

CALGARY BOARD OF EDUCATION

Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees held in the Board Room, Education Centre, 515 Macleod Trail SE, Calgary, Alberta on Tuesday, May 4, 2010 at 5:00 p.m.

MEETING ATTENDANCE

Board of Trustees

Present:

Trustee P. Cochrane, Chair
Trustee C. Bazinet
Trustee G. Dirks
Trustee L. Ferguson
Trustee P. King
Trustee K. Kryczka

Absent:

Trustee G. Lane

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
Ms. D. Lewis, Superintendent, Learning Support
Ms. B. Kuester, Executive Director of Communications
Mr. R. Peden, General Counsel and Corporate Secretary
Mr. W. Braun, Interim Chief Financial Officer/Treasurer
Mr. C. Davies, Sr. Executive Assistant to the Chief Superintendent of Schools
Ms. J. Barkway, Assistant Corporate Secretary
Ms. S. Wasylyshyn, Executive Assistant to the Trustees
Ms. D. Perrier, Recording Secretary

Stakeholder Representatives

Mr. B. Anderson, Canadian Union of Public Employees, Local 40
Mr. A. Engelhardt, Alberta Teachers' Association, Local 38
Ms. J. Hugill, Elementary School Principals' Association
Ms. J. Minifie, Calgary Board of Education Staff Association
Ms. R. Morley Anderson, Elementary School Principals' Association
Ms. L. Shutiak, Calgary Association of Parents and School Councils (arrived at 5:48 p.m.)

Action By

1.0 CALL TO ORDER, NATIONAL ANTHEM AND WELCOME

Chair Cochrane called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m. and students from Branton School led in the singing of the national anthem by way of a DVD recording. Chair Cochrane acknowledged and welcomed representatives from the aforementioned organizations.

Action By:

2.0 CONSIDERATION/APPROVAL OF AGENDA

MOVED by Trustee Dirks:

THAT the Agenda for the Regular Meeting of May 4, 2010, be approved as submitted.

The motion was
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Chair Cochrane noted that the trustees are holding an election information event at the Education Centre on Wednesday, May 12, 2010 at 6:00 p.m.. The focus of the event will be on the role of a trustee, to encourage people to run in the October municipal election, and to vote.

3.0 SCHOOL/SYSTEM PRESENTATIONS

3.1 Radisson Park School

Ms. D. Selby, Director, Area III, provided introductory remarks, noting that Radisson Park School opened in 2006 as the first P3-built school in the CBE. The school has a current enrolment of 267 students in kindergarten to grade four. Ms. J. Green, Principal, came forward and noted that their presentation focuses on Ends 2: Academic Success. She introduced the following school staff members who were in attendance to assist with the presentation: Ms. S. Faulkner, Assistant Principal, Ms. K. Reed, Teacher, and Ms. A. Bradley, Education Assistant.

Through a DVD presentation, students shared about their learning at Radisson Park School and explained how students, staff and community work together. The students sang their school song that incorporates their school motto "resilience, respectful and remarkable".

A PowerPoint presentation detailed the population and student diversity at Radisson Park School; the school's vision and motto; the staff members' oath and focus on their school development goals, which involves a continual cycle of assessing and reassessing their work. It was noted that at Radisson Park School, academic success is achieved by attending to each of the following "pieces of a puzzle": respectful, honest relationships, which is the heart of their work; beliefs, which are strength based, moving from a risk to a resilience paradigm; leadership, which focuses the work and is nurtured within everyone; and high expectations for staff and students. Highlights were shared of ways that they measure academic success, including the Provincial Achievement Test results, and individual achievements, such as Simon's story, which was shared in conclusion of the presentation.

On behalf of the Board of Trustees, Trustee King thanked Principal Green and her staff for taking the time to show the remarkable work going on at Radisson Park School.

4.0 HONOURS AND RECOGNITIONS

Action By:

4.1 Excellence in Teaching Awards

Chair Cochrane provided preliminary comments about the origin of the Excellence in Teaching Awards, which are presented and sponsored by Alberta Education. The 2010 award recognizes 136 creative and innovative teachers as semi-finalists for their exceptional work in Alberta's Kindergarten to Grade 12 classrooms.

