

## **CALGARY BOARD OF EDUCATION**

Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees (the “Board”) held in the Multipurpose Room, Education Centre, 1221 – 8 Street SW, Calgary, Alberta on Tuesday, October 6, 2015 at 12 noon

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### MEETING ATTENDANCE

#### Board of Trustees:

Trustee J. Bowen-Eyre, Chair  
Trustee L. Ferguson  
Trustee J. Hehr  
Trustee J. Hrdlicka  
Trustee T. Hurdman  
Trustee P. King  
Trustee A. Stewart

#### Administration:

Mr. D. Stevenson, Chief Superintendent of Schools  
Ms. S. Church, Deputy Chief Superintendent of Schools  
Mr. D. Hoerz, on behalf of Superintendent Coppinger, Facilities and Environmental Services  
Ms. J. Everett, Superintendent, Learning Services  
Mr. G. Francis, Superintendent, Human Resources/General Counsel  
Mr. B. Grundy, Superintendent, Finance and Supply Chain Services  
Ms. M. Martin-Esposito, Acting Chief Communications Officer  
Ms. J. Barkway, Corporate Secretary  
Ms. D. Perrier, Recording Secretary

#### Stakeholder Representatives:

Mr. R. Anderson, Canadian Union of Public Employees (CUPE), Local 40  
Mr. F. Bruseker, Alberta Teachers' Association, Local 38  
Mr. D. Rakowski, Elementary School Principals' Association  
Ms. L. Robb, Calgary Board of Education Staff Association

### **1 | CALL TO ORDER, NATIONAL ANTHEM AND WELCOME**

Chair Bowen-Eyre called the meeting to order at 12:03 p.m. and O Canada was led by the Vocal Jazz Ensemble from William Aberhart High School.

Chair Bowen-Eyre acknowledged and welcomed staff, the public and representatives from the aforementioned organizations. She also introduced and welcomed Ms. Wenzel-Curtis and her grade 5/6 students from Alex Ferguson School, who have moved their classroom to the CBE and the community of Connaught for this week. Their week will guide their learning throughout the year. They will be exploring the idea of “Heroes of Creativity – how does creativity affect change?” They are collecting data to support their idea and will interview about 25 CBE employees to ask them questions such as: What do you think is the most significant change in Calgary since you have been here? Who has instigated this change? How are you influencing change in the CBE?

Chair Bowen-Eyre acknowledged a group who joined the Calgary Association of Parents and School Councils in their walk from McDougall Centre this morning. She noted that trustees were unable to join the group on their walk because they were meeting with Administration to receive a preview of the academic results report that will be presented to the public later this week. On behalf of the Board, Chair Bowen-Eyre thanked the group for their passion and advocacy for students.

Chair Bowen-Eyre provided the following statement:

“The Board of Trustees has been working with the Minister of Education to ensure that student success remains a priority for the government and the Board continues to work to advocate on behalf of our students, our schools and staff for adequate support for learning, including a better funding model to address our transportation challenges. She noted that last Friday the Board sent a letter home to all CBE families and a similar letter was also emailed to all CBE staff. The Board wants to reassure parents and staff that the CBE is doing everything possible to ensure funding is being allocated to maximize value for our students. The CBE accounts for every dollar spent in support of students and their learning. In addition to the professionalism and integrity of staff, our financial information is audited annually by an independent external audit firm. Overseeing the general audit is the Board of Trustees’ Audit Committee, which is comprised of two trustees and six skilled and knowledgeable members of the public. These audits are all posted on the public website. Taken together, this means that the CBE has over 10 years of in-depth financial audits without any qualifications or reservations. In addition, we regularly and routinely report to the Ministry of Education on how our funding has been applied to support students and their learning. The Ministry of Education has no issues or concerns with the quality, accuracy or timeliness of the information provided. We are a well-managed organization.”

## 2 | **CONSIDERATION/APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Ms. J. Barkway, Corporate Secretary, noted that two public comments would be given under Item 6. The Board agreed to move Item 6 Public Comment to follow Item 3.1.

MOVED by Trustee King:

**THAT the Agenda for the Regular Meeting of October 6, 2015 be approved, as submitted, subject to the above noted changes.**

The motion was  
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

## 3 | **AWARDS AND RECOGNITIONS**

### 3.1 Lighthouse Award

Superintendent Everett introduced this month’s Lighthouse Award recipient as SAIT Polytechnic, which has partnered with the CBE since 2009 to develop several unique dual credit programs, including: the Dual Credit Pre-employment Carpentry Program, the Pharmacy Assistant Certificate and the Introduction to Cook Apprentice Program. Future dual credit programs will be offered for Production Field Operator, Plumbing, Insulating and Business Administration. In addition to a partnership for our high school learners, the

Career Exploration Centre at SAIT Polytechnic provides opportunities for students in grades 8 and 9 to explore their future career options based on their interests.

