

CALGARY BOARD OF EDUCATION

Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees (the “Board”) held on Tuesday, January 26, 2021 at 12:00 p.m. through Microsoft Teams

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
Ms. T. Minor, Corporate Secretary
Ms. M. Broda, Board Administrator

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

Chair Dennis called the meeting to order at 12:00 p.m. and O Canada was led by students from Briar Hill School by way of 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.

Chair Dennis welcomed staff, public members, and union representatives participating in the virtual Board meeting.

2 | **CONSIDERATION/APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Ms. Minor, Corporate Secretary, noted that a request was made to add Opening Comments as new item 3 and all remaining items renumbered accordingly.



MOVED by Trustee Bradshaw:

THAT the Board of Trustees approves the agenda for the Regular Meeting of January 26, 2021 as submitted, subject to the changes noted above.

The motion was
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

3 | **OPENING COMMENTS**

The following statement was read by Chair Dennis:

“Last week, the Board of Trustees received confirmation that we have complied with all of the directives contained in the Ministerial Order (#16/2020) issued by Minister of Education Adriana LaGrange in May 2020. As your publicly elected Board of Trustees, we were pleased to receive this confirmation.

The outcome of our work is a stronger CBE. We are confident that this work will benefit CBE students for many years to come.

To ensure long lasting changes, we strengthened many of our policies. For those of you who attend our board meetings regularly, you would have seen this policy work in action. Policies are important because they guide the Board's work and provide direction to administration; they define the Board's expected outcomes for student success; and they set standards for how administration manages operations. The outcome of this work are changes that will have a lasting impact on the organization in the areas of governance, risk management, program evaluation, staffing and more. The changes we made will drive the long term sustainability of the supports, services and programming the CBE offers to students while ensuring its overall financial health.

Throughout this process, we worked closely with Alberta Education and government staff. We valued their support and guidance. We also provided the Minister with regular updates on our progress and appreciated her feedback along the way. We were supported by our governance instructor, the Alberta School Boards Association (ASBA) and other external experts.

You can see a detailed summary chart on the CBE website outlining the work that was completed in compliance of each directive. A few highlights include:

- Operating reserves are set at 3 per cent in policy to provide more financial stability. The CBE met this target in the 2019-20 school year.
- An external salary survey was completed. The findings confirmed that CBE non-unionized employee salaries (which represent about 200 employees or two per cent) are aligned with the public and private sector comparators; and
- Changes were made to leverage the skills and knowledge of external professionals on the Audit and Risk Committee. The Committee supports the Board's financial and risk oversight.

I am proud of my fellow trustees, proud of our administration team and all the work we accomplished together. Everyone attached to this work showed an unparalleled and



unwavering commitment to meet and exceed the objectives of many of the directives for the benefit of students today and into the future. We will continue to provide educational programming that meets the needs of students while being responsible stewards of public dollars.”

4 | AWARDS AND RECOGNITIONS

There were no awards or recognitions.

5 | RESULTS FOCUS

5.1 Results 2: Academic Success Annual Monitoring – Part 2 (Indicator 4)

Chief Superintendent Usih provided introductory remarks. Superintendent Pitman reiterated that due to the COVID-19 pandemic and subsequent cancellation of Provincial Assessment Testing and Diploma Exams, there is no evidence available for indicators 3 and 5 for the 2019/2020 school year.

Administration responded to trustees questions on matters including: student report card results accurately reflecting student learning; expectations for future report card results; what is considered statistically significant; targets being met for those that self identify as Indigenous and gaps between all students and those that self identify as Indigenous; determining trends considering the implications from the COVID-19 pandemic; building capacity actions for science and social studies; the instrument resource working group; ARCHIBUS replacing the central loan pool of instruments; the process of understanding, tracking, and transporting tools and materials for Career and Technology Foundations programs; the loose parts play initiative; the vision team staff and how many students are supported; the “Making Headway” concussion course; locally developed courses on anti-racism, oppression, or power; the truth and reconciliation circle participants and alignment with the elder advisory council; diploma graduation rates; and the Indigenous education strategy history.

The Chair asked trustees to identify their intentions to bring forward any motions related to exceptions or commendations for Results 2: Academic Success to the Corporate Secretary and all trustees by noon, February 4, 2021. The Chair noted that this item will be placed on the public meeting agenda for the Regular Meeting of February 9, 2021 for the Board’s consideration.

6 | OPERATIONAL EXPECTATIONS

There were no reports or presentations.

7 | PUBLIC COMMENT

There were no public comments.

8 | MATTERS RESERVED FOR BOARD INFORMATION

There were no reports or presentations.



