

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, February 6, 2007 at 5:00 p.m.

PRESENT

Board of Trustees:

Trustee P. Cochrane, Chair
Trustee C. Bazinet (left the meeting at 5:49 p.m.)
Trustee N. Close
Trustee G. Dirks
Trustee K. Fawcett
Trustee L. Ferguson
Trustee G. Lane

Administration:

Ms. J. Barkway, Assistant Corporate Secretary
Dr. B. Croskery, Chief Superintendent of Schools
Mr. W. Braun for 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
Ms. H. Numrich, Recording Secretary
Ms. S. Wasylyshyn, Executive Assistant to Trustees

Stakeholder Representatives:

Ms. G. Burger-Martindale, Calgary Association of Parents and School Councils
Ms. J. Edge, Elementary School Principals' Association
Ms. A. Craig, Calgary Board of Education Staff Association
Mr. L. Liffiton, Alberta Teachers' Association, Local 38

Action By

1.0 CALL TO ORDER, NATIONAL ANTHEM AND WELCOME

Chair Cochrane called the meeting to order at 5:01 p.m. The Western Canada High School Jazz Singers led in the singing of the national anthem, for which Chair Cochrane noted the Board was extremely appreciative. Chair Cochrane acknowledged and welcomed representatives from the aforementioned organizations and parents. She also noted that the first year class of the Southern Alberta Institute of Technology Broadcasting students and their instructor Ms. S. Moore, were in attendance and were also welcomed.

2.0 CONSIDERATION/APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Ms. Barkway noted that Item 6.1 is recommended to be postponed to the next regular meeting, February 20, 2007. As well, there was a late circulation of Item 7.1, page 7-2.

MOVED by Trustee Dirks:

THAT the Agenda for the Regular Meeting held February 6, 2007 be approved as submitted, subject to the removal of Item 6.1, Monitoring Governance Process Policies 3, 4, 8, 9 and 12 and the addition of the late circulation related to Agenda Item 7.1.

The motion was
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

3.0 SCHOOL/SYSTEM PRESENTATIONS

3.1 Home Schooling

Superintendent Drysdale provided introductory remarks regarding the Calgary Board of Education Home Schooling program. Director C. Faber, Innovative Learning Services, provided an overview of the program with a PowerPoint presentation. She stated that the Calgary Board of Education recognizes that strategies and support to this group of learners and their families is important. Home schooling embraces the same values that are emphasized at the Calgary Board of Education, that public education serves the common good and that families are working towards the four key Ends. It was identified that there was a need to provide a long-term plan. They began by framing out a learning agenda; established parent designed learning plans and brought in support from Alberta Education. The key concept is support. Parents take accountability for student learning and are provided with an array of instructional supports, learning activities, assessment supports and online information. Home schooling supports flexible learning styles. A parent, Ms. L. Vallieres, Chair of the Parent Advisory Council, and two home schooled students, Madeleine in grade 4 and Simon in grade 7, spoke of their positive experience with the program and were grateful for the supportive network provided by the Calgary Board of Education. Chair Cochrane thanked them for their presentation and invited them to come and visit the boardroom again to observe how a local government works.

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

There were no verbal updates.

5.3 Report from the Chief Superintendent

Chief Superintendent Croskery provided brief remarks about the following activities and school visits: he visited Sir John Franklin Junior High School; Bowcroft Elementary School where he read to students during reading week; attended Salvation Army Children's Village School principal retirement; Vista Heights Elementary School where he observed that this school has many corporate partnerships such as providing meals to feed hungry children as well as many other excellent services; Ernest Morrow Junior High and Connaught Community School, both English as a Second Language schools; Riverside Bungalow, where new students and immigrant families are seeking to enroll in Calgary Board of Education schools; Crescent Heights High School retirement for teachers and principals; Sir Winston Churchill High School presentation as an activity of the Leadership Centre; Innovation Showcase at Mount Royal College where he celebrated with partners over breakfast and enjoyed a presentation on feeding hungry children; PALS middle school association appreciation banquet for administrative secretaries in schools; and retirement of the Calgary Catholic Board Chief Superintendent, Dr. J. Simms.

