

## CALGARY BOARD OF EDUCATION

Minutes of the Public Meeting re: Discussion Respecting Consideration of Closure for the Purpose of Relocation of Juno Beach Academy of Canadian Studies, held in the Lord Shaughnessy High School cafeteria, 2336 – 53 Avenue SW, Calgary, Alberta on Thursday, March 11, 2010 at 7:00 p.m.

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### PRESENT

#### Board of Trustees:

Ms. P. Cochrane, Board Chair, Trustee – Wards 8 & 9  
Ms. L. Ferguson, Trustee – Wards 3 & 4  
Ms. P. King, Trustee – Wards 5 & 10  
Ms. K. Kryczka, Trustee – Wards 11 & 13  
Dr. G. Lane, Trustee - Wards 6 & 7

#### Administration:

Mr. P. Carlton, Moderator and Chair of the Public Meeting  
Mr. R. Peden, Procedures Chair  
Ms. N. Johnson, Chief Superintendent of Schools  
Mr. J. Langley, Director, Area IV  
Ms. J. Rogerson, Director, Area V  
Ms. J. Barkway, Assistant Corporate Secretary  
Ms. D. Perrier, Recording Secretary

### WELCOME, INTRODUCTIONS AND MEETING OUTLINE

Copies of the Agenda entitled “Board of Trustees, Calgary Board of Education, Public Meeting, Consideration of Closure for the Purpose of Relocation of Juno Beach Academy of Canadian Studies”, which also contained information with respect to the purpose of the meeting and the role of the Board of Trustees, review of the *Written Notice*, discussion guidelines, written submissions and further questions, were made available to those present and submitted for the record.

Mr. Carlton called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. He stated that he would be Chair of the meeting and that the format of the meeting is determined by the Closure of Schools Regulation, thus it has a high level of structure regarding the information that must be presented. He introduced the Trustees present and the Calgary Board of Education Administration. He noted also the attendance of Mr. L. Villiger, Principal, and Mr. M. Black, Assistant Principal, Juno Beach Academy of Canadian Studies.

Mr. Carlton stated that the meeting was being recorded for the purpose of maintaining an accurate internal record of the proceedings and he noted that minutes would be available on the website at [www.cbe.ab.ca](http://www.cbe.ab.ca) prior to the Board of Trustees making its decision. Copies of the *Written Notice Regarding Consideration of Closure of Juno Beach Academy of Canadian Studies for the Purpose of Relocation* were available on the table at the back of the cafeteria.

### OPENING REMARKS

Chief Superintendent N. Johnson welcomed everyone to the meeting. She noted that she has been with the Calgary Board of Education for 28 years and has served in the roles of teacher, principal, specialist, director, and superintendent. On behalf of the Calgary Board of Education she extended appreciation for the significant time that many of those present have previously committed in relation to this matter. She noted that this meeting has been convened by the Board of Trustees. She shared information about the advisory role and the support role of Administration in these proceedings, noting that the department of

Community Engagement and Operational Planning (CEOP) had initiated and coordinated an engagement process with the community, where meetings were held to address the opportunities and challenges the community, where meetings were held to address the opportunities and challenges associated with the relocation of Juno Beach Academy of Canadian Studies to Dr. Norman Bethune School.

On February 16, 2010 Administration brought forward a recommendation to the Board of Trustees and after deliberation, the Board of Trustees voted to consider the closure of Juno Beach Academy of Canadian Studies for the purpose of relocation. Chief Superintendent Johnson emphasized that no decision regarding this matter has been made to date. She pointed out that Administration has made recommendations in the past in relation to matters such as this, and subsequent to the Board's review and input from the public, the Board made the decision to not approve the recommendation. Because the Board of Trustees has sole authority and responsibility for the closure consideration process, Administration's role has been and will be to provide 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. Chief Superintendent Johnson gave her assurance that throughout the process the Administration will be doing just that.

On behalf of Calgary Board of Education, Chief Superintendent Johnson welcomed any questions or comments that the public may wish to direct to her or to the team that was assembled at the meeting.

### **PURPOSE OF THE MEETING AND ROLE OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

Mr. Carlton drew attention to the back of the *Agenda* and reviewed the purpose of the meeting. He welcomed Ms. P. Cochrane, Chair and Trustee of Wards 8 and 9, to share the Board of Trustees' role in the closure consideration process.

