

## CALGARY BOARD OF EDUCATION

Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees held in the Board Room, Education Centre, 515 Macleod Trail SE, Calgary, Alberta, on Tuesday, March 15, 2005, at 5:00 p.m.

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### BOARD OF TRUSTEES:

Trustee G. Dirks (Chair)  
Trustee C. Bazinet  
Trustee N. Close  
Trustee P. Cochrane  
Trustee K. Fawcett  
Trustee L. Ferguson  
Trustee G. Lane

### ADMINISTRATION:

Dr. B. Croskery, Chief Superintendent of Schools  
Ms. J. Barkway, Assistant Corporate Secretary  
Ms. M. Clark, Superintendent, Human Resources  
Mr. D. Dart, Superintendent, Business Operations and Environmental Services (Secretary-Treasurer)  
Mr. J. Drysdale, Superintendent, School Support Services  
Ms. B. Hubert, Deputy Chief Superintendent of Schools  
Mr. J. Jones, Executive Assistant to the Chief Superintendent  
Ms. B. Kuester, Executive Director of Communications  
Mr. G. Scott, Director and General Counsel, Legal and Risk Management Services  
Ms. S. Wasylshyn, Executive Assistant to the Trustees  
Ms. G. Pearce, Recording Secretary

### STAKEHOLDER REPRESENTATIVES:

Mr. L. Liffiton, Alberta Teachers' Association, Local No. 38  
Ms. G. Burger-Martindale, Calgary Association of Parents and School Councils  
Ms. A. Craig, Calgary Board of Education Staff Association  
Messrs. D. Hammill, and D. Labbe, Canadian Union of Public Employees, Local No. 40  
Ms. V. Barlow and Mr. K. Brown, Elementary School Principals' Association  
Mr. B. Johnston, Principals' Association for Adolescent Learners (PAAL)

## **1.0 CALL TO ORDER, NATIONAL ANTHEM AND WELCOME**

The Chair called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m. Hanan, Grade 9 student, Vincent Massey Junior High School, led the singing of the national anthem. The Chair welcomed representatives of the aforementioned organizations and members of the public. He also acknowledged a delegation of Southern Alberta Institute of Technology (SAIT) journalism students who were present in the public gallery.

Chair Dirks noted that flags at the Calgary Board of Education locations have been flying at half-mast to honour the four RCMP officers who died last week in the line of duty, as well as Dr. Carl Safran who passed away last week at 87 years of age. Dr. Safran was the Chief Superintendent of the Calgary Board of Education from 1972-77. He enjoyed a very long and distinguished career which included being Alberta's first chartered educational psychologist and a pioneer in the field of educating children with special learning needs. His long-standing commitment to public education earned him many honours and awards. Through that commitment, he left an enduring legacy of excellence and hope for public education. Those present observed a moment's silence in honour of these individuals.

**2.0 CONSIDERATION/APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

MOVED by Trustee Close:

**THAT the Agenda for the Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees held March 15, 2005 be approved as submitted, subject to amendment by the withdrawal of Agenda Item 8.1.3, Transportation – Alice Jamieson Girls' Academy.**

The motion was  
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

**3.0 CORRESPONDENCE**

Mrs. Barkway read excerpts from a letter dated March 4, 2005, from Dr. L. Oberg, Minister of Infrastructure and Transportation, requesting the Calgary Board of Education to review and identify any emergent need for new portables and the relocation of existing ones. The Minister indicated that the information should be submitted by March 31, 2005 and that the request should be substantiated with enrolment forecasts for the schools involved. The letter also pointed out that these emergent needs remain to be identified as the Calgary Board of Education's first priorities in their School Capital Plan submission for 2006-09 and that the Minister believed that requesting this information before the formal School Capital Plan is submitted will allow the Ministry to meet the Calgary Board of Education's emergent facility requirements for the new school year. A copy of the letter was submitted for the record.

**4.0 PRESENTATIONS, HONOURS AND RECOGNITIONS**

**4.1 REVITALIZING SCHOOL LIBRARIES**

Copies of the following documents were distributed to Trustees and submitted for the record:

- A brochure entitled "AISI Revitalizing School Libraries";
- PowerPoint presentation entitled "Revitalizing School Libraries, A CBE AISI System Project";
- An excerpt from "Now On, The Educational Technology Journal" entitled "The Information Literate School Community"; and
- A handbook entitled "The Crisis in Canada's School Libraries – The Case for Reform and Re-Investment".

