

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, January 4, 2011 at 5:00 p.m.

MEETING ATTENDANCE

Board of Trustees:

Trustee P. Cochrane, Chair
Trustee C. Bazinet
Trustee J. Bowen-Eyre
Trustee L. Ferguson
Trustee P. King
Trustee S. Taylor
Trustee G. Lane

Administration:

Ms. D. Lewis, Acting Chief Superintendent of Schools, Superintendent, Learning Support
Ms. C. Faber, Acting Deputy Chief Superintendent of Schools, Superintendent, Learning Innovation
Mr. F. Coppinger, Superintendent, Facilities and Environmental Services
Mr. J. Johnston, Superintendent, Human Resources
Ms. D. Meyers, Superintendent, Finance & Business Services
Mr. R. Peden, General Counsel and Corporate Secretary
Ms. J. Barkway, Assistant Corporate Secretary
Ms. S. Wasylyshyn, Executive Assistant to the Trustees
Ms. H. Numrich, Recording Secretary

Stakeholder Representatives:

Mr. B. Anderson, Canadian Union of Public Employees, Local 40
Ms. J. Minifie, Calgary Board of Education Staff Association
Ms. J. Regal, Alberta Teachers' Association, Local 38
Ms. L. Newton, Calgary Association of Parents and School Councils
Ms. S. Konopnicki, Elementary School Principals' Association
Ms. M. Leew, Principals' Association for Adolescent Learners (PAAL)
Mr. B. Johnston, Principals' Association for Adolescent Learners (PAAL)

Action By

1.0 CALL TO ORDER, NATIONAL ANTHEM AND WELCOME

Chair Cochrane called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m. on the plaza after a musical presentation by the grade 8 guitar class from Colonel Macleod School. Students accompanied the singing of the national anthem and Chair Cochrane, also Ward Trustee, thanked them on behalf of the Board of Trustees for a very enjoyable presentation. The meeting continued in the board room and Chair Cochrane acknowledged and welcomed representatives from the aforementioned organizations.

Action By:

2.0 CONSIDERATION/APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Ms. Barkway noted that there would be one public inquiry under Section 5.3 of the Agenda and one stakeholder report under Section 5.4.

MOVED by Trustee Ferguson:

THAT the Agenda for the Regular Meeting of January 4, 2011, be approved with the addition of the noted items.

The motion was
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

3.0 SCHOOL/SYSTEM PRESENTATIONS

3.1 There were no school/system presentations.

4.0 HONOURS AND RECOGNITIONS

4.1 There were no honours or recognitions.

5.0 PUBLIC CONVERSATION AND INFORMATION

5.1 Report from the Chair and Trustees

Trustee King reported that she had participated in the delivery of “Book Bags for Kids” to students in Area III schools before Christmas along with students from William Aberhart High School. She noted that the high school students had also helped to pack the book bags and were able to see the result of their work in the delight of students as they received them. Trustee King also attended a Christmas production of “The Nutcracker” at Forest Lawn High School and an open house event at Jack James High School including “Try a Trade”, a student performance and a bake sale. She noted the outstanding gifts and talents of students and the pride they demonstrated in what they are doing and learning at their schools.

5.2 Report from the Chief Superintendent

Acting Chief Superintendent D. Lewis spoke on behalf of Chief Superintendent Johnson and offered her sincere best wishes on behalf of CBE senior administration to all staff, students and parents for a joyous new year. She noted that this is an exciting year for the Calgary Board of Education with the anticipation and preparation of moving to the new Education Centre, changes to the *School Act* and new provincial initiatives.

Superintendent Coppinger presented a plaque from the 2010 Calgary Heritage Authority (CHA). The 2010 Lion Award recipients included honorable mention for the CBE in the category of New Building Design for the Connaught School restoration. The school was built 100 years ago in 1911 and the restoration and modernization was completed in August, 2009. He noted that Mr. D. Gage of Gibbs Gage Architects, along with the CBE design team, Mr. R. Ashley and Mr. B. Bertnik, worked to ensure success of the project.

Action By:

At this point in the meeting Chair Cochrane recognized the presence in the boardroom of a former Calgary Board of Education Trustee, Ms. K. Kryczka.

