

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, September 4, 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:

Dr. B. Croskery, Chief Superintendent of Schools
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. B. Kuester, Executive Director of Communications
Mr. R. Peden, Director and General Counsel, Legal Affairs
Ms. J. Barkway, Assistant Corporate Secretary
Ms. S. Wasylshyn, Executive Assistant to the Trustees
Ms. D. Perrier, Recording Secretary

Stakeholder Representatives:

Ms. A. Craig, Calgary Board of Education Staff Association
Ms. J. Regal, Alberta Teachers' Association, Local 38
Ms. G. Burger-Martindale, Calgary Association of Parents and School Councils

Action By

1.0 CALL TO ORDER, NATIONAL ANTHEM AND WELCOME

Chair Cochrane called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m. and the singing of the national anthem took place, led by students from Catherine Nichols Gunn School by way of a DVD. Later in the meeting, but recorded at this point in the Minutes for the purpose of continuity, Chair Cochrane acknowledged and welcomed representatives from the aforementioned organizations.

2.0 CONSIDERATION/APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Ms. Barkway noted that Item 8.1.4 – imagineCALGARY Liaison Report was pulled from the Consent Agenda and would be dealt with immediately following the Consent Agenda.

MOVED by Trustee Ferguson:

THAT the Agenda for the Regular Meeting of September 4, 2007, be approved as submitted, subject to the above-noted revision.

The motion was
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

3.0 SCHOOL/SYSTEM PRESENTATIONS

3.1 Lord Beaverbrook High School

Ms. N. Johnson, Director, Area V, provided opening comments and introduced Dr. D. Yee, Principal, Mr. D. Wallace, teacher, and Kevin Rushworth who graduated last year from Lord Beaverbrook High School, who presented about the school's publishing company called *Tiberious Publishing*, named after the school mascot.

Mr. Wallace shared information about the undertaking of the project and its implementation. He noted the Career Pathways program and the Calgary Board of Education's Ends Statements of developing academic skills; enhancing students' individual abilities; and acquiring personal skills have encouraged the continuance of this student-run book publishing company. This past year the school has also had success with an online journal that showcases student writing. At the initiation of the project, Dr. Yee connected Mr. Wallace with three students of the school who were in the process of writing a book and with the assistance of students in his Creative Writing class they finished writing the book and published it in June 2005. The book is titled *Living in Reality* and it is about teen reflections on depression. The book has sold over 500 copies and it has been well received by the local psychiatric and local community social workers.

Mr. Wallace informed that stemming from this successful venture was the creation of the locally developed course *Creative Writing and Publishing*. He pointed out that these skills help students to develop a good foundation in their academic skills for work life; it gives them knowledge and the proper attitudes for their work in life; and it helps them to achieve their highest personal potential. This past June, two former students of Lord Beaverbrook each authored and published a book. Mhairi Robertson wrote a children's book called "Moose & Cow", and Kevin Rushworth wrote a fantasy book called "Gaarn". Kevin came forward and read a passage from his book.

On behalf of the Board of Trustees, Trustee Bazinet thanked the presenters for sharing information about *Tiberious Publishing* and its success.

3.2 Recognition of Calgary Board of Education/Southland/Cardinal 2007 Stampede Parade Entry

Mr. P. Carlton, Director, Community Engagement and Operational Planning, introduced the presentation and welcomed from Cardinal Coach Lines Ltd., Ms. T. Litlaw and Mr. K. Martin and from Southland Transportation Ltd., Ms. J. Newton and Ms. J. Peterson, who were all were part of a team that put together an enticing opportunity for the Calgary Board of Education to participate in a joint corporate float entry for the Calgary Stampede Parade. A slideshow was presented of the buses that were entered in the parade as the corporate float.