Ms. L. Lyster, Director, Educational Support Services, provided introductory remarks and noted that the Revitalizing School Libraries initiative is a system Alberta Initiative for School Improvement (AIS) project which focuses on information literacy. She indicated that there are five Teacher/Librarian Consultants, one for each Area, who collaborate with administrators, teachers and library staff to build information literate learning communities. She introduced Ms. C. Yusep, Specialist, Professional Learning Centre/Evaluation and Selection, Curriculum Support, who provided a PowerPoint presentation entitled "Revitalizing School Libraries, A CBE AISI System Project". The presentation included information with respect to the Project Coordinators and Members, the Calgary Board of Education Mission and Statement of Vision, Administrative Regulation 3012 and 3013, AISI Project Mission, Project Goals Embedded with Calgary Board of Education and Area Goals; Project Outcome Measurements, Data Collection, the reasons the project is essential, pay-offs for other system investments, the components of an Information Literate Community, Essential Questions, Higher Level Thinking, the elements needed to achieve

goals, New Canadian School Library Standards, Connecting On-line Resources to the Learner, Project Challenges: Time-frame and Sustainability, and the resources and documents to guide and support the work.

On behalf of the Board of Trustees, Chair Dirks expressed appreciation to the presenters for their overview of the importance of libraries in the school system.

#### **4.2 LIGHTHOUSE AWARD**

Copies of a brochure entitled “Invest in a sure thing – Junior Achievement Business & Finance Programs” were distributed to Trustees and submitted for the record.

Ms. Kuester stated that the Calgary Board of Education’s Lighthouse Awards Program honours organizations that have made significant contributions to schools and students. She indicated that Junior Achievement of Southern Alberta is this month’s Lighthouse Award recipient. Their partnership has helped the Calgary Board of Education achieve their mission of “Educating tomorrow’s citizens today”. Ms. Kuester indicated that Junior Achievement of Southern Alberta has partnered with business and education for over 45 years to provide students with learning experiences to help them understand the economics of life, make career choices and identify the role of business in their communities. Junior Achievement programs were offered in 68 Calgary Board of Education schools this year, and over 150 students participated in the Business and Finance Pathway where students earn high school credits related to work experience. Ms. Kuester expressed appreciation to Junior Achievement of Southern Alberta for dedicating their resources to programs that provide students with the tools and confidence needed to grow and build successful futures.

Ms. S. Philips, President and Chief Executive Officer, Junior Achievement of Southern Alberta, expressed appreciation to the Calgary Board of Education Board of Trustees, staff and the 1,500 volunteers in the schools each year for the honour of being chosen to receive the Lighthouse Award. She displayed “Healthy Hermes” which was the most innovative product of the after-school program this year. Over 350 students participated in 20 companies and learned about operating a business and team-building as well as benefiting from good coaching from business volunteers acting as their advisors. Ms. Philips noted that almost \$10,000 in scholarships is awarded by this charter of Junior Achievement. Programs are also delivered at the grade 5 level (Business Basics), at the grades 7 to 9 levels which accounts for 60 percent of their work, and 80 percent of Grade 9 students in Calgary go through the “Economics of Staying in School” program. Two other programs, “Dollars and Sense” and “Investment Strategies” focus on financial literacy, money management and the stock market. She expressed appreciation to the teachers, principals, curriculum specialists and other staff for their contributions in making these programs a reality.

Mr. T. Johnsen, Member, Board of Directors, Junior Achievement of Southern Alberta, indicated that Junior Achievement forms an important bridge between the private business sector and the Calgary Board of Education. An important aspect of Junior Achievement’s work is that the quality of life as Albertans and Canadians, and the ability to fund social values such as education, are predicated on the collective ability to generate wealth and be successful with business and public sector people. Junior Achievement begins this work teaching business basics in the elementary schools and continues in the middle schools teaching the economics of staying in school. Mr. Johnsen also provided comments on his experience as a judge for venture program students from the Calgary Board of Education who within six weeks conceive a business, raise capital, create and sell a product, produce an annual report and a return to shareholders. He indicated that it is wonderful to witness the remarkable learning and results achieved by the students. On behalf of the Board of

Directors, Mr. Johnsen reiterated appreciation for the selection to receive the Lighthouse Award and the opportunity to work with the Calgary Board of Education.

Chair Dirks presented the Lighthouse Award to Ms. S. Philips, who accepted on behalf of Junior Achievement of Southern Alberta.

