

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, June 5, 2007 at 5:00 p.m.

Board of Trustees:

PRESENT:

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

ABSENT:

Trustee C. Bazinet

Administration:

Dr. B. Croskery, Chief Superintendent of Schools
Ms. J. Barkway, Assistant Corporate Secretary
Mr. F. Coppinger, Superintendent, Facilities and Environmental Services
Mr. D. Dart, Superintendent, Corporate Services, Secretary-Treasurer
Ms. J. Crarer, Acting Superintendent, Educational Support Services
Ms. B. Hubert, Deputy Chief Superintendent of Schools
Mr. J. Jones, Executive Assistant to the Chief Superintendent
Ms. R. Bené, Creative Director, Communications Services
Mr. R. Peden, Director and General Counsel, Legal Affairs
Ms. S. Wasylyshyn, Executive Assistant to the Trustees
Ms. H. Numrich, Recording Secretary

Stakeholder Representatives:

Mr. B. Anderson, Canadian Union of Public Employees Local No. 40
Ms. G. Burger-Martindale, Calgary Association of Parents and School Councils
Ms. A. Craig, Calgary Board of Education Staff Association
Mr. L. Liffiton, Alberta Teachers' Association, Local No. 38

1.0 CALL TO ORDER, NATIONAL ANTHEM AND WELCOME

Area Director, Mr. D. Stevenson introduced board members, staff and parents to the "Marion Carson Orffans", choir of Marion Carson School, in the auditorium. The school principal, Ms. V. Barlow and their music teacher, Ms. M. Draper, also gave brief opening remarks. An entertaining musical and artistic presentation was given, including live music, dance and a PowerPoint presentation of student art projects. The students then led in the singing of the national anthem. Trustee Dirks, Ward Trustee, expressed his appreciation, on behalf of the Board of Trustees for a most enjoyable performance.

Chair Cochrane called the meeting to order in the boardroom at 5:11 p.m. and acknowledged and welcomed representatives from the aforementioned organizations.

2.0 CONSIDERATION/APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Ms. Barkway noted that there would be one stakeholder presentation under Item 5.5; however, there were no changes to the agenda.

Action By

MOVED by Trustee Dirks:

THAT the Agenda for the Regular Meeting held June 05, 2007 be approved as submitted.

The motion was
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Chair Cochrane noted for the record that Trustee Bazinet was not present due to a death in the family. She expressed condolences on behalf of the Board towards the family during this difficult time.

3.0 SCHOOL/SYSTEM PRESENTATIONS

4.0 HONOURS AND RECOGNITIONS

4.1 Lighthouse Award

Ms. R. Bené noted that the Lighthouse Award recipient this month is the Calgary and Area Child and Family Services Authority, and stated that this organization is a truly commendable partner. The Child and Family Services Authority works closely with the Calgary Board of Education on a variety of projects. These include the Dover/Erin Woods Pilot Project, Transitions program, Services for Children with Disabilities, Salvation Army Children's Village School, and Student Health partnerships. The following employees were present to accept the award: Ms. B. Johnston, CEO, Mr. J. Phillips, Board Co-Chair and Mr. J. Morrison-O'Hara, Executive Manager. Mr. Morrison expressed his thanks and stated that they have a common goal in that they desire the best for children and that by working together we can help these young people achieve their goals and become productive members of society. He noted that his organization looks forward to a continuing relationship with the Calgary Board of Education.

Chair Cochrane echoed the expression of "working together" and stated her appreciation on behalf of the Board with the presentation of a plaque.

4.2 Acknowledgement of Board Page

On behalf of the Board of Trustees, Chair Cochrane gave recognition to Sean and presented him with a gift in appreciation of his exemplary work as Board Page for the 2006-2007 school year.

5.0 PUBLIC CONVERSATION AND INFORMATION

5.1 Correspondence

There was no correspondence.

5.2 Report from the Chair and Trustees

Trustee Close stated that as part of an ongoing campaign the board recently held an information evening to promote the October 15, 2007 school board elections. The goal was to encourage people to vote and to develop awareness of the importance of running and voting. She expressed thanks to staff members who helped with the election displays on the plaza. The highlight of the evening was the grade 6 students from Marion Carson School who interviewed Trustees about the importance of the role of a trustee and provided feedback on their findings. Those in attendance were inspired by keynote speaker Mr. M. Robinson and the event was a success.

Trustee Close also noted the graduation ceremony that she attended with Director Krylly and Deputy Chief Superintendent Hubert for the first graduating class of Juno Beach Academy.

Chair Cochrane reported that the EducationMatters distinguished alumni award recipients for the upcoming school year have been announced; they are Dr. M. Hess and Mr. A. Markin. They are both distinguished Calgarians that have graduated from this school system and will be formally honored in October.

Chair Cochrane announced that there have been two additional new school openings, Douglasdale and Radisson Park schools.

Chair Cochrane attended the Facility Management graduation for adult learners and the Mount Royal School, Celebration of Culture.

