

Minutes of the Public Meeting re: Discussion Respecting Consideration of Closure of Juno Beach Academy of Canadian Studies, held in the Multipurpose Room at the CBE Education Centre, 1221 – 8th Street SW, Calgary, Alberta on Monday, February 27, 2017 at 12:00 noon.

PRESENT

Board of Trustees:

Ms. J. Bowen-Eyre, Board Chair, Trustee - Wards 1 & 2
Ms. L. Ferguson, Trustee - Wards 3 & 4
Ms. T. Hurdman, Trustee - Wards 6 & 7
Ms. P. King, Trustee – Wards 5 & 10
Ms. J. Hehr, Trustee – Wards 8 & 9

Administration:

Ms. C. Edwards, Moderator & Chair of the Public Meeting
Ms. K. Fenney, Procedures Chair, Assistant General Counsel & Corporate Secretary
Mr. D. Stevenson, Chief Superintendent of Schools
Ms. S. Smith, Director, Area V
Ms. K. Maxwell, Recording Secretary

WELCOME, INTRODUCTIONS AND MEETING OUTLINE

Copies of the Agenda entitled *Board of Trustees, Calgary Board of Education, Public Meeting, Discussion Respecting Consideration of Closure of Juno Beach Academy of Canadian Studies, Monday, February 27, 2017*, which also contained information with respect to the purpose of the meeting, discussion guidelines, and written submissions and further questions were made available to those present and submitted for the record.

Ms. Edwards called the meeting to order at 12:13 p.m. and noted she would Chair the meeting. She explained the meeting has been arranged and convened by the Board of Trustees of the Calgary Board of Education (CBE). She then introduced the Trustees and the CBE Administration in attendance. She also welcomed Mr. S. Radder, Assistant Principal, Juno Beach Academy of Canadian Studies, who is representing the Principal J. Simpson, and CBE staff members.

Ms. Edwards stated that the meeting was being video recorded for the purpose of maintaining an accurate internal record of the proceedings. Meeting minutes will be available on the website at www.cbe.ab.ca prior to the Board of Trustees making a decision on this matter.

OPENING REMARKS

Chief Superintendent Stevenson expressed appreciation to all in attendance for their commitment to the Juno Beach Academy of Canadian Studies. He commented on the advisory and support role of Administration up to and following the formal legislated closure consideration process. He noted that staff from the Planning and Transportation Office and Area V office have been engaging and working with the school community. He shared some background information and comments about the public engagements that have been held. He pointed out that the engagement work was undertaken as part of Administration's advisory role to the Board of Trustees.

Chief Stevenson explained that the Board of Trustees is considering the closure of a school, but no decision has been made to date. He further explained that the Board of Trustees has

sole authority and responsibility for the closure consideration process and Administration's role is to provide the Board of Trustees, the school community and the general public with full and total support in providing relevant information and answers to questions.

PURPOSE OF THE MEETING AND ROLE OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Ms. Edwards called forward Board Chair Bowen-Eyre to speak to the role of the Board of Trustees in the closure consideration process. Chair Bowen-Eyre's comments were as follows:

“Good day ladies and gentlemen.

As the Meeting Chair has indicated I'm Joy Bowen-Eyre, Trustee for Wards 1 & 2 and Chair of the Board of Trustees of the Calgary Board of Education. On behalf of myself and my fellow colleagues, I would like to speak to you briefly about the Board of Trustees' role in the closure consideration process.

On Tuesday, December 6, 2016, at a regular meeting of the Board of Trustees, a motion was passed by the Board to give consideration to the closure of Juno Beach Academy of Canadian Studies.

This is the second of two meetings held to discuss this important issue. The Board of Trustees held a meeting on February 9th at Juno Beach Academy.

The Board of Trustees has the sole responsibility and authority to make closure decisions and I want to make it clear today that no decision has been made at this time.

Based on information provided to us by Administration, a *Written Notice Regarding the Consideration of Closure of Juno Beach Academy of Canadian Studies* has been issued by the Board of Trustees, but that is only one part of the information that has been, and will be, reviewed and considered by Trustees. In accordance with Alberta legislation, before making any final decision on a matter such as this, the Board follows a process to secure additional community input.

That process involves providing important and relevant information to you – the *Written Notice* – and reviewing it with you. It also involves providing you and other concerned members of the public an opportunity to impact our decision by providing us with input at the public meetings and again in writing. Today, Trustees want to augment our understanding of the information presented in the *Written Notice* by hearing your observations, submissions and questions.

After today's meeting, you will have an additional opportunity to ask further written questions and make written submissions if you wish to do so.

Trustees, as the final decision makers, are here today to listen and observe. Throughout today's discussion and throughout the closure consideration process, Trustees will be paying very careful attention to what you have to say.

All of the information collected during the closure consideration process will be weighed very carefully by Trustees before any final decision is made.

The Board of Trustees tentatively anticipates debating the merits of this matter and making a decision regarding this program closure consideration on Tuesday, April 4, 2017.

The Board's ongoing commitment is to provide educational programs and services in suitable facilities throughout Calgary. To honour that commitment, we, as a Board, need to take into consideration many factors including student enrolment levels, our ability to resource instructional programming, the health and safety of students, and accessibility. We also consider financial factors to ensure we are using resources effectively. We take the information received and make decisions, on a system-wide basis, serving the overall interests of public education within our jurisdiction.