## **5.0 VERBAL UPDATES**

### **5.1 REPORT FROM THE CHAIR AND TRUSTEES**

Trustees provided information on recent activities, as follows:

- Trustee Bazinet attended, together with Deputy Chief Superintendent Hubert, an evening with the Montessori Alternative Public School Society to raise funds to cover the final payment to the Calgary Board of Education towards a \$70,000 debt which supported the start-up of the first program at Killarney Elementary School in 2000;
- Trustee Cochrane attended a portion of a Cultural Competency Dialogue and Resource Fair organized by the Calgary Board of Education English as a Second Language (ESL) team and the Coalition for Equal Access to Education – she acknowledged the contributions of students from Connaught Community School who collaborated with the All Nations Theatre Group to present an incredible play depicting the fears, frustrations and other emotions encountered in their lives and how to address those issues and make everyone feel safe;
- Chair Dirks indicated he had recently participated in the official opening of Centennial High School – he congratulated staff for their tireless efforts over the past few years to bring this capital project to a successful conclusion and also thanked the parents who participated.

### **5.2 REPORT FROM THE CHIEF SUPERINTENDENT**

Dr. Croskery introduced Mr. S. Usman, a facility operator at the Calgary Board of Education, who was dramatically impacted by the December 2004 tsunami in which many of his family members were lost. Dr. Croskery stated that Mr. Usman wished to express his gratitude to the Calgary Board of Education for all that was done on his behalf and to share some of his personal thoughts and experiences about how such tragic events can actually bring out the best in people.

Mr. D. Hammill, President, Canadian Union of Public Employees (CUPE), Local No. 40, provided background information on how the support for Mr. Usman came to fruition. He acknowledged the assistance of the following individuals:

- Dr. B. Croskery, Chief Superintendent;
- Ms. M. Clark, Superintendent, Human Resources;
- Mr. D. Boissell, Supervisor, Facility Operations;
- Ms. C. Fradgley, Manager, Facility Operations;
- Mr. B. Halhead, Labour Relations Advisor, Human Resources;
- Ms. B. Hubert, Deputy Chief Superintendent;
- Ms. S. Venturo, Supervisor, Facility Operations.

Mr. Hammill continued that arrangements were made through Human Resources for Mr. Usman to return to his homeland, and a call was put out for fundraising to assist him. Support staff, teachers and parent councils of Jennie Elliott Elementary School and Connaught Community School as well as the staff at Highfield raised a considerable amount of money to help Mr. Usman return home. Mr. Hammill noted that, on return to his

homeland, Mr. Usman bought two truckloads of food and water and took it on a ten-hour journey to donate it to his countrymen.

Mr. Usman indicated that he never dreamed he would have this tremendous level of support from the people and the organization in which he works. He stated that the support enabled him to return home to be with other family members and hold prayer services for those who were lost. For that, he thanked everyone very much and indicated that the level of generosity and kindness that made this happen for him was unbelievable. He expressed appreciation to all those who contributed and thanked everyone from the bottom of his heart. In particular, he acknowledged everyone at Jennie Elliott Elementary School and Connaught Community School, Mr. Hammill and the members of CUPE Local 40, and all those at the Calgary Board of Education who arranged for time-off to allow him to return home, an airline ticket, and some additional funds to assist him. He indicated that, not only had his family suffered but so had many others, that he had purchased food with the funds he received to send to the area to help and that his suitcases were packed with clothes donated by friends for those in need. He thanked everyone who provided assistance to him.

On behalf of the Board of Trustees and the Calgary Board of Education, Chair Dirks expressed appreciation to Mr. Usman for sharing his words of gratitude and offered condolences to him on the loss of his many family members.

#### **6.0 PUBLIC QUESTION PERIOD**

Mrs. Barkway indicated that there were no questions received from the public.

#### **7.0 STAKEHOLDER REPORTS**

Mrs. Barkway indicated there were no stakeholder reports at this time.

#### **8.0 GOVERNANCE: POLICY DEVELOPMENT AND MONITORING**

##### **8.1 ACTION ITEMS**

##### **8.1.1 FUTURE REQUIRED STEPS FOR DAVID D. OUGHTON AND ALBERT PARK ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS**

Dr. Croskery introduced this item and noted that the report traces almost five years of history related to this proposal. The research was very time-consuming and required information to be gathered from many different areas in the system. The complexity of the report required the cooperation of a number of individuals in sharing information and checking for accuracy. He expressed appreciation to Superintendent Dart and his staff; the Environmental Services staff and, in particular, Mr. L. Bortoluzzi, Director, Student Accommodation Services; Mr. R. Peden, Assistant General Counsel and Senior Solicitor, Legal and Risk Management; Mr. P. Carlton, Director, Area III, and his staff; and Mr. J. Jones, Executive Assistant to the Chief Superintendent. Dr. Croskery continued that P3 (Public-Private Partnerships) initiatives are very complex particularly when set beside the regulatory requirements of government.

