

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, December 2, 2008 at 5:00 p.m.

MEETING ATTENDANCE

Board of Trustees:

Trustee P. Cochrane, Chair
Trustee C. Bazinet
Trustee G. Dirks
Trustee L. Ferguson
Trustee P. King
Trustee K. Kryczka
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. B. Hubert, Deputy Chief Superintendent of Schools
Mr. C. Davies, Executive Assistant to the Chief Superintendent of Schools
Mr. R. Peden, Director and General Counsel, Legal Affairs
Ms. J. Barkway, Assistant Corporate Secretary
Mr. T. Flitton, Specialist, Media Relations, Communications Services
Ms. S. Wasylshyn, Executive Assistant to the Trustees
Ms. D. Perrier, Recording Secretary

Stakeholder Representatives:

Mr. B. Anderson, Canadian Union of Public Employees, Local 40
Ms. L. Kinsman, Elementary School Principals' Association
Ms. H. Lawrence, Elementary School Principals' Association
Ms. R. Morley Anderson, Elementary School Principals' Association
Ms. L. Newton, Calgary Association of Parents and School Councils
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 5:03 p.m. and the singing of the national anthem took place led by Division II Choir students from Patrick Airlie School. Chair Cochrane acknowledged and welcomed representatives from the aforementioned organizations.

2.0 CONSIDERATION/APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Ms. Barkway noted there were three additions proposed to the Agenda: 1) a stakeholder report as Item 5.4.1; 2) a new item 6.3 Reappointment of Governor to EducationMatters; 3) a private item to be discussed under new Item 11.0 In-Camera Issues.

MOVED by Trustee Ferguson:

THAT the Agenda for the Regular Meeting of December 2, 2008, be approved as submitted, subject to the above-noted additions.

The motion was
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

3.0 SCHOOL/SYSTEM PRESENTATIONS

3.1 Patrick Airlie School

Ms. T. Oberlin, System Assistant Principal, Area III, provided opening remarks and introduced Ms. Z. Serediuk, Principal, Patrick Airlie School. Ms. Serediuk noted that character and citizenship education is one of the goals in their school renewal plan. Another focus for them is to encourage their students to dream and hope, as well as set goals for their future. The school has a partnership with Hull Family Services, which allows them the use of the PATHS program, promoting ultimate thinking strategies, as well as to Fast Track, which is an early intervention program for children who are at risk of developing Conrad's Disorder.

Dakota, who is in grade 4, read a story about a child's aspirations as she grows, portraying self-confidence, compassion and conscientiousness. A video was shown of students in their learning environment as well as doing extra-curricular activities at Patrick Airlie School. A group of grade 1 and 2 students sang the song *High Hopes*.

On behalf of the Board, Trustee King thanked the staff and students for their presentation, noting that the creativity used in teaching and learning at Patrick Airlie School is much admired and inspiring.

4.0 HONOURS AND RECOGNITIONS

There were none.

5.0 PUBLIC CONVERSATION AND INFORMATION

5.1 Report from the Chair and Trustees

Trustee King noted that on November 27th she attended the launch of the Canadian version of Industry Spotlight held at the Saddledome. Industry Spotlight is an innovative and interactive tool designed to deal with the growing skill shortage, stimulating young people to consider choosing a career in the industry sectors, while motivating them to stay in school. She thanked Ms. M. Levy, System Principal, Corporate Partnerships, for connecting our schools to this unique event, and to the staff at Lord Beaverbrook, Bowness, William Aberhart, and Jack James High Schools for providing students with the opportunity to gather information directly from private industry companies to assist our students in choosing a career path.

Trustee King stated she attended the scholarship awards at Forest Lawn High School, noting that cash awards to students totaled \$317,700. Aside from those awards, she commented on the achievement of two particular students – Henry, who was the first Forest Lawn student to win a bronze medal at the Alberta Skills Competition in Women's Apparel Design, and will be competing in September 2009 in the World Skills Competition; and Naomi, who scored one hundred percent on her Pure Math 30 diploma exam.

Action By

Trustee Kryczka reported that on November 24th she attended a meeting of the Conference Planning Committee for Alberta Initiative for School Improvement (AISI). The AISI Conference will be held in Calgary on February 9 and 10, 2009.

Trustee Kryczka noted that on November 25th she attended Henry Wisewood High School Awards night. She commented on the top achievement of two students who are siblings, noting that one of them had an overall average of ninety-eight percent.

