

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, April 5, 2005 at 5:00 p.m.

PRESENT

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 & Environmental Services – Secretary Treasurer
Mr. J. Drysdale, Superintendent, School Support Services
Mr. J. Jones, Executive Assistant to the Chief Superintendent of Schools
Ms. B. Kuester, Executive Director of Communications
Mr. G. Scott, Director & General Counsel, Legal & Risk Management Services
Ms. S. Wasylshyn, Executive Assistant to the Trustees
Ms. D. Perrier, Recording Secretary

Stakeholder Representatives:

Ms. G. Burger-Martindale, Calgary Association of Parents and School Councils
Ms. D. Clark, Elementary School Principals' Association
Mr. L. Liffiton, Alberta Teachers' Association, Local No. 38
Ms. S. Raymond, Elementary School Principals' Association

Action By

1.0 CALL TO ORDER, NATIONAL ANTHEM AND WELCOME

Chair Dirks called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m. and two students from Hawkwood Elementary School, Donny and Connor, along with the school's choir through a video clip, led the singing of the national anthem. The Chair welcomed representatives from the aforementioned organizations and members of the public.

2.0 CONSIDERATION/APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Ms. Barkway, Assistant Corporate Secretary, noted that Item 8.1.3 – Governance Policy regarding School Fees – First Reading was to be removed from the Agenda.

MOVED by Trustee Close:

THAT the Agenda for the Regular Meeting held April 5, 2005, be approved, subject to the withdrawal of Agenda Item 8.1.3 as noted above.

The motion was
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

3.0 CORRESPONDENCE

Chair Dirks read from two pieces of correspondence, summarized as follows:

- Letter dated March 22, 2005 from the Honourable G. Zwozdesky, Minister of Education, announcing that school authorities in Alberta will receive an additional \$12.8 million this school year for textbooks and other classroom resources. This additional one-time funding will assist school authorities in their planning for upcoming changes to Alberta's curriculum. The Calgary Board of Education's portion of the funding amounts to \$2,252,000.
- Letter dated March 11, 2005 from the Honourable G. Zwozdesky, Minister of Education, pertaining to the Aspen Academy School Education Foundation's application for charter school status. The Minister states that he could not approve their application and he expressed appreciation to the Calgary Board of Education (CBE) for the time and effort it expended in considering the Aspen Academy's proposal for alternative status within the CBE.

4.0 PRESENTATION, HONOURS AND RECOGNITION

4.1 HAWKWOOD ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Mr. D. Stevenson, Director, Area I, provided opening remarks and introduced Mr. I. Mihaljevich, Principal, Hawkwood Elementary School. Mr. Mihaljevich noted the attendance of two grade 6 students, Donny and Connor, both of whom are technology leaders, and he acknowledged the presence of parents and teachers Ms. A. Gorman and Ms. D. Colluney, and Assistant Principal, Ms. S. MacRae.

Donny and Connor gave the presentation, which had been prepared by their Leadership Group in a digital format in three parts. The first part was the *O Canada* video, played at the commencement of the meeting; the second part was a movie featuring interviews with students and staff, followed by pictures of their learning community at work. The Hawkwood School Song, developed by students in the year 2000, was presented and a PowerPoint highlighting special events at Hawkwood School concluded the presentation.

On behalf of the Board of Trustees, Chair Dirks thanked the presenters and commended the students on their very impressive technical work in the creation of the school presentation. He commented on their school motto "Together We Soar", noting it is a terrific motto, and he shared appreciation to the parents, teachers, and principal for their support.

4.2 ASBA EDWIN PARR TEACHER AWARD – CALGARY BOARD OF EDUCATION NOMINATION

Chair Dirks provided a brief history and origin of the ASBA Edwin Parr Award, noting it was established in 1964, and Superintendent Drysdale spoke to the selection criteria. The award is presented to a first-year K-12 teacher in the province of Alberta, in recognition of outstanding teaching performance.

Ms. J. Crarer, Director, Curriculum Support, introduced Mr. S. Kotkas, teacher of physical education, fitness, and outdoor education at Tom Baines Junior High School, as the Calgary Board of Education's nominee for the Edwin Parr Teacher Award. Ms. Crarer shared accolades of the many valued and prestigious attributes that Mr. Kotkas demonstrates in the classroom.

