

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, November 1, 2005 at 5:00 p.m.

PRESENT

Board of Trustees:

Trustee G. Dirks, Chair
Trustee C. Bazinet
Trustee N. Close
Trustee P. Cochrane
Trustee K. Fawcett
Trustee L. Ferguson
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
Ms. C. Faber, Director, Innovative Learning Services, on behalf of 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:

Mr. K. Brown, Elementary School Principals' Association
Ms. G. Burger-Martindale, Calgary Association of Parents and School Councils
Ms. D. Galanov, Calgary Board of Education Staff Association
Mr. L. Liffiton, Alberta Teachers' Association, Local 38
Mr. F. Reaume, Canadian Union of Public Employees, Local 40
Mr. B. Unterschultz, Elementary School Principals' Association

1.0 CALL TO ORDER, NATIONAL ANTHEM AND WELCOME

Chair Dirks called the meeting to order at 5:12 p.m. and the singing of the national anthem took place on the foyer, led by Grade 6 choir students from Varsity Acres School, who also sang a selection of songs prior to the meeting commencement.

The meeting continued in the Board Room, where Chair Dirks welcomed representatives from the aforementioned organizations and members of the public.

2.0 CONSIDERATION/APPROVAL OF AGENDA

MOVED by Trustee Cochrane:

THAT the Agenda for the Regular Meeting held November 1, 2005, be approved as submitted.

The motion was
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Action By

3.0 SCHOOL/SYSTEM PRESENTATIONS

3.1 National Sport School

Chief Superintendent Croskery introduced Mr. C. Hodgson, Principal, National Sport School, who came forward and gave the presentation. A video clip was shown of the students in their learning environment, both on site and off site, and engaged in competition. It was noted that Canada Olympic Development Association (CODA) and the CBE partnered in the establishment of the National Sport School in 1994, which became Canada's first sports high school. The school's mission is to provide a supportive learning environment to enable developing high performance athletes into mature and self-directed life-long learners, while pursuing excellence in sports. Mr. Hodgson stated that prior to the establishment of the school, a study showed that 50% of high performance student athletes would not complete high school.

Mr. Hodgson noted that the students have access to on-line instruction 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, and for those who are away at competition, a laptop is provided. He shared that the school is always looking for ways to better meet the personalized learning needs of its students, and are investigating the potential use of video-conferencing. The school was successful in its work with the Alberta Initiative for School Improvement (AISI) projects, through the Centre West Project and Teaching Through Inquiry.

On behalf of the Board of Trustees, Trustee Lane gave thanks for the presentation and shared the observation that the school is unique and very exciting.

4.0 HONOURS AND RECOGNITIONS

There were none.

5.0 PUBLIC CONVERSATION AND INFORMATION

5.1 Correspondence

There was none.

5.2 Report from Chair and Trustees

Trustee Bazinet informed that she was recently at Eugene Coste School for their unveiling of a tile wall that was designed by students and staff, and each tile represented either the past, present or future of Alberta.

Trustee Ferguson shared that she was at O.S. Geiger School for their *Calgary Reads* event that was held in the school gym, and there were about 60 adult participants. She shared that this is a terrific example of how our communities and partners interact with our students to promote literacy.

Chair Dirks noted his attendance at the following events:

- Jerry Potts School 30th Anniversary
- 2nd annual Calgary Business Awards Gala Luncheon, to which Chief Superintendent Croskery accompanied him.

5.3 Report from Chief Superintendent

Chief Superintendent Croskery reported on the following issues and events:

- He attended the Alberta Teachers' Association New Teachers Reception that was held at the Calgary Winter Club on October 24, 2005.
- He visited Lester B. Pearson School and met with facility operators, administration, curriculum leaders and teachers, as well as spending some time in the classroom with International Baccalaureate students.
- Deputy Chief Superintendent Hubert and Trustee Bazinet attended the Education Centre's Korean class of English as a Second Language teachers' graduation.
- November 2nd is "Take Our Kids to Work" day, which is a project that was initiated by the Learning Partnership and is supported by Alberta Education.
- The Master Academy Conference for school principals and system managers begins the evening of November 3rd and ends the morning of November 5th.
- He will be attending the November 2nd Conference for the Association of Professional Engineers, Geologists and Geophysicists of Alberta.

5.4 Public Question Period

There were no questions from the public.

5.5 Stakeholder Reports

There were no stakeholder reports.

5.6 Trustee Inquiries

There were no trustee inquiries.