Mr. Carlton presented Chair Cochrane with a flag depicting the Board of Trustees' achievement as the overall winner of The Conference Board of Canada / Spencer Stuart National Awards in Governance, which had been carried through the Stampede Parade. He then presented the Chair with a plaque that gives recognition for the Best Corporate Entry in the 2007 Stampede Parade. Trustee Lane and Trustee Fawcett were participants of the float, and on behalf of the two transportation carriers, Ms. Newton presented each of them with a mounted picture of the corporate float and joint participants.

At this point in the meeting Chair Cochrane introduced Kaitlyn who will be serving as a Board Page for the 2007-2008 school year. Kaitlyn is a grade 11 French Immersion student attending William Aberhart High School.

4.0 HONOURS AND RECOGNITIONS

There were no honours or recognitions.

5.0 PUBLIC CONVERSATION AND INFORMATION

5.1 Correspondence

There was no correspondence for the corporate record.

5.2 Report from the Chair and Trustees

Trustee Lane reported on the official opening of the addition to Battalion Park School that took place earlier in the day, noting that it was quite impressive.

5.3 Report from the Chief Superintendent

Chief Superintendent Croskery provided comments on the following issues and events:

- A visit to three schools: City Hall School; James Fowler High School; and Western Canada High School.
- The University of Calgary holds an annual “University School Week” and in April this past year, 284 students from five Calgary Board of Education schools participated in a whole range of activities, including archaeology, mathematics, geography and writing, etc., and for this opportunity the Calgary Board of Education extends its thanks to the University for its efforts.
- This week, a leadership development company from the USA, *High Performing Systems*, will be working with respective candidates of the Leadership Succession Pool.
- Acknowledgement and thanks were given to Mr. C. Ross, Facility Operator, James Fowler High School, who is retiring after 28 years with the Calgary Board of Education.
- The Chief Superintendent and Superintendent Coppinger met with school council representatives of Sunalta School on August 31st to discuss facility issues. An invitation has also been made to meet with school council representatives of Western Canada High School to discuss their facility issues.

5.4 Public Question Period

There were no questions from the public.

5.5 Stakeholder Report: Mr. B. Payne, Business Agent and President of the United Brotherhood of Carpenters, Local 2103

Mr. Payne acknowledged Mr. P. Wyatt, Business Manager and representative of the Sheet Metal Workers Union, in the public gallery and noted they are native Calgarians. Mr. Payne pointed out that there are three Trades groups currently on strike picket lines. He noted that many of these employees have provided numerous years of service to the Calgary Board of Education, trying to maintain the safety, security, integrity and efficiency of the buildings that our children are schooled in. Mr. Payne expressed that many of them are perplexed with being caught in the middle of a political debate, as they are very aware of the lack of funding and of the tremendous amount of maintenance work needed on our buildings. He stressed his belief that these employees want to continue their service with the Board, noting they number approximately 120 positions in total, with many years of combined service provided to the Board, and the majority of them are not looking for the quick cash-in currently being experienced in the robust Calgary economy. Mr. Payne commented that whatever needs to be done to get the attention of the provincial government or the Board, it is important to ensure the safety and integrity of our buildings remains. He noted that it will

cost a great deal more to get these employees back working for the Board subsequent to them working better paying jobs in the interim.

5.6 Trustee Inquiries

There were no Trustee inquiries.

6.0 **MONITORING AND RESULTS**

6.1 2006-2007 Accountability Pillar Overall Summary

Acting Superintendent Crarer provided opening comments noting this is the most current information to share with the Board. Alberta Education released the Accountability Pillar results in May 2007, and this presentation is intended to provide a more in-depth analysis of the results. The overall results convey an exceptionally positive story and demonstrate a continuation of the Calgary Board of Education's strong improvement trends. The presentation was given in three parts:

- a PowerPoint given by Ms. D. Nowlan, Specialist, Accountability Services, providing an explanation of the overall summary, including a breakdown of the goals and measures, the jurisdiction results, the provincial results and the evaluation of the measures;
- Ms. K. Krylly, Director, Area IV, provided comments about how the data is used to inform the Area priorities based on last year's results; and
- Mr. M. Christison, Principal, Ernest Manning High School, shared information pertinent to how these results are deciphered through both a divisional level and a school level.

