

## 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, October 7, 2008 at 5:00 p.m.

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### PRESENT:

#### Board of Trustees:

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

#### Administration:

Dr. B. Croskery, Chief Superintendent of Schools  
Mr. F. Coppinger, Superintendent, Facilities and Environmental Services  
Mr. D. Dart, Superintendent, Corporate Services – Secretary Treasurer (arrived at 5:06 p.m.)  
Mr. C. Davies, Executive Assistant to the Chief Superintendent of Schools  
Ms. B. Kuester, Executive Director of Communications  
Mr. R. Peden, Director and General Counsel, Legal Affairs (arrived at 5:20 p.m.)  
Ms. J. Barkway, Assistant Corporate Secretary  
Ms. S. Wasylshyn, Executive Assistant to the Trustees (departed at 8:53 p.m.)  
Ms. D. Perrier, Recording Secretary

#### Stakeholder Representatives:

Mr. B. Anderson, Canadian Union of Public Employees (arrived at 5:30 p.m.)  
Ms. M.J. Burrows, Principals' Association for Adolescent Learners (PAAL)  
Dr. M. Christison, Senior High School Principals' Association  
Ms. J. Minifie, Calgary Board of Education Staff Association  
Mr. T. Reeson, Trades (Carpenters and Allied Workers, Local 2103)  
Ms. J. Regal, Alberta Teachers' Association, Local 38  
Ms. D. Selby, Principals' Association for Adolescent Learners (PAAL)  
Ms. L. Shutiak, Calgary Association of Parents and School Councils

Action By

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

Chair Cochrane called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m. and the singing of the national anthem took place led by students from W.O. Mitchell School. Chair Cochrane acknowledged and welcomed representatives from the aforementioned organizations.

### **2.0 CONSIDERATION/APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Ms. Barkway noted a proposed change to the Agenda includes the addition of Item 6.4 – September 30 Student Enrolment Summary 2008.

MOVED by Trustee Ferguson:

**THAT the Agenda for the Regular Meeting of October 7, 2008, be approved as submitted, subject to the addition of Item 6.4 as noted above.**

The motion was  
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

### **3.0 SCHOOL/SYSTEM PRESENTATIONS**

#### **3.1 W.O. Mitchell School**

Ms. M. McBride, Director, Area I, provided opening remarks and introduced Ms. T. Franks, Principal. Ms. Franks introduced students Rebecca, Nelson, Samara, Adam and Mr. V. Pedenko, AISI Learning Leader. She noted that one of the cornerstones of teaching and learning at W.O. Mitchell School is on Ends 3: Citizenship. They recognize that 21<sup>st</sup> century learning has to go beyond the four walls of the school. By empowering their students to be part of the decision making and implementing of actions that contribute to a better world, as educators they are hoping to create global citizens in which we can entrust our future. She noted the first priority of their school development plan is to ensure that students demonstrate the character to act in a respectful, kind and caring manner, bringing about positive change to our world locally and globally, through activities and initiatives such as student council, a partnership with Darajani School in Tanzania, Roots of Empathy, celebration of the United Nations International days, school council fundraising activities, and daily recycling tasks.

A PowerPoint presentation was given and the four students came forward and shared a snapshot of how they model the characteristics of active citizenship everyday. Every student is expected to follow the three pillars: respect for themselves, respect for others and respect for the environment. Some of the ways in which the students participate to become better citizens include involvement in the Terry Fox Run & Fundraiser; student announcements and messages about respect; problem-solving in classroom meetings about bullying, fairness, etc.; school buddy/peer system; awareness of world peace; energy conservation; hands-on recycling and composting; connections with students at Darajani School and fundraising to assist those students; understanding and valuing our rich resources and lifestyle. Students concluded their presentation by singing "With My Own Two Hands" with credits to Ben Harper and Jack Johnson.

On behalf of the Board, Trustee Dirks thanked the students, staff and parents for attending the meeting and for the school presentation, noting they've given us all a very good understanding of the meaning of citizenship and that each one of us, with our own two hands, can make a great difference in our world.

### **4.0 HONOURS AND RECOGNITIONS**

There were none.

