

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, June 21, 2022 at 12:00 p.m.

MEETING ATTENDANCE

Board of Trustees:

Trustee L. Hack, Chair
Trustee P. Bolger (arrived at 3:46 p.m.; attended virtually)
Trustee N. Close
Trustee M. Dennis
Trustee D. Downey
Trustee C. May
Trustee S. Vukadinovic

Administration:

C. Usih, Chief Superintendent of Schools
R. Armstrong, Superintendent, Human Resources (attended virtually)
D. Breton, Superintendent, Facilities and Environmental Services
K. Fenney, General Counsel (attended virtually)
A. Holowka, Superintendent, School Improvement
M. Martin-Esposito, Chief Communications Officer
J. Pitman, Superintendent, School Improvement
T. Minor, Corporate Secretary
M. Broda, Board Administrator

Stakeholder Representatives:

B. Cocking, Alberta Teachers’ Association, Local 38

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 McKenzie Lake Grade two students by way of pre-recorded video.

Chair Hack 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 staff, public members, and union representatives participating in the Board of Trustees’ public Board meeting in person, as well as General Counsel Fenney, and Superintendent Armstrong who were attending virtually. She also welcomed staff and the public joining through the livestreamed meeting.



Chair's Opening Remarks

In acknowledgment of National Indigenous Peoples Day, Chair Hack spoke about the CBE's commitment and ongoing work of truth and reconciliation. She thanked the Indigenous Elders, Knowledge Keepers, and community members who have supported the work and spoke about moving forward together in a good way.

2 | CONSIDERATION/ APPROVAL OF AGENDA

P. Minor, Corporate Secretary, noted that an agenda change request was made for item 9.1.1 OE-5: Financial Planning – Annual Monitoring to be removed from the Consent Agenda and added as item 8.2 under Matters Reserved for Board Decision, and the remaining items to be renumbered accordingly.

MOVED by Trustee Close:

THAT the Board of Trustees approves the agenda for the Regular Meeting of June 21, 2022, subject to the changes noted above.

The motion was
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Absent: Trustee Bolger

3 | AWARDS AND RECOGNITIONS

There were no reports or presentations.

4 | RESULTS FOCUS

There were no reports or presentations.

5 | OPERATIONAL EXPECTATIONS

There were no reports or presentations.

6 | PUBLIC COMMENT

There were no public comments.

7 | MATTERS RESERVED FOR BOARD INFORMATION

There were no reports or presentations.

8 | MATTERS RESERVED FOR BOARD DECISION

8.1 OE-9: Facilities – Annual Monitoring

Chair Hack introduced the report, stating that at the June 14, 2022 meeting, 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 May:

THAT The Board of Trustees approves that the Chief Superintendent is in compliance with the provisions of OE-9: Facilities, with the exception of indicator 9.2.1.

In debate of the motion, trustees made comments on: the compliance of indicators ensuring that schools are safe; two indicators being non-complaint; emergency and maintenance repair work indicator having a 99.92 response rate being impressive even though the indicator is non-complaint; disappointment that Eric Harvie School did not achieve LEED silver certification but feeling hopeful this will not happen for future builds or modernizations; appreciating the naturalization activities that support outdoor exploration, learning, and community gathering spaces; and facilities staff being required to shift and be flexible during the pandemic year.

Chair Hack called for a vote on the motion.

The motion was

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Absent:

Trustee Bolger

MOVED by Trustee Dennis:

THAT the Board of Trustees commends the Chief Superintendent for exemplary performance in ensuring that CBE facilities continued to be safe, clean and properly maintained while also ensuring COVID-19 pandemic provincial requirements were met or exceeded.

In debate of the motion, trustees made comments on: maintaining and ensuring schools are safe being a priority; the pandemic requiring a lot of additional safety measures; ventilation systems requiring enhancements; wastewater testing being done; deep cleaning being required when a COVID-19 outbreak happened; schools being subject to regular inspections; feeling the CBE did a commendable job; the pandemic being an unforeseen event; CBE following the measures required by the government; the extra costs, staff, and flexibility that were required while learning still continued; COVID-19 changing how the CBE had to operate schools; and staff going above and beyond.

