

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 3, 2005 at 5:00 p.m.

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PRESENT

Board of Trustees:

Trustee G. Dirks, Chair  
Trustee C. Bazinet  
Trustee N. Close  
Trustee P. Cochrane  
Trustee K. Fawcett  
Trustee L. Ferguson (departed at 7:05 p.m.)

Absent: Trustee G. Lane

Administration:

Dr. B. Croskery, Chief Superintendent of Schools  
Ms. J. Barkway, Assistant Corporate Secretary  
Ms. M. Clark, Superintendent, Human Resources  
Mr. D. Dart, Superintendent, Business Operations & Environmental Services – Secretary Treasurer  
Mr. J. Drysdale, Superintendent, School Support Services  
Ms. B. Hubert, Deputy Chief Superintendent of Schools  
Mr. J. Jones, Executive Assistant to the Chief Superintendent of Schools  
Ms. B. Kuester, Executive Director of Communications  
Mr. G. Scott, Director & General Counsel, Legal & Risk Management Services  
Ms. S. Wasylshyn, Executive Assistant to the Trustees  
Ms. D. Perrier, Recording Secretary

Stakeholder Representatives:

Ms. B. Brignall, Elementary School Principals' Association  
Ms. G. Burger-Martindale, Calgary Association of Parents and School Councils  
Mr. L. Liffiton, Alberta Teachers' Association, Local No. 38  
Mr. F. Reaume, Canadian Union of Public Employees Local No. 40  
Ms. D. Selby, Principals' Association for Adolescent Learners  
Mr. T. Stensland, Elementary School Principals' Association

**1.0 CALL TO ORDER, NATIONAL ANTHEM AND WELCOME**

Chair Dirks called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m. and the school choir from Cambrian Heights Elementary School led in the singing of the national anthem by way of a video clip. Chair Dirks welcomed representatives from the aforementioned organizations and members of the public.

**2.0 CONSIDERATION/APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Ms. Barkway advised that with respect to Item 8.1.2 – Three-Year Education Plan, 2005-2008, a replacement page 8-8 had been circulated; and that the report for Item 8.1.3 – Three-Year Capital Plan had been circulated.

Action By

MOVED by Trustee Ferguson:

**THAT the Agenda for the Regular Meeting held May 3, 2005, be approved as submitted, subject to Item 8.1.3, Three-Year Capital Plan, being moved forward as the first action item for consideration; and that the remainder of the agenda items be renumbered accordingly.**

The motion was  
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

### **3.0 CORRESPONDENCE**

There was no correspondence reported.

### **4.0 PRESENTATION, HONOURS AND RECOGNITION**

#### **4.1 CAMBRIAN HEIGHTS ELEMENTARY SCHOOL**

Superintendent Drysdale introduced and called forward Ms. B. Bilcox, Principal, Cambrian Heights Elementary School. Ms. Bilcox acknowledged the attendance of Mr. D. Wiebe, Assistant Principal, along with other members of school staff and the school council chair.

Ms. Bilcox informed that at Cambrian Heights School the focus of teaching is based on critical inquiry, in the endeavour to capitalize on the collective energy, strengths, efforts and talents of students, staff, parents and the greater community to advance student learning. She pointed out that on display outside the Board Room was some written work from some of their Grades 1 and 2 students, as well as a display from their presentation "Voices of the Land", which was a school-wide presentation commemorating Alberta's Centennial. Ms. Bilcox proceeded with a PowerPoint presentation, which depicted the students in their learning environment and performing a variety of projects and tasks; and in which teachers provided narratives about their teaching methods and about their involvement in professional development training.

The presentation provided an overview of the school's focus on multiple literacies, their AISI project to develop writing and fine arts skills, the involvement of school council, and fostering through school wide events and programs a sense of belonging and community, all in an effort to help each student to "Be the best that you can be".

On behalf of the Board of Trustees, Trustee Ferguson gave thanks to the presenters for their attendance and for sharing information about their students and their school, noting they excelled at demonstrating their commitment to caring, to enriched learning, enriched literacy and to responding to students' needs.

