

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, February 4, 2020 at 12:00 p.m.

MEETING ATTENDANCE

Board of Trustees:

Trustee M. Dennis, Chair (arrived at 12:00 p.m.)
Trustee A. Adams
Trustee M. Bradshaw
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
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. P. Minor, Corporate Secretary
Ms. D. Perrier, Recording Secretary

Stakeholder Representatives:

Mr. K. Chee, Senior High School Principals’ Association
Mr. B. Cocking, Alberta Teachers’ Association, Local 38
Ms. R. Harms, Elementary School Principals’ Association
Mr. T. Killam, Canadian Union of Public Employees, Local 40
Mr. J. Leavitt, Principals’ Association for Adolescent Learners
Ms. R. Royal, Calgary Board of Education Staff Association
Mr. C. Sagriotis, Senior High School Principals’ Association
Mr. D. Toews, Principals’ Association for Adolescent Learners

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

Vice Chair Adams called the meeting to order at 11:55 a.m. on the link and O Canada was led in the Blackfoot language by the Grade 3 and 4 Choir from Copperfield School. On behalf of the Board of Trustees, Trustee Bradshaw thanked the students and their music teacher Ms. Sayer for their pre-meeting performance and for leading the singing of our



national anthem. The Vice Chair called for a brief recess for people to assemble in the Multipurpose Room.

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. She also welcomed Grade 6 students from Senator Patrick Burns and their teacher Señora Molina.

The following statement was read by Chair Dennis:

“On January, 27, 2020, pursuant to the *Education Act*, Trustee Lisa Davis submitted her resignation to the Corporate Secretary which became effective immediately. We thank Ms. Davis for her service to CBE students, parents and the schools that she has worked with. The Board wishes Ms. Davis all the best in her future endeavours.

The Board has not yet considered its options around holding a by-election. Going forward, the Board will be pleased to look after the interests of students, parents and staff in Wards 6 & 7. The Board is committed to ensuring the values of students come first, learning is our central purpose and public education serves the common good.

I would also like to address recent characterizations of how the Board of Trustees of the Calgary Board of Education operates. As publicly elected trustees, each one of us swore an oath to act in the best interest of students and public education on behalf of all citizens of Calgary. We take this responsibility very seriously. We diligently perform our legislated responsibilities to the best of our abilities.

In December 2019, the province announced an independent, external investigation of the finances and governance of the CBE. The Board and CBE administration are cooperating fully with the investigation. The CBE has been open, honest and transparent by providing all requested information through documentation and interviews.

Throughout this process, our actions have been reasonable and consistent with how any organization under investigation would act. It is common for legal counsel to support organizations during investigations. At the start of the process, CBE confirmed with the lead investigator that CBE legal counsel could participate. The presence of legal counsel has not presented any concerns or challenges in 15 of 16 interviews completed to date. We understand that a sixteenth interview will be completed this week.

As representatives of the public, we value the principles of openness and transparency and this is reflected in our governance policies and board meeting procedures. All meetings of the Board of Trustees are consistent with legislation and



our board meeting procedures. Under the Education Act (Section 64) all school boards are permitted to meet privately. Typically the topics discussed at private meetings relate to land, labour, legal and strategic governance. All public and private board meeting minutes, which record all motions made and how each trustee voted, are posted on the CBE public website.

As a Board, we value the differing perspectives that each individual trustee may bring to our discussions. We welcome new ideas that could further student success in our system. Before making decisions, we study issues thoroughly, ask probing questions of administration and each other, and consider different viewpoints before ultimately voting. This process allows for each of our voices to be heard. After the vote is taken, we commit to respecting the decision and moving forward as a united Board. This is how a healthy democratic organization functions.

Trustees strive to hold ourselves accountable to the principles of openness, transparency, and continuous improvement. We are confident that our current governance policies and procedures are fully compliant with legislation and strong governance practices.”

2 | **CONSIDERATION/APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Ms. Minor, Corporate Secretary, noted that a request was made to remove Item 9.1.1 Construction Projects Status Report from the consent agenda for discussion immediately following the consent agenda.