Mr. Kotkas came forward and expressed that being nominated for this award is very exciting for him. He said that being a teacher has been a lifetime ambition - it is a job that he loves and it is a dream fulfilled. He stated that the staff of Tom Baines School is truly

extraordinary and he is honored to be a part of their great team. He gave special thanks to his mentors and to the school's administration, for all the support they have given him.

On behalf of the Board, Chair Dirks gave thanks to Mr. Kotkas, noting it is the Calgary Board of Education's honour to employ him in our school system. He stated that because of quality people like him, whose teaching is of such high caliber, our school system is in good hands as we look to the future. Chair Dirks presented Mr. Kotkas with a small token of appreciation.

MOVED by Trustee Lane:

1. **THAT the Board of Trustees receives the report on the 2005 Alberta School Boards Association (ASBA) Edwin Parr Teacher Award for information.**
2. **THAT Stephen Kotkas is named the 2005 teacher nominee of the Calgary Board of Education for the Alberta School Boards Association Edwin Parr Award.**

The motion was
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

5.0 VERBAL UPDATES

5.1 REPORT FROM THE CHAIR AND TRUSTEES

Chair Dirks expressed words of appreciation to Chief Superintendent Croskery for his actions following the passing of Pope John Paul II. Through an email message, the Chief Superintendent had conveyed the following, which Chair Dirks read into the record:

A Token of Respect for Pope John Paul II

"Following the recent death of Pope John Paul II, I am asking all schools and buildings in the Calgary Board of Education to fly their flags at half-mast until the funeral service is over. My request is not made lightly since I expect some concerns may be expressed about the appropriateness of a public school system showing such high respect for a religious leader. I therefore feel I owe the system an account for my decision.

The late Pope was not just a religious leader; he was a towering figure in world history for almost three decades. In his role as a head of state and the head of a world-wide faith, he influenced millions of lives. John Paul II was instrumental in the overthrow of European communism. He fought strongly for many other just causes. He sought to build bridges between his own faith and those of different traditions – looking always for those qualities that ennoble the universal human spirit. Perhaps most significant for those who work in schools, he was a passionate advocate for young people. Even in his last years, when his body began to fail him, he did not fail to inspire others with his humanity, his resiliency and his courage.

The metaphysical poet John Donne wrote a meditation commonly known as "For Whom the Bell Tolls". One excerpt from this meditation is particularly appropriate for a school system that takes great pride in its commitment to the interconnectedness of humanity:

No man is an island, entire of itself ...
Any man's death diminishes me,
Because I am involved in mankind;
And therefore never send to know for whom the bell tolls;
It tolls for thee.

In the Calgary Board of Education there are many of our students and colleagues who are currently grieving the loss of their spiritual leader. There are thousands in our sister School Board who are also experiencing the pain of spiritual loss. It is my hope that the lowering of our flags will, in some small way, serve as a strong symbol that you do not grieve alone.”

5.2 REPORT FROM THE CHIEF SUPERINTENDENT

Chief Superintendent Croskery provided highlights of the following events:

- The 9th Annual Calgary Child’s Magazine, Parents’ Choice Awards was held March 16, 2005.
- March 16, 2005, he met with Mr. J. Lund, President of DeVry, to explore possibilities for further work together.
- March 16, 2005, he met with Mr. G. Holmberg, Principal, Rosscarrock School, to congratulate him on his upcoming retirement and thank him for his +30 years of service to the Calgary Board of Education.
- The retirement banquet recently held at Canada Olympic Park for the Staff Association, Canadian Union of Public Employees, and Trades, was very well received.
- March 23, 2005, he attended two meetings with the United Way.
- April 1, 2005, he participated in a committee meeting, similar to a standing committee convened originally by the Minister of Education, to review teacher training in the province of Alberta.

6.0 PUBLIC QUESTION PERIOD

There were no public questions.