6.0 MONITORING AND RESULTS

6.1 Ends

6.1.1 E-3: Citizenship – Reasonable Interpretation, Benchmarks and Indicators

Chief Superintendent Croskery provided introductory remarks and noted his appreciation of the assistance provided by the resource persons in compiling the report. He gave special thanks to Ms. Kelm, Administrative Assistant in Area III, noting that she made significant contributions to this work. Chief Superintendent Croskery pointed out that the report is illustrative of the interpretation, and not exhaustive of all possibilities, which will come about with the progression of time.

Deputy Chief Superintendent Hubert spoke to the absence of targets in the report, noting that in order to establish reasonable and meaningful targets the existence of baseline data is a necessity, which would be collected over a period of time.

Trustees expressed uncertainty about what to expect to be reported in the spring monitoring report. Ensuing discussion led to some suggestions by trustees and by administration about the collection of data that could be used as measures for the benchmarks and indicators, which included the following:

- School development plans,
- Student leadership groups (numbers and work undertaken),
- Model parliaments,
- Debate clubs,
- School health curriculum for elementary students,
- Student report cards to include the level of achievement of the individual,
- Summary report from schools about their volunteer efforts,
- Surveys on student involvement in democratic processes,
- Codes of conduct available in the schools,
- Ethics of sport/fair play.

Chief Superintendent Croskery pointed out that it is important not to be presenting cosmetic and superficial measures, and he noted that there may be ways in which to build objective indicators for schools, and that would take some time in doing. In response to questions about the contents of the subsequent monitoring report, Chief Superintendent Croskery concurred that it could depict clearer and more specific benchmarks, and the indicators could be provided through school summations of how they are operationalizing the intent of this End statement through activities in the schools, along with the provision of percentage levels on specific issues in relation to the benchmarks.

During discussion, comments were made about the difficulty and complications with monitoring and measuring this type of End. Chief Superintendent Croskery made the following remark as an example of a gray area: If you were to ask how should a grade 10 student demonstrate that he or she is an effective citizen or contributing member of democracy, the answer would be dependent on certain factors, such as an individual having an extreme physical or mental disability – and in that case, the best thing that one might expect in achievement might fall far below the conventional standards of a large cohort of students.

Throughout the discussion, a few trustees made comment that an interim report from the Chief Superintendent may be needed in advance of the spring monitoring report for this End, which provides further clarity to some of the issues discussed. A trustee commented that this first year could be considered as a learning experience in this area and that flexibility of the monitoring and outcomes could be acceptable at this stage.

MOVED by Trustee Bazinet:

THAT the report be referred back to the Chief Superintendent for clarity of the benchmarks and indicators to be used and the data that will be collected in this first year, and reported back to the Board of Trustees by December 20, 2005.

The motion was
DEFEATED.

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

MOVED by Trustee Cochrane:

THAT the Board of Trustees approves the reasonable interpretation, benchmarks and indicators for E-3: Citizenship as listed in the report, in the form as submitted with the Agenda for the Regular Meeting held November 1, 2005.

The motion was
CARRIED.

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

7:06 p.m. – Recessed.
7:24 p.m. – Reconvened.

6.2 Executive Limitations

6.2.1 EL-11: Financial Condition – Internal Annual Report

Chair Dirks reviewed the criteria against which the trustees are to judge this report, including that of reasonable interpretation of the policy, compliance with the policy, and whether sufficient information has been provided. He noted further that the particular vote with regard to compliance should in no way be considered as a vote of non-confidence.

Trustees posed questions, which were responded to by administration, that focused on the potential need for the Board to review policy related to Administration having to seek Board approval for revisions over \$500,000 in advance of implementation of such budget revisions. Mr. Dart clarified the intent of the suggestion is that formula-driven adjustments would not require Board approval.

MOVED by Trustee Fawcett:

THAT the Chief Superintendent has reasonably interpreted the provisions of policy Executive Limitation 11: Financial Condition, and that the Board of Trustees finds the Chief Superintendent to be in compliance.

MOVED by Trustee Ferguson:

THAT the motion be amended by the addition of the following statement to the end of the motion:

“and further, that the Chief Superintendent be commended for the overall financial management of the system in being well ahead of targets for debt repayment.”

The motion to amend was
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

MOVED by Trustee Bazinet:

THAT the motion be amended by the insertion of the following at the end of the first part of the motion that reads “...finds the Chief Superintendent to be in compliance”:

“...with the exception of sub-part 4 that reads:

- 4. Cause budget revisions and/or transfers greater than \$500,000 to occur between budgeted areas without the prior approval of the Board of Trustees and shall not fail to file with the Board of Trustees a periodic report of revisions up to and including such amount;”**

The motion to amend was
CARRIED.