### **5.0 PUBLIC CONVERSATION AND INFORMATION**

#### **5.1 Report from the Chair and Trustees**

Trustee King noted that earlier in the day she, along with Chief Superintendent Croskery and Ms. Regal, participated in the Literacy Day - Calgary Reads at Patrick Airlie School. They

were honored guests as readers and received an envelope filled with cards of thanks from the students.

Trustee Lane reported that EducationMatters recently won a national award for communications. He read a statement that was given by Ms. B. Burggraf, Executive Director of EducationMatters, in which she notes that the award belongs mostly to the Calgary Board of Education public education graduate students who make a difference in their communities on a local, national and international scale. The award was presented by the Canadian Association of Communicators in Education (CACE). He noted further that the EducationMatters 2008 Distinguished Alumni Dinner will be held on October 23, 2008, where the theme is "Always Learning" and Mr. C. Fischer and Ms. J. Cuthbertson are the two distinguished alumni to be recognized.

Chair Cochrane shared about her visit to Alex Ferguson School on October 3<sup>rd</sup>, for the launch of a CD that each grade wrote a song for, based on their environmental work throughout the year. This project was funded by their community partner British Petroleum and by Enmax.

#### 5.2 Report from the Chief Superintendent

Chief Superintendent Croskery provided highlights of the following issues and events:

- Student enrolment in the Calgary Board of Education as at September 30, 2008 was 101,823 – approximately 1,200 above our projected enrolment.
- Mr. A. Brash, teacher at Terry Fox School, gave an inspiring presentation to the Canadian Club of Calgary.
- He attended an event put on by the Telus World of Science. Mr. D. Werklund has invested in the community through the establishment of a foundation to the new Science Centre to be built near the Calgary Zoo. He announced a donation for the wing on the centre, to be dedicated to science and leadership. The Werklund Foundation is doing some wonderful work with over 700 of our students.
- A Junior High/Middle School Appreciation Banquet was held at the Roundup Centre, Stampede Park. Mr. G. Cumming, former principal of Tom Baines School, was honoured with a special recognition award for his contribution to education and particularly for his strong support of athletics and extra curricular activity.
- He visited Dr. E.P. Scarlett School last Friday, for a meeting with the co-chairs of the principals' association.
- He remarked that there was a good turnout from community supporters of the Patrick Airlie School reading program.
- The Calgary Board of Education Staff Association held its inaugural meeting with the Administration earlier in the day; it is hoped the two groups will work together on strengthening their relationship.

#### 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 Consideration of Closure of Ernest Manning High School (Regular Program, CBe-learn and National Sport School)**

Trustee Dirks declared a conflict of interest, noting he is an employee at Ambrose University College, which is located near the corner of 17<sup>th</sup> Avenue and 69<sup>th</sup> Street, and if the C-Train route were to extend along the proposed west leg, the college and its employees could presumably benefit from the decision on this particular matter.

5:29 p.m. - Trustee Dirks left the room.

MOVED by Trustee Ferguson:

- 1. THAT the Minutes of the Public Meeting of September 25, 2008, Attachment 1 to the report dated October 7, 2008, be approved by the Board of Trustees; and**
- 2. THAT the report be received as information and for the record.**

The motion was  
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Chair Cochrane noted specifically page 6-46 of the report, stating that the Minister of Education has granted the Board an exemption from sections 4 through 7 of the *Closure of Schools Regulation* as it pertains to the consideration of closure of Ernest Manning High School. The Board can now formally consider this closure.

Trustee Lane shared his analysis of the concerns that were raised at the public consultation meeting that was held on Thursday, September 25<sup>th</sup>, and of three written submissions that the board received subsequent to that meeting. He pointed out this is a unique situation because Ernest Manning High School is being considered for closure not because there is insufficient enrolment to sustain the school or because it has become decrepit and unsafe, but, rather it is being considered for closure to possibly take advantage of an unusual opportunity and to resolve an uncertain situation. He was of the belief that most of the public understand that context and, therefore, the concerns tend to focus on the process rather than the act of closure.

