

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, January 17, 2006 at 5:00 p.m.

PRESENT

Board of Trustees:

Trustee C. Bazinet
Trustee N. Close, Vice-Chair – Chair of the Meeting
Trustee P. Cochrane
Trustee K. Fawcett
Trustee G. Lane

Absent: Trustee G. Dirks, Chair
Trustee L. Ferguson

Administration:

Ms. J. Barkway, Assistant Corporate Secretary
Ms. L. Angelo, Acting Superintendent, Human Resources
Mr. D. Dart, Superintendent, Business Operations & 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 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
Mr. L. Liffiton, Alberta Teachers' Association
Mr. T. Stensland, Elementary School Principals' Association

Action By

1.0 CALL TO ORDER, NATIONAL ANTHEM AND WELCOME

Chair Close called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m. and the singing of the national anthem took place on the foyer, led by Danna and Kristina, students from Centennial High School, accompanied by the Centennial High School Senior Jazz Ensemble. The meeting reconvened in the Board Room, and Chair Close welcomed representatives from the aforementioned organizations and members of the public.

2.0 CONSIDERATION/APPROVAL OF AGENDA

MOVED by Trustee Cochrane:

THAT the Agenda for the Regular Meeting held January 17, 2006, be approved as submitted.

The motion was
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

3.0 SCHOOL/SYSTEM PRESENTATIONS

3.1 Centennial High School

Deputy Chief Superintendent Hubert welcomed and introduced Ms. D. Field, Principal, Centennial High School, Ms. S. Poole, Assistant Principal, and student Amanda.

Ms. Field came forward and provided highlights about Centennial High School, noting it is a Career Pathways school that offers personalized learning through intentional, purposeful and connected life/work development. The program has four major components that contribute to the students' personalized learner plan: Academic Courses; Complementary Courses; Community Experiences; and Master Portfolio Classes. The two prime goals of the program are that students develop personalized learner plans for their high school program, and that they graduate with life/work transition plans that are based on individual abilities and gifts.

Ms. Poole provided an in-depth description of the Master Portfolio Class, which is participated in by every student and is taught by every teacher in the school. In portfolio classes, students experience the career (life/work) development process and build their gallery of skills, talents and accomplishments. The Master Portfolio Class is broken down into several sections:

- 1) Who Am I? This section covers self-assessment; personal profile; life/work statement; and measuring life/work competencies.
- 2) Exploring My Options: career exploration and investigation activities; post-secondary research; and a job shadow project.
- 3) Setting My Direction: goal setting; action planning; and personalized learner plan.
- 4) My Gallery: showcase skills, talents and accomplishments; links evidence to employability skills; demonstrates skills from academic course work, complementary course work, and community / extracurricular activities.

Ms. Poole noted that the consultation and evaluation process is the accountability process, whereby each student is required to book a consultation time with his/her teacher and demonstrate that they've done what is put forward in their portfolio, and demonstrate their success. A panel, consisting of a parent or guardian and mentors, listens to the student's presentation in the evaluation process.

Amanda came forward and shared her experience and success with the Master Portfolio Class. Ms. Field concluded the presentation with remarks about how Centennial High School is working to implement CBE governance policies, and invited Trustees to visit their school and to see them in action.

On behalf of the Board of Trustees, Trustee Bazinet thanked the presenters for the presentation, noting it is exciting to hear the enthusiasm for making sure that students are acquiring skills to plan their future following high school graduation. She noted it was a pleasure to hear Amanda's story, and to hear about the practical application of what is going on at Centennial High School, and she wished Amanda all the best in her future endeavours.

4.0 HONOURS AND RECOGNITIONS

4.1 Lighthouse Award

Ms. Kuester introduced Ms. L. Engen, President, and Ms. J. Ter Harmsel, Project Manager, of The Junior League of Calgary (JLC), who were in attendance on behalf of JLC to accept the Lighthouse Award. In 1998 JLC teamed up with the CBE to launch a program titled *Calgary Reads*. The program was designed to recruit, train and organize volunteers to read one-on-one with grade 1 and grade 2 students with reading difficulties. The mission of this project was to improve the confidence and ability of struggling young readers and promote literacy as a benefit to our community. Today, that mission has become a reality as the

program is thriving and producing outstanding results. Ms. Kuester shared some impressive statistics as a result of the *Calgary Reads* program, showing improvement levels in confidence development, decoding strategies, comprehensive strategies, and fluency; and noted that 96% of students who participated in the program had developed a love of reading.

Ms. Engen and Ms. Ter Harmsel shared additional background information about the JLC. It was noted that one of their first projects started in 1950 was a radio program called "Fun With Books", which was a reading of children's classics. In addition to *Calgary Reads*, the JLC has partnered with the CBE over the years in offering the following programs: *Kids On The Block*; *Teen Panel*; *Family Violence and Prevention*. The JLC's most recent project is the *Junior Chef's Program*, which assists children aged 8-11 with long-term nutritional knowledge, food preparation and kitchen safety skills; these children are selected for the program by their school principal or teacher. The JLC is piloting outdoor school camps for children between the ages 8-15.