Trustees asked questions for clarification of specific issues, including:

- Clarification with respect to the timing and the status of the two schools vis-à-vis the availability of the proposed replacement facility – Mr. Dart confirmed that the two schools would remain open until the new structure is in place;

Action By

- The feasibility of construction of a new school by September 2006 – Mr. Dart indicated that, unless major issues arise, the date is consistent with the information received from the proposed developer; i.e. that it is about a twelve-month construction project with some advance work involved;
- Given that, during the Learning Environment Action Plan (LEAP) process, the cost to renovate the two schools was estimated at 75 percent of their replacement cost, whether money has been expended on maintenance of the two schools or whether their condition has declined – Mr. Dart responded that, while emergent needs of the buildings have been addressed, significant funding has not been expended to accommodate building deficiencies or modernization needs, and that the significant building condition deficiencies identified during LEAP are most likely in the same state today;
- The reason for the extended process with respect to these schools and the possibility it may be due to the innovative nature of this P3 initiative – Mr. Dart indicated that the guidelines with respect to P3 initiatives were not in place at the time this project was conceived and that consideration of P3's was commenced about a year and a half later. He indicated that he believed the learning curve around the provincial government's expectations regarding P3's may have caused some delays in this project. However, the provincial government seems very positive about this proposed initiative with its cost-neutral intentions and the re-investment of public funds into a new building which would provide a better learning environment for students;
- The ownership and operation of the building - Mr. Dart responded that, in the proposal, the Calgary Board of Education would operate the building and maintain public access to the site. The design-build costs would be incurred by the developer, and the Calgary Board of Education would have the option to reimburse the construction costs to the developer or possibly enter into a lease while maintaining the operating privileges as expected under a co-ownership position;
- The nature of the lease - Mr. Dart stated that it would most likely be a lease-to-own concept as opposed to an extended operating lease;
- The degree of the community's awareness and support of this proposed project - Mr. Carlton, Director, Area III, responded that a number of joint meetings have been held over the past year and a half with the school councils at Sir Wilfrid Laurier Junior High School, Albert Park Elementary School, and David D. Oughton Elementary School at which their enthusiastic support was received. He indicated that, in February 2005, meetings were held with the David D. Oughton and Albert Park communities and school councils to provide a status report and display the proposed school designs which were also wholeheartedly supported. The only concern was around the potential development of the land, and the developer would be prepared to consult with the communities in that regard.
- The disposition of the lands on which the two schools are located, if the schools are closed, the Calgary Board of Education's role in the future use of those lands and the relationship to the building of the proposed new school – Mr. Dart stated that the Calgary Board of Education must comply with provincial regulations if the two schools are to be closed; i.e. the Disposition of Property Regulations are very specific and include ensuring that the Calgary Board of Education receives market value for those sites. As part of the P3 initiative, the Calgary Board of Education would be working with developers with respect to development potential on those sites. The City of Calgary may have an interest in one site in which case the development potential will fall under the regulatory control of the City of Calgary. If the other site is sold to the developer under the proposed P3 partnership, it will be the developer's responsibility to undertake a development acceptable to the community. Such a development must follow the municipal process for building permits and land use within the City of Calgary. The Calgary Board of Education's role is to perhaps understand the development potential as much as possible and to share that with the community. Ultimately, the development of those sites will be subject to the municipal review process and the community will have opportunities to engage the City of Calgary about the redevelopment of those sites.

Action By

- The benefits for proceeding with this type of project – Mr. Carlton indicated that, from a facilities point of view, the cost of renovating or refurbishing the two schools far exceeds that allowed by the province. From an educational perspective, the opportunity may be available to move two school communities together into one school in a Kindergarten to grade 4 format which will have tremendous educational benefit for the children in these neighbourhoods and for the high English as a Second Language population. It will also enhance the continuing philosophy of middle school education through the creation of grades 5 to 9 at Sir Wilfrid Laurier Junior High School. It would also increase the utilization rate at the latter school because, with the opening of Crossing Park School, that school will no longer be the bus receiver for students north of McKnight Boulevard. It is a tremendous opportunity to continue to advance student learning, to continue work with the Learning Village around children's readiness to learn, and would create an opportunity for space to allow extra programming; i.e. possibly full-day Kindergarten, pre-school programming with outside agencies, and continued enhancement of programming as resources are brought together.
- Clarification with respect to the process to be undertaken this year, given the past process for consideration of school closure and the timeline in the Closure of School Regulation and that the two schools are not recommended to be closed until the following school year - Ms. Hubert indicated that the intent is to follow the Closure of School Regulation as for any other consideration of school closure and complete that process before June 2005.