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

- With respect to a question about the discrepancy between the provincial and the jurisdiction high school completion results, that some CBE students take four to five years to complete, it was noted by Ms. Nowlan that the results are volatile from year to year. She noted further that as indicated in the Ernest Manning High School presentation and from the Secondary Review, there are a considerable number of processes involved in trying to keep our students in school for those three years to complete high school. Chief Superintendent Croskery commented that the cohort of students could factor into this, and that a complex student population taking longer to graduate may not be surprising.
- In response to a question of how these results will be sustained given the high volume of new teachers coming into the system, Mr. Christison commented about the steps being taken at his school in working with the new teachers coming on-stream. He informed that they openly share ideas; they pair up experienced with inexperienced teachers; and they have focused on improved professional practice. Chief Superintendent Croskery added that our Alberta Initiative for School Improvement project has been given much attention this past year to align our spending in this area with learning needs in the schools. Last week an in-service day was held with our learning leaders who have been specifically charged with addressing how to best meet the needs of professional development of our beginning teachers. Acting Superintendent Crarer noted an additional source of support is through Educational Support Services, whereby three days are dedicated during the school year for new teachers to learn about where they can obtain information or access assistance; an overview of the program of studies is provided; and an extension of other services is offered that they may require to improve their performance.
- A concern was expressed with the measure of improvement for the provincial achievement tests at the acceptable level and the diploma examinations at the acceptable level. Ms. Nowlan noted a couple of issues are that this is taken from a year to year

basis, e.g., the improvement is based only on the jurisdiction results and it assesses the difference between the current year and the previous three-year average. From year to year these results will change. Achievement is a provincial standard and to improve on achievement one has to improve on the current year against a provincial standard that is across all schools in the jurisdiction. Chief Superintendent Croskery commented that part of the answer to the question is the issue of what options a high school offers and where fewer options are offered, as in smaller schools in rural areas, you have some with more demanding courses that may not be offered in your school because there is not the number of students required to generate several different classes. Ms. L. Brost, Director, Accountability Services, referenced the previous year's results for the provincial achievement tests and the diploma exams and noted that the percentage achieving at the acceptable standard was quite low overall across the province, and one of the possibilities of this occurring was around the difficulty of the particular exams. She pointed out that when issues become apparent at the school, area or jurisdiction level, attempts are made to try to address them immediately.

- The Board gave unanimous consent to allow comments by Ms. J. Regal, President, Alberta Teachers' Association, Local No. 38. Ms. Regal informed that the ATA has provided new initiatives this year, that should benefit all teachers and particularly beginning teachers, whereby every teacher in the province can make use of a free specialist council membership of their choice and it is hoped principals will share this knowledge with their staff so that they can seek professional advice and improvement in their subject area or whatever area they choose. As well, there will be a beginning teachers' conference held in Calgary mid-October to support their professional practice and the particular needs that beginning teachers may have. There are also many local initiatives supported by the ATA, including an extensive mentorship program.
- Ms. Brost commented it was known that our results, particularly on achievement tests, were slightly lower than previous years, and it is also known that when the province does this evaluation they compare it to the previous three-year average, and because of the size of our school board a very small percentage can be a significant decline. Until the province does their statistical analysis we can't anticipate this. This year the achievement tests and diploma exam results will be shared with the Board in approximately four weeks time and approximately one month after that we will get this information as to whether we have statistically declined significantly, improved significantly or otherwise.

MOVED by Trustee Dirks:

THAT the Accountability Overall Summary report be received for information.

The motion was
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

7.0 POLICY DEVELOPMENT AND REVIEW

7.1 Ends 3: Citizenship

MOVED by Trustee Close:

THAT the Board of Trustees rescinds first reading of Ends 3 as presented in a Board report on April 10, 2007.