7.0 STAKEHOLDER REPORTS

7.1 MS. G. BURGER-MARTINDALE, PRESIDENT, CALGARY ASSOCIATION OF PARENTS AND SCHOOL COUNCILS (CASPC)

Ms. Burger-Martindale spoke on the issue of the recently imposed \$5.00 fee for each volunteer security clearance application that is processed by the Calgary Police Service. This security clearance has been a requirement of the Calgary Board of Education (CBE) for all its volunteers since the late 1990s. She pointed out that volunteers operate in all of our schools and she felt it fair to say that without them our schools would not be able to function as they currently do. Ms. Burger-Martindale gave an estimated synopsis of tallying volunteer time, indicating that while it is difficult to place a monetary value on the volunteer services being provided, it is easy to realize that the gains for the CBE are extremely high. Ms. Burger-Martindale noted the wish of CAPSC is for the Board of Trustees to recommend that the CBE consider paying the volunteer security clearance fee; and they encourage the CBE to enter into negotiations with the Calgary Police Service to see (a) if they would reconsider the fee, or (b) if they would be amenable to a bulk rate or fee that would cover all applications that come from CBE schools.

7.2 MR. O. FECH, CONCERNED CITIZEN

Mr. Fech noted a concern that society is being railroaded into believing that technology is the most important lesson today. He stated that using good common sense and teaching the children about life skills is important. Mr. Fech expressed further concern about fees being charged for so many things. He noted his belief that the governors and administrators of the school board must undertake the role of leadership, and that the government involvement in the implementation and creation of a new society is wrong. He concluded by making a statement about the importance of the decision makers to not be influenced by manipulation, and noted that together we must work for a better future for our children.

8.0 GOVERNANCE: POLICY DEVELOPMENT AND MONITORING

8.1 ACTION ITEMS

8.1.1 Collingwood Elementary School Regular Program – Closure of Schools Regulation

Chief Superintendent Croskery referenced the sentence in the report, which notes it is projected that three students will be enrolled in the regular program for the 2005-2006 school year, and 550 students from Kindergarten to grade six are projected for the Spanish Bilingual Program at Collingwood. He indicated that this is a great success story, in a sense, but it leaves us now with the challenge of a sadly declining community program that needs consideration, because a program with three students is hardly viable.

MOVED by Trustee Lane:

THAT the Board of Trustees receives for information and for the record the report titled “Requirements of the Closure of Schools Regulation as they relate to the Collingwood Elementary School Regular Program”, in the form as submitted with the Agenda for the Regular Meeting of April 5, 2005.

The motion was
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Motion Arising:

MOVED by Trustee Lane:

THAT the regular program at Collingwood Elementary School be closed effective June 30, 2005 and provision of that education program be transferred to Capitol Hill Elementary School commencing in the 2005-2006 school year.

The motion was
CARRIED.

In favour: Trustee Close
Trustee Cochrane
Trustee Dirks
Trustee Fawcett
Trustee Ferguson
Trustee Lane
Opposed: Trustee Bazinet

Superintendents

8.1.2 Standing Audit Committee – Approval of Terms of Reference

MOVED by Trustee Bazinet:

THAT the Board of Trustees approves the revised Terms of Reference for the Audit Committee, in the form as submitted with the Agenda for the Regular Meeting of April 5, 2005, subject to change of the name of the committee to Audit Committee.

During discussion, a friendly amendment was proposed and accepted, and has been incorporated in the motion as set out above. Trustee Bazinet informed that the original terms of reference for the Standing Audit Committee included some responsibilities that were found to be not applicable, which have subsequently been removed. She further noted that some of the wording has also been revised to reflect common and consistent usage, and gave an explanation of additional revisions.

In response to a question about what process is followed for choosing the minimum of three individuals external to the corporation, Trustee Bazinet noted that the previous recruitment was done through the placement of an advertisement in an accounting magazine, and candidates were interviewed.

Chair Dirks called for the vote on the motion.

The motion was
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

8.2 INFORMATION/DISCUSSION ITEMS

8.2.1 Chief Superintendent's Monthly Update Report

Chief Superintendent Croskery directed attention to page 11 of the report, to the item headed *School Safety and Security, Volunteer Security Clearance Fee*. He pointed out that subsequent to the writing of this report, the issue had been considered by the Superintendents' Team and it was agreed that the Calgary Board of Education would centrally fund the processing fee for volunteer security clearances. It is felt that this would recognize the contributions of our many volunteers, for which we are very appreciative. Chief Superintendent Croskery stated that at the same time it is important to note there is a need to revisit the many areas where we are funding processes in the system for which we do not receive funding from government. Superintendent Dart added that for those volunteers who paid this processing fee subsequent to March 1, 2005, a rebate would be provided. He stated that a communication on this would be undertaken by Administration.