On November 26th Trustee Kryczka co-presented with Mr. C. Davies a core leadership strand session on the topic *Understanding Policy Governance in the Calgary Board of Education* at Forest Lawn High School.

On December 1st she attended the Knox United Carol Festival, where the Western Canada High School all-girls' choir was performing.

Trustee Bazinet noted that she and Dr. B. Boese attended the 20th annual kick-off to the Mayor's Food Drive. The winner of the golden shopping cart this year was the Calgary Catholic School District.

Chair Cochrane brought attention to the Minister's Education Leadership Recognition Awards (MELRA), noting that the CBE was awarded with a Certificate of Recognition for significant improvement in the following areas: Program of Studies, Rutherford Scholarship Eligibility Rate, Work Preparation, Education Quality, Transition Rate, and Citizenship. In addition, the CBE was awarded with a Certificate of Recognition for very high achievement in Diploma Excellence.

5.2 Report from the Chief Superintendent

Chief Superintendent Croskery provided highlights of the following issues and events:

- November 27th he met with the Co-Chairs of the Principals' Associations at Central Memorial High School. On that same day the school held an orientation and assembly of presentations for current grade 9 students who attend other schools and may attend Central Memorial High School in 2009.
- Last week was the CBE Retired Employees Association's Christmas Luncheon, which he attended with Deputy Chief Superintendent Hubert and Chair Cochrane.

Deputy Chief Superintendent Hubert shared comments about the following:

- An interactive website was developed by the CBE in partnership with The City of Calgary, called *Think Responsibly*, that offers a range of learning opportunities for students to address issues such as peer pressure, bullying, graffiti, fire safety, etc. The City of Calgary partners include departments such as the Animal and Bylaw Services, Emergency Medical Services (EMS), Fire, Parks and Recreation, and Calgary Police Services (CPS). On November 25th The City of Calgary and the CBE launched a new Water Safety module as part of this website. The launch was held at Catherine Nichols Gunn School, where she was present on behalf of the CBE. She extended thanks to Ms. F. Kramer, Cross-Cultural Specialist and Lead Teacher of this project; Ms. T. Dalton, Project Teacher, and to grade 6 students at Catherine Nichols Gunn School for demonstrating this module.
- December 1st was *Mistletoe Mingle*, an event sponsored by EducationMatters, and it was attended by a number of Administrators from the CBE. It was an opportunity to thank the staff of EducationMatters and the people affiliated with the Foundation for the

Action By

wonderful support they provide to the CBE. A number of our students figured prominently in the presentations.

5.3 Public Question Period

There were no public questions.

5.4 Stakeholder Reports

5.4.1 Ms. C. MacPherson, representing parents of Sam Livingston School

Ms. MacPherson referred to a letter of concern dated November 25, 2008 and signed by 164 parents asking for a reconsideration of the Area V proposal affecting children attending Sam Livingston School. She noted the parents respectfully submit their opposition to this proposal and remain committed to working with CBE toward a solution. She noted the belief that the accommodation proposal could be a short-lived solution due to an increase in demand and a lack of French Immersion programs south of 74th Avenue, and it could potentially cause additional shifting of these students.

Ms. MacPherson put forward a number of scenarios and asked whether the Administration gave consideration to them as alternatives for accommodating students in the southeast. The alternatives she suggested included offering a French Immersion program or a dual track program at Queensland Downs; making the new schools to be opened soon in that quadrant of the city dual-stream language schools; reducing the number of classrooms and increasing the number of students in them or combining two grades in Sam Livingston School and perhaps doing the same in Sundance School.

Ms. MacPherson noted her belief that if the proposed accommodation plan is approved, families would be left without viable childcare solutions. She said that with the March finalization date, parents do not feel they've been given enough time to research or make alternate plans. She asked Trustees to review the feedback on the "your voice" website and the sticky wall comments that tell the parents' story, and to reconsider this accommodation plan.

5.5 Trustee Inquiries

There were no Trustee inquiries.

6.0 ACTION ITEMS

6.1 Consideration of Closure of the Kindergarten to Grade 6 Regular Program at Killarney School

Chair Cochrane pointed out that the matter before the Board of Trustees at this meeting is to debate the closure of the kindergarten to grade 6 regular program at Killarney School.

Ms. Barkway noted a correction to the Minutes of the Public Meeting of November 6, 2008, attached to the report as Attachment 1, on page 6-3 in the first sentence of the last paragraph – to remove the word "allows".

