

media advisory

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Calgary Board of Education Trustees roll back their own salaries

CALGARY—Trustees with the Calgary Board of Education voted unanimously Tuesday night to reduce their pay as part of an overall budget strategy to help maximize dollars directed to classrooms.

The Board of Trustees, whose remuneration has not changed since 2009, agreed to cut the honorarium each receives to \$45,000 for the 2013-14 school year, down from \$46,618—a decrease of 3.5 per cent and savings of \$11,326.

Additional remuneration for the chair and vice-chair will also be reduced. Trustees also agreed to pay for their own parking at the CBE headquarters, a change which saves more than \$1,500 per year for each trustee who has parking provided.

“These are difficult financial times and the board felt we needed to make cuts to ensure the most dollars possible are preserved for classrooms,” said Board of Trustees chair Pat Cochrane. “It was the right thing to do.”

The changes came out of a motion arising from a remuneration report that reviews annual compensation and are effective Sept. 1.

The compensation cuts will contribute to reductions to the Board of Trustees budget and will be contained within the CBE operating budget, which is facing a \$62-million shortfall. Trustees directed administration to bring a proposal to reduce the Board of Trustees budget by at least 10 per cent to a public meeting on April 23.

At Tuesday night's public meeting, trustees also accepted for information the budget assumptions report, which lays out strategies for 12.5 per cent in cuts to administration as well as other ways to deal with essentially flat funding from the province as costs and enrolment are rising.

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