Chair Cochrane presented the following information on behalf of the Board of Trustees:

"On Tuesday, February 16, 2010, after discussion and debate at a regular meeting of the Board of Trustees, a motion was passed by the Board to give consideration to the closure, for the purpose of relocation, of Juno Beach Academy of Canadian Studies.

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

Based on information provided to us by Administration, a *Written Notice* regarding this consideration of closure 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 and the Board of Trustees' Governance Policies and Procedures, 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 your input. Tonight, Trustees want to augment our understanding of the information presented in the *Written Notice* by hearing your observations, submissions and questions. That is why the Board of Trustees has organized and convened tonight's public meeting. Following tonight's meeting, you will have an additional opportunity to ask further written questions and make further written submissions.

Trustees, as the final decision makers, are here tonight to listen and observe. Throughout tonight'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 closure consideration, for the purpose of program relocation, on April 13, 2010.

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 student populations, the demand for programs, our available resources and any other factors that may be significant. Although we certainly may consider financial factors, such as costs of the school or program, there are many other equally important considerations that impact our examination of any school's circumstances --- student enrolment levels, our ability to resource instructional programming, the health and safety of students, accessibility, and on a system-wide basis, serving the overall interests of public education within our jurisdiction.

Consideration of closure for relocation 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. Because of that, we want to hear your input around this very important matter. We look forward to listening carefully tonight to your comments, observations and questions.

On behalf of the Board of Trustees, I thank you."

Mr. Carlton indicated that the public's observations and questions form part of the material that the Board of Trustees will consider as they review the potential closure of Juno Beach Academy of Canadian Studies for the purpose of relocation and ultimately make a decision. It was pointed out that the public also has until 12:00 noon on Monday, April 12, 2010 to submit written follow-up questions and until 9:00 a.m. on Tuesday, April 13, 2010 to provide further written submissions regarding this closure consideration.

### **REVIEW OF THE WRITTEN NOTICE**

Mr. Carlton gave a PowerPoint presentation that provided an overview of the *Written Notice*, which is summarized as follows.

#### Issues

A key issue for the consideration of closure for the purpose of relocation of Juno Beach Academy of Canadian Studies is that this alternative program is currently located at Lord Shaughnessy High School which will become a Career and Technology Centre for the 2010-2011 school year.

Instructional spaces currently utilized by Juno Beach Academy of Canadian Studies may be required as the Career and Technology Centre develops. Expansion for the programming needs of the Career and Technology Centre may lead to overcrowding if Juno Beach Academy is not relocated.

#### Background

Juno Beach Academy opened at Sir William Van Horne School in 2003 and was relocated to Lord Shaughnessy High School in 2006. The program expanded to grade 12 and accommodates approximately 190 students.

#### Opportunities

Dr. Norman Bethune School was leased to a charter school. The charter school was relocated to a larger facility resulting in a vacant school which is now available for the Calgary Board of Education.

The size of Dr. Norman Bethune School is suitable for Juno Beach Academy of Canadian Studies. The school has 16 classrooms and can accommodate up to 400 students. Current program offerings at Lord Shaughnessy High School can be replicated in the student spaces available at Dr. Norman Bethune School.

#### Rationale

Administration heard from stakeholders the belief that in a stand-alone facility, there is better opportunity to attract junior high students thereby ensuring the sustainability of a grade 7-12 program. Feedback received during the administrative engagement process indicated a majority support for relocation. Relocation would allow for enrolment to increase.

#### Current Attendance Area

There is currently one location for Juno Beach Academy of Canadian Studies. Grades 7-12 students residing in Calgary Board of Education's jurisdictional boundary may choose to access the program.

The attendance area would remain the same if the program is relocated from Lord Shaughnessy High School to Dr. Norman Bethune School.

#### Administrative Area and School Locations

The Calgary Board of Education is organized into five Administrative Areas. Lord Shaughnessy High School is located in Area IV and Dr. Norman Bethune School is located in Area V.

#### Attendance at Juno Beach Academy of Canadian Studies

Students currently in grades 7 to 11 would be impacted by the relocation. On September 30, 2009, there were 151 students in grades 7 to 11.

#### Change of Designation

Approximately 190 students would be designated to Dr. Norman Bethune School instead of Lord Shaughnessy High School for the 2010-2011 school year.