MOVED by Trustee Fawcett:

1. **THAT the Board of Trustees receives the report entitled Report on Further Processes Required to Proceed with Future Plans for David D. Oughton Elementary School and Albert Park Elementary School, in the form as distributed with the Agenda for the March 15, 2005 Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees;**
2. **THAT the Board of Trustees formally considers the concurrent and conditional closure of David D. Oughton Elementary School and Albert Park Elementary School effective June 30, 2006.**

The motion was  
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Chair Dirks stressed that this motion simply initiates the process to consider school closure, that it does not mean that the schools are, in fact, going to close and that there will be a final decision on that particular issue by the Board of Trustees at some point in the future.

#### **8.1.2 CONSIDERATION OF SCHOOL OR PROGRAM CLOSURES**

##### **Collingwood Elementary School Regular Program**

MOVED by Trustee Lane:

**BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Board of Trustees directs the Chief Superintendent to take such actions as necessary to satisfy the requirements of s. 1.1(2) of the *Closure of Schools Regulation* as they would relate to the Collingwood Elementary School Regular Program, and to report to the Board of Trustees on April 5, 2005 regarding the outcome of such meeting.**

Board / All  
Superintendents

B. Croskery

In response to a question, Trustee Lane explained that s. 1.1(2) of the *Closure of Schools Regulation* requires the Chief Superintendent or his staff to meet with the parents of the students who are affected by the proposed transfer of the Collingwood Elementary School Regular Program. Trustee Lane responded to a question and stated that there are currently 14 students in the Regular Program, 10 of whom are in grade 6 and will presumably be moving to junior high school next year, leaving 4 students to continue in the program.

Trustee Lane opened debate and noted that Collingwood Elementary School is a dual-track school which is filled to capacity, which houses an expanding Spanish program and a Regular Program which has declined over the years. He suggested that the time is appropriate to consider transferring the Regular Program to another venue.

Chair Dirks called the vote on the motion.

The motion was  
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

**Westgate Elementary School Regular Program**

MOVED by Trustee Lane:

**WHEREAS the Board of Trustees has received for information the School Enrolment Report, dated November 2, 2004, and other relevant materials relating directly or indirectly to the Regular Program at Westgate Elementary School; and**

**WHEREAS the Board has been further informed by the Trustee for Wards 6 & 7 of other relevant and pertinent information that the Board of Trustees should be aware of with respect to that program;**

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Board of Trustees is satisfied that there is cause for considering the closure of the Regular Program at Westgate Elementary School; and**

**THAT the Board of Trustees shall proceed to consideration of closure of Westgate Elementary School Regular Program in accordance with the Closure of Schools Regulation and the Board of Trustees' governance policy and procedure regarding closure of schools.**

In response to a question about the relevant information of which Trustees should be aware, Trustee Lane responded that Westgate Elementary School is a dual-track school with a French Immersion Program and a Regular Program. The projections for the French Immersion Program through 2008 remain fairly steady; i.e. 305 in each school year from 2005 to 2007, inclusive, and 315 in 2008. The Regular Program projections are 45 for 2005, 40 for 2006, 40 for 2007, and 35 for 2008. The school itself projects that, in the 2005-06 school year, there will be approximately 38 students spread over six grades with grades that do not break evenly. This creates a difficult situation, given that only two teachers would be designated to teach those 38 students. In response to a question about the type of resource support necessary to continue the Regular Program, Trustee Close stated that it is anticipated that information would be disclosed during the consideration of school closure process. She indicated that the question at this meeting is whether sufficient information is available to warrant taking the next step to consider closure of the Regular Program. The debate around possible closure of that program would take place following the closure of school process which is regulated through the *School Act*.

Board / All  
Superintendents

Following debate, Chair Dirks called the vote on the motion.

The motion was  
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

### **8.1.3 TRANSPORTATION – ALICE JAMIESON GIRLS’ ACADEMY**

This item was previously withdrawn from the Agenda.

### **8.1.4 EXTENDED KINDERGARTEN**

Trustee Bazinet provided background information and noted that the work began with a board motion last fall followed by a status report to the Board of Trustees on the current circumstances, and a second report on the implications of offering full-day Kindergarten programs in the Calgary Board of Education. The recommendations presented at this meeting are a result of those two reports.