The three written submissions received included one from The City, expressing appreciation to the Calgary Board of Education and indicating its support for the closure. A submission came from a staff member of Ernest Manning High School, about the matter of Art at the current school and its movement to the replacement school that he assumes will be built, about the importance of building new Art facilities in the replacement school and also about the movement of plants, bushes and trees from the current school to the replacement school. The third submission came from a graduate of Ernest Manning High School and makes an assumption that the replacement school will retain the name of the current school, for which he is happy. He also asks that the Griffin Fountain be moved to the replacement school, and before the current school is demolished he felt there should be a farewell party involving all former students and staff.

From the public consultation meeting, three people expressed concerns that Ernest Manning High School is still a very good and serviceable building; that the LRT could go along the side of the building and not require the land on which the school is situated. The current location of the school is very valuable and strategic and will only become more valuable in

the future. One person noted that this appears to be one level of government forcing a decision upon another.

Trustee Lane grouped the other concerns under six headings: programming; name and culture of the replacement school; appearance of the replacement school; access to the replacement school; disruption; and concerns particular to the National Sport School. The major concern voiced by eight people on September 25<sup>th</sup> is the potential loss of shops, CTS vocational programs and the leadership program in the replacement school. A second concern expressed by five people was the desire that the name of Ernest Manning and some of the culture, artwork and memorabilia be transferred to the replacement school. A concern was expressed that the replacement school be attractively designed so as to be competitive with the charter and private high schools in that part of the city. Another concern, expressed by four people, is the availability of transit (access) and revision of attendance boundaries, especially for Discovery Ridge. There were a number of people who expressed concern about potential disruption to students, staff and teachers, from construction, construction delays and the whole process of moving to another facility. A broad set of concerns were expressed by parents of students attending the National Sport School. The hope was expressed that the interests of the National Sport School be kept as a high priority and that the desirability of a separate building for it at Canada Olympic Park not be forgotten.

Chair Cochrane noted it is very important for our public to know that Trustees do listen to and/or read submissions in the case of these important decisions to be made and they all form part of the consideration in the Board's decision-making process.

Motion Arising:

MOVED by Trustee Lane:

**BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Board of Trustees approves the closure of Ernest Manning High School and all programs and schools therein (Regular Program, CBe-learn and National Sport School), effective September 1, 2010, or such later date as may be required by construction timelines or to ensure the non-disruptive redirection of students to the new school. The closure shall be conditional on the planned new school building being satisfactorily completed three months, more or less, prior to the redirection of students to the new facility and all necessary student accommodation needs being fully met throughout the transition from Ernest Manning High School to the new school.**

Trustees debated the motion and reasons given in favour of the motion were as follows:

- This is an alternative opportunity for a new school to be built, replacing an aging school building.
- A conditional agreement has been worked out between The City, the province and the Calgary Board of Education that is satisfactory to all parties, and this is something that should be celebrated – that three levels of government worked together to come up with a solution that works really well for students, staff and parents and also for the City of Calgary and the broader public.
- Even though the existing school is strategically located, the replacement school is proposed to be built in a good location as well.
- It would end any uncertainty about future actions, i.e., potential for expropriation of land.

- The proposed building of a new school does not affect our 2009-2012 Capital Plan of prioritizing school building needs.
- The tri-partite conditional agreement ensures there would be no unnecessary disruption to students or staff during the process.
- A commitment has been made by the Area Director to engage staff, students and parents in discussions surrounding curriculum and options to be offered at the replacement school.
- The proposed new high school would be purpose-built for this century's learners, for the way that students will learn into the future.

A Trustee commented on the options that have been offered at Ernest Manning High School for a number of years, which have been greatly valued and are to be highly commended. It was felt those programs should continue to be offered where possible and, as much as physically possible, the memorabilia from the school should be preserved and transferred to the replacement school.

Chair Cochrane called for the vote on the motion.

The motion was

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Absent:

Trustee Dirks

5:52 p.m. - Trustee Dirks returned to the meeting.