MOVED by Trustee Ferguson:

1. **THAT the Minutes of the Public Meeting of November 6, 2008, attached to the report as Attachment 1, be approved by the Board of Trustees as amended; and**
2. **THAT the report be received as information and for the record.**

The motion was
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Chair Cochrane noted that the Ward Trustee usually provides a synopsis of the issues that individuals have brought forward from the time of the public meeting to this time of decision making. She pointed out that she is the Ward Trustee for the area of Killarney and reported there were no further submissions since the public meeting. The public meeting was attended by a relatively small number of community members and the major concern expressed at that meeting was that students would have to cross what they consider to be a major roadway if the decision is made to close the regular program at Killarney School and the students are redirected to another school.

MOVED by Trustee Ferguson:

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Board of Trustees approves the staged closure of the kindergarten to grade 6 regular program at Killarney School, commencing June 30, 2009, such that the current grade configuration at Killarney School would be altered over time as follows:

1. **For the academic year of 2009-2010, Killarney School would have no regular program for kindergarten to grade 5 and those students would be designated to Sir James Lougheed School; and**
2. **For the academic year of 2009-2010, Killarney School would accommodate grade 6 regular program students, provided there is a minimum enrolment of 15 students, and, if not, Killarney School would have no regular program and all affected regular program students would be designated to Sir James Lougheed School.**
3. **In any event, for the academic year 2010-2011 and beyond, Killarney School would have no regular program and all affected regular program students would be designated to Sir James Lougheed School.**

Trustees debated the motion and comments made in favour were as follows:

- It seems reasonable to cluster students from the surrounding communities into one program to sustain and enhance their learning opportunities.
- In view of the declining enrolment at Killarney School, it is not viable to keep the regular program in operation, and, although this may not be an ideal accommodation plan in terms of enrolment levels at Sir James Lougheed School at this time, it is preferable over keeping the status quo situation in place.
- If the program is not closed at this point in time, it can be expected there would be a need in the near future to close some other program in the community and it may be that the same situation would arise whereby children would have to cross some other busy road – this is always a concern and it is uncertain that such a circumstance can be avoided.

Action By

- It is felt that because Sir James Lougheed School is a smaller capacity school compared to other schools in the surrounding communities, in the long term it could support a good sized and necessary regular program in that geographic area.
- It is believed the growth of the Montessori program will probably continue and make for a strong population in Killarney School.
- The proposal would allow two thriving CBE schools to remain in those neighbourhoods.

Other comments shared were as follows:

- It is questionable how sustainable this accommodation plan will be into the future.
- There are other schools in nearby communities that have a larger regular program and sufficient space to accommodate the students from Killarney School.
- Some uncertainty was expressed about the anticipated growth on the west side of Crowchild Trail and what the future holds for enrolment at Sir James Lougheed School.
- A belief was shared that The City should be requested to do another assessment of pedestrian and vehicle volumes on Richmond Road.

Chair Cochrane called for the vote on the motion.

The motion was
CARRIED.

In favour:	Trustee Cochrane
	Trustee Dirks
	Trustee Ferguson
	Trustee King
	Trustee Kryczka
	Trustee Lane
Opposed:	Trustee Bazinet

6.2 Consideration of Closure of the Kindergarten to Grade 6 Regular Program at Glamorgan School

Ms. Barkway noted a correction to the Minutes of the Public Meeting of November 5, 2008, attached to the report as Attachment 1, on page 6-53 and under the heading "Implications for Affected Attendance Area", the first sentence of the third paragraph should read "... K – grade 5 students would be designated to Sir James Lougheed or Glenbrook, depending on their residential district."

MOVED by Trustee Bazinet:

1. **THAT the Minutes of the Public Meeting of November 5, 2008, attached to the report as Attachment 1, be approved by the Board of Trustees as amended; and**
2. **THAT the report be received as information and for the record.**

The motion was
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Trustee Lane provided a synopsis of the community concerns, noting there were nine members of the public who spoke at the public meeting on November 5, 2008, and there was one written submission received subsequent to the meeting. Among the concerns raised were whether the CBE had taken into account the number of new families moving into the community; whether parents could count on the closure to be staged as planned; if in the

Action By

staged closure plan there are not sufficient students to run a grade 6 class, where would the students attend school; whether students living in the Glamorgan area would have priority for enrolling in the Traditional Learning Centre program; that the closure plan could result in overly large classes at Glenbrook School; and, that some students would have to cross roads such as Richmond Road.