Chair Hack called for a vote on the motion.

The motion was

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Absent:

Trustee Bolger

8.2 OE-5: Financial Planning – Annual Monitoring

Chair Hack introduced the report, stating that at the June 14, 2022 meeting, 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 approves that the Chief Superintendent is in compliance with the provisions of OE-5: Financial Planning.

In debate of the motion, trustees made comments on: the CBE exercising prudent financial planning and management; maximizing dollars to support teaching and learning in the classroom; and achieving strong student outcomes within means provided.

Chair Hack called for a vote on the motion.

The motion was

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Absent:

Trustee Bolger

MOVED by Trustee Dennis:

THAT the Board of Trustees commends the Chief Superintendent for exemplary performance in financial management by creating and managing a budget that does not materially deviate from the budget.

In debate of the motion, trustees made comments on: setting a very high standard by requiring a low threshold for variances from the budget; recognizing the outstanding achievement of the CBE having a 0.17% variance in a year with a global pandemic; the challenges and requirements in order to keep schools clean requiring additional money and staff; the prudent decision making made by Administration; and thanking the Audit and Risk Committee members for their wisdom and expertise.

Chair Hack called for a vote on the motion.

The motion was

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Absent:

Trustee Bolger

8.3 2022-23 Monitoring Adjustments to Results 3: Citizenship, Results 4: Personal Development and Results 5: Character

Chief Superintendent Usih introduced the report stating, that beginning in August, teachers would be implementing the new Kindergarten to Grade 3 English Language Arts and Literature, Kindergarten to Grade 3 Mathematics, and Kindergarten to Grade 6 Physical Education and Wellness curriculums. Implementation of new curriculums includes new learning for teachers and a need to understand the implications of new outcomes as they relate to Results reporting. By removing the requirements for Kindergarten to Grade 6 teachers to report on Results in the 2022-23 school year, this allows teachers the opportunity to focus on curriculum implementation and measured adjustments to required reporting. Chief Usih also noted a proposed change of an indicator for Results 4 to account for the removal of health as a separate course for Kindergarten to Grade 6 students, aligning to the structural change in curriculum.

Administration responded to trustee questions on matters including: expanding the suspension of reporting for all grades; and section 4.5 reporting not being suspended.



MOVED by Trustee Close:

THAT the Board of Trustees suspends the inclusion of any indicators for Results 3: Citizenship, Results 4: Personal Development and Results 5: Character related to Kindergarten to Grade 6 school report cards for the 2022-23 school year, with the exception of Results 4: Personal Development, section 4.5.

In debate of the motion, trustees made comments on: revising the indicators being necessary; still getting the evidence needed to monitor the policy; allowing teachers to adjust to the changes coming for the 2022-23 school year; the indicators being incredibly important but concerned about the reliance on them in demonstrating student achievement; the new curriculum needing to be the focus for the upcoming school year; taking some workload off of the educators so they can focus on learning; and the opportunity being provided to allow input into the measures and indicators the Board wants to see.

Chair Hack called for a vote on the motion.

The motion was

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Absent:

Trustee Bolger

MOVED by Trustee Close:

THAT the Board of Trustees approves the revised Indicator 4.5.1 for Results 4: Personal Development policy as provided in Attachment I to this report.

In debate of the motion a trustee stated that there is no longer a separate health course so the indicator is needing to be revised accordingly.

Chair Hack called for a vote on the motion.

The motion was

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Absent:

Trustee Bolger

Recessed: 12:35 p.m.

Reconvened: 12:45 p.m.