B. Croskery

In response to a question about the possibility of the volunteer security clearance fee being raised from its current charge of \$5.00, Chief Superintendent Croskery noted that a meeting is to be held in the near future with Chief Beaton of the Calgary Police Service. He stated that there is the danger that the Calgary Police Service could raise the fee at any time, and this is a matter he would bring into the discussion with Chief Beaton.

MOVED by Trustee Fawcett:

THAT the Board of Trustees receives the Chief Superintendent's monthly update report for information, in the form as submitted with the Agenda for the Regular Meeting of April 5, 2005.

The motion was
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

8.2.2 Attendance Area Reports

8.2.2.1 Area I – Mr. D. Stevenson, Director

Trustees gave consideration to the contents of the report and posed questions. It was asked whether interest had been expressed for a Montessori program and a high school hockey program in Area I, to which Mr. Stevenson noted that both those interests have been included in the report; and, the plan would be for September 2006 implementation if we were to move ahead with them.

In response to a question, Mr. Stevenson pointed out that in every situation where alternative programs are being discussed, the question about the sustainability of the regular program is raised. In a prior scenario of this nature, discussions were held with parents and three neighboring communities about the programming requirements for a potentially small number of students who would remain in the regular program. He stated that with respect to the possible future Montessori program, it is not expected that the program would grow in such a way that it would overtake a reasonably sized elementary school.

In answer to a question of how the French Immersion program might impact Hawkwood School and what the school's long-term projections might be Mr. Stevenson noted that the expression of interest from the community was not overwhelming. The government announcement on funding for class size reduction coincided with this planning. Following a study of space at Hawkwood School it was decided to not proceed for 2005. He stated that Area I is working with Areas II and III to consider an overall planning process for French Immersion in the north part of the city.

8.2.2.2 Area II – Ms. E. Gouthro, Director

In response to a question, Ms. Gouthro noted that there is an existing Pre-Advanced Placement (AP) program. She advised that a standing committee has developed curriculum for the expansion of the Traditional Learning Centre (TLC) program beyond grade 8. Pre-AP will be a part of the grade 9 TLC program.

8.2.2.3 Area III – Mr. P. Carlton, Director

Mr. Carlton addressed a question about space issues at Lester B. Pearson High School, noting that work has been done with Student Accommodation Services and Design and Construction to look at designing four new teaching spaces within the building following some internal renovations. As well, the principal has been directed to not receive any out-of-boundary students, other than those who are applying for the International Baccalaureate Program or who are French Immersion students coming out of Bob Edwards.

In regards to the utilization at Forest Lawn High School, Mr. Carlton noted that commencing last year students from Dr. Gladys M. Egbert and Bob Edwards have been re-designated from Crescent Heights to Forest Lawn. The bussing to Crescent Heights will cease at the end of the 2005-2006 school year. Except for the students at James Fowler who reside north of McKnight Boulevard, and some of those students who are special education, we have been able to re-designate students back to their home area for the past two years. As well, the Gifted and Talented Education (GATE) program for high school will be at Forest Lawn for those students graduating out of Dr. Gordon Higgins in the 2006 school year.

Some discussion took place about the lack of space in Area III and lack of alternative program offering. Mr. Carlton pointed out that they are considering some of the areas of the Traditional Learning Centre program and discussing resolution of Area III's inability to provide space for their French Immersion students, who have to be bussed to other areas.

He noted that many of their schools have adopted the learning through the arts initiative and infusing the arts through curriculum, through the Alberta Initiative for School Improvement (AISI) program. One school, Monterey Park, has adopted an ethos for fine arts, but it is not designated as an alternative arts program.

8.2.2.4 Area IV – Ms. K. Krylly, Director

Mr. B. Deobald, System Assistant Principal, Area IV, was in attendance on behalf of Ms. Krylly.

Mr. Deobald addressed a question about the potential of bussing for junior high students re-designated to Rideau Park, noting they are within walking distance or they will use city transit.

Clarification was given pertinent to the second last bullet on page 2 of the report, where it reads that Westgate Elementary School will accommodate all elementary French Immersion students in Area IV, excluding those designated to William Reid Elementary School. It was noted that some students who reside in Area IV also attend French Immersion schools in Area V. Mr. Deobald stated that Westgate could accommodate those students, and the statement as written is not meant to infer that it will accommodate them.