Trustee Close provided rationale for the motion and summarized the contents of the report, including background information, pointing out that the Board approved first reading of an amendment to Ends 3: Citizenship on April 10, 2007, with the addition of point 6: "Actively contribute to achieving the imagineCALGARY targets as outlined in the imagineCALGARY charter (vision, goals and targets)". Subsequent to the Board's Policy Committee giving further consideration to the proposed amendment and to impact

statements that were provided by Administration on June 5, 2007, it is being recommended that the Ends 3 policy remain as it is currently written.

Trustee Close explained that in point 5 of the existing policy on Ends 3: Citizenship, we talk about the idea of students actively contributing to a better local and global community and the Board did have discussions about this on April 10th, noting that a broader interpretation could be looked at with respect to that outcome to include things like environmental sustainability or even referencing imagineCALGARY.

In response to a question, Trustee Close commented that some of the imagineCALGARY targets or goals might be considered as measures of whether our students are actively contributing locally. She noted that the Policy Committee felt this would be a better time to consider this issue instead of a year from now. Trustee Fawcett added his belief that the rationale is about the level that we want to drill down in our policies; that it may not be necessary to be so specific in this policy because it may be better accomplished through a more specific reasonable interpretation that might have more detailed indicators on this initiative.

Chair Cochrane called for the vote on the motion.

The motion was
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

MOVED by Trustee Close:

THAT the Board of Trustees requests a new Board report on the reasonable interpretation, indicators and targets for Ends 3, exclusively on point 5, that would include consideration of the imagineCALGARY charter (goals and targets) and consideration of Calgary Board of Education students actively contributing to Calgary's social, economic and environmental well-being.

The motion as written above incorporates a friendly amendment that was made during discussion. In response to a question of the timeline for this report, Chief Superintendent Croskery noted his belief that it could be provided fairly quickly, understanding that the report is to speak exclusively on point 5 of the policy. He noted further the report could tentatively be provided to the Board on September 18, 2007, but it would not meet the normal processing requirements; otherwise, it could be prepared for the October 2, 2007 public Board meeting.

Trustees debated the motion. A trustee noted there are two aspects to imagineCALGARY, one being the reason the Board has an executive limitations policy specific to it and the other relating to the work specific to the Ends policy. This is a large organization with many employees, many students, buses, buildings, etc., and we have a significant impact on the city environment and although our business is educating students, it should not be done with reckless abandon on some of our environmental features, which is what he feels the executive limitations policy addresses. He pointed out that with respect to the Ends policy not only do we have certain requirements, but we also want our future generations to be actively contributing to the overall long-term sustainability of the city.

Comments were shared that the Board has already accepted the Chief Superintendent's reasonable interpretation of Ends 3: Citizenship, and it was felt that a more appropriate time to make changes would be next year. It was further noted that subsequent to the Board's acceptance of the reasonable interpretation, the Administration could likely be in the midst of gathering the data to determine whether certain targets have been met. It was expressed that there also may be other points where imagineCALGARY goals and targets fit in better than in Ends 3, point 5, which may be determined at a later date.

Comments in support of the motion included that there was a feeling of discomfort with the inclusion of imagineCALGARY in the Board's Ends policies; that this is a form of refinement along a winding path; that it is important to at least have the conversation sooner than later; and it is a look at a reasonable interpretation that might provide indicators that have not yet been considered by the Board.

Chair Cochrane called for the vote on the motion.

The motion was
CARRIED.

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

8.0 CONSENT AGENDA

Chair Cochrane noted that Item 8.1.4 had been removed from the Consent Agenda and would be dealt with immediately following it. She declared the remaining Consent Agenda items to be adopted as submitted.

8.1 Board Consent Agenda

8.1.1 Approval of Minutes

- Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees held June 26, 2007

THAT the Board of Trustees approves the Minutes of the Regular Meeting held June 26, 2007, as submitted.

