

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, April 10, 2007 at 5:00 p.m.

Board of Trustees:

PRESENT:

Trustee P. Cochrane, Chair
Trustee C. Bazinet
Trustee N. Close
Trustee G. Dirks
Trustee K. Fawcett
Trustee G. Lane

ABSENT:

Trustee L. Ferguson

Administration:

Dr. B. Croskery, Chief Superintendent of Schools
Ms. J. Barkway, Assistant Corporate Secretary
Mr. F. Coppinger, Superintendent, Facilities and Environmental Services
Mr. D. Dart, Superintendent, Corporate Services – Secretary Treasurer
Mr. J. Drysdale, Superintendent, Educational Support Services
Ms. B. Hubert, Deputy Chief Superintendent of Schools
Mr. J. Jones, Executive Assistant to the Chief Superintendent
Ms. B. Kuester, Executive Director of Communications
Mr. R. Peden, Director and General Counsel, Legal Affairs
Ms. S. Wasylyshyn, Executive Assistant to Trustees
Ms. H. Numrich, Recording Secretary

Stakeholder Representatives:

Ms. G. Burger-Martindale, Calgary Association of Parents and School Councils
Mr. D. Clark, Elementary School Principals' Association
Ms. A. Craig, Calgary Board of Education Staff Association
Ms. J. Kylo, Elementary School Principals' Association
Mr. L. Liffiton, Alberta Teachers' Association, Local No. 38 (arrived at 5:07 p.m.)

Action By

1.0 CALL TO ORDER, NATIONAL ANTHEM AND WELCOME

Chair Cochrane called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m., and opened the meeting with the singing of the national anthem led by an electronic presentation of students from Catherine Nichols Gunn School. Chair Cochrane acknowledged and welcomed representatives from the aforementioned organizations.

2.0 CONSIDERATION/APPROVAL OF AGENDA

MOVED by Trustee Dirks:

THAT the Agenda for the Regular Meeting held April 10, 2007 be approved as submitted.

The motion was
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

3.0 SCHOOL/SYSTEM PRESENTATIONS

3.1 Eco Team Presentation

Superintendent F. Coppinger opened the presentation with remarks regarding environmental stewardship by referring to Al Gore's film – "An Inconvenient Truth". He stated that in order to educate tomorrow's citizens today, the Calgary Board of Education must develop student awareness of ecological issues. The Education "Energy" Environment Team (Eco Team) was created in June 2006 and developed a path of strategic framework for the Calgary Board of Education to become a role model of environmental stewardship. Their focus has been in three key areas: Education of students, community involvement, and energy conservation in facility operations. He introduced the following staff and Eco Team members: Mr. R. Fisher, Ms. O. Juzkiw, Mr. J. Reading and Mr. S. Adkar, who gave a PowerPoint presentation. Their efforts support Ends 3: Citizenship; Ends 4: Personal Development; and Ends 5: Character. The team highlighted several projects that they have undertaken in this regard, including leadership in community initiatives such as waste management, participation in the Mayor's environmental expo, water conservation program and a website with up to date information on the Calgary Board of Education environmental initiatives. On May 9, 2007 there will be a public launch of these initiatives. The Eco Team will also be a part of the presentation to city council of Calgary's ecological footprints and municipal planning strategy to demonstrate the partnership between The City of Calgary and the Calgary Board of Education regarding environmental stewardship.

Chair Cochrane thanked the team for the presentation, and stated that the Board is very thankful for the work being done and for the effect that it will have on future citizens.

4.0 HONOURS AND RECOGNITIONS

5.0 PUBLIC CONVERSATION AND INFORMATION

5.1 Correspondence

There was no correspondence.

5.2 Report from the Chair and Trustees

Trustee Bazinet reported that she had just recently returned from a Calgary Board of Education trip to South Korea and China. Ms. S. McLeod of the International Bureau organized the trip with assistance from Deputy Chief Superintendent, Ms. B. Hubert. The group included 30 people who are involved with the Calgary Board of Education in a variety of different capacities. They learned many lessons about cultural diversity and global citizenship and look forward to seeing how they can be incorporated in their work, to actively contribute to creating a better local and global community working towards Ends 3.