#### **4.2 LE ROI DANIELS ELEMENTARY SCHOOL – COMING TOGETHER – LEARNING TOGETHER: ABORIGINAL PILOT PROJECT**

Ms. N. Johnson, Director, Area V, introduced the presentation and noted that Le Roi Daniels is located in the community of Fairview and it is home to the Traditional Learning Centre program as well as the Regular program. The aboriginal pilot project is embedded into the Regular program. The school serves children from Areas IV and V, and approximately 60 children attend from the Tsuu T'ina Nation. The following individuals were in attendance to give the presentation: Ms. D. Ireland, Principal, Ms. R. Worthington, Aboriginal Teacher Coordinator, and Mr. S. Cunningham, Aboriginal Liaison Counsellor.

Ms. Ireland provided a brief summary about the school environment and the pilot project. She noted that several generations of Tsuu T'ina children have attended their school, and two years ago the province gave the school some additional funds in support of the aboriginal pilot project. Mr. Cunningham shared details about the project, noting that prior to its commencement, the school had already been practising the 'Circle of Courage'. He pointed out that an extremely important focus of the project was the emphasis that was put on the sense of belonging, to allow the aboriginal students within the school to feel that they were a part of a community that truly cared for them. He noted this not only extended to the students, but it also reached out to the teachers, to the local communities and to the Tsuu T'ina community. Ms. Worthington relayed information pertinent to four goals of the pilot project, which are listed as follows:

- Goal 1 - To increase First Nation's Metis and Inuit (FNMI) students' achievement;
- Goal 2 - To achieve an environment that is respectful and appreciative of First Nation's Inuit culture and history;
- Goal 3 - To breakdown the barriers that prevent FNMI success;
- Goal 4 - To ensure that parents of FNMI students are involved in the school community and that they perceive the school as inviting and engaging.

Ms. Ireland concluded, stating they are hopeful the pilot project will be able to continue for another year. She noted that some of their work has been given recognition, by way of receiving the Mayor's Excellence Award for their partnership with Alberta Education in the category of Advancement of Aboriginal Youth; they will be honored later this month by the Alberta Association for Supervision and Curriculum Development for exciting and innovative work with at-risk students; as well, Ms. Worthington has been nominated for an Excellence in Teaching Award and is one of the finalists. Ms. Ireland offered words of thanks to her staff members and key people for their terrific work in this project.

As Ward Trustee for Le Roi Daniels Elementary School, and on behalf of the Board of Trustees, Trustee Cochrane thanked the presenters for sharing their enthusiasm and their obvious care for these students. She expressed appreciation for the work they are doing to build on the historical connection between the Tsuu T'ina Nation and our school board.

## **5.0 VERBAL UPDATES**

### **5.1 REPORT FROM THE CHAIR AND TRUSTEES**

Trustee Fawcett informed that on April 27 and 28, the schools in the communities of Temple, Whitehorn, Rundle and Pineridge held their annual "Pride in the Properties" event. He was able to only attend on the 28<sup>th</sup> and on that particular date the dance and choir performances were held, which involved students from elementary, junior high and senior high schools.

Trustee Ferguson reported that she had attended O.S. Geiger Elementary School's annual Learning Fair, which is in its 4<sup>th</sup> year, and this year they are celebrating their 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary as a school. The school has a very diverse population, and it concentrates on developing visual literacy. She stated that it was a terrific event, with everyone participating in learning about the many cultures.

Chair Dirks noted he had attended a community meeting in Tuscany last week, where the subject of new school construction was discussed and many questions were raised. Questions pertained to when they might expect to have a new school built, what the school configuration might be, potential school boundaries and potential busing requirements.