5.3 Report from the Chief Superintendent

Dr. Croskery provided brief remarks regarding the following gifts that were given to the Calgary Board of Education in order that they were formally presented to allow for their display. They included: a Traditional Korean bell (Bosingak Pavilion Bell) that was given on behalf of the Seoul Metropolitan Office of Education from Dr. Kong and the Korean delegation; a plaque of Chinese Characters representing children, education and community from the Macao District Education Office (Education and Youth Affairs Department of the Macao SAR government); a "hand band" from the Official Chinese ministry; and a commemorative book containing a set of 2008 Olympic stamps from Smart Technologies, Beijing.

Dr. Croskery also mentioned the following highlights and events:

- The Calgary Board of Education recently won another national award "2007 Canadian Association of Municipal Administrators National Award of Excellence" for work between the Calgary Board of Education and the City of Calgary for municipal workplace literacy. The "Think Responsibly Project" partnership between the City of Calgary, the Calgary Police Service and Innovative Learning Services was awarded this prestigious award.
- Congratulations to the Beddington Heights School on their 25th anniversary;
- The University of Calgary's first annual German Day where close to 110 students participated from Calgary high schools;
- Rundle Elementary School hosted a Smart Technologies project, a week-long camp using technology supported learning across Canada, Mexico and the United States;
- Rundle Elementary School grade 5 and 6 students participated for the second year in an entrepreneurial project with the Bank of Montreal to develop a business venture. This project was designed by students to address global or local issues and focused on the Calgary Drop In Centre. They raised over \$1100 by selling popcorn to students at recess.

Chair Cochrane commented that many schools and students are doing great work throughout the system.

5.4 Public Question Period

There were no questions from the public.

5.5 Stakeholder Reports

Mr. Anderson, CUPE 40 Representative

Mr. Anderson spoke with regards to the 2007/2008 budget report. His concern is regarding the number of schools under the P3 funding model and the effect that he believes it will have

on education and the operation of schools. It is his understanding that under this model, buildings will be leased from a developer who will build and operate the schools. He believes that this will force the Calgary Board of Education into long term agreements that will affect costs as developers will be more concerned about profit than they are about providing a safe, clean and secure environment for children to learn in. It is his belief that these increased costs will remove the ability to build schools in the future and is not in the best interest of constituents or the education of children in the city of Calgary.

5.6 Trustee Inquiries

There were none.

6.0 ACTION ITEMS

6.1 Board Decision re: Consideration of Closure of the Regular Program at Sam Livingston School.

Chair Cochrane explained the rationale for moving the consideration of closure item to the beginning of the agenda, in respect for those whose communities may be affected by these decisions.

Trustee Close, in the absence of Ward Trustee Bazinet, provided a brief summary of the feedback that has emerged during the consideration of closure of the Regular Program at Sam Livingston School:

- A public member felt that the public meeting was not considered a time of serious decision-making, partly because of the phasing out of earlier grades that has already occurred.
- Some felt there was a deficiency with the student accommodation process and made a suggestion that the regulatory process should have been considered earlier last fall.
- The existing, staged process is appreciated.
- Communities felt stress over the long length of time in consultation and the timing of Nickle School becoming a Middle School, not knowing whether it would be for September 2007 or September 2008.
- Presentations were given at the public school closure meeting regarding the ability to make decisions without being influenced by a minority of voices. Decisions should be based on what is best for students, not necessarily for the community.
- Questions and concerns arose regarding the existing grade 5 class, the size of the grade 6 group for next year and if it would be confirmed.
- Questions regarding modernization plans for Nickle School.
- Some felt there was an issue regarding the shortness of time regarding building scenarios.

MOVED by Trustee Dirks:

THAT the Board of Trustees approves the Minutes of the Public Meeting of May 7, 2007 in the form as submitted as Attachment I, to the report dated June 5, 2007 and that this report be received for information and for the record.

The motion was
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Motion Arising:

MOVED by Trustee Ferguson:

THAT the Board of Trustees approves the staged closure of the Regular program at Sam Livingston Elementary School, commencing June 30, 2007, such that the current grade configuration at Sam Livingston Elementary School would be altered over time as follows:

- 1) for the academic year of 2007-2008, Sam Livingston Elementary School would accommodate grade 6 regular program students, and Kindergarten to grade 5 regular program students would be designated to Andrew Sibbald Elementary School; and**
- 2) for the academic year 2008-2009, Sam Livingston Elementary School would have no regular program and all affected regular program students would be designated to Andrew Sibbald Elementary School for Kindergarten to Grade 6.**

Trustee comments in support of the motion included:

- This is an important decision. Enrolment in the regular program has declined and it would be challenging to deliver a quality program with this number of students.
- Lake Bonavista students do have access to other programs within the community.
- Trustees commend administration for engaging the community in the process and coming up with a solution that is acceptable to most. Trustees do recognize the challenges from parent comments at the public meeting and understand that parents do expect to have a part in the process.
- Administration was acknowledged for the recommended staged closure process that recognizes the important element of allowing students to finish their elementary years in that building.