8.4 Consideration of Closure for the Purpose of Relocation of Discovering Choices Start Outreach – Bowness and Discovering Choices Westbrook Outreach

Chief Superintendent Usih introduced the item, stating that the report addresses compliance with legislation and board policy since a motion was passed on April 26, 2022 to commence public input for the purpose of considering relocation of Discovering Choices Bowness site to Robert Thirsk High School and Discovering Choices Westbrook to Alternative High School.

Superintendent Breton provided an overview of the four outreach program locations throughout the city. The leases at the Bowness and Westbrook sites expiring at the end of the 2022-2023 school year, and the Alberta Government changing the guidelines about where outreach programs can be located, has allowed the CBE to be able to offer a



broader spectrum of support to students that access outreach programs. He provided a brief update of the process followed, including the public engagement opportunities related to the consideration of closure for the purpose of relocation.

Administration responded to trustee questions on matters including: current access to Career and Technology Studies (CTS), dual credit, or work experience courses; the current locations hours for students; the new provincial outreach guidelines; school hours and access at the proposed new locations; best practices regarding locations for outreach students; how the mixture of classes between core and options will be handled for the Discovering Choices students; the annual grant application process; impact of relocation to the additional programming requests being made for students; history of the Discovering Choices program; other locations considered for relocating to; consideration of commercial locations; anticipated staffing allocation changes; impacts to Operations and Maintenance funding for host schools; the use of separate entrances/exits and flexible entry and exit times for Discovering Choices students; number of students in an outreach location at a given time; accommodating the Discovering Choices students at the new sites; having additional space at the high schools to accommodate two to four additional classes; changes to the Discovering Choices intake or enrolment process; ability to welcome more students into the Discovering Choices program with the move to the new locations; the relocation bringing more awareness to the program; the long term forecast of program enrolment and demand; the programs retaining their school codes; possibility of closing the program without going through the Board's closure process; ways the CBE has tried to increase enrolment in outreach programming; the tracking of dropout rates by geographic locations; school development plans analyzing high school graduation and drop out rates; consequences and impacts if the CBE does not relocate the two programs; potential to change the school closure policy and process; and hindrances at the proposed locations to the students' ability to access the programming they need to graduate and the supports needed to be successful.

MOVED by Trustee Dennis:

THAT, pursuant to Section N(10)(j) of the Board Meeting Procedures, the Board of Trustees authorized that no Trustee shall speak more than twice for 5 minutes on each of the motions contained in the Consideration of Closure for the Purpose of Relocation of Discovering Choices Start Outreach - Bowness and Discovering Choices Westbrook Outreach Board report.

In debate of the motion, trustees made comments on: three minutes usually being enough time; requiring extra time to debate the complex decision; asking for five minutes for each of the two rounds; and appreciating more time to debate.

Chair Hack called for a vote on the motion.

The motion was
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Absent: Trustee Bolger

MOVED by Trustee Downey:

THAT the Minutes of the Public Input Meeting for Discovering Choices Start Outreach - Bowness on May 26, 2022, Attachment I to this report, are approved by the Board of Trustees; and

THAT the Minutes of the Public Input Meeting for Discovering Choices Westbrook Outreach on May 30, 2022, Attachment I to this report, are approved by the Board of Trustees.

The motion was

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Absent: Trustee Bolger

Recessed: 1:49 p.m.

Reconvened: 2:01 p.m.

Trustee Downey provided an overview of the public comments received, stating there were 12 written submissions, with 11 expressing opposition to the relocations. Recurring themes seen throughout the submissions were: the positive nature of the current discreet locations; the small number of students; the flexibility of the programming; the ease of access getting to and from the school; the feeling of safety; students being previously unsuccessful in traditional school settings; integration of the current locations into the community regarding volunteerism and existing community supports and partnerships; student peer relations and decreased behaviour issues and peer conflict resulting from the separate school entity; and concerns of probable anxiety and attendance problems that may occur with the relocation of the program.

MOVED by Trustee Vukadinovic:

THAT the Board of Trustees approves the closure of the Discovering Choices Start Outreach – Bowness program effective June 30, 2023 for the purpose of relocation.