Trustee Fawcett stated that just before spring break he attended an assembly at Ernest Morrow Junior High School where students were celebrating two particular achievements; one being the efforts made in the Home Economics class where students made blankets and donated them to the Alberta Children's Hospital, and the second being that the school recently raised over \$10,000 through fund raising towards cancer research. Trustee Fawcett stated that this is significant and noted the progress being made in our schools towards citizenship and character.

5.3 Report from the Chief Superintendent

Chief Superintendent Croskery provided brief remarks about the following activities and school visits: he attended a Telus Sourcing Solutions Leadership Forum on human resources; visited the Piitoayis Aboriginal Family School; attended the Ernest Morrow

Junior High School assembly where he noted that the cancer research fundraiser was to honor the passing of the school's Administrative Secretary Ms. L. Wanner who had a profound impact there; he attended the retirement of principal S. Rattray at Montgomery Junior High School; enjoyed networking at the Trout Unlimited banquet in support of conservation; and participated in the round table for the Canadian Council on Learning who have been given funding from the federal government to brainstorm ideas about how learning for adults can be improved in the workplace.

Dr. Croskery acknowledged that this was Superintendent John Drysdale's last Board meeting before he retires and thanked him again for his excellent service to the Calgary Board of Education. Chair Cochrane also thanked Mr. Drysdale and extended best wishes on behalf of the Board of Trustees. Mr. Drysdale expressed his appreciation to the Board.

5.4 Public Question Period

There were no questions from the public.

5.5 Stakeholder Reports

5.5.1 Mr. M. Teghtmeyer, Co-Chair of the Council of Canadians, Calgary Chapter

Mr. Teghtmeyer provided a handout to Trustees. He stated that he is a native Albertan and citizen of Calgary with a concern regarding Public/Private Partnerships or "P 3's". Working at IBM for 30 years and later at Systemhouse as director of outsourcing for western Canada, he has had experience with P3's. He outlined his view of what a public/private partnership entails and gave a description of the public partner. At this point the time limit was reached and Chair Cochrane advised Mr. Teghtmeyer. He requested that the Board review the second page of the handout on their own. Chair Cochrane thanked him for his presentation.

5.5.2 Mr. T. Woynillowicz, Co-Chair Council of Canadians, Calgary Chapter

Mr. T. Woynillowicz provided a handout entitled "Ten Reasons Why Communities, Not Companies, Should Own and Operate Schools". He highlighted three of these points as follows:

1. Publicly funded schools are less expensive. Financing can be obtained at a lower interest rate and there is no need to increase costs for shareholders' profits. There are less legal and administrative costs.
2. Schools are a vital public asset. Trustees determine how and when schools are used and maintained when publicly owned. It is his view that P3 schools' profits are put ahead of the needs of students and communities and maintenance is deferred as pressure is put on schools to cut costs. He gave an example of this in Nova Scotia where the auditor general declared serious deferred maintenance problems in P3 partnership schools and estimated that it will cost .5 million dollars to bring the school buildings back to par. He also referred to an Ontario study concluding that the condition of a facility has a direct impact on learning.
3. Public/private partnerships in schools encourage governments to enter into risky long-term contracts that can last up to 35 years. School boards run into difficulty when trying to renegotiate contracts. If the role of the Trustees is to provide quality, effective, transparent education then a publicly funded system is the most prudent course to follow.

Chair Cochrane advised that the three-minute time limit was reached, and that normally stakeholder reports are kept to a maximum of two minutes; she apologized to the Board for mistakenly allowing 3 minutes.

5.6 Trustee Inquiries

6.0 ACTION ITEMS

6.1 Board Decision re Consideration of Closure of the Regular Program at Canyon Meadows School

Chair Cochrane explained the rationale for moving the consideration of closure items to the beginning of the agenda, in respect for those whose communities may be affected by these decisions.

MOVED by Trustee Close:

THAT the Board of Trustees approves the Minutes of the Public Meeting of March 14, 2007, in the form as submitted as Attachment I, to the report dated April 10, 2007 and that this report be received for information and for the record.