## **5.2 REPORT FROM THE CHIEF SUPERINTENDENT**

Chief Superintendent Croskery provided verbal highlights as follows:

- On April 21<sup>st</sup> he attended an awards function at the Glenmore Inn, in celebration of long service employees of the Calgary Board of Education's Business Operations and Environmental Services.
- April 27<sup>th</sup> – 29<sup>th</sup> he attended the College of Alberta Schools Superintendents' Conference, at which the focus was on accountability and student learning.
- May 2<sup>nd</sup> he met with a group from the University of Calgary and from the Department of Education, to discuss the potential for holding a symposium in Calgary on October 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> on the topic of personalized learning, particularly in high school.
- April 25<sup>th</sup> – 29<sup>th</sup> was Administrative Assistants week, and individual service units gave some form of recognition to these staff members.
- The week of May 2<sup>nd</sup> a group of staff members from Glendale Elementary School are in New York City, as is Ms. B. Kuester, Executive Director of Communications, to promote the students' work on their movie "Frankenstein".

## **6.0 PUBLIC QUESTION PERIOD**

There were no questions from the public.

## **7.0 STAKEHOLDER REPORTS**

### **7.1 Mr. G. Marr**

Mr. Marr noted he was making a report on behalf of the Parents' Association of Panorama Hills, to express opposition to their placement as priority number 9 in the Calgary Board of Education's School Capital Plan. He noted that from discussions with different individuals, both in the Trustees' office and in the Calgary Board of Education, although the Panorama Hills community warranted either a two or a four in the point system, they were pushed down the list of priorities from last year as a result of the government not acting on those schools that were prioritized by the Board and recommended for capital funding.

Mr. Marr pointed out that later on in the evening their community would be holding a Town Hall meeting, which he noted had been prearranged because Panorama Hills is a very active community around the support of the public board of education and they are quite excited about the prospect of having schools in their community. He pointed out that the separate school board hastened to construct new elementary and high schools within a kilometre of the new facilities at Cardel Place, leveraging the expensive infrastructure, such as the library, pool, gymnasium and skating rink, to lessen the associated costs with infrastructure by building the schools. It is hoped by the Panorama Hills community that the Calgary Board of Education would give equal consideration to also take advantage of those assets as well as restoring their community to position number four in the School Capital Plan. Mr. Marr noted it is expected that 100-150 people will be attending the Town Hall meeting, including The Honourable Gary Mar, Minister of Community Development. The discussion

at the meeting will be reviewing the Calgary Board of Education's point system for establishing the school building priorities.

## **8.0 GOVERNANCE: POLICY DEVELOPMENT AND MONITORING**

### **8.1 ACTION ITEMS**

#### **8.1.1 Three-Year Capital Plan**

Superintendent Dart provided introductory comments and noted the attendance of Mr. L. Bortoluzzi, Director, Student Accommodation Services, and Mr. B. Hughes, Manager, Student Enrollment and Planning, to assist with questions. He pointed out that because we have not heard back from the Minister of Infrastructure with respect to approval of any projects from the formal plan that we submitted last year, year one of this plan takes into account the requests for school capital funding that remain outstanding and years two and three build on that, based on criteria that we use in our system to examine the various ranking between our communities. Superintendent Dart drew attention to some additional projects that have not yet been prioritized as part of the three-year plan, but are under examination with respect to other alternative funding challenges in meeting the need for replacement facilities, including the potential relocation of Chinook Learning Services.

A correction to the report was reported for page 36, under point 3.4 New School Construction – Senior High Schools, in that the last sentence referencing the North Senior High should read that it would rank as a Year 2 project.

A trustee asked about the cost estimates, as depicted on page 38, to which Mr. Bortoluzzi replied that the costs as listed are based on the 2001 support prices that are set out in a manual by Alberta Infrastructure, so for every type of school and for every capacity of school there is a formula that is applied. He pointed out that in the case of Western Canada Senior High School, which is a modernization, we had a business case undertaken and this is a costing that was determined last year. Superintendent Dart noted his belief that when we get provincial approval for a construction project, we structure a separate project budget to take into account the costing price of the day as well as commissioning fees. In response to a follow-up question, it was noted that at a recent meeting with Alberta Infrastructure indication was given that they could not increase the support prices because they have not received any increase in the provincial budget.