## 6.2 **Proposed Accommodation Plan for Glamorgan, Glenbrook, Killarney and Sir James Lougheed Schools**

Superintendent Dart provided a brief overview of the contents of the report. A summary of the Administrative responses to Trustee questions is as follows:

- In discussing the scenarios with the communities, there was no consideration given to the possibility of a full school closure. It was noted that although Sir James Lougheed School has a low enrolment at this point in time, it will require the space for the Canadian Forces Base development. In addition, it is important to be able to offer alternative programs for parents to choose; therefore, it is proposed to offer a regular program that is east of 37<sup>th</sup> Street and a regular program west of 37<sup>th</sup> Street.
- Administration anticipates that over a period of time into the future, Killarney and Glamorgan Schools would be close to 100% utilization. It is expected that the utilization would be less than that at Sir James Lougheed School; however, it could increase should the opportunity arise for offering special education programs in the school.
- With respect to Administration looking at the future expansion in the CFB districts, Mr. Carlton noted that sometimes developments are slower to proceed than expected. An example of this is Garrison Woods, from which we are now accommodating between 30-40 students per grade level, a similar number to that expected from CFB developments.
- It was noted that the scenario to combine the Glamorgan regular program and the Glenbrook Traditional Learning Centre program together was not considered. It was found in the past that we need a very strong cohort group to sustain an alternative program and by placing it in one school is the draw. Administration is

of the belief that Glenbrook School should be kept available for further anticipated growth in the far west area of the city.

- A question was raised about the validity of the provincial capacity depicted for schools, noting it does not factor in the design of some of our older schools that have wider hallways, etc., and also it brings into question the smaller class size limits that the province funds us for and the public expects us to abide by. Administration noted this continues to be an ongoing dilemma, in terms of capacity and actual instructional space available, and also the perception of what the class size initiative means in terms of 17-1 as an overall system average.

MOVED by Trustee Bazinet:

**THAT the Board receives, as information and for the record, the accommodation and implementation plan outlined in the report dated October 7, 2008.**

The motion was  
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

MOVED by Trustee Lane:

**BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Board of Trustees is satisfied that there is cause to proceed with a consideration of closure of the Kindergarten to Grade 6 regular program at Glamorgan School, in accordance with the *Closure of Schools Regulation* and the Board of Trustees' Governance Process Policy 5E: *Board of Trustees' Procedure – Consideration of School Closure*, sections 4 to 7.**

Trustee Lane opened the debate, noting it is not altogether clear what the financial savings are likely to be for this recommended arrangement but he felt the proposed accommodation plan is deserving of further study as it would allow for a regular program within the vicinity and a specialized program to remain at Glamorgan School, allowing for future expansion of both programs.

Trustee comments in support of the motion were as follows:

- The west quadrant of the city is experiencing very high growth.
- A number of parents residing in the newer developments to the west, close to the boundaries of Battalion Park School, which is full, are sending their children to private or charter schools.
- Feedback from the community engagement process shows there is general satisfaction with the accommodation plan.
- Sufficient information has been provided in this report to warrant moving forward with the proposed accommodation plan as it relates to consideration of closure of the regular program at Glamorgan School.

A comment in opposition to the motion was that a closer look at the four schools should be done at this point in time with a view to the future, because as the projections show in 2012 there will still be a lot of space remaining in the schools. Concerns were also expressed about a natural division being used, namely 37<sup>th</sup> Street, and the argument of expected growth in the future has not materialized in past considerations of school closure.

Chair Cochrane called for the vote on the motion.

The motion was  
CARRIED.

|            |  |
|------------|--|
| In favour: | Trustee Cochrane<br>Trustee Dirks<br>Trustee Ferguson<br>Trustee King<br>Trustee Kryczka<br>Trustee Lane |
| Opposed:   | Trustee Bazinet  |

MOVED by Trustee Lane:

**BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Board of Trustees is satisfied that there is cause to proceed with a consideration of closure of the Kindergarten to Grade 6 regular program at Killarney School, in accordance with the *Closure of Schools Regulation and the Board of Trustees' Governance Process Policy 5E: Board of Trustees' Procedure – Consideration of School Closure, sections 4 to 7.***

Trustee Lane opened the debate, noting his belief this situation is parallel to the situation just debated. The Montessori program at Killarney School appears to be quite strong – potentially doubling in a four-year period, and Sir James Lougheed School has ample space to take in additional students for the regular program. He stated this may not be a perfect solution; however, it should be looked at more closely. The proposed accommodation plan provides for a regular program in the community as well as the opportunity of having an alternative program.