5.3 Public Question Period

A public inquiry was submitted by Mr. K. Werklund who was in attendance. Ms. J. Barkway read the question into the record as follows: *“Would the Calgary Board of Trustees support public forums leading to a referendum on merging private and separate school systems such as has been done in Newfoundland, Labrador and Quebec?”*

Chair Cochrane read the response of the Board of Trustees as follows: *“The Board of Trustees acknowledges receipt of the public inquiry and notes that jurisdiction to make decisions relative to the matter raised is beyond the scope of its authority. This Board of Trustees does and will continue to strenuously advocate for public education in the best interest of all students, parent and stakeholders and not at the expense of individual interest groups.”*

5.4 Stakeholder Reports

5.4.1. Mary Connor – Parent Representative of Mandarin Bilingual Program at King George School

Ms. M. Connor spoke of the importance of the Mandarin Bilingual program to her family. She noted that although this is the fourth move for the program she is in support of the proposed consideration to move the program to Highwood School. She stated her personal endorsement of the program, noting that it is growing significantly in the younger grades and has reached maximum capacity at King George School. She urgently requested that Trustees give consideration to moving the Mandarin Bilingual program to Highwood School and stated her belief that this will benefit both programs, French Immersion and Mandarin Bilingual.

5.5 Trustee Inquiries

There were no Trustee Inquiries.

6.0 ACTION ITEMS

6.1 Proposed Accommodation Plan for the French Immersion Program at Highwood School and the Chinese (Mandarin) Bilingual Program at King George School

Mr. C. Davies, Director, Community Engagement and Operational Planning (CEOP) provided introductory comments to the report.

Chair Cochrane reaffirmed that the decision to be made at this meeting is not one of closure; but is whether or not the Board will proceed to the consideration of closure process based on the information in this report.

Trustees asked questions to which Administration responded and a summary of the discussion follows:

Action By:

- A Trustee inquired about the enrolment projections for the French Immersion program in Area II, noting that this is an area that is still growing. Mr. Davies responded that they are confident in the five year projections as they have proven to be very accurate in the past. He stated that projections account for trends and growth in emerging and new and developing communities as well as a percentage that might choose various alternative programs. He also noted, however, that they don't like to speculate beyond five years.
- A Trustee noted that the projected enrolment for the Mandarin Bilingual program for September, 2011 is 276, which would translate to approximately 70% capacity at Highwood School. Concern was expressed that if the program continues to grow it may not be long before it cannot be accommodated at Highwood School. Mr. Davies stated that if there is a dramatic rise in interest in the Mandarin Bilingual program in the north, other accommodation plans for the program would have to be discussed. He indicated that this might not necessarily mean a program move as there are many options available.
- The possibility of a Mandarin Bilingual program at Midnapore School should not affect the enrolment projections for the north program as the current registrations are from Area V in the south. He noted that they are looking forward to working with two strong programs.

MOVED by Trustee Lane:

THAT the Board of Trustees receives, as information and for the record, the accommodation and implementation plan outlined in this report; and

THAT the Board of Trustees is satisfied that there is cause to proceed with a consideration of closure of the Kindergarten to grade six French Immersion Program at Highwood School and the Kindergarten to grade six Chinese (Mandarin) Bilingual Program at King George School for the purpose of re- alignment and re-location, one being contingent upon the other, 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; and

THAT pursuant to the Board of Trustees' Governance Policy GP-5E 5.1(a) the Board will convene a joint public meeting for stakeholders and parents from both Highwood School and King George School, for the purpose of discussing the information contained in the Written Notice provided to the Parents.

Trustee comments in support of this motion included that this is a good solution towards solving two problems at the same time and although there is some hesitancy about the longevity of these actions when Highwood School reaches capacity there will be enough support to open another site for the Mandarin Bilingual program. Trustees also noted that the next steps would include a public meeting to hear the public voice.

Chair Cochrane called for the vote on the motion.

The motion was
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Action By:

6.2 Proposed Student Accommodation Plan for the Regular Program at Robert Warren School

Director C. Davies provided introductory comments to the report.

Chair Cochran re-stated that once again the decision to be made at this meeting is not one of closure; it is whether or not the Board will proceed to the consideration of closure process based on the information in this report.