Cole, a grade 12 student from Discovering Choices, spoke about his experience in the dual credit Pre-employment Carpentry program and shared his intentions to participate in a journeyman program for certification. Hayley, a graduate from Sir Winston Churchill High School, shared comments about the impact the Introduction to Cook Apprentice program has had on her future career plans. She currently works as a line cook in a local restaurant. She expressed appreciation to SAIT, United Way and the CBE for helping her along the path in the culinary arts.

Mr. G. Michaud, Dean, Centre for Academic Learner Services shared comments in appreciation for the partnership and he thanked the CBE for its insight in bringing about these dual credit programs. Chair Bowen-Eyre thanked SAIT Polytechnic for the partnership and presented the Lighthouse Award to Mr. Michaud, who accepted it on behalf of SAIT Polytechnic.

## 6 | **PUBLIC COMMENT**

### 6.1 Ms. J. Millar Drysdale, on behalf of Calgary Association of Parents and School Councils (CAPSC) and Sam Livingston School Council

Ms. Millar Drysdale spoke on the issues of parent voice in transportation and traffic safety. She noted that transportation is a very basic need and many factors are now getting in the way of parents' ability to get their children to school safely and themselves to work every day. She stated that all stakeholders need to be involved in the conversation about how transportation is working and what makes the most sense for the future. She provided a document containing electronic signatures on transportation-related issues for the corporate record.

Ms. Millar Drysdale expressed her belief that there is already a communication system in place where discussions on these issues should occur. In Calgary, that system includes school councils, Council of School Councils, Calgary Association of Parents and School Councils and Alberta School Councils' Association. She requested that before dedicating more funds to improving the relationship with parents, the Board of Trustees gives consideration to how the systems that are now in place could be more effective.

### 6.2 Diana – Grade 6 Student from Bishop Pinkham School

Diana noted that she rides the bus home from school and she can see that kids are walking long distances. She has heard that one student walks 1.6 km every day. Her younger brother does not take the bus, but if he did she would hope he would not have to walk 1.6 km every day. She shared her belief that the Board needs to dramatically change things now and that they must think about those kids who are walking 25 minutes every day and on cold winter days.

#### 4 | **RESULTS FOCUS**

##### 4.1 **Results 3: Citizenship – Reasonable Interpretation**

Chief Superintendent Stevenson provided highlights of the report on Results 3: Citizenship, addressing policy content revisions that were adopted by the Board in June 2015.

In response to a question about the interpretation and indicators particular to policy sub-section 3.5, Administration noted that aspects of citizenship are embedded in the program of studies, and will come through as the program of studies is delivered in the classroom. Trustees requested Administration to provide them with the report card indicators in relation to policy sub-section 3.5, prior to October 13, 2015.

Trustees discussed the recommendation put forward in the report and expressed that the term “confirms” should be changed to “approves” and that when the motion for approval is put forward it might consider the statement “but not limited to indicators as presented in the report”.

Chair Bowen-Eyre requested that trustees inform the Corporate Secretary or herself if any comments or concerns will be brought forward and the item will be placed accordingly on the agenda for October 13, 2015 for decision.

#### 5 | **OPERATIONAL EXPECTATIONS**

##### 5.1 **OE-3: Treatment of Owners – Annual Monitoring**

Chief Superintendent Stevenson provided brief remarks about the annual monitoring report for OE-3: Treatment of Owners and referenced, in particular, indicators 3.1.1(a) and 3.4.2, which were non-compliant and provided capacity building information regarding the issues.

Administration responded to trustee questions on various issues, summarized as follows:

- There is no formal process that is used system-wide for tracking of the cumulative time it takes for a response to criticisms or concerns that are acknowledged, but an informal process is likely followed within the individual departments. Some of those issues can be quite complex and may take significant time, while others are more readily resolved.
- Approximately 20 public engagement sessions on a variety of issues were held at the system level in 2014-2015. The number of public engagement sessions this year is expected to increase. Engagement with parents and other stakeholders occurs on an ongoing basis, i.e., principals with parents and school councils, and partnerships, including our Aboriginal Elders' Advisory Committee. We have a significant issue with multiple languages in our city today and it is equally important that every effort is made to engage our families and owners who do not have English as a first language.

