

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, May 20, 2025 at 11:00 a.m.

MEETING ATTENDANCE

Board of Trustees:

Trustee P. Bolger (Chair)
Trustee N. Close
Trustee M. Dennis (absent 1:00 – 2:30 p.m.)
Trustee L. Hack
Trustee C. May
Trustee S. Vukadinovic

Administration:

J. Pitman, Chief Superintendent of Schools
D. Breton, Superintendent, Facilities and Environmental Services
K. Fenney, General Counsel
B. Grundy, Superintendent, Finance/Technology Services
M. Martin-Esposito, Chief Communications Officer
M. Nelson, Superintendent, School Improvement
J. Turner, Superintendent, School Improvement
P. Minor, Corporate Secretary
M. Graham, Board Administrator

Stakeholder Representatives:

C. Gordon, Canadian Union of Public Employees (CUPE), Local 40
J. Batycky, Elementary School Principal’s Association and Principals’ Association for Adolescent Learners
S. Clements, Alberta Teachers’ Association (ATA), Local 38

1 | **CALL TO ORDER, NATIONAL ANTHEM, ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF THE LAND AND WELCOME**

Chair Bolger called the meeting to order at 11:00 a.m. and students from New Brighton School led the national anthem through a video recording.

Chair Bolger acknowledged the traditional territories and oral practices of the Treaty 7 Nations, including the Siksikaitstapi, comprised of the Siksika, the Kainai, the Piikani, and the Amskapi Piikani Nations. We acknowledge the Tsuut’ina Nation, the Îyârhe Nakoda, comprised of the Chiniki, Bearspaw, and Goodstoney Nations, the Métis Nation within Alberta, and all people who make their homes in the Treaty 7 region of southern Alberta. This land on which we gather is traditionally known as Moh’kinstsis, Guts’ists’I, Wîchîspa, and otôskwanihk.



As a learning organization, we are committed to advancing the Truth and Reconciliation Calls to Action focused on Education for ReconciliACTION.

Oki, Dādánast'áda, Âba Wathtec, Tânsi, Taanishi, bonjour, hello, and welcome, from Chair Bolger to all staff, union representatives, and members of the public in attendance at the meeting.

2 | **CONSIDERATION/APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

P. Minor, Corporate Secretary, noted that the following agenda change requests were received:

- That item 9.1.1 Office of the Board of Trustees 2025-2026 Operating Budget be removed from the Consent Agenda and added as item 8.2 under Matters Reserved for Board Decision.
- That item 9.2.1 Chief Superintendent's Update be removed from the Consent Agenda and added as item 7.3 under Matters Reserved for Board Information.

MOVED by Trustee Close:

THAT the Board of Trustees approves the agenda for the Regular Meeting of May 20, 2025, subject to the changes noted above.

The motion was
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

3 | **AWARDS AND RECOGNITIONS**

There were no reports or presentations.

4 | **RESULTS FOCUS**

4.1 **Results 5: Character – Annual Monitoring**

Chief Superintendent Pitman introduced the report, highlighting data from the 2023-24 school year evidencing that CBE students continue to act in ways that are ethical and responsible, contributing to a positive learning environment; report card data showing that students are demonstrating strength in making responsible decisions and treating others with respect and compassion; Student Survey Summary Measures showing strong levels of student agreement across key areas of personal and social development; and indicators of growing emotional intelligence and conflict resolution skills.

Superintendent Turner provided highlights from the report, including the scope of the data collected, noting that comparable student survey response data is from the 2020-21 school year; a notable decrease in results on topics relating to responding to authority, disagreement with others and self expression, likely attributable to the impact of changing social contexts from the COVID-19 pandemic context of the 2020-21 school year to the current context of significant enrolment growth and increasing classroom complexity; the potential impact of varied cultural norms and past lived



experiences on student willingness to respectfully challenge policy decisions; and meaningful progress in student agreement with statements relating to seeing others' perspectives even when they disagree.

Superintendent Nelson provided further highlights from the report on the topic of technological responsibility, including high overall results around online safety and thoughtful sharing of information; a decline in comparative results since 2020-21, likely impacted by the online nature of school and social interaction at that time; ongoing digital citizenship plans, parent communication, and clear online safety protocols; a decline in responses regarding treating others with the same respect online as in face-to-face communication, particularly in grades 8 and 9; the impact of increased social media, negative online role models, and the lack of immediate feedback in digital interactions; and the need for focus on middle school learners' development of identity, responsible decision making, relationship skills, and self-management in digital environments.

Administration responded to trustee questions on matters from the report, including the development of social skills and good online citizenship; the impact of Alberta Education changes to cell phone policy; professional development relating to digital citizenship; school support and responses to online bullying; and the scope of the data collected to monitor reasonable progress in character development.