The motion was
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Trustee Close noted that two questions were received as written submissions, one prior to the public meeting that was addressed at the meeting in regards to how the special needs students would be addressed in this proposal; and one question since the meeting in regards to the middle school concept and if parents would be provided an opportunity to meet with administration regarding vending machines. All other concerns that were expressed have been included in the minutes of the public meeting. Trustee Close explained that detailed information has been provided in the proposed motion, as there were many questions as to what the staged closure might entail. She read the following motion for the record and provided written copy to those in attendance:

MOVED by Trustee Close:

THAT the Board of Trustees approves the staged closure of the regular program at Canyon Meadows Elementary School, commencing June 30, 2007, such that the grade configuration at Canyon Meadows Elementary School would be altered over time as follows:

- 1. for the academic year 2007-2008, Canyon Meadows Elementary School will accommodate grades 4-6 regular program students. Kindergarten to grade 3 regular program students will be designated to Ethel M. Johnson School; and**
- 2. for the academic year 2008-2009, Canyon Meadows Elementary School will have no regular program.**

Further, to minimize disruption to students registered as regular program students at Canyon Meadows Elementary School for the academic year 2006-2007, the following transitional accommodations are planned:

- (i) All grade 3 regular program students who were enrolled at Canyon Meadows Elementary School for the academic year 2006-2007 may attend grade 4 at Canyon Meadows Elementary School in 2007-2008 and then will be designated to Robert Warren School effective academic year 2008-2009 for grade 5 and following grades.**
- (ii) All grade 4 regular program students who were enrolled at Canyon Meadows Elementary School for the academic year 2006-2007 may attend**

grade 5 at Canyon Meadows Elementary School in 2007-2008 and then will be designated to Robert Warren School effective academic year 2008-2009 for grade 6 and following grades.

- (iii) **With the exception of the grades 3 and 4 students referenced in points (i) and (ii) above, effective for the academic year 2008-2009, all students who reside in the community of Canyon Meadows who wish to access a regular program will be designated to Ethel M. Johnson School.**

There was a Trustee question regarding the motion about the grade 5 and 6 regular program students at Robert Warren School. Administration confirmed that these will be the only grades 5 and 6 regular program students at this school.

Trustees entered into debate over the motion.

Trustee comments in support of the motion included:

- The complexity of this situation is enormous and complex. The declining enrolment at Canyon Meadows Elementary School has been a concern for eight years. Although the public meeting was not well attended residents spoke of the value of a neighborhood school and how difficult this is for the community. Great attention has been spent on these emotions and concerns, and it is in recognition of these that a staged closure has been proposed. Gratitude was extended to all participants and parents who met to develop the scenarios.
- The placement of the Spanish bilingual program at this school in order to sustain its viability has been successful and has attracted students from other neighborhoods; however it does raise concerns about how to place alternative programs in the long-range process.
- It has been interesting to see this process, how much work has been done with the community and Trustees have heard the parents desire for consistency and stability. This recommendation takes into consideration that change needs to happen but also takes individuals into consideration as well. As the nature and character of neighborhoods change it is important to support neighborhoods and families. The big challenge is that people want their children to attend school in their community.
- Significant work and thought went into this plan. It is difficult to know exactly how many schools are going to be needed and where the growth will take place. Administration has been diligent to look at all scenarios and to come up with the best plan for students, communities and overall for the Calgary Board of Education.
- Declining enrolment is the issue. The numbers do not justify keeping the program open with 68 students.
- It would be supportive to let the older grades finish out their time with the same students and move on as a group.

Chair Cochrane called for the vote on the motion.

The motion was
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

6.2 Recommendation for Consideration of Closure of the Regular Program at Sam Livingston Elementary School

Dr. Croskery introduced the report by thanking all of the staff that worked on it.