#### Capital Plan

A decision to close Juno Beach Academy of Canadian Studies for the purpose of relocation would have no implications for the Three-Year Capital Plan or the Ten-Year Facilities Plan. Both of these documents are available at Calgary Board of Education schools, or can be accessed online at: <http://www.cbe.ab.ca/aboutus/documents.asp>.

#### Transportation

Students who are eligible for subsidized transportation services have access through the Calgary Transit System. Dr. Norman Bethune School is located within walking distance to the Heritage C-train station.

#### Educational Impact Associated with Maintaining Current Location

Limited space will be available at Lord Shaughnessy High School with the opening of the Career and Technology Centre. The loss of some instructional spaces would impact the ability to offer the current range of programming for Juno Beach Academy of Canadian Studies.

#### Educational Impact Associated with Relocation of the Program

Current program offerings can be replicated at Dr. Norman Bethune School. There is also space available for a drill bay, weight room, band room, art room and drama room. There is more opportunity for enrolment to increase in a stand-alone facility.

#### Staffing Impact

Staffing resources are allocated to schools based on a per school base allocation, student enrolment and student profile. Deployment of both resources and staff is at the discretion of the principal and his/her staff in order to meet the learning needs of the students.

Resource allocation levels are based on projected student enrolment and profile for each school year. Adjustments are made should there be any discrepancy between the projected student enrolment/profile and the actual September 30th enrolment.

Teachers would be transferred in accordance with the Calgary Board of Education's current staffing processes. Final teacher staffing decisions will take place in the fall of 2010, based on actual enrolments.

Support staff would be considered for placement in accordance with the Calgary Board of Education's Staff Association Collective Agreement and current staffing processes.

Facility Operations staffing levels would be assessed in accordance with the CUPE Local 40 Collective Agreement and caretaking staffing formulae.

#### Financial and Operational Impacts

Both human and physical resources are allocated according to student enrolment and profile and would follow the students.

Plant, Operation and Maintenance funding is allocated by the Provincial Government based on student enrolment.

Operating costs of re-opening Dr. Norman Bethune School would be approximately \$155,000 annually.

Capital expenditures of \$497,000 (this includes contingency for unexpected overruns) are anticipated and include: facility upgrades such as library conversion; removal of old carpeting in hallways and classrooms and replacing it with tile; installation of basketball hoops; wiring; and ceiling tile replacement.

As well, an increase in administration salaries is anticipated.

#### **RESPONSES TO PREVIOUSLY SUBMITTED OR ANTICIPATED QUESTIONS**

Ms. K. Barry, System Principal, read the questions and Mr. J. Langley, Director, Area IV, provided the responses.

***Question: Are there other items that will be done but are not listed in the March 2, 2010 handout (Written Notice to Parents)?***

**Response:** Pending the Board's decision, a budget amount has been approved that will attend to the following items: restructuring of a learning commons; replacing carpet in classrooms, corridors and library; replacing ceiling tiles; painting the interior of the school; installing basketball backstops, white boards and tack boards; and attending to electrical, data and phone requirements.

***Question: What constitutes a Learning Commons?***

**Response:** While there is no one widely accepted definition of a learning commons, generally it is a physical space that incorporates workstations equipped with software supporting a variety of uses, a collection of digital and hard resources, offers workspace for individuals and groups, provides comfortable furniture, and has staff that can support activities related to access to information and use of technology to support learning outcomes. While learning commons are usually developed for student use, some incorporate centres for teaching excellence or instructional technology support services for faculty.

***Question: Will there be a security gate for the Learning Commons?***

**Response:** A need for a security gate would be determined by the principal and staff depending upon the configuration of the Learning Commons.

**Question:** *Will the school be painted on the outside?*

**Response:** All facilities are reviewed and are prioritized based upon available funds. At this point in time, funds are not available to address painting the outside of the school.

**Question:** *Will the library books be re-shelved at the new location?*

**Response:** It is the expectation when a school is relocated that it provides the opportunity to weed the current collection to allow for the appropriate re-shelving in the new location.

**Question:** *Will Dr. Norman Bethune School be ready for occupancy for the beginning of the school year?*

**Response:** It is anticipated that the required modernizations will be completed prior to occupancy.

**Question:** *Will there be a Principal appointed for Juno Beach Academy of Canadian Studies?*

**Response:** Yes, the process for selecting a Principal for Juno Beach Academy of Canadian Studies is underway.

**Question:** *Are there any plans for a cafeteria at Dr. Norman Bethune School?*

**Response:** There are no plans for a dedicated cafeteria; however, it is anticipated that the instructional space previously used for food prep classes may be used to offer food services.

