

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, October 4, 2011 at 5:00 p.m.

MEETING ATTENDANCE

Board of Trustees

Present:

Trustee L. Ferguson, Vice-Chair – Chair of this Meeting
Trustee C. Bazinet
Trustee J. Bowen-Eyre
Trustee P. King
Trustee G. Lane
Trustee S. Taylor

Absent:

Trustee P. Cochrane

Administration:

Ms. N. Johnson, Chief Superintendent of Schools
Mr. D. Stevenson, Deputy Chief Superintendent of Schools
Mr. E. Heeger on behalf of Mr. F. Coppinger, Superintendent, Facilities and Environmental Services
Ms. C. Faber, Superintendent, Learning Innovation
Mr. J. Johnston, Superintendent, Human Resources
Ms. D. Meyers, Superintendent, Finance & Supply Chain Services
Ms. L. Safran, General Counsel and Corporate Secretary
Mr. R. Peter, Chief Communications Officer
Ms. D. Doll, Assistant Corporate Secretary
Ms. D. Perrier, Recording Secretary

Stakeholder Representatives:

Mr. B. Anderson, Canadian Union of Public Employees, Local 40
Ms. C. Hall, Principals' Association for Adolescent Learners (PAAL)
Ms. J. Hugill, Elementary School Principals' Association
Ms. L. Newton, Calgary Association of Parents and School Councils
Ms. J. Regal, Alberta Teachers' Association, Local 38
Ms. L. Robb, Calgary Board of Education Staff Association
Ms. M. Russell, Principals' Association for Adolescent Learners (PAAL)

1.0 CALL TO ORDER, NATIONAL ANTHEM AND WELCOME

Chair Ferguson called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m. and students from Capitol Hill School led the singing of O Canada.

Chair Ferguson acknowledged and welcomed stakeholder representatives from the organizations as noted above.

2.0 CONSIDERATION/APPROVAL OF AGENDA

MOVED by Trustee Taylor:

THAT the Agenda for the Regular Meeting of October 4, 2011, be amended by the addition of Item 6.2, Discussion of Provincial Funding Infusion.

A point of order was raised in relation to the motion to amend the Agenda and it was ruled to be a debatable motion.

Trustee Taylor opened the debate, noting her belief that the issue was of utmost importance and that the Board should take this opportunity to discuss the prioritization for any additional funding that may come forward and to discuss the methods of advocacy the Board may wish to undertake.

A trustee commented in opposition to the motion, noting that she was unprepared to have the discussion at this particular point in time. She agreed it was vital to have the conversation, but not at this time without knowing the amount of funding that we may receive and when that might occur.

Chair Ferguson called for the vote on the motion.

The motion was
DEFEATED.

In favour:	Trustee Bazinet Trustee Bowen-Eyre Trustee Taylor
Opposed:	Trustee Ferguson Trustee King Trustee Lane

Ms. D. Doll, Assistant Corporate Secretary, relayed a misprint in the report for Item 6.1, in the last paragraph of page 6-2, noting that the figure of \$1.5 million should read \$2.0 million. She noted that the Board may consider changes to the private Agenda during the in-camera session.

MOVED by Trustee King:

THAT the Agenda for the Regular Meeting of October 4, 2011 be approved as submitted.

The motion was
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

3.0 SCHOOL/SYSTEM PRESENTATIONS

3.1 Capitol Hill School – Ends 3: Citizenship

Ms. S. Church, Director, Area II, commenced the presentation with brief comments about the school. She introduced and called forward Ms. C. Roman, Principal, Capitol Hill School, to give the presentation.

Ms. Roman shared that throughout the past two years the students have studied about poverty and social injustices endured by children throughout our world. To bring equity to these injustices, students have contributed by drawing upon their own individual leadership. They have supported mankind by building a school in Haiti as well as bringing relief to the people of Japan. This year, their efforts focus on bringing light to communities in Ecuador, where students will learn about electrical circuitry in the Science Program of Studies, by constructing solar lights which will be used for surgery in local hospitals and by Ecuadorian children so that they may study and do homework during the dark hours.

Ms. Roman provided highlights of the presentation on Ends 3: Citizenship, which was performed by grades 4, 5 and 6 students who showcased the following through voice, dance and instrument playing:

- a slide show entitled “What Would the World be Like”, involving student stories that revealed personal worries, concerns, and ideologies about mankind;
- Capitol Hill School song “Seed to Sow”, recognizing students, families and staff as a learning community of 32 cultures and 32 different spoken languages; and
- a dance of *Michael Jackson’s* “Man in the Mirror”, acknowledging his message that humanity is each and every individual standing unified with one single purpose. Ms. Roman noted that the song depicts the school’s year long inquiry “What does it mean to be Canadian”? It is an inquiry that is embedded through the school’s teaching and learning, seeking answers for ways to build a more compassionate world, freedom for all and a peaceful way of living.