Chair Bolger asked trustees to identify their intentions to bring forward any motions related to exceptions or commendations for the Results 5: Character policy to the Corporate Secretary and to all trustees by noon, Thursday, May 22, 2025. The Chair noted this item will be placed on the public meeting agenda for May 27, 2025 for the Board's consideration.

5 | **OPERATIONAL EXPECTATIONS**

There were no reports or presentations.

6 | **PUBLIC COMMENT**

There were no public comments.

7 | **MATTERS RESERVED FOR BOARD INFORMATION**

7.1 **CBE Education Plan 2024-27 (Year 2)**

Chief Superintendent Pitman introduced the report, highlighting the requirements of Alberta Education for education planning; the development of the CBE Education Plan 2024-2027 through an extensive consultation process; the three foundational goals of the Education Plan: Learning Excellence, Wellbeing, and Truth and Reconciliation, Diversity and Inclusion; clear outcomes, actions, and measures to ensure continuous progress; incremental and ongoing data analysis, results reporting, engagement feedback, and extensive review of all current school development plans providing the groundwork for year two adjustments; changes to actions and measures that represent strategic refinement to identified key actions within the plan; the Education Plan's role in development of the 2025-26 Budget; and the ongoing



commitment of the CBE to high quality public education, student achievement and wellbeing.

Superintendent Nelson provided highlights from the Learning Excellence portion of the report, including a shift in language from introducing or implementing actions towards sustaining focus on the application of the Literacy and Mathematics Frameworks; broader curricular experiences and offerings that align with career pathways; enhanced partnership with and feedback from post-secondary and industry partners to align learning opportunities with industry changes; and the removal of Assessment of Foundational Reading Skills (AFRS) in alignment with Alberta Education evaluations that include the Early Years Literacy and Numeracy Assessment.

Superintendent Turner provided further highlights from the report, including strategic and sustained focus on Social Emotional Learning (SEL); the continued development of an Employee Well-Being Strategy and the inclusion of employee well-being data in local measures; refinements to applying and embedding Indigenous Education Holistic Lifelong Learning Framework principles and practices across the system, including targeted professional development and resources; and actions that move beyond defining commitment to demonstrating commitment to Truth and Reconciliation, anti-racism, equity, diversity and inclusion through actions.

Administration responded to trustee questions on matters from the report, including the Alberta Education Early Years Literacy and Numeracy Assessments and targeted interventions through the continuum of support; support for English as an Additional Language Learners' high school completion; structures of support for students facing socio-economic challenges; support for the learning experiences of students who are deaf and hard-of-hearing; the roles of Instructional Support Workers, Behavioural Support Workers, and Educational Assistants; budget allocation between certificated teachers and non-certificated support staff; alignment of dual credit and exploratory pathway opportunities with evolving industry demands and funding; and community partnerships and donors.

Chair Bolger stated that the item will be placed on the May 27, 2025 public meeting agenda for Board consideration.

7.2 Budget Report for the 2025-26 School Year

Chief Superintendent Pitman introduced the report, highlighting that the budget is informed by the goals of the Education Plan; consistency with the Budget Assumptions Report previously presented to the Board; the total budget amount of \$1.76 billion, funding of over 146,000 students and 16,000 staff; increased year-over-year funding of \$55 million from Alberta Education; the budget reality impacted by increasing enrolment and classroom complexity and the cumulative year-over-year impact of inflation and finite learning spaces; and the prioritization of the highest impact activities with a focus on maximizing the direction of funds to classrooms.

Superintendent Grundy provided further highlights from the report, including the requirements of the CBE and Alberta Education for financial planning; projections for continued high enrolment, student complexity, and school utilization rates; ongoing



collective bargaining with employee groups and increased staffing costs; reduced overall transportation funding due to increased ridership and Alberta Education changes to eligibility; ongoing inflationary pressures; the rate of post-September enrolment growth that does not receive Alberta Education funding; the need to increase reserves to allow for the flexibility to respond to unanticipated needs; a focus on prioritization of classrooms and on financial prudence; increased transportation and noon supervision fees to ensure these services remain financially viable; and targeted investment in central support services. Superintendent Grundy also noted that year-to-year budget comparison must be considered with caution as budget 2024-25 was built on the assumption of 147,000 students, whereas actual enrolment was slightly less than 143,000 students, resulting in adjustments to funding and expenditures that impact the projections for this year's budget.

Administration responded to trustee questions on matters from the report, including alternative program capacity; anticipated impacts of the changes to Jordan's Principle funding in support of Indigenous students; budget-to-budget revenue comparison between 2024-25 and 2025-26; and how the program evaluation framework informs the budget.

A trustee called a Point of Order stating that comments made constitute debate and not a question. Chair Bolger accepted the Point of Order and directed trustees to refrain from debate at this time.