MOVED by Trustee Lane:

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Board of Trustees approves the staged closure of the kindergarten to grade 6 regular program at Glamorgan School, commencing June 30, 2009, such that the current grade configuration at Glamorgan School would be altered over time as follows:

- 1. For the academic year of 2009-2010, Glamorgan School would have no regular program for kindergarten to grade 5 and those students would be designated to Sir James Lougheed School or Glenbrook School, depending on their residential district; and**
- 2. For the academic year of 2009-2010, Glamorgan School would accommodate grade 6 regular program students, provided there is a minimum enrolment of 15 students, and, if not, Glamorgan School would have no regular program and all affected regular program students would be designated to Sir James Lougheed School or Glenbrook School, depending on their residential district.**
- 3. In any event, for the academic year 2010-2011 and beyond, Glamorgan School would have no regular program and all affected regular program students would be designated to Sir James Lougheed School or Glenbrook School, depending on their residential district.**

Trustees debated the motion and comments in favour were as follows:

- A key issue is the declining enrolment in the regular program at Glamorgan School and Administration has identified a need to more effectively use space and resources within Glamorgan, Glenbrook and Sir James Lougheed schools.
- The Traditional Learning Centre program is a growing program in Glamorgan School and it is expected to continue to grow.
- This proposal would keep four CBE schools operating and sustainable as the population grows in these particular communities.
- Creating a joint community school that affords students the best in programming and offers sustainability into the future seems to be an innovative way of dealing with the issue of declining enrolment.

Other comments shared were as follows:

- Although there is a traffic light at 45th street to cross Richmond Road, one can understand the concerns that parents express about their younger children having to cross that busy road.
- A Trustee expressed the belief that there is a lot of space in these area schools for regular programs and many of these schools are not going to be very full at all. It is difficult to understand why we would keep as many programs open as has been proposed in this accommodation plan.
- Reference has been made about growing populations, but our own five-year projections did not show that the populations in these schools would grow in the next five years. It

Action By

is questionable that we are somehow going to put students from Garrison Green or some new developing community into Sir James Lougheed when it seems clear there is no way that the school would have enough space to support that.

- It is uncertain that the proposed accommodation plan would be a long-term solution.

Chair Cochrane called for the vote on the motion.

The motion was
CARRIED.

In favour:	Trustee Cochrane Trustee Dirks Trustee Ferguson Trustee King Trustee Kryczka Trustee Lane
Opposed:	Trustee Bazinet

6.3 Reappointment of Governor to EducationMatters

MOVED by Trustee Lane:

THAT the Board of Trustees approves the reappointment of Ms. Pat Cochrane to EducationMatters Board of Governors, to be effective December 8, 2008, for a 3-year term, ending December 8, 2011.

The motion was
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Recessed: 6:16 p.m.
Reconvened: 6:32 p.m.

7.0 MONITORING AND RESULTS

7.1 Annual Monitoring of Ends 2: Academic Success

Chief Superintendent Croskery thanked the resource persons for their work on this report. Dr. B. Boese, Director, Learner Enhancement provided a brief overview of the contents of the report, noting it contains information surrounding curriculum data, grade level of achievement reporting, high school data and information on additional learning enhancements. The highlights of the report include: 1) improved academic success; 2) improved support for student achievement through technologies; and 3) enhanced opportunities for academic success through access to flexible programming. Ms. D. Nowlan, Specialist, Accountability Services, provided more in-depth information about these three themes, through a PowerPoint presentation. It was noted that an Analysis Summary is provided on page 7-22 of the report.

Trustees posed questions to which responses from Administration are summarized as follows:

- It was noted that the grade level of achievement reporting on page 7-13 does not appear to be consistent with the provincial achievement test results. Dr. Boese responded that the connection between those two categories was not looked at specifically. Further clarification of this issue would be provided to the Board of Trustees at a later date.

