

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, September 19, 2006 at 5:00 p.m.

PRESENT

Board of Trustees:

Trustee G. Dirks, Board Chair (departed at 5:30 p.m.)
Trustee C. Bazinet
Trustee N. Close, Board Vice Chair
Trustee K. Fawcett
Trustee L. Ferguson
Trustee G. Lane

ABSENT:

Trustee P. Cochrane

Administration in Attendance:

Dr. B. Croskery, Chief Superintendent of Schools
Ms. J. Barkway, Assistant Corporate Secretary
Mr. D. Dart, Superintendent, Corporate Services – Secretary Treasurer
Mr. J. Drysdale, Superintendent, Educational Support Services
Ms. B. Hubert, Deputy Chief Superintendent of Schools (departed at 6:31 p.m.)
Mr. J. Jones, Executive Assistant to the Chief Superintendent
Ms. B. Kuester, Executive Director of Communications
Ms. S. Wasylyshyn, Executive Assistant to the Trustees
Ms. D. Perrier, Recording Secretary

Stakeholder Representatives in Attendance:

Ms. L. Androsoff, Elementary School Principals' Association
Ms. G. Burger-Martindale, Calgary Association of Parents and School Councils
Ms. M.J. Burrows, Principals' Association for Adolescent Learners (PAAL)
Mr. L. Liffiton, Alberta Teachers' Association, Local 38
Mr. F. Reaume, Canadian Union of Public Employees, Local 40
Ms. D. Selby, Principals' Association for Adolescent Learners (PAAL)

Action By

1.0 CALL TO ORDER, NATIONAL ANTHEM AND WELCOME

Chair Dirks called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m. and the singing of the national anthem took place. Chair Dirks introduced and welcomed Kees, who is a Board Page for the 2006-2007 school year. He acknowledged the attendance of His Worship Mayor Bronconnier as well as representatives from the aforementioned organizations and members of the public, including Dr. B. Dickson, former Deputy Chief Superintendent of CBE Schools.

Chair Dirks noted the absence of Trustee Cochrane, who was in Edmonton on Board business with the Alberta School Boards Association.

2.0 CONSIDERATION/APPROVAL OF AGENDA

MOVED by Trustee Fawcett:

THAT the Agenda for the Regular Meeting held September 19, 2006 be approved as submitted.

The motion was
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

3.0 SCHOOL/SYSTEM PRESENTATIONS

3.1 Capital Funding Options – Presentation by His Worship Mayor Bronconnier

Mayor Bronconnier presented *A Plan for the Future – Property Tax Infrastructure Plan* with the aide of a PowerPoint slideshow, of which hard copies were distributed at the meeting. Mayor Bronconnier explained how the concept for this plan originated and noted it evolved into an innovative schools and communities approach, to address two challenges of the Calgary community – municipal infrastructure and school infrastructure. This plan is about keeping local taxes in Calgary, and using them to build local infrastructure.

The following is a summary of the contents of the document *A Plan for the Future*:

- Calgary’s total 10-year infrastructure deficit is estimated to be \$5.4 billion.
- CBE Board of Trustees’ statement “Calgary parents and communities are wondering if they will ever have a school built”.
- CBE initiated a study in 2001 to examine improved utilization of schools.
- Recommendations of Alberta’s Commission on Learning relating to community and schools infrastructure.
- Guiding Principles of Innovative Schools and Communities that were adopted by Calgary City Council.
- Stable, long-term capital funding for infrastructure and schools, with no new taxes – how it would work.
- The City’s Commitment.
- School infrastructure plan - the Innovative Schools and Communities strategy of a 10-year plan to:
 - build new schools when and where needed;
 - renovate and do major upgrades to older schools in established neighbourhoods;
 - revitalize underused sites by consolidation and providing additional community facilities such as seniors’ lodges; and
 - rejuvenate the historical sandstone school structures.
- The Province’s Commitment.
- The Benefits to Citizens.
- The Concepts to incorporate libraries, schools, police stations, and other community amenities on the same site; revitalize older school sites, and to preserve sandstone schools.
- Planning Models.
- Community Revitalization Concept.
- Next Steps for Implementation.

Mayor Bronconnier noted that views or concerns have been expressed that this plan would create another bureaucracy; however, his belief is exactly the opposite and that it would break down the levels of bureaucracy. He pointed out that neither Calgary city council nor local school boards can move this initiative forward – that it must be signed off by the provincial government.