In debate of the motion, trustees made comments on: needing to review all of the evidence available and examine all possible outcomes; Alberta Education having provided more funding for these programs in the past; the engagement session questions regarding the need to house outreach programs at separate sites; the change being a barrier to some students; the commutes to the other locations being a barrier to attendance; many of the Discovering Choices Bowness students having already transitioned out of Robert Thirsk High School; finding cost savings by moving the program into a high school; needing more than two locations with a population of 1.3 million people; flexibility in programming being key to the outreach programs success; Outreach Bowness having steady enrolment; Robert Thirsk High School already having a high utilization rate; sheltered programming only being offered for core courses; the value and success of the program being the community, community support, and partnerships; long term capital needing to be taken into consideration; collaborating with municipalities, other boards and community based service agencies in order to effectively address the needs of all students and manage the use of public resources; hoping all schools can have integrated staff teams in the future; thanking everyone who took part and provided feedback; every factor having been considered by administration; impact to the students has been considered first and



foremost; showing commitment to supporting each and every student to reach success and graduate high school; increasing access to a variety of programs and options courses; providing a commitment to students to have their own spaces; the sheltered approach being taken; the current students in the program typically being driven to school and taking the bus may not be possible at the new locations; the savings in dollars is not significant compared to students not graduating; the outreach program being the reason that every student has the opportunity and tools to graduate high school; wanting to honor the choices students make; hearing the CBE wants to augment the program to provide a continuum of programs; CBE values having an influence; moving the program back into high schools; liking the idea that CBE can accommodate a student that needs to come in for just an hour a day; being convinced that student needs will be met; CBE needing to work with others to support students so the focus can be on learning; change being difficult, but transition plan, site visits and choice in sites still allowing students to choose the location that is the best fit for them; students being able to shape the future vision of the new location; not being able to afford the current location; the possibility for the closure to come back again next year as the existing leases are expiring and likely cannot be renewed; having to make many difficult financial decisions in order to support learning and schools; seeing this as an opportunity; utilization rates that determine funding amounts from the government making decisions harder; the options offered ranking the lowest as a priority on the survey given to students and parents; the concerns of parents and students not being addressed enough for the relocation to be successful; provincial funding changes having an impact on the CBE; the CBE covering the cost difference for these locations for years; every additional staff member the CBE can afford going a long way to supporting students; being in a position where every dollar counts; and not being convinced that the new locations are the best locations for the relocation.

Chair Hack called for a vote on the motion.

The motion was
DEFEATED.

In favour:	Trustee Close Trustee Dennis
Opposed:	Trustee Downey Trustee Hack Trustee May Trustee Vukadinovic
Absent:	Trustee Bolger

MOVED by Trustee Dennis:

THAT the Board of Trustees approves the closure of the Discovering Choices Westbrook Outreach program effective June 30, 2023 for the purpose of relocation.

In debate of the motion, trustees made comments on: appreciating the public input provided; the students being provided flexible timetables, spaces to call their own, and well-being supports at Alternative High School; transportation being a concern; current Alternative High School students successfully traveling from across the city; success for each student and equity being important; outreach programs being very important; dealing with flat funding and growing enrolment; hearing from educators and families from other



schools that they need more supports; no longer being able to afford the leases; preferred location question in the survey not being an open ended question or if CBE should move the program; outreach students getting triple the space as regular program students; Alternative High School students being glad to have their school remain open; the move to the high school having significant yearly cost savings; no LRT access being a concern; being successful not meaning barrier free; the Grant Thornton review struggling to find areas to increase efficiencies; students leaving traditional settings for a reason; the Westbrook location being different from the Bowness location; the majority of students attending Westbrook self identifying as Indigenous; equity as a system also being about funding; asking how much is a students' education worth; savings being marginal; students can currently access options at schools nearby; being offered a sheltered site that is safe for students; focus being on student success; the need to provide a continuum of programs; the tough decision having to be made; change being a barrier for at risk youth; outreach programming in other jurisdictions that moved into traditional High School settings not being successful; the funding provided for outreach programs by Alberta Education; meeting students where they are; the decision made previously not to close a school and ultimately closing it two years later; putting money into schools and buildings that are almost empty is taking that money from schools and other students; providing equity and dollars to students; needing to consider the entire system; the ability to share space in CBE schools with the CBE's own programs that have the same values; and being responsible stewards of the CBE's resources and investing money wisely.

