

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 21, 2008 at 5:00 p.m.

PRESENT:

Board of Trustees:

Trustee C. Bazinet, Vice-Chair of the Board, and Chair for this meeting
Trustee G. Dirks
Trustee L. Ferguson
Trustee P. King
Trustee K. Kryczka
Trustee G. Lane

ABSENT:

Trustee P. Cochrane, Chair

Administration:

Ms. B. Hubert, Deputy Chief Superintendent of Schools
Mr. F. Coppinger, Superintendent, Facilities and Environmental Services
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
Ms. J. Barkway, Assistant Corporate Secretary
Ms. S. Wasylshyn, Executive Assistant to the Trustees
Ms. H. Numrich, Recording Secretary

Stakeholder Representatives:

Ms. J. Minifie, Calgary Board of Education Staff Association
Ms. J. Regal, Alberta Teachers' Association, Local 38
Ms. E. Kelly, Calgary Association of Parents and School Councils (arrived at 5:45 p.m.)
Mr. K. Hackman, Principals' Association for Adolescent Learners (PAAL)
Ms. L. Lytle, Principals' Association for Adolescent Learners (PAAL)

Action By

1.0 CALL TO ORDER, NATIONAL ANTHEM AND WELCOME

In the absence of Chair Cochrane, Vice-Chair Bazinet assumed the Chair and called the meeting to order at 5:01 p.m. The singing of the national anthem took place led by Amy, a student from Crescent Heights High School. Chair Bazinet acknowledged and welcomed representatives from the aforementioned organizations as well as administrative staff from Crescent Heights High School. She noted that Chief Superintendent Dr. Croskery and Board Chair P. Cochrane were not present as they were in South Korea to sign a Memorandum of Agreement between the Seoul Metropolitan Office of Education and the CBE. Vice-Chair Bazinet noted that this agreement supports Ends 3 by providing opportunities to be involved in the global community.

2.0 CONSIDERATION/APPROVAL OF AGENDA

MOVED by Trustee King:

THAT the Agenda for the Regular Meeting of October 21, 2008, be approved as submitted.

The motion was
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

3.0 SCHOOL/SYSTEM PRESENTATIONS

There were no school/system presentations.

4.0 HONOURS AND RECOGNITIONS

4.1 Lighthouse Award

Ms. M. Levy, System Principal, Corporate Partnerships, introduced the recipients of this month's Lighthouse Award as Compton Petroleum Corporation. Compton Petroleum has been supporting CBE schools with significant donations and opportunities since 2001 and has made a difference for hundreds of students. Ms. Levy expressed gratitude for their generosity and for the long and strong commitment to helping achieve the Ends, including academic success, citizenship, and personal and character development.

Mr. B. Leonard, Compton Petroleum's Manager of Human Resources, accepted the award and noted that three university students who participated in the spring internship program at CBE schools have gone on to become teachers. He read a note from one of those students, P. Miller, who spoke highly of the program and told of how it had positively affected her school through enhanced curriculum, enriched student learning experiences, support of the school staff, special programs and events. Chair Bazinet presented Mr. Leonard with a plaque on behalf of the Board of Trustees and the Calgary Board of Education and expressed appreciation for the partnership.

4.2 Campus Calgary Open Minds, Global Best Award for the Americas

Deputy Chief Superintendent B. Hubert announced that the Calgary Board of Education and Chevron Canada Resources were the recipients of the 2008 Global Best Award for Educational Partnership from the International Partnership Network in collaboration with the Conference Board of Canada.

She stated that this award was first presented in September in Helsinki, Finland and was in the category of building learning communities, specifically for the Campus Calgary/Open Minds program. Campus Calgary/Open Minds is moving into its 15th year of operation and has involved over 50,000 students and 200 teachers. This innovative curriculum-based program moves the classroom into the community for an entire week. The week is a catalyst for learning activities that occur throughout the year.