A brief question and answer session was held between Trustees and Mayor Bronconnier, and the discussion included issues surrounding flexibility with the model presented with regard to authority over school infrastructure funding; and the effects the suggested changes to provincial legislation might have on both urban and rural school boards.

5:30 p.m. – On behalf of the Board of Trustees, Chair Dirks thanked Mayor Bronconnier for his presentation. He then excused himself from the meeting in order to attend the installation service for the new University of Calgary Chancellor. Vice Chair Close assumed the Chair, and additional questions were raised and addressed, subsequent to the conclusion of the presentation.

3.2 Chinook Learning Services – Connections Program

Mr. G. McKenzie, Director, Chinook Learning Services, provided introductory comments and a brief history of the Connections program, which has been in operation since 1987, and two years ago became a high school credit program. An informational handout was distributed at the meeting. The program provides high school students with an immersion opportunity that helps create a better understanding of the multicultural and diverse nature of our schools and our society. Mr. McKenzie noted that the program operates across Canada and last year engaged 36 high schools from nine different school jurisdictions in Alberta, including 13 Calgary Board of Education high schools. The Connections program received an exemplary evaluation from external evaluators, and Mr. McKenzie noted some of the conclusions made by evaluators of the program. Chinook Learning Services, the Connections Education Society and the Kiwanis Club of Calgary jointly administer the Connections program. Representatives Mr. J. Fisher and Dr. B. Dickson from the Connections Education Society and the Kiwanis Club respectively were acknowledged and welcomed to the meeting.

Mr. G. Taven, Chinook Learning Services Connections Program Teacher, came forward and spoke about the Connections 25 course, noting it is a leading edge type of program, very unique and creative in its delivery and in reaching out to students. Mr. Taven provided in-depth details about the program and the activities that students engage in. He introduced three leadership students of the program from Henry Wisewood High School - Audrey, Erin and Ashley, who came forward and shared remarks about their learning experience with the Connections program, and showed a video (PowerPoint) of their final project for the program.

On behalf of the Board of Trustees, Chair Close thanked the presenters for sharing information about the Connections program, and commended them on their undertaking in this initiative.

4.0 HONOURS AND RECOGNITIONS

4.1 Lighthouse Award

Ms. Kuester informed that this month's Lighthouse Award recipient is SMART Technologies, and she provided introductory remarks about the partnership and welcomed Ms. N. Knowlton, President and Co-CEO, and Mr. D. Martin, Chairman and Co-CEO of SMART.

SMART Technologies is a market leader in easy-to-use learning technologies for teachers and students, and is helping to educate more than 11 million students worldwide, everyday, in more than 330,000 classrooms. SMART has collaborated with the Calgary Board of Education on the following initiatives: the Large City Schools Superintendents' Conference; a research project at Dr. Gordon Townsend School; a donation of 50 SMART board interactive whiteboards to Kindergarten to Grade 3 classrooms; through their SMARTer Kids Foundation of Canada, assisting with student participation in the Connections program; and with a series of new projects that are to begin in the 2006-07 school year.

Ms. Knowlton provided some remarks about the partnership, gave thanks for the recognition and noted their belief that education is literally the economic driver, and she stated that their contribution here is much more than just a vendor looking for a sale - it is truly about the partnership that exists today.

On behalf of the Board of Trustees, Chair Close provided words of appreciation for the partnership with SMART Technologies and presented Ms. Knowlton and Mr. Martin with the Lighthouse Award.

5.0 PUBLIC CONVERSATION AND INFORMATION

5.1 Correspondence

There was no correspondence for the corporate record.

5.2 REPORT FROM THE CHAIR AND TRUSTEES

There were no reports from the Chair or from Trustees.

5.3 Report from the Chief Superintendent

Chief Superintendent Croskery shared some brief comments on the following issues:

- He visited Rosedale Elementary School on September 15th for a pancake breakfast that was sponsored by the school council.
- He expressed his appreciation to Ms. J. Cuthbertson for her emphatic support of public education, and noted that this evening she is being installed as the new Chancellor of the University of Calgary.

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 Executive Limitations 10: Budgeting Process – Annual Monitoring Report

Chair Close 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. She noted also that the particular vote with regard to compliance should in no way be considered as a vote of non-confidence.