B. Boese

Action By

- It was clarified that on page 7-13 where reference is made to Immersion classes for which there is no provincial Program of Studies, those are classes for programs such as First Nation, which we do not offer and, therefore, this reference would not apply to our jurisdiction.
- On the same page, Table 8 shows the percentage numbers to be quite a bit higher for no grade level of achievement provided for French Language Arts, compared against the other two subjects. Dr. Boese stated the reasons for that discrepancy could be researched and reported back to the Board of Trustees.
- Discussion took place about the challenge of enrolling students in the entire International Baccalaureate program, rather than in individual courses. Chief Superintendent Croskery noted the International Baccalaureate organization is strongly in favour of students enrolling in the whole program because there is curriculum coherence about that program built into its design. For about the past 10 years we've allowed our students to select courses from the program. It is a very challenging program and some students choose not to enrol in courses such as Math or Science because their marks would likely be lower in those particular subjects and when applying for scholarships, their grade point average goes down. The question is whether or not the logic of the program itself and those who designed the program should prevail over grade-point average and those seeking scholarships.
- Comments were shared about the High School Exit Survey showing a significant increase over the 3-year period in the percentage of students who apply the Math and Science learned in everyday life. Chief Superintendent Croskery noted it shows a remarkable improvement and the rationale for this warrants some further study. It could be that enhanced teaching approaches and tools are the reason for these improvements.
- An explanation was provided about the decrease in the number of students who earned credits in the Registered Apprenticeship Program (RAP). Last year it was an incredibly hot market in the Trades, and it is believed that a number of students did not feel that they needed the support of a school-based program because they were getting jobs in the Trades immediately and developing their skills through that.
- In regards to a question of whether something has changed in the system that makes it more difficult for students to access RAP opportunities, Chief Superintendent Croskery shared the personal view that we may have lost some of our focus on this program. He commented there may be a need to look at the effectiveness of that program and its appropriateness for many of our students, as well as a need to reconnect and refocus with the program and engage our people throughout the system on the meaning of the program and how we might deliver it. A recommendation in the Secondary Education Review is to advance the course forward through the establishment of a Skills Centre.
- A concern noted by a Trustee was that the Board room conversation last year was that there was an expectation that the system would gear towards increasing these statistics. It was also questioned whether the change to the Knowledge and Employability setting in the south has a direct affect on accessibility and attitude. Chief Superintendent Croskery noted there have been lengthy discussions held at the high school divisional meetings about the Secondary Education Review and lifting those recommendations to the table. Serious consideration is being given to high schools that work through the Southern Region Education Board, and there will be plenty of opportunity in looking at that particular recommendation to re-conceptualize skills development, RAP programs, etc. Some AISI funding for this has been set aside. He stated we also need to come to terms with what that recommendation around the Skills Centre means and to take those

B. Boese

Action By

theoretical discussions and recommendations from the Secondary Education Review and actually operationalize them.

- A concern was noted about the continuing trend of decline in our student results in grades 3 and 9 Math. Administration noted our results mirror the province, which is a concern for them as well as us. It was also noted a number of variables come into play, including the high number of new teachers coming into the system that are not yet comfortable with the Math curriculum. Chief Superintendent Croskery noted his uncertainty of how heavily to weight that variable because we do have some fine young teachers coming into the system who are very fluent in Math. Staff development is an important part to improving a system and that is our focus. He pointed out that the standard of excellence in Math shows improvement and that begs the question of what the interplay is between a decrease in the acceptable standard and an increase in the standard of excellence.
- In reference to page 7-20, Table 19, it was noted that the enrolment of French Language Immersion students in 2007-2008 does not match the numbers presented in the School Enrolment Report on November 25, 2008.
- On page 7-10 of the report, the headings in Table 5 are incorrect. Subsequent to further discussion, clarification was requested of what the numbers in the table actually represent – whether it is a rolled up number of both the acceptable and excellence standard results and whether it is representative of a percentage number. Administration will provide further information and clarification with respect to these tables.
- In response to a question about the significance of reporting on the Desire2Learn (D2L), Chief Superintendent Croskery agreed that the information as presented in the report on D2L does not show the connection that reasonable progress is being made towards academic success.
- A Trustee expressed concern about a statement made on page 7-22 of the report, noting that the grades 6 and 9 Language Arts and Math results are the biggest contributors to the improved standing shown on this year's Accountability Pillar Overall Summary in the category of Provincial Achievement Test: Acceptable Standard. This statement does not reflect that our grade 6 Math achievement levels have decreased.
- In response to a question about the decline in the number of students enrolled in the CBE Locally Developed and Acquired Fine Arts Courses, it was noted that there is a corresponding increase in the number of students enrolled in the Alberta Program of Studies Fine Arts Courses. Statistically, where one area goes up in number, another goes down, and it may be that students who formerly took a locally developed course have moved to a provincial program of study.
- A note was made about the decreased participation of students in the Campus Calgary Open Minds program. Administration agreed to provide the Board further information about this decline at a later date.

