

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 8, 2019 at 12:00 noon

MEETING ATTENDANCE

Board of Trustees:

Trustee M. Dennis, Chair
Trustee A. Adams
Trustee M. Bradshaw
Trustee L. Davis
Trustee R. Hehr
Trustee J. Hrdlicka
Trustee T. Hurdman

Administration:

Mr. C. Usih, Chief Superintendent of Schools
Mr. R. Armstrong, Superintendent, Human Resources
Mr. D. Breton, Superintendent, Facilities and Environmental Services
Ms. K. Fenney, General Counsel and Corporate Secretary
Mr. B. Grundy, Superintendent, Finance/Technology Services
Ms. M. Martin-Esposito, Chief Communications Officer
Ms. J. Pitman, Superintendent, School Improvement
Dr. D. Yee, Acting Superintendent, School Improvement
Ms. T. Minor, Associate Corporate Secretary
Ms. D. Perrier, Recording Secretary

Stakeholder Representatives:

Mr. B. Cocking, Alberta Teachers' Association, Local 38
Ms. S. Howell, Senior High School Principals' Association
Mr. S. Klukas, Principals' Association for Adolescent Learners (PAALS)
Mr. R. Petrowitsch, Principals' Association for Adolescent Learners (PAALS)
Mr. G. Tink, Senior High School Principals' Association

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

Chair Dennis called the meeting to order at 12:02 p.m. and Sara, a Grade 12 student from Western Canada High School, led the singing of O Canada. On behalf of the Board, Trustee Hehr expressed appreciation to Sara for coming to lead our national anthem.

Chair Dennis acknowledged the traditional territories and oral practices of the Blackfoot Nations, which includes the Siksika, the Piikani, and the Kainai. She also acknowledged



the Tsuut'ina and Stoney Nakoda First Nations, the Métis Nation (Region 3), and all people who make their homes in the Treaty 7 region of Southern Alberta.

Chair Dennis acknowledged and welcomed staff, public members and representatives from the aforementioned organizations.

2 | **CONSIDERATION/APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Ms. T. Minor, Associate Corporate Secretary, noted a change to the agenda to include a public comment as new Item 4.

MOVED by Trustee Adams:

THAT the Board of Trustees approves the agenda for the Regular Meeting of October 8, 2019 as submitted, subject to the change noted above.

The motion was
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

3 | **AWARDS AND RECOGNITIONS**

There were no awards or recognitions.

4 | **PUBLIC COMMENT**

4.1 **Ms. S. Peden, Member of the Public**

Ms. Peden noted that she is a Registered Psychologist with expertise in learning, the measurement of learning, and particularly the science of reading and reading instruction. She shared her concerns with basing provincial achievement tests targets on the cohort of writers rather than on all students enrolled; and that the measures differ for students who self-identify as Indigenous. She questioned how reviewing the results of a subset of students (writers only) will demonstrate achievement levels accurately, how it aligns with the inclusive approach and the CBE's vision of success for each student, every day, no exceptions, and if it will set competing demands for teachers and system pressures.

She asked that trustees, in their discussion and debate of Item 5.1, give consideration to her questions and rationale for PAT targets to be set based on all students enrolled and for the target measures for the English Language Arts 6 to be the same for all students enrolled.

5 | **RESULTS FOCUS**

5.1 **Results 2: Academic Success – Targets**

Chief Superintendent Usih introduced the report and noted that Administration and trustees collaborated on the development of criteria for good indicators of student



achievement. The report speaks to the proposed targets for each of the indicators approved by the Board of Trustees on June 25, 2019 for Results 2: Academic Success.

Administration addressed questions posed by trustees on matters including: rationale for using the proposed targets for 2019-20 annual monitoring based on the 2018-19 results; status of the work to develop assessment guides for K-9 Mathematics and English Language Arts; the potential for long term targets and identifying trends; an explanation for the different measures between writers of English Language Arts 6 and the cohort of students who self-identify as Indigenous; an explanation of the chi-square test and value; and the meaning behind the various target measures, i.e. achievement, improvement, overall and percentage.

MOVED by Trustee Hurdman:

- 1. THAT the Board of Trustees approves the Results 2: Academic Success targets as presented in the report; and**
- 2. THAT the Board of Trustees directs the Chief Superintendent to review the targets for Results 2: Academic Success, for Board reaffirmation or approval by June 30, 2020.**

Trustee comments in debate of the motion included: the approval of targets is necessary for a common understanding amongst everybody as to what constitutes reasonable progress; as a Board, the focus is on outcomes, not the strategies and tools used; this is a work in progress and the second part of the motion indicates the Board wishes to continue to have the conversation; this is a good step forward in the direction of having valuable indicators and targets; this strengthens Board policies; results matter and as governors of the system these targets will help to monitor student achievement.