Chair Cochrane called for the vote on the motion.

The motion was  
CARRIED.

|            |  |
|------------|--|
| In favour: | Trustee Cochrane<br>Trustee Dirks<br>Trustee Ferguson<br>Trustee King<br>Trustee Kryczka<br>Trustee Lane |
| Opposed:   | Trustee Bazinet  |

6.3 **Establishment of a New Operating Reserve for Unrealized Investment Gains and Losses**

Superintendent Dart provided a brief review of the contents of the report. The establishment of, and subsequent appropriations of amounts to or from the Unrealized Investment Gains and Losses Reserve fund, will ensure that the Calgary Board of Education is compliant with the Canadian Institute of Chartered Accounts (CICA) Handbook Section 3855 – Financial Instruments – Recognition and Measurement.

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

- Administration looked at several options before choosing this particular mechanism to appropriately document the year end accumulated gains and losses that can arise from fluctuations in closing values of long term investments that the Calgary Board of Education holds for trading and have not been sold prior to fiscal year end in any given year.

- Only at year end would additions or withdrawals to the Reserve be made.
- Administration does not require the Board's approval should it decide to sell off investments; however, it would be reported at year-end and Board approval would be sought to make any additions or withdrawals from the Reserve.
- A Trustee requested that the status of the Reserve be reported to the Board on a quarterly basis, to which Administration noted it may be a difficult undertaking because fluctuations occur day-to-day, but consideration would be given to how that information could be provided quarterly.
- It was noted that Administration reports the gains on disposition as part of the regular financial reporting, and those would be part of the revenue position for the Calgary Board of Education; while it does not reflect the reserves necessarily, the gains would be treated as revenue items that are reported on the quarterly updates.

D. Dart

MOVED by Trustee Kryczka:

1. **THAT an Operating Reserve entitled *Unrealized Investment Gains and Losses Reserve Fund* be established.**
2. **THAT the terms and conditions as outlined in the Analysis section of the report dated October 7, 2008 for the *Unrealized Investment Gains and Losses Reserve Fund* be approved.**

The motion was  
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

6:38 p.m. – Recessed.

6:52 p.m. – Reconvened.

#### 6.4 **September 30 Student Enrolment Summary 2008**

MOVED by Trustee Dirks:

**THAT the September 30 Student Enrolment Summary 2008 be received for information and for the record.**

The motion was  
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

### 7.0 **MONITORING AND RESULTS**

#### 7.1 **Provincial Achievement Tests & Diploma Examination Results**

The following staff from Accountability Services provided highlights of the Summary of the 2007-08 Provincial Achievement Test and Diploma Examination Results, aided by a PowerPoint presentation: Dr. B. Boese, Director; Mr. R. Bauer and Ms. D. Nowlan, Specialists; and Ms. S. Pynoo, Consultant.

Trustees posed questions, which were responded to by Administration and the discussion is summarized as follows:

- Last year was the first year that the grade 3 French Immersion students wrote the French Language Arts test. Alberta Education did not release those results because they are attempting to decipher the results between acceptable and excellence; once the method of reporting the results has been determined, they will be released. It was noted that either the students did exceptionally well on the exam or the exam was too easy.
- Discussion took place about the significant gains in achievement by our English as a Second Language (ESL) learners. Administration attributed this success to the high expertise about teaching ESL and through a combination of our work with the University of Calgary to strengthen the ESL capacity of the Faculty of Education, the in-service professional development with our staff, a review of our assessment and intake processes and providing direct instruction for these students. It was noted these particular practices can be extrapolated to many of our student population.
- Reflection was made on the results of our Special Education students and Administration commented on the system's heightened focus on the individual student needs, for all of our students. There are many supports and tools available to meet our individual learner needs.
- In response to a concern expressed about the results in the standard of excellence area for our French Immersion students, Administration noted that some language difficulty within the exam itself may be part of the issue. An inquiry to Alberta Education will be made about this and whether it is seen throughout the province.
- Concern was shared with respect to the diploma exam results for our CBe-learn students in comparison to the provincial results. Administration commented on the diverse make-up of those students, noting they come with a variety of learning needs and challenges; in many cases these students attend CBe-learn to upgrade their programs; they have not been successful in other settings; or, they have come to add additional programs into an already hectic schedule; some are working students and some are students with children of their own. It was further noted that a steady increase of their learning achievement is seen from when those students first enter the program to when they complete.
- Area Directors shared how they use these results to improve student learning, noting they are a snapshot in time; they become part of the data that schools use in their school development plan to set their individual goals and student learning outcomes. This information then rolls up into the Area Development Plans and subsequently informs the Three-Year Education Plan. Teachers also look at this data to examine how they might adjust their practices within particular grade levels or across grades or within a particular group of teachers. Chief Superintendent Croskery referenced a book by K. Parker Boudett entitled *Data Wise – A Step by Step Guide to Using Assessment Results to Improve Teaching and Learning*, which became available in Canada in 2006. He noted many copies of the book have been circulating throughout our system.

MOVED by Trustee Bazinet:

**THAT the Summary of the 2007-08 Provincial Achievement Test and Diploma Examination Results report be received for information.**

The motion was

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

At 7:54 p.m. Chair Cochrane received consent of the Board to continue the meeting to the completion of the agenda.

**7.2 Mathematics and Language Arts Provincial Achievement Test Review and Improvement Strategies**

This report is in response to a directive from the Board of Trustees to the Chief Superintendent with respect to our student results in grade 3, 6 and 9 Mathematics, and it puts forward some system-wide recommendations and improvement strategies.

Chief Superintendent Croskery thanked the Accountability staff as well as Ms. L. Flanagan, Consultant for their work on this report. He pointed out that page 7-66 of the report lists four categories of recommendations for consideration as strategies for attending to our student learning outcomes. Particular reference was made to a statement by Richard Elmore, Harvard Graduate School of Education, quoted on page 7-69 of the report, that there are only three ways to increase learning and performance: increase the knowledge and skill of teachers, change the content, and alter the relationship of the student to the teacher and the content.

A question and answer session took place and a summary of the discussion is as follows:

- There is much work for Administration to follow-up on from this report; the Deputy Chief Superintendent will meet with our Area Directors, who in turn would set the direction with our school principals. The outcome from those discussions will be reported to the Board through a monitoring report of actions and steps taken.
- With respect to the changing teaching workforce and the many challenges faced by new teachers, it was noted that this issue is an ongoing dialogue with the Faculty of Education at the University. Chief Superintendent Croskery stated his belief that we can and should be doing more to assert the need for proficiency in the teaching of core subjects.
- Ms. Flanagan responded to a question, noting that our concerns are shared with Alberta Education about the downward trend in the grade 6 math results. It is theoretically possible that the math curriculum that was developed many years ago is not relevant to the needs of today's student and what we expect of them; Alberta Education is revising the math curriculum, as noted at the bottom of page 7-80 of the report.
- Ms. Flanagan shared that what she learned in this research is that in many instances, what would be good for math, would be good for all core subjects. Some exemplars that she found were illustrated in the report under the heading Images of Best Practice (page 7-83). Differentiation around math instruction was key and very successful in our system. The one exception might be the new teachers saying it is very challenging to teach math and that they don't feel prepared.
- A Trustee asked about the possibility of mandating a mentorship program for all new math teachers, as opposed to it being a self-selection experience. Administration noted it is not mandatory but it is best practice to match a new teacher with an experienced teacher for the first few weeks, and it is often the case that new teachers will gravitate to someone that they feel would be their best mentor. Over the past few years we have also used Alberta Initiative for School Improvement funding to leverage these opportunities for teachers. It is intended

that the work on mentorship will expand. Chief Superintendent Croskery spoke about a deep commitment to the orientation of our new employees. This will be intentionalized even further in the future. He commented further about mentoring, noting the importance of the screening process for mentors, to ensure that they are skilled and have the capacity to pass on their knowledge to another.