Trustees read the nominator quotes related to the semi-finalists in their respective wards and provided some additional personal comments. Trustees presented the following teachers with the certificates of recognition and tokens of appreciation:

- Ms. D. DeFazio, Bowness High School
- Mr. T. Wiedener, Marion Carson School
- Ms. S. McKenzie, Olympic Heights School
- Ms. H. Nail, Sunalta School
- Ms. P. Beere, Forest Lawn High School
- Ms. B. Newman, Chinook Park School
- Mr. M. McKillop, Dr. E.P. Scarlett High School
- Ms. N. Haycock, R.T. Alderman School
- Mr. M. Sakatch, Lord Beaverbrook High School
- Ms. N. Amirault, MidSun School

Ms. J. Read, Bowness High School, a semi-finalist for the award, was not in attendance for the recognition and presentation.

Chair Cochrane noted that a short recess would be taken to enjoy refreshments on the plaza.

Recessed: 5:51 p.m.

Reconvened: 6:13 p.m. Trustees Bazinet and Kryczka did not immediately return to the meeting.

5.0 PUBLIC CONVERSATION AND INFORMATION

5.1 Report from the Chair and Trustees

Trustee Ferguson shared comments about the multi-cultural fair that was put on by Sir John A. Macdonald School, at which many partners were represented and a number of other schools were participants. She noted also that students from Sir John A. Macdonald School in partnership with a former student from the community raised \$36,097.14 in a 30-hour famine.

Trustee Bazinet returned to the meeting at 6:15 p.m.

5.2 Report from the Chief Superintendent

Chief Superintendent Johnson reported that recently a number of CBE Leaders as well as the President of the Alberta Teachers' Association, Local 38, attended the Instructional Rounds Institute at the Harvard Graduate School of Education. The Institute provides an introduction to the key principles and practice of an effective, classroom-oriented approach to observing, analyzing and improving teaching and

Action By:

learning. She noted the strategy is not an evaluative strategy but rather a whole school improvement strategy. This work directly links to our Three-Year Education Plan. Principals from junior high schools and middle schools participated in Instructional Rounds in early spring; elementary school principals are scheduled to attend in June, and this will be further built out in the fall for our senior high school principals.

Trustee Kryczka returned to the meeting at 6:16 p.m.

5.3 Public Question Period

There were no public questions.

5.4 Stakeholder Reports

There were no stakeholder reports.

5.5 Trustee Inquiries

There were no trustee inquiries.

6.0 ACTION ITEMS

There were no action items.

7.0 MONITORING AND RESULTS

There were no monitoring items.

8.0 POLICY DEVELOPMENT AND REVIEW

8.1 Proposed Amendment to EL-10 Budgeting Process

Trustee Bazinet shared some brief highlights about the background information that is provided in the report. On February 9, 2010, the Minister of Education announced that there will be no grant increases for the 2010-11 school year and that school boards should not be planning layoffs as a way to pay for the additional increases to teachers' salaries. On February 9, 2010, our Board of Trustees passed a motion, noted on page 8-57 of the report, stating that "notwithstanding the executive limitations prohibition related to deficits, the Board of Trustees directs the Chief Superintendent to undertake appropriate planning and actions as required, to implement strategies and directions as messaged by the Minister of Education on February 9, 2010". Trustee Bazinet noted that the proposed amendment to EL-10 Budgeting Process, would imbed in policy that which was passed by the Board on February 9, 2010 in terms of planning a budget in which there is a plan to expend more than projected to be received in the specified period.

A trustee asked if there would be a need to remove the portion of policy that is specific to something that may happen this year, if this motion is approved, or whether it would just die. Trustee Bazinet said it could be removed and there may be other restrictions that the Board might want to bring in for 2011/12, depending on what the budget situation is at that time. This direction is proposed only for the one year, as stated in the proposed amendment.