Chair Cochrane called for the vote on the motion.

The motion was
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

6.2 Presentation of 2007-2008 Operating and Capital Budgets

6.2.1 2007/2008 Preliminary Operating Budget

Superintendent D. Dart provided introductory remarks and expressed appreciation to all who worked on this budget, particularly to Director W. Braun and staff.

He noted several contributing factors to the budget including: the province of Alberta funds 93% of the resources; fixed service contracts; class size initiatives that have provided substantial resources; increased resources due to changes in the funding framework particularly with Special Education and English as a Second Language programs and enrolments, which although uncertain, are projecting a small increase again as the population of Calgary increases.

He stated that this budget will not be without its challenges with the factors of inflation, competition for staff and high growth in Calgary while the majority of the funding grants will increase by only 3%. Maintenance, infrastructure and transportation continue to be

areas of considerable concern and administration is working hard to provide the best service levels possible while trying to keep fees at a nominal level. At the same time collective agreements are yet to be negotiated. Superintendent Dart stated that administration has endeavoured to be strong stewards of public resources and have had success to balance this year's budget. For the first time in 10 years there is no deficit to deal with and funds can be fully allocated to support the instructional needs of students.

Director W. Braun also expressed thanks to all who worked on the budget process as a collaborative effort. He stated that key components of this budget were to ensure that it was in line with the Three Year Education Plan, Area Renewal Plans, Service Unit and Capital Plans. The resource allocations will maintain current service levels across the Calgary Board of Education and will result in no reduction of staff or service levels to the approximately 100,000 students in 214 schools. There is a marginal increase in projected enrolment of 300 students.

He provided an overview of the contents of the report and of the analysis and financial impact of the 2007-2008 Preliminary Operating Budget. The context of the preliminary operating budget is based on the following:

- The budget is in alignment with the Ends Policies and Executive Limitations, as well as legislative requirements such as the School Act, Labour Relations, and Occupational Health and Safety.
- The Calgary Board of Education anticipates an increase of \$28.5 million in total revenues and other funding resources, which represents an increase of 3.5% in comparison with the Modified Approved 2006-2007 Budget. The majority of this increase is a result of:
 - additional enrolment growth increase 0.5%;
 - most grants will increase by 3% except for a 6% increase for the student health initiative;
 - operations and maintenance grant will increase by 3% plus an additional 1.1 % for the increase in enrollment in the 2006/2007 school year.
- Expenditure projections are based on reasonable and affordable assumptions with 90% being tied to permanent staffing costs, mandatory service fixed contracts, utilities and amortization.
- The deficit has been eliminated 3 years ahead of schedule.
- The projected shortfall for transportation has been reduced and there will be no fee increases.
- Comparisons are based on the modified approved 2006/07 budget. This modified approved budget is based on the best information available in the first quarter. It includes all additional funding announcements that were made over the summer months and also reflects any enrolment growth that was included in the September RAM figures, providing a more meaningful comparison. This same approach will be used for comparisons in future years budgets.
- It was noted that the Education Minister is clear that no summer or mid-year funding announcements will be made, however enrolment in September 2007 could have an effect on the budget.
- Budget requests exceeded new dollars available by approximately five to ten-fold.
- The Operating Budget Steering Committee and Superintendent's Team is bringing forward this balanced preliminary operating budget of \$905.5 million for the 2007/08 school year, an increase of \$31.3 million or 3.6% from the 2006/07 modified approved budget.