Dr. Croskery stated that he was thankful for the opportunity to visit the schools and to observe the good things that are taking place in the classrooms.

Dr. Croskery noted that the National Sport School was highlighted in the Association for Supervision and Curriculum Development Smart Brief. This school enables athletes to develop their education online.

5.4 Public Question Period

There were no questions from the public.

5.5 Stakeholder Reports

There were no stakeholder reports.

5.6 Trustee Inquiries

Ms. Barkway noted that Trustee Lane had raised an inquiry, which she read for the record as follows:

“There have been several reports in the press recently that in some school districts in North America and abroad, cell phones are being used in schools to disrupt learning environments, to facilitate cheating on tests, and for various other questionable activities. To what extent is this becoming a problem in CBE schools? Has the Administration taken any actions and/or are any actions contemplated to address this issue?”

Mr. J. Jones, Executive Assistant to the Chief Superintendent, responded to the question with a verbal report. He stated that he was able to obtain input from high school principals from each area as well as several directors. Calgary Board of Education schools have been addressing wireless technology for some time. Their emergent presence and appropriate use has been an ongoing and challenging issue in junior and senior high schools. Some principals estimated that over 70% of students and the majority of the staff carries cell phones. Schools grapple with issues that arise with potential inappropriate use. Mr. Jones gave several examples of how wireless technology has impacted society both positively and negatively.

What is the Calgary Board of Education doing? Many schools provide written codes of conduct that include reference to the use of cellular telephones. Schools' codes of conduct include expectations for student behaviour with the expectation that students are to model and reinforce socially responsible, respectable behaviours. This expectation is outlined in Administrative Regulation 6001 along with expectations on the use of Calgary Board of Education technology resources. School communities are expected to work with their principals to develop a written code of conduct in consultation with parents, students, school councils and school staff. Principals have noted that staff members have also been addressed with regard to cell phone etiquette.

There has been an emphasis in Calgary Board of Education schools to provide as few temptations as possible during diploma exams. Alberta Education has specified that during diploma examinations, students must clear all programmable calculators, can not share calculators, and are restricted from bringing headsets, cell phones, pagers, hand held electronic dictionaries, etc. into the exam room. Students found using these or communicating with each other in any way may face serious consequences. The Calgary Board of Education remains committed to work closely with our community to carve out this previously uncharted territory.

6.0 MONITORING AND RESULTS

The item was removed from the agenda.

7.0 POLICY DEVELOPMENT AND REVIEW

7.1 Supplementary Funding Mechanisms and Educational Funding Governance Policies – First Reading

Trustee Bazinet left the meeting.

Trustee Fawcett provided a brief introduction, noting that a motion was passed at the November 28, 2006 meeting of the Board of Trustees to develop a governance process policy on system funding. The Policy Committee has tried to put into policy some of the values on how the Calgary Board of Education is funded and what sort of innovations the Board would like to see to enhance funding.

It was decided to develop two policies, one being a governance process policy on Education Funding that highlighted where the majority of funding for public education comes from and for what purposes. The second policy is an Executive Limitation that would provide guidelines on what innovative funding mechanisms could be used and what are the boundaries. They have tried to focus on the capital for now, realizing that in the future the Board of Trustees may wish to expand on this to include such things as fundraising, donations, and other such funding mechanisms that the Board does not have policy on at this time.

Trustees agreed that the vote be called separately on each section of the motion.

MOVED by Trustee Fawcett:

THAT the Board of Trustees gives first reading to the Governance Process policy titled *Education Funding*, in the form as circulated as Attachment I to the Board report dated February 6, 2007.

