

CALGARY BOARD OF EDUCATION

Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees (the “Board”) held on Tuesday, February 8, 2022 at 12:00 p.m. through Microsoft Teams

MEETING ATTENDANCE (Virtual)

Board of Trustees:

Trustee L. Hack, Chair
Trustee P. Bolger
Trustee N. Close
Trustee M. Dennis
Trustee D. Downey
Trustee C. May
Trustee S. Vukadinovic

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. A. Holowka, Superintendent, School Improvement
Ms. T. Minor, Corporate Secretary
Ms. M. Broda, Board Administrator

1 | CALL TO ORDER, NATIONAL ANTHEM AND WELCOME

Chair Hack called the meeting to order at 12:00 p.m. and O Canada was led by David Thompson School Choir Club by way of pre-recorded video.

Students from the Grade 5 Mandarin bilingual program at Harold Panabaker School acknowledged the traditional territories and oral practices of the Blackfoot Nations, which includes the Siksika, the Piikani, and the Kainai. The students 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 through a pre-recorded video.

Chair Hack welcomed staff, public members, and union representatives participating virtually in the Board meeting.



2 | CONSIDERATION/ APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Ms. Minor, Corporate Secretary, noted the following agenda change requests were made:

- The addition of Board Chair Opening Remarks to be added to the agenda as item 3.0 and for all remaining agenda items to be renumbered accordingly; and
- Item 9.2.2 Construction Projects Status Report be removed from the Consent agenda.

MOVED by Trustee Vukadinovic:

THAT the Board of Trustees approves the agenda for the Regular Meeting of February 8, 2022, subject to the changes noted above.

The motion was
CARRIED.

In favour: Trustee Bolger
 Trustee Close
 Trustee Downey
 Trustee Hack
 Trustee May
 Trustee Vukadinovic

Opposed: Trustee Dennis

3 | BOARD CHAIR OPENING REMARKS

The following statement was read by Chair Hack:

“Thank you to everyone watching or listening in today, I’d like to share with you this Boards continued advocacy in relation to the Provincial Governments K-6 Draft Curriculum. We know that parents, grandparents, caregivers and educators have been loud and clear in what they want in relation to the curriculum. We hear you, and we continue to listen and advocate on behalf of Calgarians.

In December, the Board of Trustees met with the Minister of Education. We outlined CBE’s concerns regarding the content of the draft and followed up this conversation with a letter to the Minister. For those wishing to view that letter as well as a one page summary, please visit the Board of Trustees advocacy page on our website.

The CBE’s position, given the timelines ahead of us, as well as where the pandemic has put us, is to have no new subjects be implemented in the fall of 2022.

The ongoing pandemic and recent Omicron wave continues to have significant impacts on teaching and learning. We need to see things stabilize before changing expectations for students with the implementation of a new curriculum. We need to put students first.

The delay we are asking for would ensure the government has time for a robust pilot to strengthen the curriculum, to create and execute a plan to acquire and develop quality resources, as well as time for the Ministry to develop a comprehensive provincial communications toolkit that addresses the needs of all educational stakeholders. The Calgary Board of Education needs time to build capacity through in-depth staff



professional learning and to account for the new curriculum within the framework for accountability and assurance, as outlined in the Requirements for School Authority Planning and Results Reporting.

We as the Calgary Board of Education look forward to working collaboratively with the Government to ensure the needs of students are being met. By working together we can advance education where Alberta remains ranked among the top education systems in the world.

For those looking to get involved in giving feedback, Alberta Education is hosting Virtual Curriculum sessions from now through the end of February. Please visit [Alberta.ca](https://alberta.ca) (curriculum have your say) or there is a link in the news center on our website that will take you there.

Thank you to everyone for your continued interest in Curriculum for Public Education.”

4 | **AWARDS AND RECOGNITIONS**

There were no awards or recognitions.

5 | **RESULTS FOCUS**

5.1 | **Harold Panabaker School, Marshall Springs School, David Thompson School, and Sherwood School Presentation**

Ms. M. Howell, Area 6 Education Director, introduced the video presentation focusing on the CBE's ongoing journey toward acknowledging and supporting the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada (TRC) calls to action.

The video was played, sharing how students and staff from Marshall Springs, Harold Panabaker, David Thompson, and Sherwood School communities have come together to further their learning in order to lead their schools to improve how teachers are using resources that accurately reflect and demonstrate the strength and diversity of Indigenous peoples. Some examples shared were: improving school resources to ensure they represent the diversity and experience of all students; the broken heart art project; and how Indigenous education has been embedded in the classroom.