MOVED by Trustee Hehr:

THAT the Board of Trustees approves the agenda for the Regular Meeting of December 3, 2019 as submitted, subject to the change noted above.

The motion was
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

3 | **AWARDS AND RECOGNITIONS**

3.1 Lighthouse Award

Ms. Martin-Esposito, Chief Communications Officer, introduced this month’s Lighthouse Award recipient, the *Calgary Cinderella Project*. Since 2005, the Calgary Cinderella Project has dressed students in gowns and accessories to make their graduation day the special event it deserves to be. This project would not have been possible without the dedication and support of many passionate volunteers who have, over the last 15 years, outfitted over 3000 graduating students.

Kennedee, a 2018 CBE graduate from Louise Dean School, and Talen, a 2019 graduate from the CBE’s Discovering Choices School, shared comments about their personal experiences and gratitude for the Calgary Cinderella Project. Ms. V. McLaughlin, Founder



and Director of Fund Raising, Ms. L. Fraulin and Ms. R. Menzies shared highlights about the beginnings of the Project, and the work undertaken throughout the year.

On behalf of the Board of Trustees, Chair Dennis expressed appreciation to Kennedee and Talen for sharing their stories, and for the immense dedication provided by the project volunteers in support of this important Project.

4 | RESULTS FOCUS

4.1 Results 2: Academic Success Annual Monitoring – Part 2 (Indicators 4 and 5)

Chair Dennis noted that the annual monitoring report was presented at the January 14, 2020 Board meeting and questions focused on Indicators 1, 2 and 3. This is a continuation of the presentation on R-2: Academic Success, with the focus on Indicators 4 and 5.

Administration addressed trustee questions on matters related to student results in Career & Technology Foundations/Studies, Fine and Performing Arts, French Language Arts, Languages, Physical Education, Science and Social Studies (Indicator 4), including: building capacity to help teachers understand Trauma Informed Practice strategies; data sets and building capacity for students taking Knowledge and Employability (K&E) courses; collaboration with Indigenous Elders and Knowledge Keepers to advance culturally responsive instructional design and assessment in Science 10, 20, 30 for student who self-identify as Indigenous; the Future of Learning Labs; details about the review of Locally Developed Courses for viability; keeping students engaged and offering challenging opportunities; and supports provided to teachers to accommodate students with identified special education needs.

The question and answer session continued on matters related to the measure evaluations of the French Language Arts, Sciences and Social Studies Provincial Achievement Tests (PATs) (all students enrolled) and Diploma Examinations, as measured by the provincial Accountability Pillar (Indicator 5), including: results in the improvement measures for students who self-identify as Indigenous; improvement measures in relation to the chi-square value; an explanation of the building capacity for English Language Learners and students with identified Special Education needs; and support in the use of the K-9 English Language Arts and K-9 Mathematics assessment and reporting guides.

Administration responded to trustee questions related clarification of Alberta Education codes for English as a Second Language – non-funded students, refugee students and aboriginal students.

5 | OPERATIONAL EXPECTATIONS

There were no reports.

6 | PUBLIC COMMENT

There were no public comments.



7 | **MATTERS RESERVED FOR BOARD INFORMATION**

There were no items.

8 | **MATTERS RESERVED FOR BOARD ACTION**

8.1 **New Schools' Commissioning**

Superintendent Breton provided highlights of the report that requests a budget expenditure of up to \$4,132,000 from capital reserves to undertake commissioning for three schools scheduled to open in September 2020.

Administration responded to trustee questions on matters including: a breakdown of costs for the various components included in the commissioning of the three schools; areas identified for cost savings; and plans for outfitting the five new schools approved for CBE by the provincial government.

MOVED by Trustee Hrdlicka:

THAT the Board of Trustees approves a budget expenditure of up to \$4,132,000 from capital reserves to undertake schools commissioning for Northern Lights School (Coventry Hills/Country Hills Village), Sibylla Kiddle School (Cranston) and Dr. Freda Miller School (Evergreen) that are scheduled to open in September 2020.