**Question:** *Can the street parking be changed from "school bus only" to open parking on the school side of both the streets to the north and east of the school?*

**Response:** This situation has already been flagged as a concern and the Area V facility team lead will be pursuing the opportunity to change the signage with the City of Calgary.

**Question:** *Will there be more option classes for high school students and the opportunity to participate on sports teams?*

**Response:** Program offerings at any school are based on student interests and availability of staff expertise. There is the potential for students who wish to access a particular course or series of courses to do so at Lord Beaverbrook High School. The opportunity to participate in extra-curricular activities at Lord Beaverbrook High School may also be extended to Juno Beach Academy students.

**Question:** *What is the plan for the move?*

**Response:** Immediately after Trustees make a decision regarding the closure of a program or school, Community Engagement and Operational Planning convenes a meeting with school principals, Area Directors and all service unit representatives who will support logistics and financial commitments to enable a smooth closure and relocation.

#### **OPEN DISCUSSION – COMMENTS AND QUESTIONS FROM PARENTS AND PUBLIC**

Mr. Carlton provided a brief review of the discussion guidelines, which are noted on the back of the *Agenda*. He reiterated that the Trustees were present to hear the public's input and that they will ultimately be the sole decision makers regarding the status of the Juno Beach Academy of Canadian Studies, and it would not be appropriate in the middle of the process for Trustees to respond directly to questions or to

engage in debate. He asked that questions be directed to him and he would provide a response or he would direct the question to an appropriate Calgary Board of Education administrator for response.

**Ms. B. Galbraith**, Chairperson of School Council, asked about the time line for the opening of the 2010-2011 school year, questioning whether an earlier availability (preferably mid-August) might be considered for set up purposes?

Mr. Carlton responded that if the Board approves the closure for the purpose of relocation of Juno Beach Academy, the work required to relocate can begin immediately because Dr. Norman Bethune School is empty. He noted that staff returns to school earlier than students at the beginning of the school year, and he suggested that Ms. Rogerson, Director of Area V, may be consulted about whether certain areas of the school might be accessible earlier if it is felt necessary to complete the move.

**Ms. H. Mowat**, member of the public and former teacher, expressed her belief that the low attendance at this public meeting indicates that this is not a democratic process. She stated that she does not see how this proposed closure would benefit the students.

**Ms. J. Sullivan**, parent of a child at Juno Beach Academy, shared that her son is a highly functioning autistic student. She shared that this is the best school he has ever attended; however, the program is in need of a better facility. She noted that her son is quite excited about the possibility of relocating. Ms. Sullivan shared her belief that even though the turnout to this public meeting was low, there has been a great amount of discussion and engagement with parents over a period of time. She expressed the belief that the majority of the parents are comfortable with the closure for the purpose of relocation of Juno Beach Academy.

**Ms. B. Galbraith** expressed her belief that a number of parents did not attend this public meeting because they are comfortable with the relocation. She noted that approximately 95% of the Juno Beach Academy parents approve the closure for the purpose of relocation.

Mr. Carlton reminded those present that no decision has been made about this matter at this point in time, and that any reference to the closure and relocation of Juno Beach Academy must take into consideration that this is a recommendation that has been proposed by the Calgary Board of Education Administration for the Board of Trustees to decide.

**Ms. K. Fitzmaurice**, parent, questioned the objects and murals that are currently on the walls at Lord Shaughnessy High School, that won't be able to be moved. She noted many of those were funded through fundraising or donations made towards the programs of Juno Beach Academy of Canadian Studies.

Mr. J. Langley responded that the Area office has agreed to provide funding to support some of the replacement of those murals at the new location, should the recommendation for closure and relocation be approved, and that a quote for that cost has been requested.

**Ms. S. Smith**, parent, noted that she has been through previous closure and relocation processes for Juno Beach Academy. She questioned the projected enrolment numbers quoted in the *Written Notice*. She noted that the program lost about 88 students when it relocated from Sir William Van Horne High School to Lord Shaughnessy High School, but that the loss of that number of students was recouped subsequent to the relocation. She noted her concern that moving the program for a third time might give the impression of an unstable program. She asked that assistance be given by the Calgary Board of Education to promote Juno Beach Academy of Canadian Studies in a positive light; and that consideration be given to the program with respect to the need for more time to increase its enrolment. Ms. Smith expressed her belief that more communication is required to ensure that the media and the public are clear about the issue being a matter of relocation, and not just a closure.