Action By:

A trustee noted that in the past, when fiscal resources had not necessarily been enough to cover expenses, Administration reported through the annual monitoring that they had not been in compliance with the policy; the Board then would make the decision that compliance was or was not met. In response to a question regarding what has prompted the amendment to come forward in this particular instance, Trustee Bazinet responded that at the Carver Governance seminar recently attended, it was pointed out that when it is evident that something that goes against policy will occur, then that should be imbedded into policy so that there is no cause for the Administration to be in non-compliance with the policy. She noted that she also felt that the Board motion of February 9th is somewhat unclear with respect to identifying the appropriate planning and actions that are to be undertaken.

In response to a question, Trustee Bazinet clarified how she came to choose two percent of operating grant revenues as the maximum accumulated deficit. She noted that one percent equals approximately \$10 million and in looking at what we currently have in terms of our reserves and what we might have at the end of the year, which could be around \$2.5 million, two percent would allow for some leeway in terms of salary differential or other contingencies. She pointed out that it would be up to the Administration to determine what it is that would put us in fiscal jeopardy.

MOVED by Trustee Bazinet:

THAT the Board of Trustees gives first reading to amending Executive Limitations 10: Budgeting Process, by the following addition to subsection 4:

"...except in the 2010/2011 year when administration may plan to spend more than projected to be received. Such planned spending shall not result in a planned accumulated operating deficit equal to more than two percent of operating grant revenues from Alberta Education for the 2010/11 year."

Trustee Bazinet spoke to the motion, noting that she recognizes it is a little late in the process, since Administration has already put a lot of work into the preparation of the budget, but she felt it important enough to be recognized in policy that 2010-11 is a different school year financially than others have been in the past, and we will likely have to spend more than what is projected to be received. Should this motion pass, the Board will receive an impact statement of what this would mean for us. Additionally, this would allow the Board to direct through policy that which is expected from Administration with respect to the budget.

Trustees debated the motion and their comments are summarized as follows:

- It is believed that approval of the proposed amendment would remove authority from the Board, in terms of the annual monitoring process of the Executive Limitations and determination of compliance or non-compliance.
- There may be some value in seeing what the impacts might be and looking at this as a way of addressing a fidelity to this particular policy.
- It was expressed that our Board does not completely follow the Carver model and that there are some who believe policy should not change from year to year.

Action By:

There is a motion on record with a notwithstanding clause in reference to prohibition related to deficits.

- It was noted that regardless of what is said in Board policy, the Board of Trustees still must approve the budget.

Chair Cochrane called for the vote on the motion.

The motion was
DEFEATED.

In favour:	Trustee Bazinet Trustee Dirks Trustee Kryczka
Opposed:	Trustee Cochrane Trustee Ferguson Trustee King

8.2 Career and Technology Strategy in the Calgary Board of Education

Chief Superintendent Johnson provided a brief introduction, noting that a sample brochure has been distributed to trustees, which is a concrete representation of the Career and Technology Strategy vision for student learning. She pointed out that the title "Career and Technology Centre" is a working title only at this time.

Superintendent Faber commenced the presentation with an introduction of the following staff members as co-presenters: Ms. M. Bolender, System Principal, Learning Innovation, and Mr. R. Walker, Business Development Consultant.

Superintendent Faber pointed out that the Calgary Board of Education is gearing towards a systemic shift from the industrial model of learning to a personalized learning model. The objective of the Career and Technology Strategy is to create a framework for career development that provides all students with the necessary academic, technical and work behaviour competencies for success in lifelong learning. Fundamental changes to curricula, learning platforms and learning technologies, along with changes to instructional strategies that focus on the personalization of learning, speak to opportunities to enhance learner success.

At a time of tight budgets, the Career and Technology Strategy addresses efficiencies and economies of scale, in supporting equity, access, choice and excellence in areas of student learning that are costly and difficult to sustain over time. Moving into environments that may operate six days a week, ten hours a day, year round, bringing support for professional development, working collaboratively with partners within and beyond the CBE, contemplates the new realities of continuous change and resiliency for the organization, and ongoing financial efficiencies for our students and for our community.

The Career and Technology Strategy is not a stand-alone approach to change, nor is it a one-time project. Rather, the strategy works synergistically with a number of aligned local, provincial and global initiatives.