Trustee Lane expressed words of appreciation for the presentation by students, teachers and staff. He commended them for giving their performance with confidence, talent and spirit, and he noted that they have left their mark on this room and on this Board.

Chair Ferguson welcomed to the public gallery, Mr. K. Fawcett, MLA, Calgary-North Hill.

4.0 HONOURS AND RECOGNITIONS

There were none.

5.0 PUBLIC CONVERSATION AND INFORMATION

5.1 Report from the Chair and Trustees

Trustee King presented a certificate received from the *12 Community Safety Initiative*, to the Calgary Board of Education in acknowledgement of dedication and commitment to the promotion of crime prevention for the residents of Abbeydale, Applewood, Albert Park/Radisson Heights, Crossroads, Dover, Erin Woods, Forest Heights, Forest Lawn, Marlborough, Marlborough Park, Penbrooke Meadows and Southview.

Trustee Lane shared comments about his attendance at the following events:

- the Association of Professional Engineers, Geologists and Geophysicists of Alberta (APEGGA) meeting, at which the APEGGA Foundation held a program on Excellence in Education for Calgary and southern Alberta, for which there were 34 nominees. Fifteen of the nominees were from the CBE, and of the six recipients of the award four were from the CBE; and
- the Friends of the Calgary Foundation luncheon presentation on the *Vital City* report. The four top issues for our city, in accordance with a survey taken, are: Safety, Arts and Culture, Work and Learning.

Trustee Taylor informed that the Calgary Association of Parents and School Councils (CAPSC) have scheduled a meeting for October 9th at A.E. Cross School at which they will host Mr. B. Belsey, president of Bullying.org.

5.2 Report from the Chief Superintendent

Chief Superintendent Johnson reported on the following issues and events:

- The CBE has a new online student fee payment system, which went live on September 23, 2011. This is a pilot project that currently enables the payment of students’ instructional supplies and materials (ISM), noon-supervision, and incidental activity fees online. Looking forward, it is envisioned that the parent online interface will provide parents with services far

beyond fee payment, such as the ability to book parent-teacher interviews or access to other school-specific information.

- Premier designate Alison Redford made a promise during her campaign to put more than \$100 million back into education if she was elected. The Board has been clear about the need for predictable and sustainable funding for education in Alberta. With respect to priority-setting for potential receipt of additional funding, the CBE put out an online survey on Monday, October 3rd asking for public input. Nearly 2,000 responses to the survey were received in a 24-hour period, and initial indications are that people place a high priority on what happens in classrooms where students learn. Further information on this feedback will be shared at a later date.
- On Wednesday, October 5th the CBE will publicly announce the results of the 2011 Diploma Exams and Provincial Achievement Tests.
- October 5th is World Teachers' Day and to thank our teachers a number of CBE students and a few recognizable members of the Calgary community shared their personal experiences through a video recording, which was shared at this point in the meeting.

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

6.1 Carryforward of Unspent 2010/2011 Operating Budget Funds

Superintendent Meyers, Finance and Supply Chain Services, provided a brief summary of the contents of the report.

Administration addressed questions posed by trustees, and the discussion is summarized as follows:

- Discussion took place about the increase of the school decentralized surplus and it was questioned why the money that was allocated to schools was not spent. Administration shared some common processes that are followed, including monthly meetings that are held between area directors and school financial specialists to review the use of school decentralized funds. It was noted that there are a variety of issues surrounding the timely use of these funds, which can differ from school to school, and those may include issues such as time-tabling, project invoicing delays, staffing numbers from one semester to another semester, and student learning needs, which are not known until September.
- It is expected that over the next two years the surplus of \$1,953,000 for Professional Improvement Fellowships will be depleted.
- Technology Evergreening, for the purchase of computer equipment, is included in the Operating Budget, instead of the Capital Budget, because it is an ongoing annual replacement, and it meets the definitions that are set by Alberta Education.