Mr. Carlton responded that the soonest that the Board of Trustees can debate this issue is April 13, 2010. He expressed the belief that the Administration could look into the matter of promotion for the program, and that may include the placement of bold signs stating that Juno Beach Academy of Canadian Studies is accepting of registrations for the upcoming school year. Mr. Langley added that the Calgary Board of

Education has been very supportive of the program to date and is of the belief that it offers a strong alternative for students in our system. There is a concern about the enrolment numbers for this program, as with any other program that is not experiencing growth. In going forward and building up the program in Area V, should this closure for the purpose of relocation be approved, there would be opportunities to support and continue its growth by the community at large in co-operation with the Administration.

**Mr. S. Bakshi**, parent of two students at Juno Beach Academy of Canadian Studies, commented on the excellence of the program. He noted his concern that the program has had to make two moves over the past seven years, which he believed has been somewhat difficult for parents to manage. He was hopeful this would be the last move for the program and that enrolment to the program would increase.

Mr. Carlton shared his belief that the Calgary Board of Education is demonstrating its commitment to the program, both in terms of making a recommendation that addresses the wish of parents for a stand-alone facility to help in building the program at the junior level to make it sustainable. Additionally, the Area Director's recommendation that the program have its own dedicated principal shows a commitment to the program, as does the Administration's willingness to assist the community to promote the program.

**Ms. S. Smith**, parent of a student at Juno Beach Academy and School Council parent representative and in charge of the kit shop for the school, asked about the physical move, if it occurs, and who the go-to person might be?

Mr. Carlton stated that Community Engagement and Operational Planning staff would convene a meeting with the area directors and principals to share a checklist of items to be undertaken in relation to the closure and relocation processes. In this particular matter, Ms. J. Rogerson, Area V Director, and Mr. J. Langley, Area IV Director, or their delegates, would oversee and be the contact person for any issues related to this potential relocation.

**Mr. B. Read**, parent of prior and current students of the Juno Beach Academy, noted that in family discussions about the potential relocation, his children are in favour of the idea and seem non-plussed with the idea. He noted his belief that when the question is put to the students, it is seen as another opportunity to carry on with the program and, more importantly, that the program will continue to be offered. Mr. Read expressed his support for the program as well as for the idea of relocating the program to Dr. Norman Bethune School.

**Ms. R. Allen** asked about sports teams for the junior high students and whether there would be any offerings available to those students.

Mr. Carlton said in some circumstances there will most likely be a junior high sports program, especially if the enrolment grows. There will also be some sports that could be offered to these students at schools in close proximity, i.e., at Fairview School or David Thompson School.

**Mr. B. Read** noted his understanding that Lord Beaverbrook High School has an excellent football program. He questioned whether the Juno Beach Academy students who would qualify might join a program such as that?

Mr. Carlton responded that this has been discussed between the Area V Director and the principal at Lord Beaverbrook High School, to allow that opportunity to be presented.

### **CLOSING REMARKS**

Mr. Carlton directed attention to the back of the *Agenda* and reminded those in attendance that follow-up questions from this meeting must be received by the Calgary Board of Education on or before 12:00 noon on Monday, April 12, 2010 and written submissions must be received by 9:00 a.m. on Tuesday, April 13, 2010. He pointed out that it is not possible to direct personal responses to each question; that all questions submitted would be reviewed for relevancy and repetitiveness and those selected for response would be answered on the Calgary Board of Education website at <http://www.cbe.ab.ca>.

He thanked everybody for attending the meeting and for providing respectful comments and input. He noted that the Board of Trustees has indicated that they anticipate making a decision regarding this closure consideration on or about Tuesday, April 13, 2010. 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. He advised that the public's input at this meeting has been an important contribution to the Board's decision-making process.

Mr. Carlton declared the meeting closed at 7:46 p.m.

Note to Reader:

The Minutes of the Public Meeting regarding Discussion Respecting Consideration of Closure for the Purpose of Relocation of Juno Beach Academy of Canadian Studies, held in the Lord Shaughnessy High School cafeteria, 2336 – 53 Avenue SW, Calgary, Alberta on Thursday, March 11, 2010 at 7:00 p.m. include the major points of discussion - they are not a verbatim transcript of the meeting.