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

For the purpose of clarification, the main motion as amended reads as follows:

THAT the Chief Superintendent has reasonably interpreted the provisions of policy Executive Limitation 11: Financial Condition, and that the Board of Trustees finds the Chief Superintendent to be in compliance, with the exception of sub-part 4 of the policy that reads:

“4. Cause budget revisions and/or transfers greater than \$500,000 to occur between budgeted areas without the prior approval of the Board of Trustees and shall not fail to file with the Board of Trustees a periodic report of revisions up to and including such amount;”

AND FURTHER THAT the Chief Superintendent be commended for the overall financial management of the system in being well ahead of targets for debt repayment.

Chair Dirks called the question on the main motion as amended.

The motion was
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

6.2.2 2005-2006 School Enrolment Report

Chief Superintendent Croskery provided brief introductory comments, noting that the report identifies an increase in enrolment, of which there is some debate about where this increase comes from. He pointed out that the increase in enrolment brings with it some revenue for the Calgary Board of Education; however, it should be noted that with that additional revenue comes additional expenditures, e.g. more students equals more teachers.

Mr. P. Carlton, Director, Community Engagement and Transportation, came forward and noted that the report indicates that addendums would be provided to trustees as those reports are generated. Information further to this was circulated at the meeting, putting forward the timelines from both the SIRS and Transportation departments as explanation of why this particular timeline was unable to be fully met.

Trustees gave consideration to the report and posed some questions, which were responded to by administration. Mr. Carlton addressed a question about special settings, for example, William Roper Hull and Christine Meikle, noting the enrolments have remained fairly steady over the past 10 years.

In response to a question of enrolment numbers for Chinook Learning Services, Mr. Carlton stated the figures could be provided at a later date; and with respect to Cbe-learn, Ms. Faber noted that an increase of 18% over the numbers from last year was seen in terms of new registrations, and those new registrations would be students who are not concurrent with other CBE schools. Mr. Dart provided additional information in relation to the budget and enrolment projections for Chinook Learning Services, noting that enrolments have increased over the past number of years, with some fluctuation over the last two years.

Some discussion took place on the factors surrounding the increase in enrolment, with Mr. Carlton noting that it has been found in some neighborhoods there is more than one family living in a home, which is not documented in the census reporting; another factor is that the building of public schools in newer communities of the city has resulted in attracting students from outside of the public system.

A trustee noted that concerns continue to be expressed that our high school class sizes are too large, and with respect to this year's enrolment increase of high school students, he asked for administration's comment. Chief Superintendent Croskery noted that there are a whole range of variables that will drive class size, examples of which include issues around scheduling, i.e. no instruction time given by librarians, counselors, the principal or assistant principal, or where more prep time and less instructional time is agreed to – the configuration of variables, rather than other factors in resource allocations, will drive class size.

A question was raised about the reporting for Alternative High School, where it lists the utilization at 145%, with a total school enrolment of 152 students and a provincial capacity rating of 170 student spaces. It was noted that coded students, for purposes of calculating utilization, are multiplied by a factor of 1.4.

8:00 p.m. Chair Dirks received the consent of trustees to continue the meeting to the conclusion of the Agenda.

MOVED by Trustee Cochrane:

THAT the Board of Trustees receives the School Enrolment Report for the 2005-2006 school year as information and for the record, in the form as submitted with the Agenda for the Regular Meeting held November 1, 2005.

The motion was
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

6.3 Board Performance – Governance Process

There were no items.

7.0 BOARD DEVELOPMENT

There were no items.

8.0 POLICY DEVELOPMENT AND REVIEW

There were no items.

9.0 CONSENT AGENDA

Chair Dirks noted that, as no items had been pulled from the Consent Agenda, the items would be deemed to be adopted, as presented.

9.1 Board Consent Agenda

9.1.1 Approval of Minutes

- Regular Meeting held October 4, 2005
- Organizational Meeting held October 18, 2005

THAT the Minutes of the Regular Meeting held October 4, 2005 and of the Organizational Meeting held October 18, 2005 be adopted as submitted.

9.1.2 Liaison Report – Alberta School Boards Association

THAT the liaison report with respect to the Alberta School Boards Association be received for information, in the form as submitted with the Agenda for the Regular Meeting held November 1, 2005.

9.1.3 Quarterly Report – Education Matters

THAT the quarterly report with respect to EducationMatters be received for information and for the record, in the form as submitted with the Agenda for the Regular Meeting held November 1, 2005.

9.2 Chief Superintendent Consent Agenda

9.2.1 Monthly Update

THAT the Board of Trustees receives the report for information.

10.0 ACTION ITEMS

There were none.

11.0 TRUSTEES' NOTICES OF MOTION

There were none.

12.0 ADJOURNMENT

The Chair declared the meeting adjourned at 8:13 p.m.