

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 23, 2007 at 5:00 p.m.

PRESENT

Board of Trustees:

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

Administration:

Ms. J. Barkway, Assistant Corporate Secretary
Dr. B. Croskery, Chief Superintendent of Schools
Mr. D. Dart, Superintendent, Corporate Services – Secretary Treasurer
Mr. J. Drysdale, Superintendent, Educational 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
Ms. D. Perrier, Recording Secretary
Ms. S. Wasylshyn, Executive Assistant to Trustees

Stakeholder Representatives:

Mr. B. Anderson, Canadian Union of Public Employees, Local 40
Ms. G. Burger-Martindale, Calgary Association of Parents and School Councils
Ms. D. Clark, Elementary School Principals' Association
Ms. A. Craig, Calgary Board of Education Staff Association
Ms. J. Regal, Alberta Teachers' Association, Local 38

Action By

1.0 CALL TO ORDER, NATIONAL ANTHEM AND WELCOME

Chair Cochrane called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m., and Jenna, a Grade 11 student from Central Memorial High School, who is in the Performing Arts Program, led in the singing of the national anthem. (Later in the meeting Chair Cochrane acknowledged and welcomed representatives from the aforementioned organizations.)

2.0 CONSIDERATION/APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Ms. Barkway noted a correction to Agenda Item 6.1, to change "Southland" to "Southwood", and that for Items 6.1 and 6.2, maps of current attendance areas were distributed to Trustees at the meeting.

MOVED by Trustee Dirks:

THAT the Agenda for the Regular Meeting held January 23, 2007 be approved as submitted, subject to the above-noted correction.

The motion was
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

3.0 SCHOOL/SYSTEM PRESENTATIONS

3.1 Catherine Nichols Gunn Elementary School

Ms. A. Verdiel, Director, Area II, provided introductory remarks about Catherine Nichols Gunn Elementary School, noting that the school was named after a public health nurse who did most of her work with children and families in the north central area of Calgary. She called forward Ms. J. Walker, Principal, to give the presentation. Ms. Walker noted with the skills of her staff, and in particular Mr. N. Martin, Teacher-Librarian, a DVD presentation was prepared that showcases the students and their learning at Catherine Nichols Gunn Elementary.

The presentation gave information about the school location, demographics, the diverse cultures of its students and community, the partnerships with outside agencies and with other CBE schools, the complement of teachers and specialists, and programs offered, including English as a Second Language and music.

On behalf of the Board of Trustees, Trustee Ferguson thanked the staff and students for presenting on the initiatives they have undertaken as a school to progress towards the Ends. She said it is evident that Catherine Nichols Gunn is a community school that works tirelessly with many partners to provide children and their families with supports to achieve success.

4.0 HONOURS AND RECOGNITIONS

4.1 Lighthouse Awards

The Lighthouse Award was presented to two Calgary Board of Education partners for their significant contributions to our schools and our students:

- The Delta Bow Valley Hotel – in appreciation of support for students, schools and community events including *Families in Need; Warm Feet for the Street; the Cinderella Gown Project*.

On behalf of the Delta Bow Valley, Ms. J. Ericksson, Director of People Resources, accepted the award that was presented by Chair Cochrane.

- The Calgary Exhibition & Stampede – in appreciation of student scholarships; *Campus Calgary/Open Minds* program; the *Stampede School; Aggie Days; Agricultural Discovery*.

On behalf of the Calgary Exhibition & Stampede, Ms. T. Read, Government Relations and Community Partners Manager, accepted the award that was presented by Chair Cochrane.

5.0 PUBLIC CONVERSATION AND INFORMATION

5.1 Correspondence

There was no correspondence.

5.2 Report from the Chair and Trustees

Trustee Dirks applauded the opening of Tuscany School, which officially took place on Monday, January 22, 2007.

Chair Cochrane noted that the In-School Settlement Workers Project, which is funded through the federal government, was launched on January 11th in Calgary. The project helps newcomers to our city get settled and transitioned to Canadian society. Settlement workers have been placed in two Calgary Board of Education schools: Forest Lawn High School and Annie Gale Junior High School.

Chair Cochrane reported that on January 12th the Honourable Ron Liepert, Minister of Alberta Education, met with Trustees to hear about some of our issues and concerns.