Consideration of closure is a very serious matter to the Board of Trustees and we clearly appreciate that it is very significant to the students, parents and other concerned members of the community. We look forward to listening carefully today to your comments, observations and questions.

On behalf of the Board of Trustees I thank you.”

REVIEW OF THE WRITTEN NOTICE

Ms. Edwards proceeded to a formal presentation of the *Written Notice* and acknowledged the one member of the public in the audience who has been provided with a copy of the *Written Notice*.

Ms. Edwards provided the following background on Juno Beach Academy of Canadian Studies. The program was initially opened in 2003 at Sir William Van Horne High School with an enrolment of 112 students in Grades 7-9, expanding a grade a year. In 2006 the program was moved to Lord Shaughnessy High School and enrolment increased to 182 students as the school expanded to include Grade 12. Two years later, in September 2008 the program had a peak enrolment of 195 students. In 2010, due to the development of the Career and Technology Centre (CTC) at Lord Shaughnessy High School, the program was moved once again to Dr. Norman Bethune School which is located in the community of Acadia on the same school site as Lord Beaverbrook High School. Since the 2015-16 school year the Juno Beach Academy of Canadian Studies operated as a shared campus with Lord Beaverbrook High School under one principal. Current enrolment as of September 30, 2016 is 15 students with no students enrolled in Grades 7, 8 or 9.

Ms. Edwards then provided highlights of the *Written Notice*, aided by a PowerPoint presentation. She noted that the enrolment and transportation impacts of closing Juno Beach Academy of Canadian Studies would be minimal. The attendance area is across the City of Calgary. Students could choose to continue at Lord Beaverbrook High School or return to their designated community schools and would continue to access Calgary Transit for transportation to and from school. She noted that programming and educational impacts for students if they stayed at Lord Beaverbrook High School or returned to their designated community school would mean greater access to programming with a wider array of course options and extra-curricular options, and a larger number of students per class which would enhance learning opportunities. For those that choose to remain at Lord Beaverbrook High School it would provide the comfort of familiarity with the campus.

Ms. Edwards noted that the previous year's lack of enrolment has impacted the program's delivery. Core component courses such as Military History 7 and 8 as well as Military Studies 25 were not offered. These courses were identified as the foundation of the Juno Beach Academy of Canadian Studies program. If the school remained open it is anticipated that there would be no programming offered at Juno Beach Academy of Canadian Studies in Grade 7-10 due to the lack of enrolment.

She then opened the meeting to any questions or comments from the public.

OPEN DISCUSSION – QUESTIONS & COMMENTS FROM PARENTS AND PUBLIC

Mr. F. L. Villiger, former Principal of Juno Beach Academy of Canadian Studies, noted his belief that the school was developed with a lot of "heart". He felt that the multiple location changes for the campus had an impact on enrolment. In Mr. Villiger's opinion Juno Beach Academy of Canadian Studies program did not have a plan for the future which evaluated the positive and negative ramifications of different options for moving forward. He emphasized the importance of building community and the positive impact it has on students' education. He also noted his belief that current enrolment numbers at Juno Beach Academy of Canadian Studies are a result of how the program was resourced. Mr. Villiger then asked the following questions:

1. What will happen to the military artifacts that have been given to the school?

Ms. Smith responded that the artifacts are currently at Norman Bethune School. CBE will be working with the school community, the military museum and some other places to ensure those artifacts have a good home to go to.

2. What will happen to the name *Juno Beach Academy of Canadian Studies*?

Ms. Edwards consulted with the Assistant General Counsel. She advised that the name would be decommissioned if the Board decision is for closure of the school.

Chief Superintendent Stevenson added that if the program was closed, but then brought back the Board of Trustees has a process for naming schools or programs and the name *Juno Beach Academy of Canadian Studies* would be available for consideration and use.

Mr. Villiger ended his comments by acknowledging some of the extraordinary staff and parents he worked with at Juno Beach Academy of Canadian Studies.

Ms. Edwards thanked Mr. Villiger for his comments and questions.

CLOSING REMARKS

Ms. Edwards noted written submissions and any further questions can be submitted to the CBE on or before 12:00 noon on Friday, March 31, 2017. The directions for this are on the back of the agenda.

She thanked everybody for attending the meeting and for providing respectful comments and input. She reiterated that the Board of Trustees tentatively anticipates debating the merits of this matter and making a decision regarding this program closure consideration on or about Tuesday, April 4, 2017. The public's observations, comments and questions are valued and

will form part of the material that Trustees will consider as they review the matter and ultimately reach a decision. The public's input is an important contribution to the Board of Trustees decision-making process.

Ms. Edwards declared the meeting closed at 12:45 p.m.

Note to Reader:

The Minutes of the Public Meeting re: Discussion Respecting Consideration of Closure of Juno Beach Academy of Canadian Studies, held in the Multipurpose Room, CBE Education Centre, 1221 – 8th Street SW, Calgary, Alberta on Monday, February 27, 2017 at 12:00 noon include the major points of discussion - they are not a verbatim transcript of the meeting.