Deputy Chief Superintendent Hubert acknowledged and thanked the many partners that contribute to the Campus Calgary/Open Minds program, particularly to Chevron Canada Resources for their financial support and commitment since 1995. Other partners include: Petro Canada, RBC Foundation, The City of Calgary, The Calgary Foundation, For the Love of Children Society and ATCO Gas. Ms. Hubert noted that as a result of this award the CBE will be recognized on the websites of the International Partnership Network (IPN) and the Conference Board of Canada. She also expressed thanks to Ms. T. Savill, Curriculum Support Teacher, who coordinated the program and accepted the award in Helsinki, Finland on behalf of the CBE.

Ms. Savill then gave a brief PowerPoint presentation on the Campus Calgary/Open Minds program. She stated that the program operates in twelve different sites in Calgary including: the Calgary Zoo; Glenbow Museum; TELUS World of Science; Ann and Sandy Cross Conservation Area; City Hall; Stampede Park; Inglewood Bird Sanctuary (celebrating its 10th year with Petro Canada who will be contributing \$568,000 over the next five years); Canada Olympic Park; University of Calgary; Aero Space Museum; Talisman Centre; and the Fire Training Academy. She noted that she had accepted the award as well as presented

information regarding the program in Helsinki, Finland. The program allows teachers and students to see the curriculum come alive in authentic settings, with youth and adults working together. She stated that the CBE is proud to take a leading role in maintaining the educational integrity of this program.

Chair Bazinet thanked Ms. Savill for the presentation and for the positive impact the program has made in the lives of students. She acknowledged the many contributors to the Campus Calgary/Open Minds Program, introduced them and asked those present to stand and be recognized, thanking them for their support.

Chair Bazinet noted that Chevron Canada Resources was also recognized in Helsinki for its key role in the program's success and as a founding partner, has been committed to this program since it began 15 years ago. Chevron supports four of the sites including: Zoo School; Glenbow Museum School; Science School and Cross Conservation School. Chair Bazinet presented a certificate to Chevron representatives, Mr. D. McInnis, Vice-President, Policy, Government and Public Relations and Ms. M. Mulligan, Public Relations Coordinator, recognizing their company's vision, commitment and generosity.

Mr. McInnis expressed gratitude for the award and acknowledged the work of the CBE teachers who work very hard to make the program a success.

Chair Bazinet invited everyone to the plaza for refreshments, in celebration of this prestigious award.

Recessed at 5:34 p.m.
Reconvened at 6:01 p.m.

5.0 PUBLIC CONVERSATION AND INFORMATION

5.1 Report from the Chair and Trustees

- Trustee Ferguson attended the 50th Anniversary celebration of Christine Meikle School, a school that offers programming to students with severe and complex needs. The event was a heart warming, inspiring occasion that was well attended by former students and staff.
- Trustee Kryczka attended a kick off event for the UNICEF campaign at Chinook Park School where she learned that the partnership between UNICEF and the CBE has been ongoing for 52 years. Special guests such as Sparky the Bear, City Police and Fire Department were in attendance along with television reporters. Students enjoyed a presentation given by Carol Huynh, Olympic gold medal winner for free style wrestling last summer. Students also participated in "A Cup of Water" exercise to appreciate what children have to do in Africa to get water.
- Trustee Kryczka attended Nellie McClung School and spoke to the grade 6 students regarding governance and elections.
- Trustee Kryczka recognized and congratulated students at Ethel M. Johnson School for their bold waste reduction targets during the celebration of Waste Reduction Week.

5.2 Report from the Chief Superintendent

Deputy Chief Superintendent B. Hubert provided highlights of the following issues and events: Dr. Croskery also attended the 50th Anniversary celebration at Christine Meikle

School; he hosted Dr. Eugene Bottoms, Senior Vice-President, Southern Regional Educational Board (SREB) from the United States. The SREB focuses on high school renewal and is increasing the number of students going on to post secondary education when they leave high school. Administration is exploring the possibility of partnering with the SREB as part of actioning the secondary review recommendations.

5.3 Public Question Period

There were no public questions.

5.4 Stakeholder Reports

There were no stakeholder reports.

