

**speaking
notes**

COSC – Welcome and Conclusion (Trustee King)

April 17, 2013

learning | **as unique** | as every student



**Calgary Board
of Education**

welcome

Hello. My name is Pamela King and I am the trustee that represents Wards 5 & 10 in the City of Calgary. It is my pleasure to welcome you to the Council of School Councils Meeting this evening, and to the Calgary Board of Education office building.

housekeeping

Before, I proceed any further, I would like to go over a few housekeeping items:

- In the unfortunate event of a fire or a need to evacuate this building, an alarm will sound and we will need to leave through the doors to my left. We will meet in the Safeway Parking lot, which is across from this building and wait for further directions.
- Refreshments are available in the Link. Please feel free to help yourself at any time.
- Washrooms are located in the Link, directly behind the Multi-media wall.
- If you used the complimentary parking in this building, you must leave the parking area by 9:45 p.m.

our location

For those of you who are not familiar with this structure, let me tell you a little bit about it. There are actually two buildings on this site – the 10 floor office tower and the historic Carl Safran School. The buildings are joined together by a space that is referred to as “the link”. These two buildings are the worksite for over 600 CBE employees and 4 privately owned businesses. We have now been in this building for two years.

The room that we are sitting in, which is located in the link, is referred to as our Multi-purpose Room. Although many service units use this room for a variety of meetings and events, the room is most known for the location that the Board of Trustee holds their Public Meetings in. The area in front of me is where Trustees and members of Administration sit. There are screens located throughout the room, so that regardless of where you are located, you can see the meeting. Please remember that you are welcome to attend any public meeting, or if you prefer, who can watch our meetings on your computer as we both livestream and record them.

Thank you for taking the time to come to this meeting this evening and for your ongoing support of students and public education. You are a valuable resource within our school district and this year trustees have been very excited to work more closely with you. I know that you play a tremendous role back in your individual schools, and that both students and staff benefit from your commitment. Thank you.

background

This year, we've done a number of things to improve communication between school councils and the Board of Trustees.

Our first Council of School Councils meeting was held in October. We gathered some important feedback at that meeting and we are very grateful for all the school council representatives from across our system who shared their thoughts on how we can better communicate.

Earlier in the year, we met with business and community leaders, like our Mayor and the Chief of Police, and asked them what they thought was important for the future of education. We shared their insights at a series of meetings we hosted in February.

At those meetings in February, we met to discuss system-wide issues. We listened to you and we will share some of what we heard this evening.

What we've learned this year is that the more we listen, the more we understand the rich diversity and complexity of our system. There is not one easy solution to the complexities we face as we govern this large system.

this evening's agenda

Trustees appreciate your feedback. We find it very valuable, and we hope that you will continue to provide it to us. Tonight we will be sharing what we have learned from you and your fellow parents. We will present information about the 2013-14 budget, provide an update on the ATA agreement process, and discuss issues our system faces regarding capacity and finding the right space for all of our students. We'll share information about how you can get involved in the upcoming school board trustee elections, and finally, we will provide an opportunity to talk with you individually.

In our conversations with you this year, you have asked us to be mindful of how much paper we use. For tonight's meeting we wanted to be respectful of your request, so you will notice that **most** information will be displayed on the screens, rather than giving you a hard copy. There are however a couple of documents that we felt would be important to provide for you this evening.

housekeeping

We will be placing all of the information from tonight's meeting on our website so that you can take it back to each of your school councils to share with your parents and your community.

introduce Trustees

Our website address is www.cbe.ab.ca. On our home page there is a blue title bar and **parents** is the second tab from the left. If you click on the word **parents**, you will open a long menu. Scroll down to **school councils**. When you click on **school councils** you will get to the *school/councils/key communicators page*. Here you will find a sub heading entitled **Meeting Follow Up**. The information from tonight's meeting will be located here.

One of the pieces of paper that we are providing you tonight, identifies the links that we mention this evening.

Let me introduce my fellow trustees to you. Throughout the evening they will be participating in the program, and of course will be available for conversation with you at the end of the formal portion of our agenda.

Trustee Pat Cochrane is the Chair of the Board of Trustees and represents Wards 8 & 9

Trustee Lynn Ferguson is the Vice Chair of the Board of Trustees and represents Wards 3 & 4

Trustee Joy Bowen-Eyre represents Wards 1 & 2

Trustee George Lane represents Wards 6 & 7

Trustee Sheila Taylor represents Wards 11 & 13, and

Trustee Carol Bazinet represents Wards 12 and 14

Again, thank you for attending, and welcome to our second meeting of the Council of School Councils.

I would now like to call on Trustee Joy Bowen Eyre.

conclusion and thank
you

WOW! What a lot of information we have given you this evening and asked you to absorb.

I want to remind you that all of the information that you heard here this evening will be posted on our website in the next day or so. Please use this information at your school council meeting and when you talk to parents or members of your community.

The last portion of meeting is an informal time for you to talk to any trustee. Perhaps you now have a question about being a trustee candidate, or a question related to something else you heard here this evening. We will be here until 9:00 p.m. to talk with you. You will notice that throughout the room there are signs with a trustee's name on them. That is where each of us will be located. Come and talk to us.

Before we start these conversations though, I would like to take this opportunity to once again thank you for attending this meeting. School Councils perform an important advisory role. You help ensure the parent and community perspective is represented in school decision-making. This year more than ever, you have been a valuable resource to trustees and your willingness to work with us has been appreciated. On behalf of the Board of Trustees – THANK YOU.