Action By

- There was a 3% grant increase to severe/mild moderate funding but not to severe profile funding. This does not take into account that this student group is growing. The province will be doing a review of this area next year. At this point it is not certain whether funding will be affected for the 2007/08 school year, but will most likely be affected for the 2008/09 school year.
- Alberta Initiative for School Improvement is now in its third cycle (year 8). Under this initiative, \$12.5 million will be received for the 2007/08 school year.
- Infrastructure Maintenance Renewal is set at \$22.5 million. The 2006/07 modified approved budget, including the summer funding was \$38.3 million. Due to the lateness of the funding it was not possible to hire contractors for last school year, resulting in a portion of the funding being deferred.
- Non-facility capital items for 2006/07 was \$1.3 million, this is being reduced to \$0.4 million in 2007/08, with the difference being reallocated.
- High schools will continue to receive 23.0 full time equivalent teachers funded through extra Credit Enrolment Units (CEUs) earned.
- Given a 3% increase, it will be a challenge to reduce class sizes for K-3 to the targeted 17.0 class size initiative for all school districts in the province. However, the other three divisions are at, or below targets.
- Additional resources in the budget have been allocated to: the attraction and retention of support staff including a minimum number of 3 hours per day identified support staff positions; a new centralized approach to deploy educational Braille assistants at 6 hours per day; secondary review recommendations; additional specialists for assisted technology; supports for mild/moderate student population; programming for blind/visually impaired students; increased allocation to support various Calgary Board of Education academies; absorbing costs for security checks for new employees; additional 4.5 full time equivalent caretaking staff for the Battalion Park addition and Arbour Lake schools; additional supports for CBe-learn; five new classes of special education; additional support for dual coded students, ie. ESL and Special Needs; reallocation of resources to support for English as a Second Language in years 1-7 of their coding to match provincial funding.
- The challenge to fill certain positions has created “gapping dollars”. This budget has built in some anticipated gapping next year that will be deployed early as part of the budget cycle. This is a new strategy.
- Schools have chosen to reallocate resources in order to maximize their ability to retain staff, resulting in a small increase in staff at the Calgary Board of Education, although this is dependent on September enrolment. Additional staff include: Schools and Areas 40.3 FTE certificated staff and 41.5 FTE non-certificated staff; 4.5 FTE instructional support; 12.6 FTE facility and environmental services; 12.5 FTE system level; 2.2 FTE Area secondment for a total of 113.6 FTE positions. Note that actual deployment decisions are dependent on September enrolment. These figures are based on projections at this time.
- The budget includes 9300 FTE staff at the current time. Funds were reallocated due to the deficit reduction. There have also been a significant number of retirements, which were normally 3-3.5%; but are now approaching 5-6%. Newer staff provide lower costs with 100% of the increase in the budget going into staffing resources as this was an identified need.
- All of the collective agreements will expire (or already have expired) by August 31, 2007, with the exception of CUPE to expire August 31, 2008. Negotiations will begin shortly.

Director Braun stated that the result is a balanced, status quo budget, with some minor increases received through reallocation of existing resources.

Trustees gave consideration to many issues regarding the preliminary operating budget, and the following is a summary of the discussion and Administration's responses to questions:

- Superintendent Dart explained the concept of "gapping dollars" stating that it has become increasingly difficult to fill certain positions, particularly support staff, in light of the current employment situation in Calgary, thus creating unexpended salary dollars. This budget incorporates the expenditure of these dollars with caution. It provides a source of good resources rather than having them fall to the bottom line as a carry forward for future years. This year's gapping dollars will not appear in next year's budget and it will be re-evaluated.
- The Infrastructure Maintenance Renewal Grant has not been totally expended as at the present time it is difficult to find contractors available to do the work that is required as well as supervisors. Should contractors become available, the work and expenditure could take place earlier.
- The 40.3 million dollar grant for class size initiative has been fully deployed towards this, with most of it going towards the K-3 division where there is the greatest need. The 3% grant increase in this area does not meet the costs involved. Deputy Chief Superintendent Hubert explained that it is part of the Area Directors' responsibilities to review with the school principals each fall how they have met their class size targets. In order to meet the class size initiative it would require an additional eight million dollars in class size initiative funding (approximately 100 teachers). Another factor to be considered is that uncertificated staff are required for English as a Second Language students, Braille assistants, Special Needs, etc. which affect the class size ratio.
- Administration confirmed that the Calgary Board of Education spends approximately 69% of the budget in direct support of instruction in schools.
- When concern was expressed over the high percentage of staff retiring this year and the loss of experienced staff, administration stated that Calgary Board of Education Academies provide additional support which have been allocated additional resources.
- The transportation service provider contract increased by close to 5%, while the grant only increased by 3%, leaving a greater percentage to subsidize (\$1.3 million).
- Although grants do not cover overall costs there are other sources of revenue to cover some shortfalls such as utility stabilization reserves.
- Director Braun explained that, in reference to the 220 million excess dollars across the province spoken of by the Education Minister, late funding announcements were the source of deferred revenues as of August 31, 2006. These are reserved surpluses that are specifically targeted for specific purposes in the amount of \$5.5 million dollars. These are one-time initiatives, and cannot be used for sustainable expenditures. A survey was taken at all schools as to what the intentions were for this revenue and approximately \$5.5 million was identified. Generally, most schools identified 90% of the carried forward funding would be used to buy new computers, photocopiers, curriculum, etc. to be expensed in this school year. A similar survey will be done again at the end of this school year.
- In response to a Trustee question regarding the additional legal support noted in the budget, Director R. Peden and Superintendent Dart explained that there was a need identified within the Legal Affairs department, as it is not currently staffed sufficiently. There is only one lawyer on staff and more administrative support is required for the wide range of legal requirements for a system of this size. Mr.

Peden chose to obtain external legal support as opposed to hire more internal support. More details will be provided soon.

- Trustees commended Administration for the tremendous achievement of the debt elimination.

MOVED by Trustee Close:

THAT the Board of Trustees receives the 2007/08 Preliminary Operating Budget for information and for consideration at the June 19, 2007 Public Board Meeting.

The motion was
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Recessed at 6:55 p.m.
Reconvened at 7:14 p.m.

