

## **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, September 15, 2020 at 12:00 p.m.

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### **MEETING ATTENDANCE**

#### Board of Trustees:

Trustee M. Dennis, Chair  
Trustee A. Adams (attended through teleconference)  
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, Superintendent, School Improvement  
Ms. T. Minor, Corporate Secretary  
Ms. M. Broda, Recording Secretary

#### Stakeholder Representative:

Mr. B. Cocking, Alberta Teachers' Association, Local 38

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

Chair Dennis called the meeting to order at 12:01 p.m. and O Canada was led by students from Deer Run 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' public Board meeting in person, as well as Trustee Adams who was attending via teleconference. She also welcomed staff and the public joining on the livestreamed meeting.



**2 | CONSIDERATION/APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Ms. Minor, Corporate Secretary, noted there were no requests for agenda changes.

MOVED by Trustee Hehr:

**THAT the Board of Trustees approves the agenda for the Regular Meeting of September 15, 2020 as submitted.**

The motion was  
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

**3 | OPENING REMARKS**

Chair Dennis welcomed students back to school amid the COVID-19 pandemic, after more than five months at home. She spoke about how this year would look different for every student, whether it is online or in schools following the health measures and wearing masks. There has been a significant amount of effort and resources put into getting ready for the start of the 2020-21 school year, especially to create the new online learning option, known as the hub. She thanked all those involved and appreciates the ongoing support and feedback provided. She also thanked the provincial government for supplies provided and the federal government for the additional funding.

Chair Dennis also recognized that while COVID-19 and re-entry into school has taken the spotlight, three new schools opened and welcomed students last week. They are Northern Lights School in Coventry Hills, Sibylla Kiddle School in Cranston, and Dr. Freda Miller School in Evergreen.

Work has also been progressing on the ministerial order requirements over the summer and the Board is confident that they will meet the requirements by the November 30 deadline.

Chief Superintendent Usih reiterated that this is the beginning of a school year like no other. He thanked all the staff for their hard work in preparing for the upcoming school year over the last few months. He also thanked families for their trust in the CBE and the commitment to the education and safety of students. He is hopeful that we will look back on this year of learning as one of triumph, resiliency and achievement.

**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 reports.

**9 | MATTERS RESERVED FOR BOARD DECISION**

- 9.1 Proposed Amendments to Governance Polices OE-1: Global Operational Expectations, OE-3: Instructional Program and GC-3: Board Job Description

Chair Dennis made opening comments, stating that on May 21, 2020, the Minister of Education issued Ministerial Order 016-2020, which required the Calgary Board of Education to comply with directives, including amendments to OE-5: Financial Planning and OE-3: Instructional Program. This report represents the work undertaken by the Board from May to September on the policies review to address the directives arising from the Ministerial Order. The work undertaken included: meeting with CBE administration to review policies, assess current risk management practices within the CBE, consult with external advisors, and formulate new policy language to provide greater clarity to the Chief Superintendent. The Board and members of CBE administration also attended risk management training as part of the process.

MOVED by Trustee Hurdman:

**THAT the Board of Trustees gives first reading to the amendments of Operational Expectations 1: Global Operational Expectations policy, Operational Expectations 3: Instructional Program policy and Governance Culture 3: Board Job Description policy as provided in the Attachments to the report.**

There were no questions on the motion.

Trustee comments in debate of the motion included: there has been lots of work going on with regards to the Ministerial Order and with re-entry; part of the recommendations pertain to risk management and the current governance structure lends itself to Board oversight in all aspects of the organization; the recommended changes strengthen Board oversight, specifically around risk management and move forward in a more formalized and systematic way; the Board has learned about best practices in risk management through a course with the Governance Professionals of Canada; there is still more work to be done on OE-5: Financial Planning; OE-1: Global Operational Expectations policy is about how the Board wants administration to manage risks related to strategic and operational objectives throughout the system; OE-3: Instructional Program was changed to have more



long term focus; GC-3: Board Job Description was amended to clarify the Board's job of oversight of risks; risk analysis has always been done, with an attempt to consider short and long term consequences, but these changes will lead to an increased objectification/unification of the job of the Board and may lead to more of a leadership role for all school boards; there have been cuts in funding over the last several years which have been clearly demonstrated using charts showing the rising enrollment without the matching increases in funds by successive governments in power; expect to have structural changes in the next couple of years; the current funding model no longer exists and is not sustainable; the need to ensure programs are benefitting students.

Chair Dennis called for the vote on the motion.

The motion was  
**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

MOVED by Trustee Hurdman:

**THAT the Board of Trustees gives second reading, and thereby final approval, to the amendments of Operational Expectations 1: Global Operational Expectations policy, Operational Expectations 3: Instructional Program policy and Governance Culture 3: Board Job Description policy as provided in the Attachments to the report.**

There were no questions on the motion.

Trustee comments in debate of the motion included: having two readings in the same meeting is a departure from regular procedure, but changes need to be made to meet Ministerial Order dates; these amendments will position the CBE well in context of the Ministerial Order; the changes will provide a different, more focused lens when making decisions in the future; these are challenging financial times in the province and difficult decisions will have to be made going forward; expect the organization to look very different in the coming years; the completed work will help to have a structure to continue to make good decisions on behalf of the students that the Board serves.

Chair Dennis 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 Board Meetings held:

- May 19, 2020 Regular Meeting
- May 26, 2020 Regular Meeting



- June 09, 2020 Regular Meeting
- June 16, 2020 Regular Meeting
- June 23, 2020 Regular Meeting
- July 14, 2020 Special Meeting
- July 27, 2020 Special Meeting

**THAT the Board of Trustees approves the Minutes of the Regular Meetings held May 19, May 26, June 09, June 16 and June 23, 2020 and the Special Meetings held July 14 and July 27, 2020 as submitted.**

10.2 Items Provided for Board Information

10.2.1 Chief Superintendent's Update

Chair Dennis noted that the Board would meet in camera following the public portion of the meeting to discuss one labour and two strategic planning matters. The next public Board meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, September 29, 2020.

Recessed: 12:26 p.m.

Reconvened: 1:00 p.m.

11| IN-CAMERA SESSION

Trustee Adams, Superintendent Grundy, and Ms. D. McQueen, Governance Instructor, joined the meeting through teleconference. Trustee Adams, Superintendent Grundy, and Ms. McQueen 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 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, September 15, 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 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 Bradshaw:

**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 Hurdman:

**THAT the Board of Trustees authorizes the Chair to communicate with the Chief Superintendent as discussed in-camera.**

The motion was  
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

MOVED by Trustee Bradshaw:

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

The motion was  
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

**12 | ADJOURNMENT**

Chair Dennis declared the meeting adjourned at 3:09 p.m.