MOVED by Trustee Bazinet:

- 1. THAT the unspent school decentralized fund balances of \$5,482,066 be approved for carryforward to 2011/2012; and**

2. THAT the unspent service unit fund balances of \$2,672,000 be approved for carryforward to 2011/2012.

The motion was
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

7.0 MONITORING AND RESULTS

7.1 Annual Monitoring Report for Executive Limitations 4: Treatment of Parents and Citizens

Chair Ferguson reviewed the criteria against which the trustees are to judge the report, including that of reasonable interpretation of the policy, compliance with the policy and whether sufficient information had been provided. She noted also that any decision or comment of the Board around non-compliance is in no way intended to be a vote of non-confidence for the Chief Superintendent.

Chief Superintendent Johnson provided brief comments, noting that the monitoring report draws on two strong beliefs that are held about public education: 1) that parents and the broader community must be well informed about the work in our schools and in our district; and 2) that the CBE is committed to clear communication about the work and that it is committed to building positive relationships, and parents and community having appropriate and adequate opportunities to become involved in this work.

Deputy Chief Superintendent Stevenson shared comments about the CBE's obligations to its students, parents and citizens. He shared that the system always looks for ways to talk with the public about the work, to seek an understanding about what education looks like from the larger picture and for the individual child. Parents are encouraged to speak for their children and the public are encouraged to ask questions. He noted that this monitoring report speaks to the ways that the CBE is working to communicate clearly and build solid relationships with its parents and public, and it shares the achievements and results in those areas.

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

- Measure 1.5: Administration shared further information about the comprehensive communication strategy that is being developed, including the methods undertaken to improve engagement with the community and how we listen to our parents.
- Policy provision 4: A trustee noted difficulty with making a judgement and questioned if it was an effective process. Additional details were shared about the number of complaints that came into the one area that was surveyed. It was noted that in review of those numbers and the number that escalated through the process to the area office, there was a significant reduction. This suggests that area offices and schools are dealing with the vast majority of complaints, which was felt to be an indication of effective resolution of those particular issues.
- Information was shared about how non-English speaking parents are engaged. It was noted that schools can access the assistance of interpreters that are available throughout the system for public engagement meetings and for written messages.
- Clarification was provided on measure 4.3. Administration noted that this report speaks to the process for when people did not agree with our process; however, it is believed there were somewhere between five and ten FOIP requests, of which two or three were requested to be reviewed by the FOIP Commissioner.

MOVED by Trustee Lane:

THAT the Chief Superintendent has reasonably interpreted the provisions of Executive Limitations 4: Treatment of Parents and Citizens, and the Board of Trustees finds the Chief Superintendent to be in compliance.

MOVED by Trustee Bowen-Eyre:

THAT the motion be amended to include “with the exception of policy subpart 1.”

Trustee Bowen-Eyre noted that the report indicates that measure 1.5 was not in compliance and her concern was that parents do not feel that they have the opportunity to engage in appropriate ways to participate in the decision-making regarding their children’s education.

Chair Ferguson called for the vote on the amendment.

The amendment was
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Chair Ferguson called for the vote on the motion, as amended.

The motion was
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

8.0 POLICY DEVELOPMENT AND REVIEW

There were no items.

9.0 CONSENT AGENDA

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

9.1 Board Consent Agenda

9.1.1 Approval of Minutes

- Regular Meeting held September 6, 2011
- Regular Meeting held September 20, 2011

THAT the Board of Trustees approves the Minutes of the Regular Meetings held September 6, 2011 and September 20, 2011, as submitted.

9.1.2 Correspondence

THAT the Board of Trustees receives the following correspondence for information and for the record, in the form as submitted:

- **Memorandum dated September 21, 2011, from the Minister of Alberta Education, to Board Chairs of Public, Separate, Francophone and Charter School Boards, and Presidents of Stakeholder Associations, regarding Alberta Initiative for School Improvement Cycle 5 Announcement.**

9.2 Chief Superintendent Consent Agenda

9.2.1 Chief Superintendent Update

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

10.0 TRUSTEE NOTICES OF MOTION

There were no trustee notices of motion.

Recessed: 6:50 p.m.
Reconvened: 7:05 p.m.

11.0 IN-CAMERA ISSUES

MOVED by Trustee Lane:

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, October 4, 2011, 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.

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:

THAT the Board of Trustees authorizes Vice-Chair Ferguson, in consultation with Administration, to prepare and approve a letter on behalf of the Board of Trustees as outlined and discussed in-camera.

The motion was
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

MOVED by Trustee Taylor:

THAT the Board of Trustees approves the Private Agenda, as amended.

The motion was
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

12.0 ADJOURNMENT

Chair Ferguson declared the meeting adjourned at 8:19 p.m.