- In response to a question about increasing the time for teaching math, Ms. Flanagan noted that we currently teach math a minimum of one hour per day. She felt that without changing teaching practice, increasing the time would not necessarily change the results. An additional comment by Administration was that we need to contemplate a model of learning that not only focuses on student needs and interests, but it must be an integrated and relevant learning experience for our students, to integrate the many subject areas into math to show connections to students and to concepts. This is tremendously innovative work in the Calgary Board of Education.

MOVED by Trustee King:

**THAT the report *Mathematics and Language Arts Provincial Achievement Test Review and Improvement Strategies* be received for information.**

The motion was  
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

### 7.3 **Annual Monitoring of EL-16: Learning Environment/Treatment of Students**

Chief Superintendent Croskery acknowledged and thanked the staff who worked on the monitoring report. Mr. C. Davies, Executive Assistant to the Chief Superintendent, spoke to the importance of providing a safe and caring environment that is conducive to effective learning.

Chair Cochrane reviewed the criteria against which the Trustees are to judge the monitoring report, including that of reasonable interpretation of the policy, compliance with the provisions of the policy or disclosure of how compliance would be met, and whether sufficient information has been provided. She 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 and are summarized as follows:

- Administration provided further information about the Employee Engagement Survey which was administered by the Great Place to Work Institute. Staff from Facilities and Environmental Services responded to this survey. A steering committee has been struck to analyze the responses provided by staff, and it is intended to complete another survey in about two years.
- Some discussion was held about the low percentage of high school students who found a strong/very strong connection to their high school. Administration noted that the work to be done on the Mega End could shed some light on this response.
- It was clarified that the quote in the report stating that over 53% of schools offered Student Leadership clubs in the 2007-2008 school year refers only to clubs. Administration noted there are many other ways that Student Leadership takes place in schools, and that a clearer breakdown of that could be provided in future monitoring reports.

- In regards to the actions taken by Administration to address inappropriate employee behaviour, the numbers appear to be low for the size of our organization; however, we have not done research to compare our numbers with experience throughout the province. With respect to reporting the number of terminations of employment, Administration noted that 21 employees were terminated during the 2007-2008 school year, but those terminations were not necessarily the result of progressive discipline. It was clarified that the number includes 9 employees who abandoned their position, 11 employees were terminated in a probationary period, and only one employee was terminated for inappropriate activity.

MOVED by Trustee Bazinet:

**THAT the Chief Superintendent has reasonably interpreted the provisions of EL-16: Learning Environment/Treatment of Students, and the Board of Trustees finds the Chief Superintendent in compliance with the policy.**

The motion was  
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Motion Arising:

MOVED by Trustee Kryczka:

**THAT the Chief Superintendent be commended for providing an environment and programs that are safe, caring and conducive to effective learning for students.**

The motion was  
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

## **8.0 POLICY DEVELOPMENT AND REVIEW**

There were no items.

## **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 September 23, 2008
  - Regular Meeting held September 30, 2008

**THAT the Board of Trustees approves the Minutes of the Regular Meetings held September 23, 2008 and September 30, 2008, as submitted.**

9.2 Chief Superintendent Consent Agenda

9.2.1 Chief Superintendent's Update

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

9.2.2 Traditional and System Modified Instructional Calendars for the 2009-2010 School Year

**THAT the Board of Trustees receives the report for information and for the record.**

**10.0 TRUSTEE NOTICES OF MOTION**

There were no notices of motion.

8:53 p.m. – Recessed.

9:05 p.m. – Reconvened.

**11.0 IN-CAMERA ISSUES**

11.1 Motion to Move In Camera

MOVED by Trustee Ferguson:

**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 Lane:

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

The motion was  
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

11.3 Motions to Action In-Camera Recommendations

MOVED by Trustee Ferguson:

**THAT the private report dated October 7, 2008, discussed in camera, be received for information.**

The motion was  
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

EducationMatters Funding Request 2008-2009

MOVED by Trustee Dirks:

**THAT the Board of Trustees approves the funding payment, as recommended in the private report dated October 7, 2008.**

The motion was  
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

**12. ADJOURNMENT**

Chair Cochrane declared the meeting adjourned at 10:24 p.m.