Trustees gave consideration to the report and posed a number of questions, which were addressed by administration and are summarized as follows:

- The decision regarding Nickle Junior High to become a Middle School is independent of what happens with Sam Livingston School. Three elementary schools feed into Nickle and there is ample space available as the projected enrollment is only 350. This change will take place in the fall of 2008.
- Interest in the French Immersion program in the new and developing communities south of Fish Creek is anticipated to grow. There is potential for a crowded situation at Sundance School and student population is declining in the north end of Area V. Past experience shows this is what happens when French Immersion is offered in the home community as was the case in Hidden Valley.

Chair Cochrane read the recommendation.

MOVED by Trustee Bazinet:

THAT the Board of Trustees receives the student accommodation strategy outlined in this report, as circulated with the agenda for the April 10, 2007 Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees; and

THAT the Board of Trustees is satisfied that there is cause to proceed with the consideration of closure of the regular program at Sam Livingston Elementary School in accordance with the *Closure of Schools Regulation* and the Board of Trustees' Governance Process Policy 5E: *Board of Trustees' Procedures – Consideration of School Closures, sections 1.1(2)*.

Trustee comments in support of the motion included that there is enough evidence in this report to move forward with the next important step in the process and to hear feedback from the public.

The motion was
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

6.3 School Fees Report 2007/08

Superintendent D. Dart introduced the report.

Trustees gave consideration to the report and posed a number of questions, which were addressed by administration and are summarized as follows:

- Students enrolled in a full high school program plus a CBe-learn course are not required to pay an additional fee for the CBe-learn course. The maximum fee for high school students is \$132.00.
- CBe-learn fees are in line with other online programs.
- A Trustee asked whether an analysis had been done on enrolment fees and if so, would demand increase if fees were lowered? Administration responded that the fees are approved two years in advance and the fees in this report were approved last year. Although fees are slightly behind some of the other programs being offered to international students they do not see a need to raise them, as other boards are not. It is not known if an analysis has been done but administration can report back to the Board on this if requested to do so.

- Revenues for transportation do not cover expenses. This report is based on the premise that the same transportation service level will be offered again next year. Senior high school transit fees have gone up due to an increase by Calgary Transit and the Calgary Board of Education will raise the subsidy for eligible students, but not for ineligible students.
- Trustees requested information on what kind of instructional supplies and materials are included with the CBe-learn course fees? Dr. Croskery informed the Board that an answer could be provided by the end of the week.

MOVED by Trustee Fawcett:

THAT the Board of Trustees receives this report for information and for the record in the form as submitted with the agenda of the regular meeting held April 10, 2007; and

THAT the Board of Trustees schedule the consideration of the 2007/08 Transportation Fee Schedule at the May 1, 2007 Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees, as outlined in Attachment II (Section A) of this report as circulated with the agenda of the regular meeting held April 10, 2007.

Trustee comments in support of the motion to schedule the approval of the transportation fee schedule to the May 1, 2007 meeting, included:

The Board gave first reading to a revised transportation policy that they are waiting for impact statements from administration on. They anticipate receiving these by the end of the month. At this time it is unclear whether or not Trustees want to give the policy second or third reading and move forward for next year or not. Transportation fees can be significantly affected, so the approval should be postponed until the Board knows which direction they want to take after seeing the impact statements.

The motion was
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

6.4 GP-12: Investment in Governance – Orientation Workshop

MOVED by Trustee Close:

Be it resolved that:

In accordance with Governance Process (GP) Policy 12: Investment in Governance, that the Board of Trustees approves the expenditure of up to \$3000 to support a workshop on civic engagement to be held on May 24, 2007.

Trustee comments in support of the motion included:

- As part of the governance process and the requirement to provide orientation and training of trustee candidates and new trustees, Trustees would like to hold a workshop to inspire the importance of voting and running for office. Trustees want to encourage the community to become involved and desire to try and increase voter turnout. On May 24, 2007 Trustees plan to invite as many people as they can to the boardroom and plaza level. They will have displays, will be available to answer questions and provide information regarding nomination day and share successful campaigning strategies. Although it is unusual to encourage others to run against themselves, Trustees feel it is integral, refreshing and important to inform the community and to encourage involvement.

