the report, Superintendent Faber shared her belief that this refers to the accountability pillar survey.
- The flood damage to schools, in addition to the three schools that had major damages, were 48 leaky roofs and approximately 22 schools experienced window leaks. The majority of the roof repair costs were under \$5,000. All repairs to the roofs and windows are expected to be completed by the end of this month. The

insurance consortium gave approval to the school board to undertake the repairs and to charge back those costs to the insurance company. This will have no impact on either our capital or operating budget.

- Administration does not know at this time what the future is for Elbow Park School. The province has indicated to the community that it would be rebuilt, but Administration is uncertain of the full details of that. Administration expects that by the beginning of next week they will receive a report on the engineers' recommendations to the insurance companies and the insurance company's conclusion of the reasonable options to move ahead. The engineers' report on the status of Elbow Park School is owned by the insurance company.
- With respect to the current relocation of the students from Elbow Park School, it is not to be considered as a school closure.

A trustee expressed that if the Board could obtain a written commitment by the Minister of Education for the verbal promises regarding Elbow Park School and on the accommodation of those students, she would feel more comfortable in speaking with parents and stakeholders. Further comments were shared by trustees and it was agreed that the Board Chair should contact the Minister of Education to request a meeting with him to discuss flood relief activities in relation to CBE schools.

A trustee thanked the Chief Superintendent for the update and noted that it was very informative.

MOVED by Trustee King:

THAT the Board of Trustees receives the Chief Superintendent's Update for information.

The motion was
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Recessed: 4:30 p.m.
Reconvened: 4:48 pm

10 | **IN-CAMERA ISSUES**

10.1 **Motion to Move In Camera**

MOVED by Trustee Ferguson:

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, September 3, 2013, 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 Bowen-Eyre:

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 King:

THAT the Board of Trustees requests that the Chief Superintendent provide further information by September 17, 2013 to the Board as discussed in the in-camera session.

The motion was
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

MOVED by Trustee Lane:

THAT the Board of Trustees receives the *Employment Contract* report for information.

The motion was
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

11 | **ADJOURNMENT**

Chair Cochrane declared the meeting adjourned at 5:14 p.m.