6.2.2 2007-2008 Capital Budget and 2008-2010 Capital Estimates

Superintendent D. Dart introduced the proposed Capital Budget for 2007/2008. He noted that this is a 12.2 million dollar budget, which reflects a small decline in the operations department due to some increase in amortization and cash flows and will draw less on the operating budget. Details by service units, schools and areas are provided in the attachment to the report.

Mr. Braun reviewed the report, noting that the Capital Budget Steering Committee consisting of representatives from service units and principals reviewed the initial budget requests, which exceeded 17 million dollars. This committee determines whether projects are mandatory, critical, necessary or discretionary. Most of the approved decisions are for projects deemed mandatory or critical, and some necessary. Mr. Braun explained that the Capital Items are reviewed in compliance with *Executive Limitations 12: Protection of Assets*. Mr. Braun briefly reviewed the projects and expenditures that are listed in the report.

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

- Director C. Seibel, Information Technology Services, explained the necessity of the expenditure of the Enterprise Portal Deployment Expansion as a significant component in the overall technology infrastructure. It is a five-year initiative that is designed to enable connection with students, staff, parents and stakeholders in different ways and to personalize the environment for students. The Voice Over Internet Protocol (IP) will deliver some of the voice traffic over Supernet. The return on investment for making this change will involve taking out some of the existing phone lines resulting in a cost savings. This technology is necessary as the technology currently in place will no longer be available.
- The purchase of a skid steer loader is a replacement for existing equipment in the 2007/08 school year and another will be purchased next year. Superintendent Coppinger will report back to Trustees as to exactly what this piece of equipment is used for.
- The Electronic Door Access System for each Calgary Board of Education facility will be installed as a safety item, providing electronic entry to schools and remote closure of doors as opposed to key entry.
- The furniture and equipment allowance provided from the province for new schools is not sufficient for essential service. Principals identified what items would be

essential equipment requirements to operate a new school and the provincial budgets meet only 50% of these.

MOVED by Trustee Dirks:

THAT the 2007/08 Capital Budget for the identified capital needs outlined in Attachments I to IX of the report, dated June 5, 2007 be approved; and

THAT the 2008-2009 and 2009-2010 Capital Estimates be received for information.

The motion was
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

6.3 Ten Year Facilities Plan

Superintendent Coppinger provided a PowerPoint presentation outlining the Ten Year Plan. This plan focuses on five key areas: new schools, modernized schools, preservation projects, replacement schools and closed schools.

The city forecast indicates that the total population of Calgary will increase by 230,000 in the next decade, although if last year's growth of 36,000 were to continue, it would be even higher. Mr. Coppinger reviewed the City of Calgary projections by sector, indicating the greatest growth is expected in sectors 4 and 9 in the south with total projected growth to 108,000 students over 10 years. He noted the rule-of-thumb that a growth of 100,000 population would require 16 new schools. The Calgary Board of Education has approved to date an additional 6 schools, and in the Three Year Plan requests for 18 new schools to open between September 2009 - 2013. Also under consideration are potential school modernizations, preservations, closures and replacements in the capital planning process.

At a planning workshop on May 23, 2007 Alberta Education and Alberta Infrastructure and Transportation reported that they are reviewing the reporting requirements for school boards, and the Capital Borrowing Regulation, including examining options for borrowing for school facility renewal projects and use of surplus school sites. They will review collaboration between municipalities and school boards in assembling reserve land for future schools and disposition of sites no longer required for school purposes, examine the use of P3 arrangements for building new schools and examine the option of using part of the residential property tax as an alternative for school boards to finance school buildings.

Trustees questions regarding the report and responses from Administration are summarized as follows:

- In response to Trustee questions regarding Elboya School and the process for ranking schools, Director P. Carlton explained that he has been meeting with school councils regarding accommodation issues and the state of the Elboya building will be discussed. Mr. B. Hughes, Manager, Capital Planning and Development, noted that Elboya has not dropped off the plan, rather, it is listed as a P3. It is one of 7 modernizations after the first three, in the Three Year Plan.
- Superintendent Coppinger stated that the facility projections rely heavily on the population forecasts from The City of Calgary. The number of homes the city indicates in a community influences the number of students projected for the community. Also taken into consideration and impacting suggested projections are certain cultural communities where there are different birth rates and sometimes more than one family per household.

- Communities are assessed according to a recent study showing the threshold for an elementary school is a community of 10-12,000 and 22-24,00 for a middle school. From time to time, two communities combine to support one elementary school.
- Dr. Croskery noted that the definition of “community” may not always be understood.
- Administration stated that there is uncertainty with modernization of schools as it is hard to predict for 10 years, which schools should be replaced and which should be closed. Alberta Education is reviewing options for funding of schools including that of property tax.

At 8:00 p.m. Chair Cochrane received the consent of Trustees to continue the meeting to the completion of the agenda.