9 | MATTERS RESERVED FOR BOARD DECISION

9.1 Consideration of Closure of Rosscarrock School

Chief Superintendent Usih provided introductory remarks and noted the Board report speaks to compliance with legislation and Board policy. Superintendent Breton provided highlights of the report.

Administration responded to trustees questions on matters including: offering kindergarten and Grade 1 next year if the school stays open; feedback from kindergarten students re-assigned to Glendale and Wildwood Schools this year; City's actions to increase density and population; utilization rate decreasing in the last two years; impacts from the provincial Operation & Maintenance funding changes, and calculation of dollars received based on utilization rate; concerns of parents about crossing major roadways; using community schools for alternative programs; number of students from the Rosscarrock neighbourhood attending alternative or specialty programs at other schools; and the increased educational opportunities at the re-designated schools.

MOVED by Trustee Hrdlicka:

THAT the minutes of the Public Input Meetings of December 2, 2020 and January 6, 2021, submitted as Attachment I to the report, be approved by the Board of Trustees.

The motion was
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Trustee Hehr provided a synopsis of the written and verbal submissions received from the public regarding the consideration of closure of Rosscarrock School. The Board received four written submissions in total, from parents and community groups. The submissions received spoke about the possibility for alternative programming at the school; the understanding that more families were moving to the area; concerns about crossing major roadways; and the importance of community schools.

MOVED by Trustee Bradshaw:

THAT the Board of Trustees approves the closure of Rosscarrock School and all programs contained therein, effective June 30, 2021.

In debate of the motion, trustees made comments on: the history of the community; demographic changes including fewer kids being born; lower enrolment in inner city schools; not wanting to close schools, and the financial burden of under-utilized schools; the increasing challenges in offering a broad range of programming and supports for students; the 2019 decision to keep the school open; the loss of community support groups; ensuring students have the best opportunities CBE has to offer; currently dealing with more financial difficulties and the COVID-19 pandemic; CBE having financial responsibility; the school population continually declining; thanking the parents, community, and staff that have been part of the discussion; having three schools in close proximity where today only one would be built; the transition plan as presented being thorough; the importance of community schools; low enrolment impacting learning



significantly; the opportunity and benefits of moving to different schools that have more to offer; the difficult decision to make; considerations that the population may increase in the future; and making decisions based on current information received.

Chair Dennis called for the vote on the motion.

The motion was
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Recessed: 1:58 p.m.
Reconvened: 2:10 p.m.

9.2 Consideration of Closure of Discovering Choices II (Marlborough) for the Purpose of Relocation

Chief Superintendent Usih provided introductory remarks and noted the Board report speaks to compliance with legislation and Board policy. Superintendent Breton provided highlights of the contents of the report.

MOVED by Trustee Hehr:

THAT the minutes of the Public Input Meeting of January 13, 2021, submitted as Attachment I to the report, be approved by the Board of Trustees.

The motion was
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Trustee Dennis provided a synopsis of the written and verbal submissions received from the public regarding the consideration of closure of Discovering Choices II (Marlborough) for the Purpose of Relocation. The Board received three written submissions in total, from parents, students, and community groups. The submissions received were all in support of the closure for the purpose of relocation.

MOVED by Trustee Hurdman:

THAT the Board of Trustees approves the closure of Discovering Choices II (Marlborough) for the Purpose of Relocation, effective June 30, 2021.

Trustee comments in debate of the motion included: positive support from the public; the new space being larger; the distance from the C-train being the same and the space costing less; outreach programs being essential for many students; and the decrease in funding putting more pressure on making good use of space.

Chair Dennis called for the vote on the motion.

The motion was
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.



10 | CONSENT AGENDA

10.1 Items Provided for Board Decision

10.1.1 OE-3: Instructional Program – Annual Monitoring

THAT the Board of Trustees approves that the Chief Superintendent is in compliance with the provisions of this policy.

Chair Dennis noted that the Board would meet in-camera following the public portion of the meeting to discuss two legal, one labour, one land and two strategic planning matters. She noted the next public Board meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, February 9, 2021.

Recessed: 2:25 p.m.
Reconvened: 2:37 p.m.

11 | IN-CAMERA SESSION

Acting Superintendent Ms. D. Unruh joined the in-camera portion of the January 26, 2021 Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees.

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 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, January 26, 2021 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.



Motion to Action In-Camera Recommendations

MOVED by Trustee Adams:

THAT the Board of Trustees authorizes the Chair to execute the Extension Agreement, Attachment I to the report, as discussed in-camera.

The motion was
CARRIED.

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

Opposed: Trustee Hrdlicka

MOVED by Trustee Hurdman:

THAT the Board of Trustees ratifies the approval of the January 22, 2021 letter to the Minister of Health.

The motion was
CARRIED.

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

Opposed: Trustee Bradshaw

12 | **ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 4:34 p.m.