Chair Hack called for a vote on the motion.

The motion was
DEFEATED.

In favour:	Trustee Close Trustee Dennis
Opposed:	Trustee Downey Trustee Hack Trustee May Trustee Vukadinovic
Absent:	Trustee Bolger

9 | CONSENT AGENDA

9.1 Items Provided for Board Decision

9.1.1 Proposed Amendments to GC-5E: Audit and Risk Committee Terms of Reference

THAT the Board of Trustees approves the amendments to GC-5E: Board Committees – Audit and Risk Committee Terms of Reference, Attachment I to this report.



- 9.1.2 Meeting Minutes:
- Regular Meeting held April 26, 2022
 - Regular Meeting held May 17, 2022
 - Regular Meeting held May 24, 2022

THAT the Board of Trustees approves the minutes of the Regular Meetings held April 26,2022, May 17, 2022, and May 24, 2022, as submitted.

9.2 Items Provided for Board Information

9.2.1 Third Quarter Budget Variance Report

9.2.2 Board Correspondence

9.2.3 Construction Project Status Report

Chair Hack noted that the Board would meet in-camera following the public portion of the meeting to discuss one legal, two labour, six land, and five strategic planning matters. She noted the next public Board meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, September 27, 2022.

Recessed: 3:14 p.m.

Reconvened: 3:46 p.m.

10 | **IN-CAMERA SESSION**

Trustee Bolger, General Counsel Fenney, and Superintendent Armstrong confirmed they were alone and in locations that no other person could hear them or any part of this meeting.

Motion to Move In-Camera

MOVED by Trustee Vukadinovic:

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, June 21, 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 May:

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 Dennis:

THAT the Board of Trustees approves the re-appointment of Ashley Poscente to the Calgary Board of Education Audit and Risk Committee for a 3-year term commencing January 1, 2022 to January 1, 2025.

The motion was
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

MOVED by Trustee Dennis:

THAT the Board of Trustees approves the recommendations regarding the recruitment of one external member for the Audit and Risk Committee as outlined in this report.

The motion was
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

MOVED by Trustee Downey:

THAT the Board of Trustees approves disposition of the Viscount Bennett property, subject to Ministerial approval; and

THAT the Board of Trustees authorize the Chair to correspond with the Minister of Education pertaining to sale of this property.

The motion was
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

MOVED by Trustee Downey:

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

The motion was
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

MOVED by Trustee Vukadinovic:

THAT the Board of Trustees authorize the Chair to communicate with the Minister of Education and the Minister of Infrastructure as discussed in-camera.

The motion was
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.



MOVED by Trustee Dennis:

THAT the Board of Trustees requests that management provides an update to the Board and to the Audit & Risk Committee on all actions recommended by the external auditors in the KPMG Specified Audit Report with respect to Payroll and the progress of actions taken by management. Such report is to be provided by January 31, 2023.

The motion was
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

MOVED by Trustee May:

THAT the Board of Trustees requests that management provides an update to the Board and to the Audit & Risk Committee on all actions recommended by the external auditors in the Facilities and Environmental Services Internal Audit Report and the progress of actions taken by management. Such report is to be provided by December 31, 2022.

The motion was
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

MOVED by Trustee Downey:

THAT the Board of Trustees approves the appointment of Ms. Tarjinder Bhullar as Governor of EducationMatters for a three-year term effective June 21, 2022, ending June 21, 2025.

The motion was
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

11 | **ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 5:30 p.m.