MOVED by Trustee Ferguson:

THAT the Ten-Year Facilities Plan 2007-2016 be approved by the Board of Trustees as a basis for long term capital planning for the Calgary Board of Education, and forwarded to the Minister of Alberta Education, to the Minister of Alberta Infrastructure and Transportation, to the members of City Council, and to Calgary MLA’s and that it be posted on the Calgary Board of Education website.

Trustees comments in support of the motion included:

The Trustees were pleased to see the depth and breadth of this plan indicating how large and complex the need is, how schools are used to provide the best programming for students and the need to accommodate for growth currently happening in Calgary.

Chair Cochrane called for the vote on the motion.

The motion was
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

6.4 CAPSC (Calgary Association of Parents and School Councils) Funding Request

Chair Cochrane explained that although the Calgary Board of Education has funded this association for many years, it was decided to bring this request to a public meeting for transparency, to hear what the benefits of this group are and why it is funded. Ms. G. Burger-Martindale, CAPSC Chair, spoke on behalf of the Association and outlined some of the projects they have been involved with such as the “Raise the Roof” campaign. She explained their focus to promote a healthy and necessary connection between parents, school councils and the Calgary Board of Education.

MOVED by Trustee Lane:

That the Board of Trustees approves the funding request for the Calgary Association of Parents and School Councils for the 2007/08 school year, in the amount of \$7,800.

In response to a Trustee question, Ms. Burger-Martindale stated that the current membership is 17.

A Trustee stated that this Association is a valuable, knowledgeable group of parents who keep informed about critical issues and partner with us.

The motion was
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

6.5 Killarney-Glengarry Innovative and Sustainable Community Design Project Funding Request

MOVED by Trustee Close:

THAT the Board of Trustees approves the funding request for the Killarney-Glengarry Innovative and Sustainable Community Design Project in the amount of \$5,000; and

THAT the Board of Trustees approves the involvement of the Calgary Board of Education in this project.

In response to a Trustee question, Chair Cochrane stated that the funding for this request is assumed to come from the Board of Trustees' budget. It is an exciting project, which could be used as a template for other communities.

The motion was
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

7.0 MONITORING AND RESULTS

7.1 Review of Secondary Education

Dr. Croskery provided introductory comments to the report stating that copies are printed and ready for distribution this week. He expressed thanks to the committee members who worked on this and particular thanks to Mr. J. Jones, Executive Assistant, for his stewardship and major hand in drafting the final report. He stated that the recommendations in the report that have emerged as a result of the review warrant serious consideration and the feedback received from students will be taken seriously by the system.

Trustee questions regarding the report and responses from Administration are summarized as follows:

- The intent of the report is that it is an initial piece of work. Some of the beginning work will take place in June and Superintendents will set in motion plans to begin to address and implement the recommendations. Alberta Education has received a copy of the report and have indicated that they are interested in working with the Calgary Board of Education to follow through on the recommendations.
- In response to a Trustee suggestion regarding student mentors with computer technology, Mr. Jones stated that there are many ways to accomplish this and several entry points are suggested throughout the report.

MOVED by Trustee Dirks:

It is recommended that the report titled *Review of Secondary Education, 2007* be received for information and that periodic updates be provided to Trustees upon the implementation of the reports recommendations.

Trustee Dirks clarified that it would be up to Administration to determine the means of reporting, whether in a monthly update or a specific report to the board.

Trustees expressed congratulations to the committee for work well done. It is hopeful that it will influence learning and that the review will continue.

The motion was
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Recessed at 8:31 p.m.
Reconvened at 8:43 p.m.

7.2 Ends 5: Character – Annual Monitoring

Dr. Croskery provided introductory remarks and thanked the staff that worked on the report. He stated that this is a very significant Ends statement.

Superintendent Dart stated that they enjoyed working as a team to build this monitoring report and that good progress is being made. The case studies, surveys, Alberta Initiative for School Improvement projects and report card indicators add valuable information.

Mr. Davies, Executive Assistant to the Superintendent, Educational Support Services, gave further introductory remarks stating that as outlined in the Reasonable Interpretation, the Chief Superintendent is informing the assessment of incremental progress in the area of Character Development through this presentation and analysis of the data gathered. He stated that student participation in character development programs has increased in the elementary and junior high levels. Since the Board of Trustees set the Ends Statements, the values embedded in character are being reflected in school development planning, Area plans and the Three Year Educational Plan. He introduced Ms. D. Nowlan, Accountability Services Specialist.

Ms. Nowlan explained that in September 2006 a collaborative case study between Alberta Education and the Calgary Board of Education was approved. The intent of the case study was to address character development in five individual schools and to develop a protocol that may be used throughout the Calgary Board of Education and the province. The schools involved were Bowness High School Area 1, Buchanan Elementary Area 2, Dr. Gordon Higgins Area 3, Riverbend Elementary Area 4 and MidSun Junior High Area 5. The report for the first pilot school was submitted to Riverbend Elementary staff in February 2007. Completion of four reports from the other pilot schools and an aggregated final report are due June 30, 2007 and will be reported to the Board in the next annual monitoring report. She introduced Principal D. Wolfe of Riverbend Elementary School who participated in the first case study.