5.3 Report from the Chief Superintendent

Chief Superintendent Croskery provided brief remarks about the following issues and events:

- His attendance at the Large City School Superintendents' Annual Conference that was held in Phoenix, Arizona.
- Saturday, January 20th, was the annual *Salute to Excellence*, at the Hyatt Regency Hotel, which was attended by Deputy Chief Superintendent Hubert and Superintendent Dart. Trustees Lane and Fawcett were also in attendance. A fundraiser that was held sold tickets at \$100 each for a trip anywhere that Air Canada flies, and all of those proceeds were donated to EducationMatters.
- Schools recently visited included: Crescent Heights, Sir John Franklin, and Stanley Jones – where the community is grieving the loss of a young student who was in a tragic accident.
- Congratulations to Mr. W. Tuff, Principal, Terry Fox Junior High School, for being chosen as one of *Canada's Outstanding Principals* for 2007.
- On February 21st, in a collaborative initiative between Educational Support Services, the CBE Staff Association and The Federation of Calgary Communities, Barbara Coloroso will be in Calgary to talk about her new book, "Just Because It's Not Wrong Doesn't Make It Right".

5.4 Public Question Period

There were no questions from the public.

5.5 Stakeholder Reports

There were no stakeholder reports.

5.6 Trustee Inquiries

There were no Trustee inquiries.

6.0 ACTION ITEMS

6.1 Recommendation for Consideration of Closure re: Proposed Accommodation Plan for Canyon Meadows/Southwood Communities

Chief Superintendent Croskery made some introductory remarks, noting the strategic issues surrounding the various programs affected by this matter are enormous. The Calgary Board of Education is developing its capacity of community engagement, as is apparent by the details of the report, and by the number of members on the Scenario Development Team. Chief Superintendent Croskery noted his appreciation to all the team members, who are listed in Appendix V of the report. Ms. N. Johnson, Director, Area V, and Mr. P. Carlton,

Director, Community Engagement and Operational Planning, were in attendance to assist with questions by Trustees.

Trustees gave consideration to the report, and in response to a question Administration noted that no actions have transpired to date with respect to the motion approved by the Board of Trustees on September 5, 2006.

MOVED by Trustee Close:

THAT the Board of Trustee rescinds the motion of September 5, 2006, as follows:

THAT the Board of Trustees requests the Minister of Education to extend the Consideration of School Closure Procedures beyond one school year, with reference to the proposed accommodation plan that was submitted with the private agenda for the Regular Meeting held September 5, 2006.

The motion was
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

MOVED by Trustee Close:

THAT the Board of Trustees is satisfied that there is cause to proceed with a consideration of closure of the Regular Program at Canyon Meadows School in accordance with the *Closure of Schools Regulation* and the Board of Trustees' *Governance Process Policy 5E: Board of Trustees' Procedures – Consideration of School Closures*, section 1.1(2).

Chair Cochrane clarified that the motion speaks only to taking the next steps in the process towards consideration of closure. The Chair called for the vote on the motion.

The motion was
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

MOVED by Trustee Close:

THAT the Board of Trustees receives for information the proposed Long Range Accommodation Plan for the Canyon Meadows/Southwood Community Schools, presented as Appendix I in the report submitted with the agenda for the Regular Meeting held January 23, 2007.

The motion was
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

6.2 Recommendation for Consideration of Closure re: Long Range Student Accommodation Plan for French Immersion North

Chief Superintendent Croskery made some brief remarks and he noted his appreciation to the staff members that were involved in this complex work. He further noted his belief that communities were thoroughly engaged in this work. In attendance were Ms. A. Verdiel, Director, Area II, Ms. M. McBride, Director, Area III, and Mr. P. Carlton, Director, Community Engagement and Operational Planning, to assist with questions.

Trustees gave consideration to the report and posed questions, which were responded to by Administration and are summarized as follows:

- In regards to the attendance area implications, as noted on page 6 of the report, it was clarified that students from Hidden Valley/Valley Creek would not attend the consolidated Area II elementary French Immersion site.
- Reference was made to Attachment I, School Capacities and Enrolment, page 12 of the report, and it was asked if conversations have occurred within Area II about the assumption that the Traditional Learning Centre program at King George might be relocated for September 2007. Director Carlton noted those conversations were occurring in Area III, and any decision to relocate is dependent upon any decisions that are made at a later date by the Board of Trustees.
- It was pointed out that on page 8, under the heading "School facility condition", a more accurate statement would be that King George School was modernized in 2002 and subsequently became a part of the Sandstone Legacy Project.
- With respect to a question of why there are no Administrative recommendations with respect to the English program at Greenview and Highwood schools, it was noted that the conversations were only about the accommodation issues for French Immersion programs. It was noted further that the Board of Trustees formally closed the English program at Highwood School some years ago.