Administration addressed questions that were posed by Trustees, with regard to the following issues:

- Public participation in the budget development process – Superintendent Dart stated that the public was not formally invited to participate in this process last year. Chief Superintendent Croskery added that the direction and ownership of this is in the hands of the Board of Trustees; and, that Administration would follow whatever consultation process the Board might consider as reasonable.
- Variance of details in the budget documents that are presented in preliminary format and in approved format – Superintendent Dart clarified that a supplemental document is attached to the approved budget, providing comprehensive details about programs as well as the individual service units, which is additional information that was not yet available for the preliminary budget presentation. It also includes the consolidated

document of the Resource Allocation Method (RAM) details that was approved by the Board of Trustees in April.

MOVED by Trustee Lane:

THAT the Chief Superintendent has reasonably interpreted the provisions of Executive Limitations 10: Budgeting Process, and the Board of Trustees finds the Chief Superintendent to be in compliance with this policy.

The motion was

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Absent:

Trustee Dirks

MOVED by Trustee Bazinet:

THAT the Board of Trustees commends the Chief Superintendent for yet again bringing in a budget that is balanced.

The motion was

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Absent:

Trustee Dirks

6.2 Executive Limitations 12: Asset Protection – Annual Monitoring Report

A question and answer session ensued between Trustees and Administration, and the discussion covered the following issues:

- options that have been examined and followed through on to get significant savings in costs or enhanced productivity, while maintaining compliance with legislated requirements;
- the language used in reporting compliance with respect to plant operations and maintenance, reflecting that in certain areas the issues are being dealt with marginally or modestly;
- the challenges with record-keeping in both digital and non-digital form, and the associated difficulty with respect to insufficient resources as well as insufficient space; and because we are a multi-site organization, consistency throughout the organization is a huge challenge.

MOVED by Trustee Bazinet:

THAT the Chief Superintendent has reasonably interpreted the provisions of Executive Limitations 12: Asset Protection, and the Board of Trustees finds the Chief Superintendent to be in compliance with this policy.

The motion was

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Absent:

Trustee Dirks

7.0 CONSENT AGENDA

A request was made for removal of the item under the Chief Superintendent Consent Agenda, to be considered as new Item 8.0. Chair Close declared the item on the Board Consent Agenda to be adopted as presented.

7.1 Board Consent Agenda

7.1.1 Executive Limitations 2: Executive Succession and Backup – Annual Monitoring Report

THAT the Chief Superintendent has reasonably interpreted the provisions of Executive Limitations 2: Executive Succession and Backup, and the Board of Trustees finds the Chief Superintendent to be in compliance with this policy.

Chief Superintendent Croskery gave thanks to the staff members who provided input to the work of putting together the monitoring reports considered at this meeting.

8.0 Allocation of Alberta Education's Supplementary 2006-07 Funding

Trustees posed a number of questions, which were addressed by the Administration and are summarized as follows:

- The \$3.9 million shortfall in the Transportation block – this shortfall was covered off in its entirety through four other blocks of funding, of which \$0.70 million came from the Teaching and Learning block funding, and from the supplementary funding and that \$0.70 million will be returned to Teaching and Learning.
- ESL funding – previously, when the provincial cap for funding English as a Second Language (ESL) was five years, the CBE would allocate 75% of the normal Resource Allocation Method (RAM) funds to schools to provide English as a Second Language supports in the sixth, seventh and eighth years for those students who were coded as needing those supports. Now that the province has increased the ESL funding cap to seven years, we will be able to reallocate those funds that have been freed up to other instructional demand areas.
- Allocation of additional funds to schools to offset the loss of the General School Fee revenue – the initial shortfall from this revenue was approximately \$2.2 million; this will be the second allocation to top up those lost revenues, which will amount to nearly a complete replenishment of that lost revenue.

MOVED by Trustee Ferguson:

THAT the Board of Trustees receives the report *Allocation of Alberta Education's Supplementary 2006-2007 Funding* for information, in the form as submitted with the agenda for the Regular Meeting held September 19, 2006.

The motion was
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

9.0 TRUSTEE NOTICES OF MOTION

There were no Trustee notices of motion.

10.0 ADJOURNMENT

The Chair declared the meeting adjourned at 6:56 p.m.