With respect to a question regarding how long Western Canada Senior High School has been on the priority list of our Capital Plan, Superintendent Dart noted it to be approximately five years. A trustee asked how the senior high schools are ranked, to which Mr. Bortoluzzi stated that it is not as highly a sophisticated method because there are very few high schools that are required. The Northwest Senior High School has been on the list for two to three years, and it is more an issue of distance and related need for bus travel, as in the case of the students living in the northwest being directed to the overflow at Bowness High School and having to take two or three buses to attend there.

MOVED by Trustee Cochrane:

**THAT the Calgary Board of Education's School Capital Plan: 2005-2008 (Attachment I), as submitted with the agenda for the Regular Meeting held May 3, 2005, be approved and referred to Alberta Infrastructure and Transportation as the Calgary Board of Education's annual request for provincial funding for school building projects.**

D. Dart

MOVED by Trustee Ferguson:

**THAT the recommended priorities for 2005-2006 Year 1, as stated in Table 1 on page 38 of the Capital Plan, be amended to include Panorama Hills Elementary in the top five of the priorities.**

Trustee Ferguson responded to a question, noting that she would not give a specific priority ranking to Panorama Hills Elementary because a number of the other listed schools have been on the Capital Plan for a long time, and she felt it best to leave it up to the Administration to do the actual prioritizing to bring it up into the top five.

Trustee Ferguson noted that Panorama Hills is a 9-year old community, and, although it had been identified in previous capital plans as meeting ranking criteria and in need of a school, it did not qualify for traditional funding because of the sector utilization formula. She noted further that the CBE put together a P3 proposal for Panorama Hills Elementary and forwarded it to Alberta Infrastructure over one year ago, which has yet to be responded to. She expressed that the funding formula as set by the province is not just a poor evaluation tool but also contributes to a frustrating process in which communities are pit against each other in a struggle to obtain new school funding. She stated that the province insists on a formula of utilization by enrolment, instead of utilization by residence, which penalizes certain sectors in the city because the CBE buses many students to schools outside their sector. Trustee Ferguson stated the belief that the Board of Trustees is faced with a flawed provincial process which does not allow the CBE to adequately respond to its student needs or to Calgary's growth. She pointed out that sector four now meets the utilization requirements for new school funding.

In debate of the amending motion, a trustee noted that the argument was well put and, at the same time, felt that there was logic to the ranking and point system that the CBE Administration developed at a time when there were huge political pressures. The CBE has a great number of growing communities that are in need of schools, and it is a real concern that many of our communities have a very significant number of school-aged children without a community school. It was noted by a trustee that it is important to give recognition to the process that the CBE currently has in place, and also to realize that Alberta Infrastructure managed to skip a year in providing funding for new school construction.

Chair Dirks called for the vote on the amendment.

The motion to amend was

DEFEATED.

In favour:	Trustee Ferguson
Opposed:	Trustee Bazinet
	Trustee Close
	Trustee Cochrane
	Trustee Dirks
	Trustee Fawcett

Trustee Cochrane provided opening comments with respect to the main motion. She stated that the Calgary Board of Education has a definite need for these schools; it needs the funding for these schools to be built, modernized or replaced; and it needs those associated costs to be set at 2005 pricing levels. She remarked on the need to alleviate the bus ride times for our students, especially for our elementary students. Trustee Cochrane relayed her hope that our communities will speak with their MLAs and express their needs in a strong voice to our provincial government.

Trustees shared the general consensus that there is a great amount of frustration and feelings of distress with the issues as well as with the process; with the backlog of capital projects that the CBE is currently facing; with the knowledge that our city is continually growing; and, with the fact that thousands of dollars are being spent yearly on busing instead of going into the building of new schools.

Chair Dirks called for the vote on the motion.

The motion was  
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

### **8.1.2 Revised Governance Policies**

MOVED by Trustee Ferguson:

**THAT the Board of Trustees gives first reading to the amended Governance Policies, as attached to the report that was submitted with the agenda for the Regular Meeting held May 3, 2005, including:**

- **Ends Policies 1 through 5,**
- **Executive Limitations Policies 1 through 16,**
- **Board-Chief Superintendent Linkage Policies 1 through 5, and**
- **Governance Process Policies 1 through 13.**

Opening comments were provided by Trustee Ferguson and each of the trustees shared comments about their expectations for the outcomes of the revised governance policies. It was noted that it is hoped the Ends policies strongly support the idea that students are individuals, gifted with different talents; that learning and literacy can be achieved in many ways; that it is important in today's world to graduate students who are well-rounded in skills, confident in their abilities to succeed and to make a difference in the global community. It was further noted that this is a living document, which will be revisited and reworked as time goes on, to address the needs and expectations of our public. It is believed that these policies ensure that monitoring of performance will be more transparent and accountability will be more direct.