MOVED by Trustee Ferguson:

THAT the Board of Trustees is satisfied that there is cause to proceed with a consideration of closure of the French Immersion Program at Greenview School in accordance with the *Closure of Schools Regulation* and the Board of Trustees' *Governance Process Policy 5E: Board of Trustees' Procedures – Consideration of School Closures*, sections 4 to 7.

The motion was
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

MOTION ARISING:

Trustee Ferguson requested and received the consent of the Board to bring forward a motion arising with regards to this issue.

MOVED by Trustee Ferguson:

THAT the Board of Trustees is satisfied that there is cause to proceed with a consideration of closure of the Regular Program at Greenview School in accordance with the *Closure of Schools Regulation* and the Board of Trustees' *Governance Process Policy 5E: Board of Trustees' Procedures – Consideration of School Closures*, sections 4 to 7.

Trustee Ferguson provided rationale for the motion, noting that there are currently no regular program students attending Greenview School. In looking into the issue of consolidating the French Immersion program in Area II, concern arose over the state of the regular program at Greenview School. The CBE website for the designated regular programs still lists Greenview School as the community's designated school, and the school website indicates a dual program still operates within the school. Very few students actually reside within the community of Greenview, and for whatever reasons, most eligible students have chosen to attend Buchanan or Thorncliffe School. A concern is that the Board of Trustees does not approve boundary changes, and it is uncertain as to when and how the community would become aware that students are no longer being enrolled in a regular program at Greenview School. As the public process unfolds, the community should be

given the opportunity to address any concerns they may have with the Board of Trustees regarding the regular program at Greenview School.

Chair Cochrane called for the vote on the motion.

The motion was
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

MOVED by Trustee Ferguson:

THAT the Board of Trustees is satisfied that there is cause to proceed with a consideration of closure of the French Immersion Program at Highwood School in accordance with the *Closure of Schools Regulation* and the Board of Trustees' *Governance Process Policy 5E: Board of Trustees' Procedures – Consideration of School Closures*, sections 4 to 7.

The motion was
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

MOVED by Trustee Ferguson:

THAT the Board of Trustees receives for information the accommodation and implementation plans for the French Immersion North Schools, as presented in the report submitted with the agenda for the Regular Meeting held January 23, 2007.

The motion was
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

7.0 POLICY DEVELOPMENT AND REVIEW

7.1 Executive Limitations 18: Student Fees – Second Reading

Trustee Fawcett provided a brief introduction of the item. The Board of Trustees gave first reading to the policy on December 20, 2005, and it is recommended that this policy proceed to second reading, with the adoption of a number of minor amendments, including changing the name of the executive limitations from “Student Charges” to “Student Fees”.

Trustee Fawcett noted that an exhibit to this policy is provided as an attachment to the report for information purposes only at this time. It is anticipated that the Board of Trustees would give consideration to the proposed exhibit subsequent to third and final reading of the policy EL-18: Student Fees.

MOVED by Trustee Fawcett:

THAT the Board of Trustees approves second reading of the amended Executive Limitations 18: Student Fees, in the form as submitted as Attachment I to the report dated January 23, 2007.

The motion was
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

7.2 Review of Executive Limitations 15: Transportation

MOVED by Trustee Lane:

THAT the Board of Trustees directs the Policy Committee to review Executive Limitations 15: Transportation, by requesting all Trustees to complete the Issue Identification and Problem Specification form, and as a result of such review, make recommendations to the Board of Trustees on any changes required to EL-15.

Trustee Lane provided rationale for the motion, noting that there was some question of what the values of the Board were; therefore, consideration is required as to whether this policy reflects the values that the Board wishes to espouse.

The motion was
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

8.0 CONSENT AGENDA

There were no objections to the Consent Agenda and Chair Cochrane declared the items to be adopted as presented.

8.1 Board Consent Agenda

8.1.1 Approval of Minutes

- Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees held January 9, 2007

THAT the Board of Trustees approves the Minutes of the Regular Meeting held January 9, 2007 as submitted.

8.1.2 EducationMatters – Resignation of Governor

THAT the Board of Trustees accepts the resignation of Ms. Sue Tomney as Governor of EducationMatters, effective February 4, 2007.

8.1.3 Board of Trustees' Linkages Committee – Appointment

THAT Trustee Carol Bazinet be appointed as a Trustee representative to the core working committee of the Board of Trustees' Linkages Committee, to replace Trustee Nancy Close, effective immediately.

9.0 TRUSTEE NOTICES OF MOTION

There were no Trustee notices of motion.

10.0 ADJOURNMENT

The Chair declared the meeting adjourned at 6:12 p.m.