Chair Bowen-Eyre clarified that trustees are to determine whether the Chief Superintendent is in compliance with OE-3: Treatment of Owners, and whether the

Board is satisfied that its policy values are being complied with. She noted that any decision or comment of the Board of Trustees around non-compliance of the policy, or any part of it, is in no way intended to be a vote of non-confidence for the Chief Superintendent. Regardless of the action, the result of the Board's vote will inform the Board discussion during the Chief Superintendent's summative evaluation.

Chair Bowen-Eyre asked trustees to identify their intentions to bring forward any motions related to compliance, exceptions or commendations for OE-3: Treatment of Owners. Trustee Ferguson shared her intention of proposing a motion of commendation for the implementation of a new website that makes information more accessible to our public. Trustee Hurdman noted her intention of proposing a motion arising for the Chief Superintendent to review the indicators for policy subsections 3.1, 3.2 and 3.3, as well as the reasonable interpretation for policy subsection 3.3, by June 30, 2016.

## 5.2 Extraordinary Monitoring Report

Chief Superintendent Stevenson provided highlights of the contents of the report, which specifically addresses policy subsection 3.3(b) of OE-3: Treatment of Owners. He pointed out that Administration has heard and understands the public feedback and concerns shared in relation to changes in transportation service levels. He noted that a review of the evidence and the six related Board approved indicators as identified in policy subsection 3.3 suggests compliance; however, there is a need to develop alternative monitoring indicators to provide evidence in support of maintaining an organizational culture that reasonably includes people in decisions that affect them. The review of indicators is predicated on the creation and implementation of a public engagement framework. It is critical that we have a consistent system-wide public engagement framework. The CBE's communications department will take the lead on this work and it is recommended that Administration provide regular updates on the progress.

Ms. Martin-Esposito spoke about the expected strengths and improvements that will be realized with the development of a public engagement framework that is in alignment with the CBE's mission, results and values.

Director Hoerz provided an update of the most recent transportation changes, including the addition of 30 buses for transporting our students, of which parents have been notified. Administration does not anticipate further major changes to transportation services, until a public engagement process has been established.

Administration responded to trustee questions on issues including: the review of comprehensive engagement frameworks that are successfully being used by other organizations and school jurisdictions; the continuation of and involvement in the work of a task force on public engagement that was struck last May; anticipation that the IAP2 model and a variety of other tools and techniques will form a part of the framework; assurances that our public are kept informed as this work moves along, which will include update reports to the Board that will contain live links for ease of public access; the existing platforms and opportunities for student voice and engagement; and, the rollout of detailed timelines for this work.

The Board agreed to consider the recommendation in the report at its Regular Meeting on October 13, 2015. Trustee Hurdman shared her intention of proposing a motion arising for the Board of Trustees to direct the Chief Superintendent to provide further information with respect to administrative plans for public engagement regarding transportation service levels and fees by January 30, 2016.

Recessed: 1:43 p.m.  
Reconvened: 2:00 p.m.

## 7 | **MATTERS RESERVED FOR BOARD ACTION**

### 7.1 2016/17 Modular Classroom Plan

Director Hoerz provided a brief review of the report, noting it is an annual review of our needs and priorities for new and replacement modular classroom units, which are determined through eligibility filters and a points ranking methodology. The list of modular classroom units recommended for submission to Alberta Education for the November 1, 2015 deadline, and implementation for the 2016/17 school year is noted on page 7-4 of the report.

Administration responded to trustee questions on issues including: communications with the government pertaining to outstanding projects, of which there has been none; the significant demand for modular classrooms throughout the province, and Administration's belief that this request is reasonable at this time, although it does not completely address our system needs; contingency plans that are in place to ensure there is no impact on how we support students as they transition into new schools; the aging modular classroom units, some of which were built in the 1960s and '70s, and assurances that all are safe for students.

The Board agreed to this item being placed on the agenda for the Regular Meeting of October 13, 2015 for consideration.

## 8 | **CONSENT AGENDA**

The Chair noted that items on the consent agenda are approved with the agenda, as follows:

### 8.1 Approval of Minutes

- Regular Meeting held September 8, 2015

**THAT the Board of Trustees approves the minutes of the Regular Meeting held September 8, 2015, as submitted.**

### 8.2 Nelson Mandela High School

**THAT the Board of Trustees requests that the Minister of Education approves funding of \$5.0 million for the construction of a gymnasium at Nelson Mandela High School; and**

**THAT the Board of Trustees authorizes the Chair to correspond with the Minister in accordance with this request.**

**9 | ADJOURNMENT**

Chair Bowen-Eyre declared the meeting adjourned at 2:18 p.m.