

## **CALGARY BOARD OF EDUCATION**

Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees (the “Board”) held on Tuesday, February 9, 2021 at 12:00 p.m. through Microsoft Teams

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### 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. D. Unruh, Acting 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 12:01 p.m. and O Canada was led by students from New Brighton 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 there were no requests for agenda changes.



MOVED by Trustee Hehr:

**THAT the Board of Trustees approves the agenda for the Regular Meeting of February 9, 2021 as submitted.**

The motion was  
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

3 | **AWARDS AND RECOGNITIONS**

There were no awards or recognitions.

4 | **RESULTS FOCUS**

There were no reports or presentations.

5 | **OPERATIONAL EXPECTATIONS**

There were no reports or presentations.

6 | **PUBLIC COMMENT**

6.1 **Ms. R. Brown, member of We're Together Ending Poverty**

Ms. Brown spoke about work done with the CBE on the development of an anti-racism and equity policy, including an action plan for implementation, approved in 1998. She voiced concerns about the drop out rate of students that self identify as Indigenous and expressed the desire to improve student outcomes. She believes the policy needs to be strengthened and training provided in order to improve student outcomes.

**Ms. H. Walker**

Ms. Walker spoke about the systemic racism of Indigenous people and about action that is taken today not being evident for years to come. She made reference to the residential school program and the history of mistreatment. She expressed concern about the poor school performance of those that self identify as Indigenous and wants to see more action taken towards reconciliation.

**Ms. M. Robinson, parent of a former CBE Indigenous Student**

Ms. Robinson introduced herself under her Blackfoot name. She spoke about being the parent of a student previously enrolled in the CBE system. She conveyed concerns about racism, homophobia and sexism in school systems nationwide. She stated she has tried to engage with people at many levels but has seen no visible changes.

**Dr. J. Morris, Calgaryian**

Dr. Morris spoke about growing up and being educated in a system designed for himself as a white settler. He expressed concerns that success is not equally obtained in sciences for those that self identify as Indigenous, which is consistently lower with the gap widening. He would like to see improved outcomes for those that self identify as Indigenous.



Ms. S. Flynn, parent of students that attended and attend CBE

Ms. Flynn spoke about concerns in the gaps in achievement results between those that self identify as Indigenous and all students. She suggests that there needs to be engagement in rooting out colonialism and racism from the education system as well as to close the gap in achievement results.

**7 | MATTERS RESERVED FOR BOARD INFORMATION**

There were no reports or presentations.

**8 | MATTERS RESERVED FOR BOARD DECISION**

**8.1 Results 2: Academic Success - Annual Monitoring**

Chair Dennis noted the annual monitoring report for Results 2: Academic Success was presented at the January 12 and 26, 2021 meetings where trustees posed questions and received clarification from Administration. The Board must now formally act on the monitoring report to determine whether the Chief Superintendent is making reasonable progress towards the ultimate achievement of this Results policy.

MOVED by Trustee Hurdman:

**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 Adams:

**THAT the motion be amended by the addition of “with the exception of Indigenous students in all academic areas.”**

In debate of the amendment trustee comments included: there is a clear gap between all students and those that self identify as Indigenous; being grateful for the Indigenous education team; having a commitment to students and the evidence showing that graduation rates are lower for Indigenous students; needing to look outside the box for ways to improve the results; not seeing significant improvement over the last 5 years; not seeing reasonable progress being made; not making progress as compared to the rest of the province; making sure this group is identified to the Chief Superintendent that their results are not acceptable and needs more focus; students coming first and Indigenous students facing more challenges; exceptions having been made for Indigenous students for many years; and giving clear direction to administration.

The amendment was  
CARRIED.

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

Opposed: Trustee Hrdlicka



In debate of the main motion as amended, trustees made comments on: having more gap analysis in this year's report; having conversations around future targets and setting targets for areas of concern; reasonable progress is being made; results being great in most areas, but the pandemic having a large impact; it taking time to get back to previous results levels and gaining back the knowledge and learning that was lost; governance system is built for steady progress and improvement and COVID-19 severely affecting progress that has been made; academic achievement not being where hoped it to be; students doing well overall; reporting Indigenous students by cohort should provide greater focus on areas where more support is needed; exceptions for Indigenous student achievement should not have to be made year after year; missing two data sets of evidence for this year's report; the report is continuing to improve and identify achievement gaps; students having difficulty accessing devices and technology being an issue when learning went online in the spring of 2020; the role of the Indigenous Education Team in supporting Indigenous students and closing the achievement gaps; and recognising that reasonable progress is being made with the exception of students that self identify as Indigenous.

The motion as amended was  
CARRIED.

In favour:     Trustee Adams  
                  Trustee Bradshaw  
                  Trustee Dennis  
                  Trustee Hurdman

Opposed:     Trustee Hehr  
                  Trustee Hrdlicka

MOVED by Trustee Hrdlicka:

**THAT the Board of Trustees directs the Chief Superintendent to provide an extraordinary monitoring report on the 2020-21 Results 2: Academic Success for indigenous students at a regular scheduled meeting of the Board of Trustees in June, 2021; and provide an extraordinary monitoring report on the 2021-22 Results 2: Academic Success for indigenous students at a regular scheduled meeting of the Board of Trustees in June, 2022.**

In question of the motion, trustees asked: what an extraordinary monitoring report is; the reasoning for the timing; and what data would be included or available.

In debate of the motion trustees comments included: the purpose of receiving updates on a group that has been identified as not making reasonable progress; better understanding and oversight by the board; CBE in a transition year of a brand new Indigenous strategy; the dates for the extraordinary report being outside of the monitoring timelines and a lack of data being available; concerns a newly elected Board will receive report with minimal context in 2022; results of Indigenous students are concerning, but monitoring them more closely or more often will not help the students to achieve better; improvements for indigenous student results taking time and may even take longer due to the global pandemic; desire to close achievement gaps; looking outside the box for solutions; needing to give the new strategy some time to develop in order to see results; and the feasibility of having solid data analyzed and able to be reported on; the implications that



nothing is changing; having tried strategies since 2016; doing everything possible for these students to succeed.

The motion was  
DEFEATED.

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

## 9 | CONSENT AGENDA

### 9.1 Items Provided for Board Decision

### 9.2 Items Provided for Board Information

#### 9.2.1 Chief Superintendent's Update

#### 9.2.2 Correspondence

Chair Dennis noted that the Board would meet in-camera following the public portion of the meeting to discuss one labour, two land and two strategic planning matters. She noted the next public Board meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, February 23, 2021.

Recessed: 1:23 p.m.  
Reconvened: 2:00 p.m.

## 11 | IN-CAMERA SESSION

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 Bradshaw:

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 9, 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.

Trustee Bradshaw departed a portion of the meeting due to a declared pecuniary interest in accordance with Section 88(1) of the *Education Act*.



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 Adams:

**THAT the Board of Trustees approves registration of a General Utility Right of Way on the Arbour Lake School lands; and**

**THAT the Board of Trustees authorizes the Chair to correspond with the Minister of Education pertaining to registration of an encumbrance on the land title to this property.**

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**

The meeting adjourned at 3:58 p.m.