MOVED by Trustee Bazinet:

**THAT the Board of Trustees directs the Chief Superintendent:**

- 1. To allocate \$1.5 million in the 2005-06 budget year towards the provision of full-day kindergarten programs for those children who, in the opinion of the Chief Superintendent, would benefit the most from the program;**
- 2. To seek to ensure the sustainability of full-day kindergarten programs into the future;**
- 3. To ensure that, for those children to whom the program is made available, parents are advised that it is not mandatory to enroll in full-day kindergarten; and**
- 4. To ensure that an annual evaluation of the full-day kindergarten program is implemented, with results included in the Annual Education Results Report.**

Trustees asked questions for clarification of specific issues, as follows:

- Whether the \$1.5 million as set out in the first recommendation refers to a particular option in the report distributed with the Agenda – Trustee Bazinet responded that the funds do not refer to a particular option and that, since it was difficult to identify which option would be preferable, it was felt the decision should be left to Administration in each case;
- Sustainability of full-day kindergarten as set out in the second recommendation – Trustee Bazinet confirmed that the intent is that, subsequent to evaluation of the work in the 2005-06 school year, there could be changes to better direct the funds;
- The source of the \$1.5 million in funding – Trustee Bazinet indicated that this amount was a mid-point selected from the information presented in the original report;
- The difference between the phrase “full-day kindergarten” vs. “extended kindergarten” - Mr. Drysdale stated that various permutations for the program were examined as well as including some possibilities for part-time teacher development and flex-times around program opportunities, and the “extended kindergarten” term arose during that process;
- The meaning of the phrase “full-day kindergarten” – Trustee Bazinet indicated that, while both phrases are subject to interpretation, the important issue from an operational perspective is that the program operate the same hours of the school day as other students attend, although there may be different times allowed for professional

B. Croskery

development – she added that it would be preferable to allow Administration some leeway in defining that term;

- Whether the \$1.5 million would be in addition to the funding presently being allocated to full-day kindergarten – Mr. P. Carlton, Director, Area III, clarified that the Area III Renewal Plan presented two years ago listed full-day kindergarten as one of those initiatives to be pursued to attend to our outcome of “All children are ready to learn”. Because of the one-time funding received this past year, Administration was able to allocate funding to support February to June programs in nine Calgary Board of Education schools. He stressed that this was one-time funding intended for this year only. He indicated that his understanding is that System Instructional Accountabilities Council (SIAC) reviewed further support for kindergarten programming and requested that \$1.5 million be allocated to allow Administration to sustain the full-day kindergarten programs initiated with that one-time funding.
- Clarification of the second recommendation with respect to future sustainability of full-day kindergarten programs – Trustee Bazinet indicated that the intent is that the Calgary Board of Education would continue to offer full-day kindergarten programs. She added that the funding required in subsequent years may not be as great as the initial start-up year, that the initial report addressed the importance of continued funding beyond the one-time allocation, that future funding may be drawn from sources other than the budget, and that some schools that receive a full-day kindergarten allocation may not require that program in the future;
- Whether the statement as set out in the second recommendation has enough specificity or clarity to be understood in the future – Dr. Croskery responded that the recommendation is clear and that his understanding is that Administration should not be implementing additions to the service delivery in one year and discontinuing it the following year. He added that the more difficult issue to address is the capacity of the system to ensure that programs can be sustained for which the Calgary Board of Education does not explicitly receive direct funding and that an issue may conceivably arise that curtails the capacity to expend funding on full-day kindergarten which would require a debate or further consideration at that point.

A friendly amendment was agreed to by Trustees which has been incorporated into the above motion.

During debate, Trustee Bazinet reviewed the comments provided in Appendix I to the report distributed with the Agenda. Some Trustees provided their reasons for voting in favour of the recommendations, including:

- That, where full-day kindergarten programs have been implemented as a choice by the schools’ leadership, students have benefited greatly from the programs, and that other students in the system could also benefit from such a program;
- That the funding which will benefit the most needy children is a cautious amount in the total Calgary Board of Education budget of about \$740 million;
- That the full-day kindergarten program would not be made mandatory, even for those identified as being able to benefit the most;
- That the program will be monitored to determine the net effect;
- Notwithstanding that a governance policy is not currently in place in this regard, it is important to move forward with this initiative and support the schools as well as to raise this issue in discussions with the provincial government;
- That this is an opportunity to provide very young students a chance to be successful in their educational endeavours;
- That the Calgary Board of Education is communicating a strong values statement about the importance of equalizing the situation for at-risk children who do not necessarily arrive at school with the same background, language abilities, equal learning potential and the importance of addressing that issue by providing additional assistance to enable them to succeed in school;

- That this is an extension of a previous Calgary Board of Education initiative to provide additional funding for kindergarten beyond that mandated and funded by the provincial government;
- That this relatively small amount of funding will not allow all the changes that could be made if provincial funding were provided for full-day kindergarten but will enable the work to commence;
- That this initiative will provide a good start in life for children who lack English language skills, have behavioural or learning issues, with financially challenged families or with other deficits that are difficult to address during a half-day session;
- That studies demonstrate that, for every \$1 invested at an early pre-school or kindergarten age, \$7 to \$8 are saved later;
- That, if these educational resources are not provided for at-risk children, they will not ultimately have the same equity and access as others;
- That the Alberta Commission on Learning made a recommendation with respect to providing this type of educational opportunity and that the Calgary Board of Education should take the initiative and demonstrate leadership for other jurisdictions and the province by approving the recommendations in the report.