5.5 Trustee Inquiries

Ms. Barkway noted that Trustee Dirks had raised an inquiry, which she read for the record as follows:

“Many communities are concerned about the safety of students walking to and from school. Some concerns include: the timing of school zones being inappropriate for school start times – all City of Calgary school zones are effective at 8:00 a.m., while many schools start at 7:00 a.m. If school zones are to be effective for those schools, the school zone should start at 7:00 or 7:30 a.m. In general, traffic moves much too quickly around schools and the volume of traffic is high during rush-hour traffic, especially around schools that start at 8:00 a.m.

1. What steps can be taken by the CBE to effect a change in Calgary school zones so as to reduce vehicle speeds in those zones close by schools which commence operation earlier in the day?
2. What can Administration do and what is being done to work with The City or other appropriate organizations to promote student safety in these conditions?
3. Is there a department within the Calgary Board of Education that communities can communicate their concerns to, that would assist the community in studying the issues and work with them to develop appropriate solutions?”

Ms. Barkway also noted that a letter of concern from the Tuscany School Council was recently received by a Trustee in regards to this issue.

Superintendent F. Coppinger provided the following response:

School zones (8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.) are set by the city, while the playground zones (8:30 a.m. to one hour after sunset) are set by the province. He reported that Administration has been working with The City of Calgary Transportation Department and it has been suggested that 7:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. would be the most appropriate time for the school zones. He noted that it would be difficult to ensure that CBE staff would be available any earlier than this to supervise the playground. Administration will also be meeting with Alberta Infrastructure, to request that the start time for the playground zone also move to 7:30 a.m.

In response to part 2 of the question regarding what can Administration do and what is being done to work with The City or other appropriate organizations to promote student safety in these conditions, Mr. Coppinger noted that Ms. N. Moughalian, Senior Manager of Risk Management is currently working with the Alberta Motor Association (AMA) to organize the training of school safety patrols. The actual training is conducted by the Calgary Police

and the Alberta Motor Association works cooperatively with individual schools to organize the school safety patrols.

He further noted that the Corporate Risk Management Department responds to inquiries from schools or communities regarding safety. Schools and staff who are in contact with parents could work directly with the Facilities Team Leader, who would take their concerns to the Corporate Risk Management Department.

6.0 ACTION ITEMS

There were no action items.

7.0 MONITORING AND RESULTS

7.1 Annual Monitoring of EL-4: Treatment of Parents and Citizens

Deputy Chief Superintendent Hubert acknowledged and thanked the resource staff who worked on the monitoring report.

Chair Bazinet 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:

- Ms. Kuester advised that Page 7-17 of the report incorrectly states that “the Key Communicators Steering Committee meets quarterly with Communications and a trustee”. She explained that the Key Communicators Steering Committee has changed and no longer includes a trustee. It consists of two Key Communicators from each Area and meets quarterly.
- Ms. Kuester reported that during the past two weeks the CBE switchboard has been testing a voice activated response machine. The first choice available is public information services, where callers are connected to a live voice. There are five other options to key areas which are most often requested and include: Transportation, Human Resources, Chief Superintendent’s Office, Board of Trustees Office and Communication Services. She confirmed that there are over 500 offices, including schools and Administration, within the CBE that interact with the public on a regular basis.
- Ms. Hubert stated that recognition of staff is very important to Administration and is accomplished in a variety of ways, such as letters, cards, personal visits, New Horizons banquet and longstanding service awards. It was noted that the examples of staff recognition given in the report were provided to give an overall flavour of the type of recognition being given, not specific to a particular area. It was suggested that Administration look at what other organizations are doing for staff recognition for additional ideas.
- With regards to the number of calls being made to an Area office as reported on page 7-20 of the report, Mr. C. Davies suggested that in order to get a better idea of where attention should be directed for improvement, the different parameters should be considered. The size of the Area, geographic location, transportation issues, the number of ESL parents (access to and understanding of website) and

transition of new principals are just some of the factors that can greatly affect the number of calls to an Area office. Further analysis as to how the data is recorded should also be reviewed as it is presently being done manually and may not be consistent.