Trustees discussed the motion and comments and questions included:

- Regarding Capital/Infrastructure annual budget provision, should the word “annual” be used? Trustee Fawcett explained that this was referring to the annual provincial budget that provides for education infrastructure funding; however, the wording could be looked at again between first and second reading, in order to allow for ongoing funding from other sources.
- What is the reason for stating that the operational source of tax revenue is fundamental as “property” tax as opposed to another source of tax revenue? Trustee Fawcett stated that there was no rationale for the word “property” tax. This could be something that could be debated as part of the policy approval process.
- A comment was made that it is important to bring this matter forward to the community, regarding how the Calgary Board of Education is funded, and to consider what are some of the other innovative ways that funding could be received.

Trustee Fawcett provided rationale for the motion, stating that he feels that it is important to have values in policy in order for the school board to meet the needs of the communities and the students. The proper resources need to be in place, as well as accountability with Alberta Education. There has been no plan in the city for education infrastructure, possibly because of the lack of provincial funding. This is a strong policy statement that could be taken to stakeholders and to the government to say that this is what is needed in order to have a successful school system and in order for Calgarians to have a school system that they can be proud of.

Chair Cochrane called for the vote on the motion.

The motion was
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Absent: Trustee Bazinet

MOVED by Trustee Fawcett:

THAT the Board of Trustees gives first reading to the Executive Limitations titled *Innovative/Supplementary Funding* in the form as circulated as Attachment II to the Board report dated February 6, 2007.

During discussion, a friendly amendment was proposed and accepted, and has been incorporated into the motion as set out below.

THAT the Board of Trustees gives first reading to the Executive Limitations titled *Innovative/Supplementary Funding* in the form as circulated as Attachment II to the Board report dated February 6, 2007, subject to amendment by the addition of the word "capital" in sub-points 1 and 2, prior to the word "funding".

Trustees discussed the motion and questions included:

- What is the difference between point 1 and point 3? Trustee Fawcett stated that this is something that the policy committee could look at further and that the intent in point 1 was to say that some of the ideas might come from the community rather than the Calgary Board of Education.
- In response to the concern regarding the ability of the Calgary Board of Education to borrow money or issue bonds, Trustee Fawcett stated that the intent is to pursue the reduction of any regulatory barriers.

Trustee Fawcett provided rationale for the motion, stating that the Calgary Board of Education has a number of partnerships and that it is important to allow Calgarians and communities to get involved in deciding how to meet educational infrastructure needs. It is important to have a sound business case, rational thought, and certain standards, rules and guidelines that must be followed.

Trustee comments in support of the motion included:

- The Calgary Board of Education may soon be verging on a one billion dollar budget; however, the organization is not viewed as a mature organization that should be able to exercise autonomy. It cannot raise funds by issuing bonds or borrow for capital purposes as other municipal organizations can. This motion allows for innovative funding.
- It is important to have conversations and discuss successes with Calgarians. An innovative way to meet our needs while working with the city and government, instead of against them, would be a good thing for Calgary and Calgarians.

Chair Cochrane called for the vote on the motion.

The motion was
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Absent: Trustee Bazinet

MOVED by Trustee Fawcett:

THAT the Board of Trustees tasks the Linkages Committee with the development of a public consultation plan.

Trustee Fawcett stated the Policy Committee wanted to consult with the public and stakeholders before giving second and third reading to the policy.

During discussion, various amendments were proposed.

MOVED by Trustee Close:

THAT the motion be amended by the substitution of the word “participation” for “consultation”, and by the addition of the words “to be implemented prior to second reading of these two policies.”

Chair Cochrane called for the question on the motion to amend.

The motion was

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Absent: Trustee Bazinet

Trustee Fawcett stated that the Policy Committee would like to discuss innovative ways of supplementary funding with the communities and the public first, rather than informing them of what has been decided, as this topic could become very controversial.

Chair Cochrane called for the vote on the motion as amended.

For clarity, the motion is as follows:

THAT the Board of Trustees tasks the Linkages Committee with the development of a public participation plan to be implemented prior to second reading of these two policies.