8.1.2 Annual Monitoring of Governance Process Policies 7, 10 and 11

THAT the Board of Trustees approves the Governance Process Policy monitoring reports for Governance Process Policy 7 – Trustees' Conflict of Interest, Governance Process Policy 10 - Addressing Board Member Violations, and Governance Process Policy 11 – Board of Trustees' Committees, in the form as submitted as Attachment 1 to the report dated September 4, 2007.

THAT the Board of Trustees approves the process for monitoring Governance Process Policies, in the form as submitted as Attachment 2 to the report dated September 4, 2007.

8.1.3 Appointment of Governor of EducationMatters, Calgary's Public Education Trust

THAT the Board of Trustees appoints Mr. Rob Garossino as Governor of EducationMatters.

8.2 Chief Superintendent's Consent Agenda

8.2.1 Notification to the Board of Trustees re: Strike Action

THAT the Board of Trustees receives the report with respect to strike action dated September 4, 2007, for information and for the record.

8.2.2 Chief Superintendent's Update

THAT the Board of Trustees receives the Chief Superintendent's Update dated September 4, 2007, for information.

8.2.3 System Student Accommodation Plan 2007-2009

THAT the Board of Trustees receives the System Student Accommodation Plan 2007-2009 dated September 4, 2007, for information and for the record.

Liaison Report re: imagineCALGARY

Trustee Close spoke to the rationale for pulling this item from the Consent Agenda, noting just recently she attended a meeting and accepted a plaque from imagineCALGARY recognizing the Calgary Board of Education as a partner in working together to build a sustainable city and to turn imagination into action. She presented Chair Cochrane with the plaque.

Trustee Close provided some additional highlights, noting that imagineCALGARY and the partnership started off as a city-led project that is attempting to transition into a community-owned initiative. She noted that a template had been developed on how to move forward and that includes a community structure, which she has previously shared with the Board of Trustees. Trustee Close pointed out that her intention is to bring forward a report on a proposal of how the Board can move forward and whether it should remain as a liaison position or whether the work involves how to populate the communities, and whether it involves Trustees or the CBE Administration.

MOVED by Trustee Close:

THAT the Board of Trustees receives the liaison report with respect to imagineCALGARY dated September 4, 2007, for information and for the record.

The motion was
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

9.0 ACTION ITEMS

There were no action items.

10.0 TRUSTEE NOTICES OF MOTION

There were no Trustee notices of motion.

Recessed: 7:22 p.m.
Reconvened. 7:34 p.m.

11.0 IN-CAMERA ISSUES

MOVED by Trustee Lane:

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

The motion was
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

MOVED by Trustee Ferguson:

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

The motion was

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

MOVED by Trustee Lane:

THAT the Board of Trustees receives the Labour Relations Update, submitted September 4, 2007, for information and for the record.

The motion was
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

MOVED by Trustee Bazinet:

THAT the unaudited internal financial report with respect to EducationMatters be received for information and for the record, in the form as submitted with the private Agenda for the Regular Meeting held September 4, 2007.

The motion was
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

MOVED by Trustee Dirks:

THAT the Board of Trustees rescinds the Board motion of June 27, 2006, which authorized Administration to proceed with a multi-year contract for the supply of electricity.

The motion was
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

MOVED by Trustee Dirks:

THAT the Board of Trustees ratifies the contract for the supply of electricity as outlined in the private report dated September 4, 2007.

The motion was
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

MOVED by Trustee Lane:

THAT King Edward School be sold to Restoration Properties, subject to Ministerial approval, in accordance with the terms identified in the purchaser's tender proposal, as submitted in the attachment to the private report dated September 4, 2007.

The motion was
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

MOVED by Trustee Fawcett:

THAT Administration requests Ministerial approval for the sale of King Edward School to Restoration Properties.

The motion was
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

MOVED by Trustee Bazinet:

THAT a portion of the Discovery Ridge School site be considered permanently surplus and transferred to the City of Calgary, subject to the approval of the Minister of Education and the Minister of Infrastructure and Transportation.

The motion was
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

12.0 ADJOURNMENT

Chair Cochrane declared the meeting adjourned at 8:39 p.m.