- It is important for the Board to take leadership in this area and to promote the school system as being owned by the public.
- This is hard, demanding work but Trustees see the value of being held accountable and of bringing in new people with new thoughts and ideas. They believe it will improve the school system and ultimately the students' results.
- People need to know the power of public education, how important what happens in our schools really is, that they can make a difference and affect the lives of children. This may encourage people to vote, to run for office or know of someone who could run.

The motion was
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

7.0 POLICY DEVELOPMENT AND REVIEW

7.1 Executive Limitations 17: imagineCALGARY

MOVED by Trustee Close:

THAT the Board of Trustees rescinds first reading of Executive Limitations 17: imagineCALGARY charter as presented on November 7th, 2006.

It was noted that after the first reading of this policy was given, the policy committee reviewed impact statements from administration and is recommending such significant revisions that it would be neater and cleaner to rescind the first reading.

The motion was
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

MOVED by Trustee Close:

THAT the Board of Trustees approves first reading of Executive Limitations 17: imagineCALGARY Partnership, in the form as submitted with the agenda for the regular meeting of April 10, 2007.

Trustee Close noted that "Exhibit: The signed partnership agreement" at the end of E-3: Citizenship, Attachment 2, should actually be on EL-17: imagineCALGARY Partnership, Attachment 1.

Trustee questions in regards to the motion are summarized as follows:

- A Trustee questioned the wording in this policy "Annually review the imagineCALGARY charter" as the Calgary Board of Education did not write this charter. Trustee Close explained that in the imagineCALGARY partnership agreement they were asked to annually review the targets and report on which of the targets would be selected and concentrated on. The intent of the wording is for the Chief Superintendent to annually look at the targets in this charter and to let the Board know which ones would be concentrated on, not to review the imagineCALGARY partnership.

It was suggested and accepted as a friendly amendment to delete "*review the imagineCALGARY charter and its 30-year targets and*" in point 1, and to add the word "Charter" following imagineCALGARY in point a). It was further accepted that the current point 1 could be incorporated into the stem phrase, and points a) and b) could become numbers 1 and 2. For clarity, the amended policy which was debated for first reading is included below:

“The Calgary Board of Education has demonstrated its support for the development of a long-term sustainability plan for Calgary by signing the imagineCALGARY partnership agreement. Support for the imagineCALGARY Charter (vision, goals and targets) allows the Calgary Board of Education to showcase and celebrate its existing success in shaping our city’s future. The partnership agreement and charter creates a framework/vehicle for the Calgary Board of Education to partner with others to ensure that our city’s future is intentional and sustainable.

Accordingly, the Chief Superintendent shall not fail to annually report to the Board of Trustees:

1. which of the imagineCALGARY Charter targets will be included within the Calgary Board of Education’s three year planning process; and
2. how the Calgary Board of Education is currently contributing towards achieving the 30 year targets as identified in part 1.”

Trustee comments in support of the motion included:

- It is important to keep the imagineCALGARY charter alive within the Calgary Board of Education, as there was significant work involved by both administration and Trustees.
- It is an opportunity to showcase the work done in schools to contribute to a sustainable Calgary, as seen in the Eco Team presentation this evening.
- This charter included input from a wide range of Calgarians, who are also owners of the public education system. Education is a part of their vision of where they see Calgary in the next 100 years and they want Calgary to be a world-class place to live with a world-class education system.

Trustee Close noted that Administration has the option to choose as to which form to do the impact statements in, either written or oral, as they have already done written impact statements on the former first reading of this policy.

The motion was
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

MOVED by Trustee Close:

THAT the Board of Trustees approves first reading of the proposed addition to Ends 3 Citizenship, “6. Actively contribute to achieving the imagineCALGARY targets as outlined in the imagineCALGARY Charter (vision, goals and targets).”

Trustee questions and comments in regards to the motion included:

- We should be careful to provide as much flexibility as possible. Each school might focus on different targets. It was clarified that all schools would not be required to actively contribute to all targets.
- There was a question as to whether or not it was considered that when making a change to an Ends policy, in a sense it is changing the constitution, and perhaps the Linkages Committee should consider discussion with stakeholders beforehand.
- It was questioned whether points 1-5 of the current Ends 3 policy include the core values of what is already in the imagineCALGARY targets, and since targets are not core values, it was questioned whether they should be in an Ends policy.