- It was noted that parent satisfaction has increased over the past four years, possibly due to increased involvement of parents in many aspects of the operation of schools and districts, particularly in the area of community engagement and operational planning. Mr. Davies noted further that the 2008 parent satisfaction percentage is 73% (this information was not available at the time of the report writing). The Board of Trustees requested that further information be supplied by Administration as to how the CBE compares with other school districts and the provincial average in the area of parent satisfaction. Administration will look into this further and report back to the Board of Trustees.
- Deputy Chief Superintendent Hubert stated that Area Directors attend school council meetings by invitation of the council, possibly to address particular issues. At times attendance is initiated by the Director when there is a change in principal or an issue the Director feels needs to be addressed.
- Deputy Chief Superintendent Hubert stated that some examples of decisions that are made at the Area level that would include parents would be student accommodation issues and principal selections. Mr. Davies also noted that the parent voice is heard as Area Directors are made aware of calls and concerns to schools and administrative departments.

B. Boese

MOVED by Trustee Ferguson:

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

A Trustee commented that the report shows multiple processes for interactions between parents and staff that speak to the commitment by the CBE to respectful interactions with the community.

The motion was
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Motion Arising:

MOVED by Trustee Kryczka:

THAT the Board of Trustees commends the Chief Superintendent for recognizing the commitment of groups of employees not just formally but on a daily basis wherever it is due.

A Trustee commented in support of the motion that CBE employees each play a part by their commitment and efforts in their own work to the overall goal of educating children. Each group builds a stronger whole. It is apparent that recognition of performance takes place in many different ways and there is ongoing openness to be flexible in recognizing merit where it is due.

The motion was
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

MOVED by Trustee Ferguson:

THAT the Board of Trustees commends the Chief Superintendent for establishing multiple processes to enable respectful interactions between parents and other citizens and the CBE.

Trustees commented in support of the motion that the report shows numerous occasions where parents and citizens are interacting with the CBE. They have the opportunity to provide feedback in many areas. Community Engagement and Operational Planning was noted as a significant contributing factor.

The motion was
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

8.0 POLICY DEVELOPMENT AND REVIEW

9.0 CONSENT AGENDA

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

9.1 Board Consent Agenda

9.1.1 Approval of Minutes

- Regular Meeting held October 7, 2008

THAT the Board of Trustees approves the Minutes of the Regular Meeting held October 7, 2008, as submitted.

9.1.2 Correspondence

THAT the Board of Trustees receives the correspondence for information and for the record:

- **Letter dated October 2, 2008 to Board Chair Pat Cochrane, from the Honourable Dave Hancock, Minister of Education, regarding receipt of the 2008-20011 Three Year Education Plan for the Calgary Board of Education.**

9.1.3 Approval of GP-12E: Trustee Remuneration

THAT the Board of Trustees approves the amendment of GP-12E: Trustee Remuneration, as attached to the report.

10.0 TRUSTEE NOTICES OF MOTION

MOVED by Trustee Dirks:

That the Board Meeting Procedures requirement for Notice of Motion to be submitted two weeks prior to bringing forward a motion for debate be waived.

The motion was
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Moved by Trustee Dirks:

That Administration provide the Board with an update on the initiatives that Superintendent Coppinger provided in response to the Trustee Inquiry at tonight's meeting within a 3 month period of time.

Trustees entered into debate and comments in support of the motion are summarized as follows:

- This is a significant issue for communities that has been formalized in writing regarding the safety of children and requesting action. It must not be taken lightly, the community will want a response, and a substantive response should be provided.
- A Trustee in support of the motion cautioned that while receiving an update is important, appropriate research and consultation must be done in order to provide a solution, rather than just a response to a complaint. She stated that there may be other ways to respond to the issue of student safety other than just extending school zone times.
- A Trustee commented that the 7:30 a.m. start time for school zones may help during early morning commuter traffic, but cautions that it may not completely resolve the issue, as there are other problems that the schools need to deal with such as parents dropping off students in a hurry.

The motion was
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

F. Coppinger

11. ADJOURNMENT

Chair Bazinet declared the meeting adjourned at 7:09 p.m.