The motion was

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Absent: Trustee Bazinet

7.2 Policy Amendment, Inclusion of EducationMatters, Calgary’s Public Education Trust in Board of Trustees Policies

Chair Cochrane turned the chair over to Second Vice-Chair Lane.

MOVED by Trustee Cochrane:

THAT the Board of Trustees revise the current Executive Limitations Policy, EL-10 Budgeting Process to include a policy statement supporting the financial requirements of EducationMatters, Calgary’s Public Education Trust; and

THAT the Board of Trustees revise the current Governance Process Policy, GP-13 Board of Trustees’ Linkages (or other appropriate Governance Process Policy) to include a policy statement affirming the Board of Trustees’ ongoing support of EducationMatters; and

THAT the Board of Trustees directs the Board of Trustees’ Policy Committee to bring forward the above-referenced revised policies at the earliest possible date.

Trustee Cochrane provided rationale for the motion. She stated that the Calgary Board of Education established the foundation a number of years ago, however the trust has not been referenced in the governance policies of the Board of Trustees. In the interest of good governance, a policy statement to recognize EducationMatters should be included.

A Trustee comment of support was made stating that it is important for long term interest to make a statement that this Board supports and funds the trust.

The motion was

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Absent: Trustee Bazinet

Chair Cochrane resumed the chair.

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 Approval of Minutes

THAT the Board of Trustees approves the Minutes of the Regular Meetings held January 23, 2007 and January 30, 2007, as submitted.

8.1.2 Report from the Policy Committee

THAT the Board of Trustees receives the Policy Development Tracking Sheets for meetings held from November 29, 2006 to January 17, 2007 for information and for the record, in the form as submitted with the agenda for the Regular Meeting held February 6, 2007.

8.1.3 Appointment of External Members to Board of Trustees' Trustee Remuneration Committee

THAT the Board of Trustees approves the appointment of the following members to the Trustee Remuneration Committee for the 2006/07 year:

- Ms. G. Burger-Martindale (Calgary Association of Parents & School Councils representative);**
- Ms. S. Wideman, Key Communicators (stakeholder representative); and**
- Mr. E. Miller (corporate representative).**

8.1.4 Annual Summative Evaluation of the Chief Superintendent for the 2006 Year.

THAT the Board of Trustees approves the formal summative statement of the performance evaluation of the Chief Superintendent for the 2006 year, in the form as submitted with the agenda for the Regular Meeting held February 6, 2007.

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 February 6, 2007.

8.2.2 Report on Financial Status of Operating Budget as at November 30, 2006 and Projected Financial Results for the Year Ended August 31, 2007

- 1. THAT information regarding all budget revisions made during the period September 1, 2006 to November 30, 2006 inclusive (identified in the Analysis section of the report and in Attachments I and II), be received for monitoring information and for the record, in the form as submitted with the agenda for the Regular Meeting held February 6, 2007.**

2. **THAT the Statement of Revenue and Expense for the period September 1, 2006 to November 30, 2006 and Forecast Annual Revenue and Expense for the year ending August 31, 2006 and notes thereto (Attachments III and IV, respectively) be received for monitoring information and for the record, in the form as submitted with the agenda for the Regular Meeting held February 6, 2007.**

8.2.3 First Quarter Capital Budget Status Report as at November 30, 2006

1. **THAT information regarding all budget revisions and transfers, as outlined in the report for the period September 1 to November 30, 2006 inclusive, be received for monitoring information and for the record, in the form as submitted with the agenda for the Regular Meeting held February 6, 2007.**
2. **THAT attachments I to IV, reflecting actual Capital Expenditures for the period September 1 to November 30, 2006 and forecast expenditures for the year ending August 31, 2007, be received for monitoring information and for the record, in the form as submitted with the agenda for the Regular Meeting held February 6, 2007.**

9.0 ACTION ITEMS

There were no action items.

10.0 TRUSTEE NOTICES OF MOTION

There were no Trustee notices of motion.

11.0 ADJOURNMENT

The Chair declared the meeting adjourned at 6:25 p.m.