Ms. Bolender shared how the strategy would be undertaken. She explained that the design of the Career and Technology Studies (CTS) Student Compass helps the

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students to personalize their learning starting with their interest and their passion. This focus on the learner aligns with the CBE's work on Student Learning Plans already begun in 16 schools that allows students to become more reflective and self-directed, engaging parents and others in support of success for each student. The Compass also heightens the ability to look at curriculum across all subject areas in more integrated and purposeful ways.

The five career clusters in the new CTS curriculum offer expanded course choice and rigor for students. Within each of the following five career clusters there are a number of occupational areas to expand and enhance student skills and knowledge while in high school:

- BIT: Business, Administration, Finance and Information Technology
- TMT: Trades, Manufacturing and Transportation
- HRH: Health, Recreation, and Human Services
- MDC: Media, Design, Communication, and Arts
- NAT: Natural Resources

The power of the Strategy is the use of credentialed pathways. These pathways position students to complete high school along with an industry/post secondary credential and to transition to post-secondary and/or work more seamlessly. Specialized skill pathways can be designed and customized to meet the needs and interests of the learner, the school culture, the local community and interested partners. They can lead to credentials or pre-placements in further training opportunities past high school. They can also help position students to complete high school and to transition to further education and/or work.

Phase 1 of the Career and Technology Centre will open in September 2010. Students from Area IV high schools will be the first to attend the prototype Career and Technology Centre with four program opportunities: Welder Apprentice; Hairstylist Apprentice; Autobody; Pre-Engineering. The Centre will be a world-class facility with passionate and highly qualified instructors.

Phase 2 is expected to open September 2012, offering the following program opportunities: Cook Apprentice; Information Technology credentials; Media Design Communications credentials; Environmental Stewardship; Landscape Technician; Pharmaceutical Technician; and Health Care Aide. Students, whether they are Knowledge and Employability learners or International Baccalaureate learners, can focus their energy and talents to meet the requirements to enter the programs offered through the Career and Technology Centre. The integration of CTS with other curriculum such as the newly revised Mathematics curriculum with its new Trades and Apprenticeship Math opens new doors for meaningful high school Student Learning Plans.

Discussions are underway with a number of interested partners in industry and post-secondary. For example, Smart Technologies and the Alberta Carpenters Training Centre both have training sites in Calgary and are interested in exploring the possibility of offering credentialed programs for our students at their facilities. Apple Canada and HP have talked with us about opportunities for building credentials for our students that could be offered at the Centre and for professional development training for our teachers through the Centre. SAIT, Mount Royal, University of Calgary and Red Deer College are other institutions that are excited

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about the possibilities afforded to our students through the Centre and possibly through affiliate sites on their campuses. The Calgary Academy of Chefs and Cooks along with the Canadian Culinary Federation have also expressed interest to encourage students in their careers in foods by working with us through the Centre.

Mr. Walker shared reasons for proceeding with the Career and Technology Strategy at this time. Governments, industry and learners are recognizing the critical importance of career-focused personalized learning, and it is recognized that education is an issue of national security. Post secondary education in trades, technology and skilled professions is now seen as a key to individual and societal sustainability. By 2025, careers in trades, technology or skilled professions will dominate the market, and as little as 20 percent of the population will require a university accreditation. Robotics, Mechatronics, Precision Machining, Information Technology and Computer Assisted Design are all skilled professions that have emerged in the past decade and will dominate the job market in the near future.

Mr. Walker noted that the challenge before us is to move to a new definition of high school completion that includes individual learning models and preparation for post secondary study or entry level career placement, fulfilling the passing of youth and their desire to design their own path, and providing a facility and the institutional support that engages industry, governments, unions and corporations in the delivery of a new learning model. With construction, financing and labour costs at their lowest levels, with a facility ready to accommodate a new way of transferring knowledge, with industry, governments and associations primed by their experience with WorldSkills, now is the time to move the Career and Technology Strategy forward.