Principal D. Wolfe stated that they have learned from the case study that the evolving programming to support character development has been very effective with the children at their school. She gave a PowerPoint presentation of student quotes documenting the development of good character among the students at Riverbend School. She noted special thanks to Teacher/Librarian, Ms. T. Green for helping with the presentation.

Principal R. Hollinshead of MidSun Junior High School spoke of the effectiveness of the program at this school of over 800 students. He stated that the vision statement of their school is "MidSun is a School of Character". A great deal of information and resources were received from Alberta Education that provided an opportunity to reconsider things that might influence the students, parents and the community and what is involved with character education. The staff at this school stresses the importance of character education and model great character traits for the students, providing a safe and nurturing community. They believe that this has driven higher scores on student achievement tests. Observations were used at staff meetings and professional development days to focus further on character development and to discuss how it has impacted the school.

Mr. Davies thanked each of the staff for their presentations and provided concluding remarks that character is developed over time. As demonstrated through the case studies it is an ongoing process of overlapping steps and this has been a solid beginning.

Trustees posed questions regarding the report that were responded to by Administration and are summarized as follows:

- It is believed that some aspect of character education is taking place in all schools whether formally or informally. An area wide strategy will be taking place through the support of the Alberta Initiative for School Improvement team using "*The Heart of the Matter*" from Alberta Education as well as case studies. All schools may not have individual programs, but the Area strategy will be all encompassing.
- This has been found to be a vehicle in which to get parents involved. Parents expressed an interest in taking part and indicated that it was a positive experience for them and the staff as a result.
- Vandalism statistics are not very reflective as the dollar figure can vary depending on the economy. It is being proposed to change this to be based on the number of student incidents instead.
- There has been a significant trend in the decrease of discipline reports that is attributed to the focus on character in schools, and that will continue to be watched.

Chair Cochrane reviewed the criteria against which the Trustees are to judge this report, including to determine whether reasonable progress has been made to the ultimate achievement of this End result. Emphasis is on progress not compliance.

MOVED by Trustee Dirks:

THAT the Board of Trustees has reviewed the scheduled monitoring report on Ends 5: Character and concludes that reasonable progress has been made towards the ultimate achievement of this Ends policy.

Trustee comments in support of this motion:

- There has been incremental improvement on character development. Trustees have seen and heard compelling presentations that show strong progress is continuing, more so than any other Ends policy monitored this year. The report reflects that students are very engaged and that good character is a conscious choice. Interest was expressed in the high school exit survey.
- Leading the way is important and conversations will take place because of this and affirm what has been happening. Ripples that go out will result in even better ways of accomplishing this and it could be significant in shaping the character of the city and culture.
- This has been a great way to engage parents.

Chair Cochrane called for the motion.

The motion was
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Motion Arising:

MOVED by Trustee Dirks:

THAT the Board of Trustees commends the Chief Superintendent for incremental improvement on indicators of character such as care, respect, safety and security.

The motion was
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

MOVED by Trustee Ferguson:

THAT the Board of Trustees commends the Chief Superintendent for increasing student participation in character education programs within the schools.

Trustee comments included:

- Higher participation levels are evident in these programs.
- The conclusion should not be drawn that there cannot be character development taking place unless there is a structured program in place. These are process indicators that can be commended for that reason.
- This is the first step towards being involved and focused into a program. It provides a student with the means to get started on development, a first step in a long journey.
- A Trustee questioned whether or not we need character education programs in every school in order to achieve this end?
- The data has only been collected data for 2 years and is certainly going in the right direction; however, it would be good to see this data in the next year or two to see if there are significant changes. We are making reasonable progress, but are not at the commendation stage yet.
- Concern was expressed over the emphasis on programs.

Chair Cochrane called for the vote on the motion:

The motion was
CARRIED.

In Favour: Trustee Dirks
Trustee Ferguson
Trustee Cochrane
Trustee Lane
Trustee Close

Opposed: Trustee Fawcett

MOVED by Trustee Dirks:

THAT the Board of Trustees approves the reasonable interpretation of the policy, as well as the indicators, benchmarks and targets provided to be reported on in June 2008.

The motion was
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

8.0 POLICY DEVELOPMENT AND REVIEW

8.1 Second Reading to Executive Limitations 13: Facilities and to Executive Limitations 14: Student Accommodation

Trustee Fawcett introduced the report and thanked the staff that worked on it.

MOVED by Trustee Close:

THAT the Board of Trustees gives second reading to the amended Executive Limitations 13: Facilities, submitted as Attachment I to the report dated June 5, 2007.

The motion was
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

MOVED by Trustee Close:

THAT the Board of Trustees gives second reading to the amended Executive Limitations 14: Student Accommodation, submitted as Attachment II to the report dated June 5, 2007.