On behalf of the Board of Trustees, Chair Close noted it is an honour to acknowledge this partnership and the long successful history of helping our schools, our students and, ultimately, our community. Chair Close presented the Lighthouse Award to Ms. Engen, who accepted it on behalf of The JLC.

5.0 PUBLIC CONVERSATION AND INFORMATION

5.1 Correspondence

There was no correspondence.

5.2 Report from Chair and Trustees

Trustee Fawcett shared that he had attended the launch on January 16, 2006 of the Calgary Educational Partnership Foundation's "Reading - Give it a Shot" program, which is not a CBE program, but it is a program that many of our students benefit from. On behalf of our students and staff he expressed appreciation to the Calgary Flames organization who play a major role in this, and particularly to the players who put in an appearance at G.W. Skene Community School.

5.3 Report from Chief Superintendent

On behalf of Chief Superintendent Croskery, Deputy Chief Superintendent Hubert reported on the following issues and events:

- Chief Superintendent Croskery is currently attending the Large City Schools' Superintendents' Conference, which is being held in Florida. This is a North American Conference that meets twice a year; in June 2006 they will be meeting in Calgary. Chief Superintendent Croskery will have the opportunity to highlight the City of Calgary and the Calgary Board of Education at this international conference.
- The CBE was recently audited for how well we are doing in becoming compliant with Occupational Health & Safety Legislation. The results of this audit could make us eligible for a Certificate of Recognition. The audit was held at the Education Center and at a number of randomly selected schools and it involved 349 interviews. Special acknowledgement and appreciation was made of Mr. R. Allen, Safety Advisor, Facility Operations, and Mr. W. Burfield, Industrial Hygiene Technologist, Facility Operations, for their superb leadership and support in this work. In the auditors' report, highlights were made of the school visits, and the auditors indicated that they were truly impressed with what they found in the schools. Particular reference was made to Jack James High School and Centennial High School, in which the auditors shared that these school

principals, Mr. B. Bobenik and Ms. D. Field, stand out as leaders in this area. While a score of 80% is required to receive the Certificate of Recognition, the CBE scored 88%. The CBE will receive a one-time Workers' Compensation Board rebate cheque of approximately \$180,000, and our annual WCB premium rate will be reduced for 2006.

- January 24, 2006 is the Mayor's Excellence Awards Luncheon, sponsored by the Calgary Educational Partnership Foundation.
- January 25, 2006 is the CBE's Annual Showcase of Innovation; Mount Royal College is the official sponsor of the event, and will be participants along with the CBE and PC Corp. The event brings together Calgary corporations, businesses and organizations that are directly involved as either corporate partners of the CBE or those who are partnered with individual schools.
- January 26, 2006 Windsor Park School will celebrate its 50th anniversary.
- January 27, 2006 the Faculty of Education at the University of Calgary is sponsoring *100 Languages of Children* at the Jubilee Auditorium. This event is an exposition of the preschools of Reggio Emilia in Italy, and West Dover School has been selected as the tour site for the presenters who are going to take part in this program from Italy. As well, West Dover School has been invited to present their work at a Reggio Conference in the United States in March 2006.
- Deputy Chief Superintendent Hubert made an announcement about the tragic death of Ms. S. Kerr on January 5, 2006. Ms. Kerr, along with her friend and business partner Ms. E. Percival, established Calgary's Child Magazine, which is one of the Calgary Board of Education's greatest supporters. This award-winning publication brings local parenting information to Calgary families. Although Ms. Kerr has left a strong legacy in this community, she has left us far too soon. Ms. L. LaRose, Program Teacher, Accountability Services, represented the CBE at the funeral service, which was held on January 13, 2006. Our sincere and heartfelt sympathies are extended to Ms. Kerr's family, and in particular, to her young son Zachary.

5.4 Public Question Period

There were no public questions.

5.5 Stakeholder Reports

There were no stakeholder reports.

5.6 Trustee Inquiries

Ms. Barkway read into the record, a trustee inquiry as follows:

“The Middle School concept has been embraced enthusiastically by a number of CBE schools. There seems to be some movement by the CBE towards placing Grade 9 students in high school settings. Given these current practices, is the CBE planning to reconfigure all CBE schools to the following grade level formats: Grades K-4, Grades 5-8, and Grades 9-12?”

Deputy Chief Superintendent Hubert responded to the question and gave some background information. She noted that Administrative Regulation 3050 provides guidance with regard to this issue. The grade configuration of schools will be consistent with the Board's goal of providing an effective education for all of our students. We believe that any organization or configuration that maximizes learning opportunities for all students should be encouraged. School grade configuration is planned to: respect the sequential scope of the program, provide students with school accommodation in a way that best meets their individual learning needs, and utilize school facilities and resources in a way that is financially responsible. Schools normally are organized on the basis of the following grade configurations: K-6 elementary, 7-9 junior high, and 10-12 senior high; and, in more recent

times we've seen the emergence of grades K-4 schools and grades 5-8 schools. Some of the reasons for implementing a grade configuration other than the more traditional ones include:

- To accommodate our younger and most vulnerable closer to home;
- The opening of some K-4 schools has necessitated the emergence of middle schools;
- Changing provincial or CBE program requirements;
- Enhancing the learning environment to better meet individual student learning needs;
- Declining enrolments;
- Overcrowding; or
- Improving utilization of special resources.