Chair Dennis called for the vote on the motion.

The motion was
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

6 | **OPERATIONAL EXPECTATIONS**

There were no reports.

7 | **BOARD DEVELOPMENT SESSION**

7.1 **Student Mental Health and Well-being**

Chief Superintendent Usih introduced the presentation, noting that the CBE is committed to creating conditions in which each and every student can succeed. He noted to support student success it is essential to develop the collective capacity of CBE leaders to improve student achievement, equity and well-being. He noted that the presenters for this session are CBE staff from the Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity (SOGI) Team and the Trauma Informed Practice (TIP) Team.



Dr. D. Yee, Acting Superintendent, School Improvement, commenced the presentation. She noted that over the past number of years the Three-Year Education Plan has had a clear vision on the importance of personalized learning and this inclusive practice supports all of our students and it continues to define the work moving forward. Dr. Yee called forward Ms. C. McNiven, Director, Inclusive Education to introduce the presenters.

Ms. McNiven introduced the presenters as follows:

- Ms. R. Williams, System Assistant Principal for Welcome, Caring, Respectful and Safe Learning Environments
- Mr. S. Becker, Specialist, School Improvement, Trauma Informed Practice
- Ms. A. Daniel, Specialist, School Improvement, Complimentary Curriculum, Wellness
- Ms. T. Deneau, Specialist, School Improvement, Core Curriculum
- Ms. S. Fines, Psychologist, School Improvement, Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity

The verbal presentation provided in-depth details on the PowerPoint slideshow that was included with the agenda package posted to the CBE website.

Articulating factors within the welcoming, caring, respectful and safe learning environments include: healthy and respectful relationships are built and fostered; students feel that adults care for them as individuals and as a group; positive mental health is promoted; values, rights and responsibilities are respected; diversity is respected, celebrated and understood as a strength; and children, youth and adults model positive social emotional skills, including empathy and compassion.

Within the CBE, the Response to Intervention (RTI) Framework is used to provide evidence-based support at different levels. The underlying goal of the RTI model is to support academics, social and emotional needs of students so that each student is successful according to their own ability. It is built on the premise that when universal supports are provided consistently for each student, the majority of students will thrive.

Inclusive actions and accommodations for sexual and gender diverse students are guided and supported by legislation and public policy that defend human rights at every level within the RTI Framework. These guides and supports are The Alberta Education Act, The ATA Professional Code of Conduct, The Declaration of Rights and Responsibilities for Teachers, The Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms, The Criminal Code of Canada and The Alberta Human Rights Act.

In the spring of 2015 a system-based Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity Team was created in order to respond to the needs and supports that CBE schools were requesting. The Team is multi-disciplinary in nature and it includes School Improvement Specialists, Psychologists, a Diversity and Learning Support Advisor from the Indigenous Team, Legal Counsel, a Human Resource Advisor and the Director of Inclusive Education.

Administration responded to trustee questions on matters including:

- examples of protective factors expected to be in our schools;



- in terms of adverse childhood experiences, how resilience of one student over another is understood;
- counselling supports for students affected by family illness and death;
- clarification surrounding the terminology of “belonging”, “fitting in” and “inclusion”;
- supplementary supports and programs that are available to schools to augment the well-being of students;
- the level of support the SOGI Team has provided as professional development to school staff and to staff outside of schools;
- high school participation in trauma-informed practice learning sessions;
- evaluation of the outcomes and impacts these programs are experiencing;
- trauma informed practice as a universal approach;
- the number of CBE psychologist FTE positions and the number of mental health therapists provided to the CBE by Alberta Health;
- how students undergoing trauma are identified;
- the types of psychological services requested of the SOGI Team and by whom;
- how the system is moving towards alternative practices and solutions to suspensions and expulsions to avoid student isolation;
- the allocation of psychologist resources to schools;
- statistics on students facing mental illness;
- trauma supports and programs for Indigenous students and refugee students;
- the psychologists’ questionnaire to parents of students who may require access to services; and
- cell phone use in schools, which is addressed and enacted by school principals through the digital citizenship policy.

On behalf of the Board, Chair Dennis expressed appreciation for the informative session on Student Mental Health and Well-being.

Recessed: 1:58 p.m.

Reconvened: 2:16 p.m.