Trustee Close clarified that the policy committee is recommending that the provisions on utilization are deleted but there is recognition that there has to be some sort of measure in place in order to be efficient and to do the system work that is so important for student accommodation but that the interpretation is left up to administration. She also stated that with regards to new school construction and the need for temporary “swing” space in our schools, perhaps a utilization number would not provide the needed flexibility.

The motion was
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

MOVED by Trustee Close:

THAT the Board of Trustees rescinds first reading of Executive Limitations titled *Innovative/Supplementary Funding Mechanisms*, as approved at the February 6, 2007 meeting of the Board of Trustees.

Trustee Close noted that administration’s recommendations have been accepted regarding the inclusion of the broader concept of student accommodation planning in EL-13 Facilities.

The motion was
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

8.2 Second Reading to GP – System Funding

Trustee Fawcett provided introductory remarks stating that feedback had been received from the public and the policy committee has reflected the suggested changes.

MOVED by Trustee Close:

THAT the Board of Trustees approves second reading of the amended Educational Funding Governance Process policy submitted as Attachment I to the report dated June 5, 2007.

The motion was
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

MOVED by Trustee Fawcett:

THAT the Board of Trustees approves that the policy be amended to replace the word “dedicated” with “sustainable” and that the two sentences reading “The revenue source comes from property tax and general provincial government revenues. Property tax provides public education with a stable source of funding”, be deleted.

Trustee comments in support of the amendment to the policy included:

- The policy committee tried to integrate a current board position from a motion that was made in previous years. The idea that property taxes provide a stable resource is faulty as only 20% of the total education budget is provided by property tax, this is not stable funding, it is minimal. Property tax no longer provides a link to local citizens with the choice of charter schools, private schools, and situations such as the Palliser case.
- The value of property tax as it was 12 years ago, has changed, and has left school boards and municipalities in two different worlds. The concept is out of date. Why not sales tax, which would most likely be more sustainable. School boards should have the freedom to allocate resources to best meet own their own community needs, and we should be leaders on this issue.

Trustee comments not in support of the amendment to the policy included:

- It may be that school boards will not get revenue from property tax again, but the possibility should not be discarded. Once the connection is lost, the relationship between the public and the school system is diminished. There is not much interest in voting at school elections, as people know that we are under the provincial government. In the 1980's and early 1990's most of the funding came from the province but the school board had some authority to tax and it was a much better and more responsible system.
- This would make it more difficult for school boards to direct their own futures and would remove any possibility of local autonomy. Property tax is a very stable resource of revenue, it is predictable, stable, visible, connected to the public and easily calculated. It would be a mistake and imprudent to pass a motion like this as the largest board in the province, to be entirely reliant on the provincial government for education funding.
- Separate school boards would still have the right to taxation. It is a constitutional right and it is doubtful that they would follow the lead of public boards. It would leave us in a handicapped position.
- Arguments regarding doing away with property tax have been around for many years back to the 1960's and 1970's. It comes down to critical issues like local autonomy. This would provide boards with the opportunity to raise revenue themselves. We don't have the measure of local autonomy that we would like, but we will seal our fate further of never getting it back if we do this. In the 1990's the government tried to solve an inequitable problem in the wrong way and we have been suffering with this ever since. Sales tax is more regressive, it would hit the lower income families harder and it would never be appropriate to use for education purposes.

Chair Cochrane called for the vote on the amendment to the policy:

The motion was:
DEFEATED.

In Favour: Trustee Fawcett

Opposed: Trustee Dirks
Trustee Ferguson
Trustee Cochrane
Trustee Lane
Trustee Close

Chair Cochrane called for the vote on the main motion:

The motion was:
CARRIED.

In Favour: Trustee Dirks
Trustee Ferguson
Trustee Cochrane
Trustee Lane
Trustee Close

Opposed: Trustee Fawcett

9.0 CONSENT AGENDA

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

9.1 Board Consent Agenda

9.1.1 Approval of Minutes

THAT the Board of Trustees approves the Minutes of the Regular Meetings held May 1, 2007; May 15, 2007 and May 22, 2007, as submitted.

9.1.2 CAPSC (Calgary Association of Parents and School Councils) Liaison Report

THAT the Board of Trustees receives the report for information.

9.1.3 Approval of Audit Plan

THAT the Board of Trustees receives this report for information and for the record; and

THAT the Board of Trustees approves the 2006-07 Audit Plan as attached (Attachment I).

D. Dart

9.2 Chief Superintendent Consent Agenda

9.2.1 Monthly Update

THAT the Board of Trustees receives the report for information, in the form as submitted with the Agenda for the Regular Meeting held June 5, 2007.

9.2.2 Impact Statement for Proposed Amendment to E-3: Citizenship

THAT the Board of Trustees receives the report for information.

10.0 TRUSTEE NOTICES OF MOTION

There were no Trustee notices of motion.

Action By

11.0 ADJOURNMENT

Chair Cochrane declared the meeting adjourned at 10:14 p.m.

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