Chair Dirks provided an analogy of the sort, in respect to a depiction of a path that leads to the initial statements in the Board's Ends policies, noted as follows:

"A young man from the Tsuu T'ina Nation gets on the bus and rides for a couple of hours to Le Roi Daniels School, and walks through the door - what are we hoping for that young man or that young girl? The Board anticipates helping that person, in keeping with his or her individual abilities and gifts, to complete high school with a foundation of learning to function effectively in life work and continued learning; and help that young person to possess the knowledge, skills and attitudes required for academic success and to be effectively prepared for life work and further learning; and to assist that young person to be a responsible citizen, by being an informed and involved member in his or her local, national and global communities; and to help that person acquire the skills, attitudes and knowledge to achieve their highest personal potential; and to help that young person possess the character to do what is right, to act morally - with wisdom, and to balance individual concerns with the rights and needs of others."

Chair Dirks stated that if the Calgary Board of Education is able to do that which is noted above, then it will have done the best that it could do for the public school students in our city.

Chair Dirks called for the vote on the motion.

Action By

The motion was  
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

MOVED by Trustee Bazinet:

**THAT the Board of Trustees gives second reading to the Governance Policies as listed above and as attached to the report that was submitted with the agenda for the Regular Meeting held May 3, 2005.**

The motion was  
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

MOVED by Trustee Cochrane

**THAT, in accordance with the existing Governance Process Policy 9, Governance Policy Development, the Board of Trustees proceeds with third reading of all Governance Policies, as listed above, at this meeting.**

The motion was  
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

MOVED by Trustee Fawcett:

**THAT the Board of Trustees gives third reading and thereby final approval to all Governance Policies, as listed above and as attached to the report that was submitted with the Agenda for the Regular Meeting held May 3, 2005, with all policies to become effective July 1, 2005.**

The motion was  
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

MOVED by Trustee Ferguson:

**That a communications plan regarding Governance Policies be developed by the end of June 2005 for the Board of Trustees to initiate meaningful linkages with key stakeholders of the system.**

The motion was  
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

MOVED by Trustee Close:

**THAT the Board of Trustees directs the Policy Committee to review the approved Governance Policies prior to May 31, 2005 in order to make insignificant changes that may be required prior to further dissemination.**

The motion was  
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Board

Policy Committee



(The full text of the approved Governance Policies is set out in the attachment to these Minutes.)

Chief Superintendent Croskery offered words of commendation to the Board of Trustees for their valiant efforts in bringing this work together, noting he has observed over the past several years the struggle that the Board went through to gain the trust of the public. He noted his belief that this work is not likened to any other school board work across the nation, and it is huge work the likes of which he has never witnessed before in public education.

Recessed: 7:05 pm. - Trustee Ferguson left the meeting.

Reconvened: 7:25 p.m.

### **8.1.3 Three-Year Education Plan, 2005-2008**

Chief Superintendent Croskery called forward Ms. L. Brost, Director, Accountability Services, and Ms. L. LaRose, Program Teacher, Accountability Services, and noted his appreciation for their work in this report.

Ms. Brost provided some brief highlights of the report and stated it is always a challenge to connect and align all the various planning units in an organization of our size. The direction taken in the development of this year's report involved an amalgamation of all five area plans, which were reviewed by the four service units, who then input their own strategies and, if necessary, their own outcomes and measures that support area outcomes and strategies, and they also highlighted their own responsibilities and priorities, in addition to ensuring that provincial requirements were met.