8 | **MATTERS RESERVED FOR BOARD ACTION**

8.1 **Updated Unaudited Supplemental Information for 2011-12 Per Student Funding**

Chief Superintendent Usih noted CBE Administration identified an error in the per-student funding for the 2011-12 school year that is used for comparative purposes within certain Board approved reports. The per-student funding amount for 2011-12 was higher than it should have been on a comparative basis. He emphasized that while this calculation was incorrect, Administration’s interpretation of the historical trends remains the same, in that the CBE continues to face a challenge in economic environments given inflationary cost pressures relative to funding

Chief Usih pointed out that the supplementary information referenced is not a required data element for Alberta Education governance purposes and it is unaudited. As a result, the error does not affect the information provided in prior reports to Alberta Education relating to CBE’s budgets and financial statements.



In response to a trustee question, Administration stated that the sole cause of the error was the total Alberta Education funding did not account for the removal of the Alberta Teachers Retirement Fund for the 2011-12 school year.

MOVED by Trustee Davis:

THAT the Board of Trustees directs the Chief Superintendent to amend those Calgary Board of Education documents containing the 2011-2012 per student funding amount, as and when the existence of the document is known and is able to do so, including but not limited to the documents set out in Appendix III to the report.

Trustee comments in debate of the motion included: this is a simple error made eight years ago; Administration's attention and clarity to this issue is appreciative; and this does not change the historical trend that CBE is experiencing.

Chair Dennis called for the vote on the motion.

The motion was
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

9 | **CONSENT AGENDA**

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

9.1 **Items Provided for Board Approval**

9.1.1 Minutes

THAT the Board of Trustees approves the minutes of the Regular Meetings held September 10, September 17 and September 25, 2019 as submitted.

9.1.2 OE-1: Global Operational Expectations – Annual Monitoring Report

THAT the Board of Trustees approves the Chief Superintendent is in compliance with the provisions of OE-1: Global Operational Expectations.

9.2 **Items Provided for Board Information**

9.2.1 Correspondence

Chair Dennis noted that the Board would meet in camera following the public portion of the meeting to discuss three legal and two strategic governance matters. She noted the next public meeting of the Board is Tuesday, October 22, 2019.

Recessed: 2:23 p.m.
Reconvened: 2:45 p.m.



10 | **IN-CAMERA SESSION**

Motion to Move In-Camera

MOVED by Trustee Hurdman:

Whereas the Board of Trustees is of the opinion that it is in the public interest that matters on the private agenda for the Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees, October 8, 2019, be considered at an in-camera session; therefore, be it

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

The motion was
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Motion to Revert to Public Meeting

MOVED by Trustee Hehr:

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

The motion was
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Motion to Action In-Camera Recommendations

MOVED by Trustee Hehr:

THAT the Board of Trustees approves the reappointment of Mr. David McKinnon as Governor of Education Matters for an additional three-year term effective September 28, 2019, ending September 28, 2022.

The motion was
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

10 | **ADJOURNMENT**

MOVED by Trustee Hehr:

THAT on adjournment, the meeting adjourns to the call of the Chair.

The motion was
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

The meeting adjourned at 5:48 p.m.

Chair Dennis reconvened the October 8, 2019 Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees on Wednesday, October 9, 2019 at 9:00 a.m., in Room T224 of the Education Centre, 1221 – 8 Street SW, Calgary, Alberta.



MEETING ATTENDANCE

Board of Trustees

In Attendance:

Trustee M. Dennis, Chair
Trustee A. Adams
Trustee L. Davis
Trustee R. Hehr
Trustee J. Hrdlicka
Trustee T. Hurdman

Absent:

Trustee M. Bradshaw

Administration:

Mr. C. Usih, Chief Superintendent of Schools
Mr. R. Armstrong, Superintendent, Human Resources
Mr. D. Breton, Superintendent, Facilities and Environmental Services
Ms. K. Fenney, General Counsel and Corporate Secretary
Ms. M. Martin-Esposito, Chief Communications Officer
Dr. D. Yee, Acting Superintendent, School Improvement
Ms. T. Minor, Associate Corporate Secretary

Motion to Move In-Camera

MOVED by Trustee Adams:

Whereas the Board of Trustees is of the opinion that it is in the public interest that matters on the private agenda for the Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees, October 8, 2019, reconvened October 9, 2019, be considered at an in-camera session; therefore, be it

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

The motion was
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Motion to Revert to Public Meeting

MOVED by Trustee Hrdlicka:

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

The motion was
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.



ADJOURNMENT

Chair Dennis declared the meeting adjourned at 10:25 a.m.