Trustees asked questions to which Administration responded and a summary of the discussion follows:

- A Trustee requested clarification regarding a statement in the report on page 6-35, Section V, Financial Impact in regards to the walk zone. The Board requested that this section would provide more clarity if it read: *“All other grade six students from the residential district of Canyon Meadows at Ethel M. Johnson School who will be moving into the regular grade seven program at Harold Panabaker School reside in the walk zone for the school.”*
- If this consideration of closure were approved, Administration is recommending a staged closure as outlined on page 6-31 of the report. The grade six students that are currently at Ethel M. Johnson School would move forward with their cohort group to Harold Panabaker School in 2011/12. It would take three years for the current grade seven students at Robert Warren School to move through the school, as it is anticipated that they would be allowed to complete Grade 9 at Robert Warren School.
- CBE Administration has been working collaboratively with stakeholders since the 2006-2007 school year. As this plan is in now its final stages, an effort was made to ensure that the community was engaged in reviewing the plan. A meeting was held in the fall, with only three public members in attendance and all three had been part of the original Scenario Development Team and were fully aware of the situation. There have been no further questions or comments to date from stakeholders.

MOVED by Trustee Taylor:

THAT the Board receives, as information and for the record, the accommodation and implementation plan outlined in this report; and

THAT the Board of Trustees is satisfied that there is cause to proceed with a consideration of the closure of the grade seven to nine regular program at Robert Warren School, effective June 30, 2011, 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.

The motion was
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

6.3 Noon Hour Supervision Fees

Trustee Lane introduced the report. He stated that this is a request to ask the Chief Superintendent to give some thought and analysis to a situation that has had some

Action By:

long held perceptions of ambiguity and unfairness and to see if there is some way to make this situation clearer and more acceptable.

MOVED by Trustee Lane:

WHEREAS, The matter of differential noon hour supervision fees for different categories of students presents, to some, an appearance of undue complexity and unfairness; and

WHEREAS, Noon hour supervision fees was a topic of some parental concern in the recent school board election; and

WHEREAS, The recent implementation of walk zones by the CBE has resulted in the loss of bus eligibility for some children; therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Chief Superintendent be directed to engage in a process of consultation and review of noon hour supervision fees as charged by the CBE, as well as those of other School Boards, with a view to devising a noon hour supervision fee structure that addresses, insofar as is reasonable and practical, the concerns raised.

Trustee Lane clarified that a response by the Chief Superintendent is not required by a specific date. Administration stated that if a decision were made before the next budget it would be adequate time to make any changes before the next school year.

During debate, the following points were made:

- Noon supervision fees break down into three categories: students outside of the walk zone pay a transportation fee that includes noon supervision; students within the walk zone pay a noon supervision fee if they stay at school for lunch; students outside of the walk zone who are not bussed (parents drive them) don't pay a fee. This is confusing for parents and has given rise for complaints. With the new walk zones there are several situations where students who were previously outside of the walk zone had transportation service and no noon supervision fee; now they are required to pay a transportation fee and a noon supervision fee even though they have not moved, nor has the school. The decision to change walk zones has had unintended consequences and Administration should be urged to give it some attention.
- The new walk zones have affected students and parents; it is important to hear the ripple effects of the decision as well as how the CBE compares with what other school boards are doing in regards to noon supervision fees.
- Parents have expressed that paying the fee is not as much of a concern as is the matter of fairness.
- This is a good time to revisit this situation. We have heard concerns of constituents and need to follow up on them. It is not a strategic issue but it is important to the public and should be investigated.

Trustee comments not in support of the motion included:

- Noon supervision has always been an unfunded service offered to parents. Within the public education system we offer different levels of service. There are differentiated fees because students and families have different

Action By:

circumstances. It is not wise to expend administrative resources on an extensive review of noon supervision at a time of budget restrictions and constraints.

- This is not the work of the Board of Trustees; it is an operational issue.
- We have already recognized Administration as being in compliance with policies that state parents need to be treated fairly.

Chair Cochrane called for the vote on the motion.

The motion was

CARRIED.

In favour: Trustee Bowen-Eyre
Trustee King
Trustee Lane
Trustee Taylor
Trustee Bazinet

Opposed: Trustee Ferguson
Trustee Cochrane

6.4 Electronic Broadcasting of Public Board of Trustees' Meetings

MOVED by Trustee Taylor:

WHEREAS, According to GP-13 the Board of Trustees shall establish mechanisms for maintaining relationships and communication with stakeholders and other relevant agencies and organizations; and

WHEREAS other school boards and other governments in Alberta are broadcasting public meetings via electronic means (internet, television); therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Chief Superintendent be directed to compile a report by January 18, 2011 on potential future internet broadcast of all public board meetings. This report shall include the technical options available for broadcasting, costs, challenges, opportunities, and a timeframe for implementation.