Mr. M. Poirier, Area 6 Education Director, continued, stating that with the new school support model and approach adopted, the area meetings have evolved from diffusion of information to their current form where principals can meet to work on their school development plans and problem solve together with regards to teaching practices. He expressed gratitude to principals Li, O'Neill, Keuben, and Kohan, and their respective faculty and staff for taking on the challenge of finding rich resources to support Indigenous education in their schools.

On behalf of the Board of Trustees, Trustee Close and Trustee Vukadinovic expressed appreciation to the presenters for highlighting actions taken by students and staff together in their commitment to the TRC calls to action.



6 | **OPERATIONAL EXPECTATIONS**

6.1 **OE-3: Instructional Program - Annual Monitoring**

Chief Superintendent Usih introduced the report, stating that one of the biggest challenges CBE continues to face is the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic and the impact it has on the instructional environment. The 2020-21 school year saw ongoing disruptions through transitions between online and in-person learning. He highlighted: the efforts of teachers, principles, and administration in offering students opportunities to engage in rich learning experiences; the CBE being able to report a balanced budget for transportation; and the work of staff and administration in aligning processes and services to ensure service to students, while being prudent with financial resources. He noted that there is no evidence available for indicator 3.2.1 due to the Board approved changes to OE-3: Instructional Program Reasonable Interpretations and Indicators approved on November 2020.

Superintendent Pitman provided additional detail on key reporting points reflecting the changes to the OE-3: Instructional Program Reasonable Interpretation and Indicators including: a review of school development plans confirmed the excellent work of principals and teachers in schools that identified specific instructional strategies or actions required to address student results; the use of data, both provincial and specific to the school, resulted in active decisions for the instructional programs at schools; schools engaged in learning sprints, through which a specific focus received attention for a targeted period of time; and the work done to mitigate the impacts of COVID-19 and still offer a variety of programs that expand as students develop and move through grades. She also stated that the program evaluation framework, implemented for the 2021-2022 monitoring report, will operate at a systemic level and offer insight into the economy, efficiency, and effectiveness of CBE programs by examining identified programs, ensuring CBE's investment of resources are resulting in the intended and positive outcomes.

Administration responded to trustee questions on matters including: meeting the demand for Career and Technology Studies (CTS) and Career and Technology Foundations (CTF) courses; barriers to students accessing trades programs; the high school transfer process being able to accommodate requests for transferring students into specialty programs; planned expansion of courses offered; ability to maintain course offerings as employees retire or expertise is lost; area learning team's mental health support tracking; the bridge to teaching certification program; process of reporting non-compliance with AR3067 Religion Education; decline in fine and performing arts course offerings due to COVID-19 health and safety protocols; continuing to meet program deliverables in fine and performing arts programs with COVID-19 restrictions in place; penalties administered to contracted transportation carriers for instances of unreliability; unique pathways, dual credit, and exploratory programs and the partners for these programs; promotion of unique pathways programs and capacity for them to accommodate all students interested; and pre-requisites required for certain programs.

Chair Hack asked trustees to identify their intentions to bring forward any motions related to compliance, exceptions or commendations for OE-3: Instructional Program to the Corporate Secretary and to trustees by noon, Thursday, February 17, 2022. She stated that if no motions come forward, the item will be placed on the February 22, 2022 consent



agenda with a motion that the Board of Trustees approves that the Chief Superintendent is in compliance with the provisions of OE-3: Instructional Program.

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 **Results 2: Academic Success – Annual Monitoring**

Chair Hack introduced the report, stating that at the January 11, 2022 and January 25, 2022 meetings, trustees had the opportunity to ask questions. It is now on the agenda for the Board to determine if the Chief Superintendent is in compliance.

MOVED by Trustee Vukadinovic:

THAT the Board of Trustees has reviewed the monitoring report for Results 2: Academic Success, and concludes that reasonable progress is being made toward the ultimate achievement of this Results policy.

MOVED by Trustee Downey:

THAT the motion be amended to include “with the exception of students who self identify as Indigenous in all academic areas.”