- A Trustee shared her belief that targets are reasonable indicators of achieving Ends 3. The original Executive Limitations on imagineCALGARY suggested that schools look at the targets and address them. The Policy Committee felt it was still important in demonstrating active citizenship, which is why it is being added to Ends 3.

Trustees entered into debate on the motion.

Trustee comments in support of the motion included:

- A Trustee stated that it is important to give first reading to this policy because it is important to have discussion with the public on it, to encourage people to actively contribute to being a citizen in Calgary by being actively involved and to discuss specifics of how students can become actively involved. Ends 3 – Citizenship seemed to be a natural fit for this and provides an opportunity for students to become involved.
- This document is generated and owned by the citizens of Calgary, our owners. Many people from diverse backgrounds were involved and there was extensive consultation in the development process. It is not similar to other agreements as it involved 18,000 Calgarians, which a Trustee suggested legitimizes it being included in our policies. We do not want to lose this imagineCALGARY charter over time as sometimes happens when staff changes. This is unique as it is not just what a teacher wants, but also what all Calgarians want.
- A Trustee expressed support for the idea of all schools participating in this charter at some level and inclusion as an Ends statement could be a possible way for it to happen, and for the Board to monitor it.
- A Trustee noted they would like to hear from the public, as there are many people who have never heard of this charter or what the targets are. It is also important to hear from Administration as to what the monitoring impacts are.

Trustee comments not in support of the motion:

- A Trustee noted their concern with whether this addition needs to stand alone or whether it should be referenced under point 5. It was also suggested that including it in EL-17 would accomplish keeping imagineCALGARY in front of us, but it is not necessary to include it in Ends 3 as well.
- A Trustee expressed concern about setting a precedent. If imagineCALGARY were stated as an example it would be better rather than to be so specific. However, other examples could also be included or added resulting in long, possibly controversial lists.
- A Trustee stated her belief that it does not belong here. We would be going out to talk about imagineCALGARY, not Ends 3 Citizenship. We are not sure that all Calgarians support this charter.

Chair Cochrane called for the vote on the motion.

In Favour: Trustee Dirks
Trustee Fawcett
Trustee Lane
Trustee Close

Opposed: Trustee Cochrane
Trustee Bazinet

The motion was
CARRIED.

8.0 CONSENT AGENDA

There were no objections to the Board Consent Agenda or the Chief Superintendent Consent Agenda and Chair Cochrane declared the items to be adopted as presented.

8.1 Board Consent Agenda

8.1.1 CAPSC Liaison Report

THAT the Board of Trustees receives the attachments with respect to the Calgary Association of Parents and School Councils (CAPSC) for information and to be considered as the liaison report for that organization, as submitted with the agenda for the April 10, 2007 Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees.

8.2 Chief Superintendent Consent Agenda

8.2.1 Monthly Update

THAT the Board of Trustees receives the report for information, in the form as submitted with the Agenda for the Regular Meeting held April 10, 2007.

9.0 TRUSTEE NOTICES OF MOTION

There were no Trustee notices of motion.

Recessed at 7:00 p.m.

Reconvened at 7:13 p.m.

10.0 IN-CAMERA ISSUES

10.1 Motion to Move In Camera

MOVED by Trustee Dirks:

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

The motion was
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

10.2 Motion to Revert to Public Meeting

MOVED by Trustee Dirks:

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

The motion was
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

10.3 Motion to Action In-Camera Recommendations

MOVED by Trustee Fawcett:

THAT the Board of Trustees amends the motion previously adopted on January 30, 2007, with respect to effective dates for changes to the premium cost sharing for post retirement benefits by amending 1.c.i to read "Effective January 1, 2009" and amending 1.c.ii to read "Effective January 1, 2011".

The motion was
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

11.0 ADJOURNMENT

The Chair declared the meeting adjourned at 7:34 p.m.