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

- It was questioned what supports we might receive from the province, particularly for capital, equipment and operating. Administration noted that there is no funding forthcoming at this time from the province for capital. We are awaiting formal confirmation allowing us to use restricted capital funds towards the building. The province is currently reviewing the funding of equipment for the Career and Technology Centre. The new curriculum is province wide, which lends Ministerial support to the development of a Career and Technology Centre in our city. Two other projects underway that relate to this strategy are the high school flexibility project and the high school completion framework. Senior CBE administrators are working with the province at this time to have the Centre and the Strategy considered as part of those research initiatives, as that would allow us to customize the learning environment around scheduling and timing, which would give us significant savings and support from the government. Opportunities have also been identified for targeting some of the funds from the CTS Evergreening funding envelope and from the Innovative Technology funding envelope towards this project. In regards to operating, it is contemplated that the Centre will work within the funding envelopes that exist to operate and support programs across the province.
- Indications are that our partners are very much in support of this initiative and may be interested in arranging for the use of their facilities by our students in their Career and Technology learning.

Action By:

- Superintendent Faber shared some of the outputs that can be expected from this Strategy, which she noted would be a strong correlation to Ends 1: Mega End and high school success, Ends 2: Academic Success, and Ends 3: Citizenship; there will also be a strong alignment to Ends 4: Personal Development, and to Ends 5: Character when the reasonable interpretations for those policies come forward. The Student Exit Survey, the Accountability Pillar Survey results and the Diploma Exam results would also depict some of the outcomes. The results of this work will also be reflected in our high school completion rates as well as in our retention rates.
- The approach to moving this forward is an evolving one, involving a variety of strategies. The new Career and Technology Foundations program of studies focuses on students identifying their strengths and being part of an integrated curriculum design framework at the junior high level. Through our middle years initiative, that program of studies will be a requirement in 2012. There needs to be intensive work done in high schools around career development, with our career practitioners and counselors and all staff, to help students understand the emerging choices. This will be part of moving toward a contemplated learning plan. Parents need to be brought into these discussions; therefore, we will work with parent communities in a multitude of ways.
- It was noted that the window of opportunity does have an end – this is not a revolving door, where students can drop in or out. The standards, expectations and success will be high. The exploration level will take place at the home high school, but at the Centre there will be an expectation of commitment and understanding by the student prior to their acceptance.

MOVED by Trustee King:

THAT the Board of Trustees receives the *Career and Technology Strategy in the Calgary Board of Education* report for information and for the record.

The motion was
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

9.0 CONSENT AGENDA

Chair Cochrane declared the following items to be adopted as submitted:

9.1 Board Consent Agenda

9.1.1 Approval of Minutes

- Regular Meeting held March 23, 2010
- Regular Meeting held April 13, 2010
- Regular Meeting held April 27, 2010

THAT the Board of Trustees approves the Minutes of the Regular Meetings held March 23, 2010, April 13, 2010 and April 27, 2010, as submitted.

9.2 Chief Superintendent Consent Agenda

9.2.1 Chief Superintendent's Update

Action By:

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

9.2.2 Financial Reporting Profile 2004/05 to 2008/09

THAT the Board of Trustees receives the Financial Reporting Profile 2004/05 to 2008/09 Report for information.

9.2.3 Resource Allocations to Schools – Early Spring Staffing

THAT the Board of Trustees receives the Resource Allocations to Schools – Early Spring Staffing Report for information.

10.0 TRUSTEE NOTICES OF MOTION

There were no notices of motion.

Recessed: 7:31 p.m.

Reconvened: 7:42 p.m.

11.0 IN-CAMERA ISSUES

11.1 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 the Board of Trustees, May 4, 2010 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.

11.2 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.

MOVED by Trustee King:

Be it *Resolved*, THAT the Board of Trustees authorizes Administration to plan for the use of \$19.1 million of expected available operating reserves and surplus funds in the 2010/11 Preliminary Operating Budget as outlined in this report.

The motion was

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Action By:

MOVED by Trustee Bazinet:

Be it *Resolved*, THAT the Board of Trustees approves the contract with KPMG LLP in the form as submitted, and authorizes the Board Chair to sign the document on behalf of the Board.

The motion was
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

12. ADJOURNMENT

Chair Cochrane declared the meeting adjourned at 7:57 p.m.