With respect to availability of space at Connaught Community School, in light of the school becoming an English as a Second Language Centre of Excellence, Mr. Deobald noted that approximately 50 students would be re-designated from Langevin School and other beltline communities to Connaught, and it is able to accommodate all of these students.

Some discussion took place about the future of Central Memorial High School and Lord Shaughnessy High School, and the possibility of forming a campus model between the two. Chief Superintendent Croskery spoke about the additional space that would become available and as Central and Shaughnessy are two highly strategic facilities for the system, some preliminary review by Superintendents' Team has taken place about the preservation of flexibility with respect to expansion for other system programs.

In response to a question about Alex Ferguson Elementary School, Mr. Deobald stated that they would operate an ethos of Learning through the Arts - the school would not be a designated area school for that particular program.

With respect to Earl Grey Elementary School, Mr. Deobald noted that should an alternative program be proposed, it would operate as a smaller program in addition to and alongside of the regular program.

8.2.2.5 Area V – Ms. N. Johnson, Director

A question was asked about Canyon Meadows Elementary School, to which Ms. Johnson responded that at the time the Spanish bilingual program was placed in the school, the enrolment and projections for enrolment showed a decline. She pointed out that the parents with whom she has worked and consulted have come to accept that another site needs to be designated for the regular Kindergarten and grade one program. She noted her uncertainty of whether parents were made aware of this possibility when the decision was made to place the Spanish bilingual alternative program.

With respect to the development of French Late Immersion curriculum for grade five entry, the undertaking of this would be at the provincial level; Superintendent Drysdale stated his belief that the work has not yet been started.

The possibility for a German bilingual program in Area V would likely not be acted upon for a few years, and at that time the program that already exists in the north would be a part of those discussions.

Centennial High school has an enrolment this year of between 500-525 students; it is projected to have 750 grade nine students for next year; and, it has a capacity of 1800 students.

Chief Superintendent Croskery expressed appreciation to the many staff members and administration that participated in pulling together this extraordinary and time consuming work.

MOVED by Trustee Close:

THAT the Board of Trustees receives for information and for the record the Attendance Area Reports for Areas I to V, in the form as submitted with the Agenda for the Regular Meeting held April 5, 2005.

The motion was
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

8.3 TRUSTEE INQUIRIES

There were no trustee inquiries.

8.4 TRUSTEE NOTICES OF MOTION

There were no trustee notices of motion.

8.5 CONSENT ITEMS

There were no objections to the Consent Agenda and Chair Dirks declared the recommendations adopted as follows:

8.5.1 Liaison Report re: Alberta School Boards Association (ASBA)

THAT the report, as submitted with the Agenda for the Regular Meeting held April 5, 2005, be received for information as the liaison report with respect to the Alberta School Boards Association.

9.0 MINUTES

9.1 REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES HELD MARCH 15, 2005

MOVED by Trustee Bazinet:

THAT the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees held March 15, 2005 be approved as submitted.

The motion was
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

9.2 REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES HELD MARCH 22, 2005

MOVED by Trustee Ferguson:

THAT the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees held March 22, 2005 be approved as submitted.

The motion was

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Abstained:

Trustee Dirks

9.3 BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

There was no business arising from the Minutes.

10.0 EMERGENT ITEMS FOR NEXT BOARD MEETING

There were no emergent items for the next Board meeting.

Recessed: 6:42 p.m.

Reconvened: 7:04 p.m.

11.0 IN-CAMERA ISSUES

11.1 MOTION TO MOVE IN CAMERA

MOVED by Trustee Ferguson:

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

The motion was

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

8:00 p.m. – Chair Dirks received unanimous consent of the Trustees to continue the meeting to the completion of the Agenda.

11.2 MOTION TO REVERT TO PUBLIC MEETING

MOVED by Trustee Cochrane:

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

The motion was

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

11.3 MOTIONS TO ACTION IN-CAMERA RECOMMENDATIONS

MOVED by Trustee Cochrane:

THAT the Board of Trustees receives for information the Chief Superintendent's Update report, in the form as submitted with the Private Agenda for the Regular Meeting held April 5, 2005.

The motion was

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

MOVED by Trustee Lane:

Action By

THAT the Board of Trustees receives for information the monitoring report for Career Pathways, in the form as submitted with the Private Agenda for the Regular Meeting held April 5, 2005.

The motion was
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

12.0 ADJOURNMENT

The Chair declared the meeting adjourned at 8:15 p.m.