Trustees gave consideration to the report and had a number of questions, which were responded to by Ms. Brost and Ms. LaRose. A comment was made that it would be appreciated if next year's report incorporated the Board's Ends Policies, rather than the goals.

In response to a point raised about the lag time in reporting performance measures for high school completion rates and high school to post-secondary transition rates, Ms. Brost stated that this information could be provided to trustees on an ongoing basis, perhaps through the Chief Superintendent's monthly report, and as that information becomes available. With respect to the targets in this aspect, Ms. Brost stated the issue has been under review and it is being considered that the data be reviewed by a group of principals, to compare with their school data, which may be valuable in constructing the reasonable and achievable targets for the system.

A question was raised about the potential for conducting a universal survey of schools in terms of achievement results, to roll out some kind of comparative report. Ms. Brost pointed out that the government provides school boards with a database that would assist in some data analysis on a school level, which is being considered for implementation. She noted that as with the accountability survey and the class size survey, the province gives us these results on a system basis, but it would be beneficial for us to be able to provide our schools with the data breakdown particular to the individual schools, to assist with their school planning, data analysis, inquiry and their reporting. Some discussion was given to the potential for also tracking certain groups, such as aboriginal children, children living in poverty, etc., to determine the achievement levels of the respective groups.

MOVED by Trustee Cochrane:

**THAT the Board of Trustees approves the Three-Year Education Plan 2005-2008, in the form as submitted with the Agenda for the Regular Meeting held May 3, 2005.**

The motion was

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Absent:

Trustee Ferguson

## **8.2 INFORMATION/DISCUSSION ITEMS**

### **8.2.1 Chief Superintendent's Monthly Report**

Chief Superintendent Croskery took questions from trustees and provided clarification of the circulated report with the assistance of senior administration. With respect to the legislated boiler checks, it was noted that schools have no budget set aside for the cost associated with the checks and, therefore, the cost for this service is borne by the Facility Operations Services. Chief Superintendent Croskery pointed out that this is another piece of legislation that has had to be implemented without adequate thought given to such cost being accrued by a school system, for which no funding is received. Superintendent Dart pointed out that a process has been established to arrange for weekend, evening and school break occupancy through a permit; but there are challenges around the timelines for planning and making arrangements, as well as concerns about the potential for limited access. He stated that information pertaining to the volume of checks that are occurring is being monitored for frequency and cost.

MOVED by Trustee Cochrane:

**THAT the Board of Trustees receives the Chief Superintendent's Monthly Update for information, in the form as submitted with the Agenda for the Regular Meeting held May 3, 2005.**

The motion was

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Absent:

Trustee Ferguson

### **8.2.2 Study of Coordinating School Start and End Times With its Implications for Common Professional Development Opportunities Through Time Banking in Area III**

Deputy Chief Superintendent Hubert introduced the item and provided a brief review of the background, noting the initiative was undertaken approximately one year ago to study transportation issues and the possibility of coordinating start times. She pointed out that Mr. P. Carlton, Director, Area III, undertook this study and he was present to briefly discuss some of the findings in Area III and to respond to questions. The findings result in two areas of conclusion – the first being from the standpoint of the situation particular to Area III and, the latter being the emerging need that came to light during the Area III pilot, to address and conceptualize the perceived problems and opportunities on the broader level.

Trustees gave consideration to the report and posed a few questions, which were responded to by Mr. Carlton.

MOVED by Trustee Close:

**THAT the Board of Trustees receives the report, entitled Report on the Study of Coordinating School Start and End Times with its Implications for Common Professional Development Opportunities through Time Banking in Area III, for**



**11.2 MOTION TO REVERT TO PUBLIC MEETING**

MOVED by Trustee Close:

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

The motion was

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Absent:

Trustee Ferguson

**11.3 MOTION TO ACTION IN-CAMERA RECOMMENDATIONS**

MOVED by Trustee Cochrane:

THAT the Board of Trustees receives for information the report on a personnel issue and the actions taken by the Administration to date, as discussed during the in-camera session.

The motion was

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Absent:

Trustee Ferguson

**12.0 ADJOURNMENT**

The Chair declared the meeting adjourned at 9:42 p.m.