

CALGARY BOARD OF EDUCATION

Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees (the “Board”) held on Tuesday, April 7, 2020 at 12:00 p.m. through Skype

MEETING ATTENDANCE (Virtual)

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
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. T. Minor, Corporate Secretary
Ms. D. Perrier, Board Administrator

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

Chair Dennis called the meeting to order at 12:02 p.m. and O Canada was led by students from Fish Creek School by way of a pre-recorded video.

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.

The Chair welcomed trustees and superintendents participating in the Board of Trustees’ first virtual public Board meeting. She also welcomed everyone joining on the livestream, and thanked staff for their work to support the Board in making the virtual meeting possible.

Chair Dennis provided the following statement:

“Firstly, I would like to acknowledge these are unprecedented times. The Board hopes that all our students, parents and staff are healthy and safe. We would also like to recognize the outstanding commitment of all CBE staff in their support of student



learning in the face of the COVID-19 pandemic. We look forward to the day students are able to attend classes once again at CBE schools.

On Saturday, March 28, the government announced \$128 million in education funding reductions and directed school boards to reduce staffing levels for educational assistants, substitute teachers, other support staff and bus drivers.

This announcement came as a surprise to us. We were disappointed that as the democratically elected board of trustees we were not consulted on this decision or given the opportunity to share the vital work that many of these CBE staff have been doing in support of our learning plan for students. Although in-school classes have been cancelled, schools remain open and learning must continue. Staff are working hard to connect with students and their families to identify needs and create resources to support students in this challenging new environment. In addition, staff are also working to ensure that schools are safe and clean for the staff that are still working in our schools and in preparation for the eventual return of students.

On Tuesday, March 31, the CBE was informed that our funding would be reduced by \$21 million. We are doing as much as possible to minimize the impact of this in-year funding cut on staff and students, but layoffs will be necessary in order to balance our budget. As a school board we cannot have an unfunded deficit at the end of the year.

Although we do not know when in-school classes will resume, we are looking ahead to the 2020-21 school year. According to the school jurisdiction profiles released by Alberta Education in February 2020, the total funding to the CBE is expected to increase by \$13.5 million for next year. However, CBE's final funding for 2020-21 will not be confirmed by Alberta Education until the end of April.

For 2020-21 enrolment growth is forecast to be approximately 2,300 students, or the equivalent of four large elementary schools. With increased enrolment and a new funding model, this will mean a reduction in per-student funding. This reduction in per-student funding will have an impact. We continue to review how to best deliver programs and services within the funding we receive. Our first priority is always to support students and their learning."

2 | CONSIDERATION/APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Ms. Minor, Corporate Secretary, noted a request was received to add Chief Superintendent's Remarks as new Item 3 and all remaining items renumbered accordingly.

MOVED by Trustee Hrdlicka:

THAT the Board of Trustees approves the agenda for the Regular Meeting of April 7, 2020 as submitted, subject to the change noted above.

The motion was
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.



3 | **CHIEF SUPERINTENDENT'S REMARKS**

Chief Superintendent Usih provided remarks about the Alberta Government's announcement on March 15 respective of the global pandemic and cancellation of classes. He noted that adapting to a new reality of working and delivering learning remotely to CBE's 125,000 students is a monumental task. Since March 15 system-based staff have been working tirelessly to get students and teachers prepared for ongoing learning. For many CBE students, classes resumed last week following spring break – for modified calendar schools, classes resumed April 6. Chief Usih noted that students are now engaged in learning in different ways, demonstrating resilience, flexibility and compassion.

Chief Superintendent Usih expressed appreciation to families for their support to student learning while juggling work and other responsibilities. He also thanked teachers who are checking in with students regarding not just their learning, but also about how they are feeling, and connecting families to supports including technology, mental health, food and other community resources; and support staff in schools and central offices, including facility operators and service unit teams for continued support of the work in schools.

4 | **AWARDS AND RECOGNITIONS**

There were no awards or recognitions.

5 | **RESULTS FOCUS**

There were no reports or presentations.

6 | **OPERATIONAL EXPECTATIONS**

There were no reports.

7 | **PUBLIC COMMENT**

There were no public comments.

8 | **MATTERS RESERVED FOR BOARD INFORMATION**

There were no items.

9 | **MATTERS RESERVED FOR BOARD DECISION**

9.1 **Revisions to the Schedule of Regular Meetings**

MOVED by Trustee Hehr:

THAT the Board of Trustees approves revisions to the Schedule of Regular Meetings to:



1. **remove the public meeting scheduled for Tuesday, April 14, 2020 at 12:00 p.m., in the Multipurpose Room at 1221 - 8 Street SW, Calgary, Alberta;**
2. **add a private meeting to be held on Tuesday, April 14, 2020, commencing at 12:00 p.m., in Room T224 at 1221 – 8 Street SW, Calgary, Alberta;**
3. **add a public meeting to be held on Tuesday, April 28, 2020 commencing at 12:00 p.m., in the Multipurpose Room at 1221 - 8 Street SW, Calgary, Alberta; and**
4. **add a public meeting to be held on Tuesday, May 26, 2020 commencing at 12:00 p.m., in the Multipurpose Room at 1221 - 8 Street SW, Calgary, Alberta.**

Chair Dennis clarified that in light of COVID-19 the meetings will be held virtually. She called for the vote on the motion.

The motion was
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

10 | **CONSENT AGENDA**

Chair Dennis noted the following items approved as submitted with the consent agenda:

10.1 Item Provided for Board Approval

10.1.1 Minutes of the Regular Meetings held:

- February 4, 2020
- February 11, 2020
- February 25, 2020
- March 3, 2020

THAT the Board of Trustees approves the Minutes of the Regular Meetings held February 4, February 11, February 25 and March 3, 2020, as submitted.

10.2 Items Provided for Board Information

10.2.1 Construction Projects Status Report

Recessed: 12:16 p.m.
Reconvened: 1:04 p.m.

11 | **IN-CAMERA SESSION**

All Trustees and Superintendents confirmed they were alone and in a location that no other person could hear them or any part of this meeting.

Motion to Move In-Camera

MOVED by Trustee Hrdlicka:



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, April 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.

Motion to Action In-Camera Recommendations

MOVED by Trustee Hehr:

THAT the Board of Trustees approves the engagement of the service provider as discussed in camera.

The motion was
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

MOVED by Trustee Hurdman:

THAT the Board of Trustees approves the suspension of indicator 7.2.2 of Operational Expectations 7: Communication With and Support for the Board for April, May and June 2020.

The motion was
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

MOVED by Trustee Hrdlicka:

THAT the Board of Trustees authorizes the Chair to communicate with the Minister of Education as discussed in camera.

The motion was
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

MOVED by Trustee Adams:

THAT the Board of Trustees approves the correspondence as discussed in camera.

The motion was
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.



MOVED by Trustee Bradshaw:

THAT the Board of Trustees approves the temporary suspension until June 30, 2020 of paragraph J(6) Public Comment of the Board Meeting Procedures.

The motion was
CARRIED.

In favour: Trustee Bradshaw
Trustee Dennis
Trustee Hrdlicka
Trustee Hurdman

Opposed: Trustee Adams
Trustee Hehr

12 | **ADJOURNMENT**

Chair Dennis declared the meeting adjourned at 5:56 p.m.