Trustee comments in debate of the motion included: these schools are a great need in our system and help to ensure that more students attend schools as close to home as possible; it is challenging to fund school commissioning activities with low reserves but it is necessary to provide learning supports for our students; and Administration has done good work in reducing school commissioning costs.

Chair Dennis called for the vote on the motion.

The motion was
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

9 | **CONSENT AGENDA**

The Chair noted that the one item on the consent agenda was removed for questions, as follows:

9.1 **Item Provided for Board Information**

9.1.1 Construction Projects Status Update



Administration responded to trustee questions on matters including construction status for the north Calgary high school and details about the modernization of Forest Lawn High School.

Chair Dennis noted that the Board would meet in camera following the public portion of the meeting to discuss one labour, two legal, and two strategic planning matters. She noted the next public Board meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, February 11, 2020.

Recessed: 1:56 p.m.
Reconvened: 2:23 p.m.

10 | **IN-CAMERA SESSION**

Motion to Move In-Camera

MOVED by Trustee Hehr:

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, February 4, 2020, 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 Bradshaw:

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 authorizes General Counsel to communicate with Grant Thornton LLP, as discussed in camera.

The motion was
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

MOVED by Trustee Bradshaw:

THAT the Board of Trustees directs the Chief Superintendent to provide the Board with service providers, as discussed in camera.

The motion was
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.



10 | ADJOURNMENT

MOVED by Trustee Hurdman:

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

The motion was
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

The meeting adjourned at 5:16 p.m.

Chair Dennis reconvened the February 4, 2020 Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees at 5:25 p.m. in Room T224 of the Education Centre, 1221 – 8 Street SW, Calgary, Alberta

MEETING ATTENDANCE

Board of Trustees:

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

Administration:

Mr. C. Usih, Chief Superintendent of Schools
Ms. K. Fenney, General Counsel
Ms. M. Martin-Esposito, Chief Communications Officer
Ms. P. Minor, Corporate Secretary

Motion to Move In Camera

MOVED by Trustee Bradshaw:

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, February 4, 2020, reconvened, 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 Adams:

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

The motion was
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Motions to Action In-Camera Recommendations

MOVED by Trustee Hrdlicka:

THAT the Board of Trustees directs that the 2019-20 Budget Chronology report be submitted to the February 11, 2020 Regular Meeting public agenda, as discussed in camera.

The motion was
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

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 8:58 p.m.

Chair Dennis reconvened the February 4, 2020 Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees at 7:33 a.m. on Friday, February 7, 2020 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 M. Bradshaw
Trustee R. Hehr
Trustee J. Hrdlicka
Trustee T. Hurdman

Administration:

Mr. C. Usih, Chief Superintendent of Schools
Ms. T. Minor, 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, February 4, 2020, reconvened on February 7, 2020, 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 Adams:

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

The motion was
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Motions to Action In-Camera Recommendations

MOVED by Trustee Bradshaw:

THAT the Board of Trustees agrees to waive the requirement for written notice to rescind a motion as discussed in camera.

The motion was
CARRIED.

In favour: Trustee Adams
Trustee Bradshaw
Trustee Dennis
Trustee Hrdlicka
Trustee Hurdman

Opposed: Trustee Hehr

MOVED by Trustee Adams:

THAT the Board of Trustees rescinds the motion that was adopted at the February 4, 2020 Regular Meeting as follows:

“THAT the Board of Trustees directs that the 2019-20 Budget Chronology report be submitted to the February 11, 2020 Regular Meeting public agenda, as discussed in camera.”

The motion was
CARRIED.

In favour: Trustee Adams
Trustee Bradshaw
Trustee Dennis



Trustee Hrdlicka
Trustee Hurdman

Opposed: Trustee Hehr

MOVED by Trustee Hurdman:

THAT the Board of Trustees directs that the 2019-20 Budget Chronology report be submitted to a future public Board meeting, as discussed in camera.

The motion was
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Adjournment

MOVED by Trustee Hrdlicka:

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

The motion was
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

The meeting adjourned at 8:22 a.m.