A Trustee indicated that the feedback from parents indicates they are divided although it is clear that the program should be an option and not mandatory. The Trustee felt that a mechanism needs to be developed to ensure that it is the student that needs the program and can benefit from it, and not simply a parent choice to place their child in the program for personal reasons. The Trustee expressed concern about the sustainability of the program and felt it is important that a review be undertaken to ascertain how the funding is spent and its impact on the students. If there is no impact from the allocation of the \$1.5 million, there would be no reason to sustain the program and the funding would be better allocated elsewhere to have a greater impact on student outcomes.

During debate, a Trustee provided rationale for opposing the recommendation, including:

- That, if the proposal were capitalizing upon provincial government funding for full-time kindergarten, he would vote in favour but that the government is not currently providing that funding although it is hoped that it will accept the recommendation of the Alberta Commission on Learning;
- That the motion is somewhat discriminatory in that 39 percent of the schools are not considered due to lack of space, that there will always be those who feel that their child should be included and others that feel the opposite and that a public school system has an obligation to provide things evenly and fairly to all;
- That public opinion is very divided and that, if the recommendations are adopted, it is not clear that Trustees would be acting as the public wishes;
- That this initiative did not originate from Administration and that adopting the motion may place Administration in a very difficult position;
- That a vote in favour of this motion is a vote against other initiatives, given that the funding must be drawn from elsewhere as there is no specific funding for full-time kindergarten.

Trustee Bazinet expressed appreciation to Ms. D. Bailey, Specialist, Kindergarten, and others for their tremendous contributions. She also recognized the efforts of former Trustee Nishimura, a former kindergarten teacher, who initiated this work.

Chair Dirks called the vote on the motion.

The motion was  
CARRIED.

IN FAVOUR:

Trustee Bazinet  
Trustee Close  
Trustee Cochrane  
Trustee Dirks  
Trustee Fawcett  
Trustee Ferguson

OPPOSED:

Trustee Lane

The Board of Trustees recessed at 6:59 p.m. and reconvened at 7:21 p.m., with Trustee Bazinet absent at this point.

**8.1.5 TRUSTEE REMUNERATION**

MOVED by Trustee Lane:

**THAT the Board of Trustees ratify the Terms of Reference and current membership of the Trustee Remuneration Committee, as attached to the report distributed with the Agenda for the March 15, 2005 Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees.**

The motion was  
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY  
(ABSENT: TRUSTEE BAZINET).

At this point, Trustee Bazinet returned to the meeting (7:24 p.m.).

Trustee Lane pointed out a change to the recommendation contained in the report distributed with the Agenda by the deletion of the number "2005" following the words "September 1, 2005 to August 31," and by the substitution of the year "2006" therefor.

MOVED by Trustee Lane:

**THAT the Board of Trustees gives first reading to Governance Process Policy GP-11, Board and Committee Expenses, subject to amendment by a 3.4 percent increase to the Annual Honoraria (Taxable), the General Expense Allowance (Non-Taxable) and the Total Annual Remuneration as set out in Section 1 (b), effective from September 1, 2005 to August 31, 2006, and in Section 1(c) effective from September 1, 2006 to August 31, 2007, subject to further review of market conditions with respect to the latter period.**

Trustee Lane provided background information and noted that last year the Trustee Remuneration Committee conducted a thorough examination of Trustee remuneration and produced a three-year framework with provision for annual review of adjustments. Two significant elements of the framework are that the work of Trustees was deemed to be half-time work and that the level of remuneration should be approximately one-half of that of City of Calgary Aldermen and MLA's. The framework specified movement towards that position over a three-year period and that the Trustee Remuneration Committee should examine the matter annually regarding possible adjustment to the scales in the framework. The Trustee Remuneration Committee recently reviewed the results of surveys undertaken for cost-of-living adjustments by several human resources professionals and discovered that the most popular number was 3.4 percent and that the average of the results of all surveys was 3.4 percent. The Committee concluded unanimously that 3.4 percent is the appropriate adjustment factor.

Action By

Chair Dirks called the vote on the motion.