In debate of the amendment, trustees made comments on: the CBE Mission and Values stating that success for each and every student is the goal of the CBE’s work; evidence showing excellent results for many students, but not reflecting reasonable progress for students who self identify as Indigenous; still showing significant gap in report card results between cohorts; work underway that is not reflected in the report; student success reflecting community success; the policy and indicators not reflecting the entire conversation of measuring success; the development of research informed education frameworks improving learning outcomes; having a cohort that are not getting 50% graduation rate until year 5; being excited to see the full impact of the Indigenous Education framework in upcoming reports; recognizing the excellent work being done in schools as presented earlier in the meeting; improvement in results for students who self identify as Indigenous being seen in many areas; the values reflected by CBE CARES and the great work being done with that initiative; amendments being a tool to ensure focus on required areas or cohorts; and data suggesting an academic gap between all students and those that self identify as Indigenous.

Chair Hack called for a vote on the amendment.

The amendment was
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.



Chair Hack restated the main motion as amended, as follows:

THAT the Board of Trustees has reviewed the monitoring report for Results 2: Academic Success, and concludes that reasonable progress is being made toward the ultimate achievement of this Results policy, with the exception of students who self identify as Indigenous in all academic areas.

In debate of the motion, trustees made comments on: CBE being great educators and that being reflected through various independent studies; continuous monitoring and continuous improvement being essential; the great work that the school system is doing; making progress in a very difficult year due to the pandemic and the unfinished learning; easily aligning results polices with the education plan; measuring what is valuable and addressing systemic issues; student report card data only having three years of; failing students who self identify as Indigenous as this cohort has been identified for 6 years; doing the same thing every year and not seeing any improvement; the statistically significant increase in the three year graduation rate for students who self identified as Indigenous and decreasing the gap for the 5 year graduation rate; students who self identify as Indigenous scoring lower than students who are categorized as special education being concerning; and Administration is supporting Indigenous students differently and looking forward to seeing results in coming years.

Chair Hack called for a vote on the motion.

The motion was
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

10 | CONSENT AGENDA

10.1 Items Provided for Board Decision

10.1.1 Revision to the Schedule of Regular Meetings

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

- 1. remove the public meeting scheduled for Tuesday April 12, 2022 held at 12:00 p.m. in the Multipurpose Room at 1221 – 8 Street SW, Calgary, Alberta or virtual through Microsoft Teams; and**
- 2. add a public meeting to be held on Tuesday April 5, 2022 commencing at 12:00 p.m. in the Multipurpose Room at 1221 – 8 Street SW, Calgary, Alberta or virtual through Microsoft Teams.**

10.2 Items Provided for Board Information

10.2.1 Chief Superintendent's Update

10.2.2 Construction Projects Status Report

Administration responded to trustee questions on matters including: the anticipated handover of the North High School to the CBE; lead time required to prepare the North High School for opening; and Skyview Ranch construction delays.



Chair Hack noted that the Board would meet in-camera following the public portion of the meeting to discuss two land and six strategic planning matters. She noted the next public Board meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, February 22, 2022.

Recessed: 1:54 p.m.
Reconvened: 2:17 p.m.

11 | **IN-CAMERA SESSION**

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 Bolger:

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 8, 2022 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 Vukadinovic:

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 Bolger:

THAT the Board of Trustees approves the use of capital reserves for the acquisition of depot lands;

THAT the Board of Trustees authorizes the Chair to correspond with the Minister of Education pertaining to the use of capital funds to facilitate the property acquisition.

The motion was
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.



MOVED by Trustee Dennis:

THAT the Board of Trustees approves the reappointment of Ashley Poscente as an external member of The Calgary Board of Education Board of Trustees' Audit and Risk Committee for an additional three-year term, from January 1, 2022 to May 31, 2025.

The motion was
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

12 | **ADJOURNMENT**

MOVED by Trustee May:

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

The motion was
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

The meeting adjourned at 5:35 p.m.

Chair Hack reconvened the February 8, 2022 Regular meeting of the Board of Trustees at 12:32 p.m. on Tuesday February 9, 2022 through Microsoft Teams.

MEETING ATTENDANCE (Virtual)

Board of Trustees:

Trustee L. Hack, Chair
Trustee P. Bolger
Trustee N. Close
Trustee M. Dennis
Trustee D. Downey
Trustee C. May
Trustee S. Vukadinovic

Administration:

Mr. C. Usih, Chief Superintendent of Schools
Ms. T. Minor, Corporate Secretary

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 May:

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 8, 2022, reconvened February 9, 2022 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 Vukadinovic:

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

The motion was
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

12 | **ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 1:20 p.m.