Examples of programs that have some Grade 9 students move into the high schools include: Career Pathways, Integrated Occupational Schools, or Advanced Placement such as the Traditional Learning Centre. There is currently no plan to reconfigure all CBE schools to grades K-4, 5-8 and 9-12.

6.0 MONITORING AND RESULTS

6.1 Ends

There were no items.

6.2 Executive Limitations

There were no items.

7.0 POLICY DEVELOPMENT AND REVIEW

7.1 EL-7: Treatment of Staff and Volunteers

MOVED by Trustee Fawcett:

THAT the Board of Trustees gives first reading to the amended Executive Limitations Policy 7: Treatment of Staff and Volunteers, in the form as submitted with the Agenda for the Regular Meeting held January 17, 2006.

Trustee Fawcett provided background information and rationale, noting the amendment proposes to revise EL-7 by the addition of a new sub-point 9 to read "Provide for safe working conditions", and to renumber preceding sub-points accordingly.

Chair Close called for the vote on the motion.

The motion was
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Motion Arising:

MOVED by Trustee Cochrane:

THAT the Chief Superintendent report back to the Board of Trustees, prior to second reading of this policy, to provide information regarding any legal implications of the revision.

The motion was
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

B. Croskery

7.2 EL-11: Financial Condition

MOVED by Trustee Bazinet:

THAT the Board of Trustees gives first reading to the amended Executive Limitations Policy 11: Financial Condition, in the form as submitted with the Agenda for the Regular Meeting held January 17, 2006.

During the discussion of the motion, Trustee Fawcett raised a point of order with respect to the line of questioning, to which Chair Close ruled that the question was out of order because any response to the question would involve debate of the question being considered.

Trustee Bazinet provided rationale for recommending the change, which proposes the deletion of sub-point 4 of the policy that reads as

“Cause budget revisions and/or transfers greater than \$500,000 to occur between budgeted areas without the prior approval of the Board of Trustees and shall not fail to file with the Board of Trustees a periodic report of revisions up to an including such amount”

and to renumber the remaining sub-points accordingly. Trustee Bazinet noted that it has been made apparent that budget revisions and/or transfers often are not under the control of Administration or the Board of Trustees, i.e. student enrolment changes. The difficulty with sub-point 4 of EL-11 is that it asks for the Board of Trustees’ prior approval for budget revisions and/or transfers greater than \$500,000 and the directive, as such, can result in delays to the distribution of money for resources to schools at their time of need. Chair Close called for the vote on the motion.

The motion was
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

7.3 EL-16: Learning Environment/Treatment of Students

MOVED by Trustee Fawcett:

THAT the Board of Trustees gives first reading to the amended Executive Limitations Policy 16: Learning Environment/Treatment of Students, in the form as submitted with the Agenda for the Regular Meeting held January 17, 2006.

Trustee Fawcett provided background information and rationale, noting that the amendment proposes to revise EL-16 by the addition of a new sub-point following the preamble statement “Accordingly, the Chief Superintendent shall not:” The new sub-point would read as follows:

“6. Fail to provide safe learning conditions for students.”

Chair Close called for the vote on the motion.

The motion was
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Motion Arising:

MOVED by Trustee Cochrane:

THAT the Chief Superintendent report back to the Board of Trustees, prior to second reading of this policy, to provide information regarding any legal implications of the revision.

The motion was
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

B. Croskery

8.0 CONSENT AGENDA

There was no request for removal of the item from the Board Consent Agenda and Chair Close declared the item adopted as presented.

8.1 Board Consent Agenda

8.1.1 Approval of Minutes

- Regular Meeting held December 6, 2005

THAT the Minutes of the Regular Meeting held December 6, 2005 be adopted as submitted.

8.2 Chief Superintendent Consent Agenda

There were no items.

9.0 ACTION ITEMS

9.1 Appointment of Ms. Lora Wyman as Governor of EducationMatters

MOVED by Trustee Cochrane:

THAT the Board of Trustees appoints Ms. Lora Wyman as Governor of EducationMatters.

Trustee Cochrane provided a brief review of the background and experience of Ms. Wyman.

Chair Close called for the vote on the motion.

The motion was
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

9.2 Appointment of Dr. Gene Edworthy as Governor of EducationMatters

MOVED by Trustee Cochrane:

THAT the Board of Trustees appoints Dr. Gene Edworthy as Governor of EducationMatters.

Trustee Cochrane provided a brief review of the background and experience of Dr. Edworthy.

Chair Close called for the vote on the motion.

The motion was
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

100 TRUSTEE NOTICES OF MOTION

There were no notices of motion.

Action By

11.0 ADJOURNMENT

Chair Close declared the meeting adjourned at 6:27 p.m.

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