In response to a question, Trustee Taylor noted that the date in the motion should read January 18, 2011. The motion as noted above includes the correction.

Trustees asked questions to which Administration responded and a summary of the discussion follows:

- Superintendent Faber stated that January 14, 2011 is adequate time for Administration to prepare the report.

Trustee comments in support of the motion included:

- It is challenging to engage citizens, to be progressive and to find new ways to link with the citizens of Calgary. The public meetings don't draw a lot of public attendance and new technology will allow the opportunity to do this; however, costs need to be known before proceeding.

Action By:

- People learn in different ways; hearing discussion and debate gives a better feel for what took place.
- This would be another step towards paperless board meetings.
- Parents are busy and are not always able to attend meetings, this way they can listen anytime, anywhere.
- It would be an opportunity for school councils to watch when there is a subject of interest to them.
- Edmonton Public Schools are already broadcasting their meetings and more boards will move towards this. Support for receiving a report and finding out what the options are.

Chair Cochrane called for the vote on the motion.

The motion was
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

7.0 MONITORING AND RESULTS

There was no business under this section.

8.0 POLICY DEVELOPMENT AND REVIEW

There was no business under this section.

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 November 30, 2010
- Regular Meeting held December 7, 2010

THAT the Board of Trustees approves the Minutes of the Regular Meetings held November 30, 2010 and December 7, 2010, as submitted.

9.1.2 Education Act 2011 – Proposed Framework

THAT with respect to the current School Act, and the Education Act 2011 – Proposed Framework dated October 7, 2010, the Board of Trustees authorizes the Chair to correspond with the Minister of Education outlining the Board's response, as attached to the report presented with the Agenda dated January 4, 2011.

9.2 Chief Superintendent Consent Agenda

9.2.1 Chief Superintendent's Monthly Update

THAT the Chief Superintendent's Monthly Update report be received for information and the record.

Action By:

10.0 TRUSTEE NOTICES OF MOTION

Trustee Taylor gave notice of motion that she will be bringing forward a motion at the next public meeting regarding the new Education Centre, Dr. Carl Safran School renovation and Connaught School renovation projects.”

Recessed at 6:02 p.m.
Reconvened at 6:13 p.m.

11.0 IN-CAMERA ISSUES

11.1 Motion to Move In Camera

MOVED by Trustee King:

Whereas the Board of Trustees is of the opinion that it is in the public interest that matters on the Private Agenda for the Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees, January 4, 2011 be considered at an in camera session; therefore, be it

Resolved THAT the Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees moves in camera.

The motion was
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Motion to Revert to Public Meeting

MOVED by Trustee Bowen-Eyre:

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

The motion was
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

At 7:52 p.m. during the in-camera session, the Chair received the Consent of the Board to continue to the end of the Agenda.

Motions to Action In-Camera Recommendations

MOVED by Trustee King:

THAT the Board of Trustees receives the *Draft Communication Plan* report for information; and

Action By:

THAT the Chief Superintendent makes appropriate revisions and submits for Board of Trustees' ratification on January 18, 2011.

The motion was
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

MOVED by Trustee Lane:

THAT the Board of Trustees receives the CBE's Insurance Portfolio and Involvement in the Urban Schools Insurance Consortium (USIC) report for information; and

THAT the Board of Trustees provides its approval to Administration to support the reconstitution of the Urban Schools Insurance Consortium (USIC) (under the general guidance of the current USIC administration) from its current structure to that of a licensed "reciprocal insurance exchange" under Alberta's *Insurance Act*.

The motion was
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

MOVED by Trustee Taylor:

THAT the Board of Trustees receives the Application to Alberta Labour Relations Board report for information and for the record.

The motion was
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

MOVED by Trustee Bowen Eyre:

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

- **Memorandum dated December 1, 2010 from Chief Superintendent Johnson, advising of the closure of the Office of the Chief Superintendent over the winter break from December 24, 2010 to January 3, 2011 and that during her absence from December 28, 2010 to January 10, 2011, Superintendent Cathy Faber, Learning Innovation and Superintendent Deborah Lewis, Learning Support will provide coverage.**

The motion was
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

12.0 ADJOURNMENT

Chair Cochrane declared the meeting adjourned at 8:02 p.m.