Administration continued to respond to trustee questions on matters including the calculation of school utilization rates; modular classroom requests; kindergarten programming and funding; the role of cultural diversity advisors; assumptions that inform the CBE School Support Model; specialized classroom capacity; board funded capital expenditures; allocation and distribution of funding for unique equity factors, unique settings and specialized classes; and matters relating to transportation including specialized services, costs and funding, fees and waivers, and long term sustainability.

Recessed: 12:59 p.m.

Reconvened: 1:09 p.m.

Administration continued to respond to trustee questions surrounding transportation services; the design of bus routes and bell times; the supplemental enrolment growth grant; lunch hour supervision; and operating reserves.

Chair Bolger stated that the item will be placed on the May 27, 2025 public meeting agenda for Board consideration.

7.3 Chief Superintendent's Update

Chief Pitman introduced the report, highlighting actions taken across the system that align with the Education Plan and the Board of Trustees' Operational Expectations and Results policies; building staff capacity, including in the use and application of artificial intelligence; and ways that students with special learning needs are supported.



Administration responded to trustee questions on matters from the report, including the web-based resource booking tool; the creation of companion guides for new curriculum; and professional development opportunities.

8 | MATTERS RESERVED FOR BOARD DECISION

8.1 Proposed Amendments to Results and Operational Expectations Policies

Chair Bolger provided a brief summary of the report.

MOVED by Trustee Close:

THAT the Board of Trustees gives first reading to the amendments to Results 2: Academic Achievement policy, as provided in Attachment I to the report.

In debate of the motion, trustees made comments on the process of reviewing and making amendments to policy; defining student success; a focus on literacy and numeracy and high school completion; data that informs reasonable improvement across the system; and language about individual and specific performance targets.

Chair Bolger called for a vote.

The motion was
CARRIED.

In favour: Trustee Bolger
Trustee Close
Trustee Hack
Trustee May

Opposed: Trustee Vukadinovic

Absent: Trustee Dennis

MOVED by Trustee Hack:

THAT the Board of Trustees gives first reading to the amendments to Operational Expectations 2: Learning Environment/Treatment of Students policy, as provided in Attachment II to the report.

In debate of the motion, trustees made comments on the collective work of the Board with the support of an external facilitator; revisions to language regarding opportunities for student voice; and the focus on the learning environments and student wellbeing.

Chair Bolger called for a vote.

The motion was
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Absent: Trustee Dennis

MOVED by Trustee Close:



THAT the Board of Trustees directs the Chief Superintendent to inform the Board, on or before June 30, 2025, of significant organizational impacts, if any, that would result from these proposed amendments.

In debate of the motion, trustees made comments on the process of amending policy and determining reasonable interpretations and indicators for the annual monitoring of policies.

Chair Bolger called for a vote.

The motion was
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY. Absent: Trustee Dennis

8.2 Office of the Board of Trustees 2025-26 Operating Budget

Administration responded to trustee questions on matters from the report including the budgeted cost of elections and the funding for election related costs.

MOVED by Trustee Vukadinovic:

THAT the Board of Trustees approves the 2025-26 budget for the Office of the Board of Trustees in the amount of \$2,024,780 as reasonable and necessary to support the Board in fulfilling its governance responsibilities effectively and efficiently.

In debate of the motion, trustees made comments on Alberta Education legislative requirements; election costs and funding; the importance of public elections; and the impact of the Government of Alberta making costly changes to how elections are managed.

The motion was
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY. Absent: Trustee Dennis

9 | CONSENT AGENDA

9.1 Items Provided for Board Decision

9.2 Items Provided for Board Information

Chair Bolger noted the public portion of this meeting is now adjourned; and that the Board would reconvene in private to discuss one land, three labour and three strategic planning matters. She stated the next public Board meeting is on Tuesday, May 27, 2025.

Recessed: 2:08 p.m.
Reconvened: 2:34 p.m.

10 | PRIVATE SESSION

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, May 20, 2025 be considered at a private session; therefore, be it

Resolved, **THAT the Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees moves in camera.**

The motion was
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Motion to Move Out of In Camera

MOVED by Trustee Hack

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 May:

THAT the Board of Trustees approves the reappointment of Rosa Cameron as an external member of the Calgary Board of Education Board of Trustees' Trustee Remuneration Committee for an additional three-year term, from May 24, 2025 to May 24, 2028.

The motion was
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

MOVED by Trustee May:

THAT the Board of Trustees approves the reappointment of Rajesh Ghosh as an external member of the Calgary Board of Education Board of Trustees' Trustee Remuneration Committee for an additional three-year term, from May 24, 2025 to May 24, 2028.

The motion was
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

MOVED by Trustee May:

THAT the Board of Trustees approves the reappointment of Bob McCullagh as an external member of the Calgary Board of Education Board of Trustees' Trustee Remuneration Committee for an additional three-year term, from May 24, 2025 to May 24, 2028.

The motion was
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

11 | **TERMINATION OF MEETING**

The meeting terminated at 5:16 p.m.