The motion was  
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

MOVED by Trustee Lane:

**THAT the Board of Trustees gives second reading to Governance Process Policy GP-11, Board and Committee Expenses, as amended.**

The motion was  
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

MOVED by Trustee Fawcett:

**That, in accordance with Governance Process Policy 9, Governance Policy Development, the Board of Trustees unanimously agrees to proceed with third reading of Governance Process Policy GP-11, Board and Committee Expenses, as amended, at this meeting.**

The motion was  
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

MOVED by Trustee Lane:

**THAT the Board of Trustees gives third reading and thereby final approval to Governance Process Policy GP-11, Board and Committee Expenses, as amended.**

The motion was  
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

(The full text of the amended policy as approved is set out in the attachment to these Minutes.)

**8.2 TRUSTEE INQUIRIES**

Mrs. Barkway indicated there were no inquiries for consideration at this time.

**8.3 TRUSTEE NOTICES OF MOTION**

There were no Notices of Motion.

**8.4 CONSENT ITEMS**

Clerical note: The motion reflected in the report distributed with the Agenda should be amended by the deletion of the word "February" following the words "of Trustees held" and by the substitution of the word "March" therefor. The amendment has been incorporated into the motion as set out below.

Chair Dirks received no objections to the item on the Consent Agenda and declared the recommendation adopted, as amended, as follows:

M. Clark / J.Barkway

**8.4.1 LIAISON REPORT - ALBERTA SCHOOL BOARDS ASSOCIATION (ASBA)**

**THAT the attachments, as submitted with the Agenda for the Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees held March 15, 2005, be received for information as the liaison report with respect to the Alberta School Boards Association (ASBA).**

**9.0 MINUTES**

**9.1 REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES HELD MARCH 1, 2005**

Ms. Barkway pointed out two amendments to the March 1, 2005 Minutes, as follows:

- On Page 9-3, Item 5.2, Report from the Chief Superintendent, third bullet, fourth line, by the deletion of the word “governors” following the words “one of the foundation’s” and by the substitution of the word “employees” therefor;
- On Page 9-11, Item 8.1.7, in the heading, by the deletion of the word “Alberta” following the words “Elementary School and” and by the substitution of the word “Albert” therefor.

MOVED by Trustee Close:

**THAT the Minutes of the Regular Meetings of the Board of Trustees held March 1, 2005 be approved, as amended.**

The motion was  
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

**9.2 BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES**

Trustee Bazinet pointed out that, in the Minutes of the March 1, 2005 Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees, Page 9, the Board of Trustees resolved to rescind a motion adopted at the February 1, 2005 Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees with regard to the transfer of some middle school component of the Traditional Learning Centre (TLC) to another facility effective September 2005. In the Board of Trustees’ discussion and debate, it was clear that the purpose of rescinding the motion was to reverse the decision of moving any portion of TLC and to allow them to remain at King George Elementary School while another solution is sought by Administration. Trustee Bazinet continued that, in reviewing the Minutes, she felt that in order to make the Board of Trustees’ intent very clear, another motion made on February 1, 2005 that designates some middle school component of TLC to Balmoral Junior High School should also be rescinded. She noted that, as she had not given notice of motion in this regard, the following motion is necessary.

MOVED by Trustee Bazinet:

**THAT the Board of Trustees waives the notice provisions in Section I (11) (f) of the Board Meeting Procedures that require two weeks’ notice be given to bring forward a motion to rescind a motion that was previously adopted.**

The motion was  
CARRIED.

IN FAVOUR:

Trustee Bazinet  
Trustee Close  
Trustee Cochrane  
Trustee Dirks  
Trustee Ferguson  
Trustee Lane

OPPOSED:

Trustee Fawcett

Action By

MOVED by Trustee Bazinet:

**THAT the Board of Trustees rescinds the following motion, which was adopted at the February 1, 2005 Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees:**

**“That the Board of Trustees designates Balmoral Junior High School as the site for some middle school component of the Traditional Learning Centre program, effective September 2005. The grade configuration of the program will be subject to statutory provisions, Board Governance Policies and available space at that time.”**

The motion was  
CARRIED.

**IN FAVOUR:**

Trustee Bazinet  
Trustee Close  
Trustee Cochrane  
Trustee Dirks  
Trustee Lane

**OPPOSED:**

Trustee Fawcett  
Trustee Ferguson

J. Barkway

**10.0 EMERGENT ITEMS FOR NEXT BOARD MEETING**

There were no emergent items for the next meeting.

**11.0 ADJOURNMENT**

The Chair declared the meeting adjourned at 7:38 p.m.