B. Boese

B. Boese

MOVED by Trustee Ferguson:

THAT the Board of Trustees has reviewed the annual monitoring report on Ends 2: Academic Success and concludes that reasonable progress is being made toward the ultimate achievement of this Ends policy.

Action By

Trustee comments in support of the motion were as follows:

- The format, structure and variety of the information provided in the report is appreciated.
- A number of reports presented to the Board over the past year have shown that reasonable progress is being made in this area, and this is the seventh year of improvement in our academic results.
- An excellent job has been done in providing comparative information in so many areas and data has shown the areas where improvement has been made as well as where we need to strive to make improvements.
- Overall, we have seen significant progress made this past year on this particular Ends.
- Support in general was shared with a note that there are some areas where we are struggling and some areas where we are ahead.
- As indicated in the provincial achievement test results, in English Language Arts we had a reduction in grade 3, but we also had an increase in grade 9; there was a modest reduction in the grade 3 math results, but there was an increase in grade 9; looking at the excellence levels, we've seen some significant improvements; the International results also show some significant results.

Comments were shared by some Trustees about feeling somewhat indecisive of giving support to the motion. Agreement was shared that reasonable progress has been made in the area of academic success. A concern was noted about the quality of this particular report in relation to questions that were unanswerable, data that was not contextualized, omissions and errors. It was pointed out that good and clear reports have been presented throughout the year to fully support that reasonable progress has been made toward the ultimate achievement of Ends 2: Academic Success; however, the data provided in this report is somewhat confusing.

Chair Cochrane called for the vote on the motion.

The motion was
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

(The following motion was made later in the meeting, as noted on page 16; however, it is recorded here to provide continuity to the Minutes.)

MOVED by Trustee Dirks:

THAT the Board of Trustees approves the reasonable interpretation, data sources and targets provided, including recommendations, to be reported on in the fall of 2009.

The motion was
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

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

Motion Arising:

MOVED by Trustee Bazinet:

THAT the Board of Trustees expresses concern that the targets set for Math at both the acceptable standard and the standard of excellence in grade 3, 6 and 9

were not met, and a further concern with the five-year decrease in Math results at the acceptable standard in grade 3, and the four-year decrease in Math results at the acceptable standard in grade 6.

Trustee Bazinet provided rationale for the motion, referencing the annual monitoring report, page 7-8, Table 4, as well as the Provincial Achievement Tests and Diploma Examination Results report presented to the Board on October 7, 2008, which depicted the four-year and five-year decrease in Math results for grade 6 and grade 3 respectively. She quoted comments made in the High School Exit Survey, page 7-15, which read that students did not perceive they had significant opportunity to use their mathematical and scientific knowledge in their daily lives. She expressed that those comments by students concern her because she felt in today's world mathematics is fairly important and is likely to increase in importance.

Chair Cochrane called for the vote on the motion.

The motion was
CARRIED.

In favour:	Trustee Bazinet Trustee Cochrane Trustee Dirks Trustee Ferguson Trustee King Trustee Lane
Opposed:	Trustee Kryczka

Motion Arising:

MOVED by Trustee Dirks:

THAT the Board of Trustees commends the Chief Superintendent for the improvement in results at the excellence level for provincial achievement test scores in the four areas of Social Studies, Science, Math and Language Arts.

Trustee Dirks provided rationale for the motion, noting that in the past year the results show a decrease in two areas and an increase in eight areas, which he felt to be a substantial increase percentage-wise overall.

Chair Cochrane called for the vote on the motion.

The motion was
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Motion Arising:

MOVED by Trustee Ferguson:

THAT the Board of Trustees commends the Chief Superintendent for increased flexibility in learning and enriched opportunities for learning using technology resources.

Trustee Ferguson provided rationale for the motion, referencing the annual monitoring report, which depicts a number of examples how the CBE uses assistive technology and it shows there is an increase in the use of the online library, the use of computers in our schools and in the number of students who are taking credit courses in Information and Communication Technologies.

Chair Cochrane called for the vote on the motion.

The motion was
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Motion Arising:

MOVED by Trustee Bazinet:

THAT the Board of Trustees expresses concern with the four-year decrease in Science results at the acceptable standard in grade 6.

Trustee Bazinet provided rationale for the motion, referencing the Provincial Achievement Tests and Diploma Examination Results report presented to the Board on October 7, 2008, which showed that at the acceptable standard the results decreased over the four-year period by approximately six percent.

Chair Cochrane called for the vote on the motion.

The motion was
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Motion Arising:

MOVED by Trustee Dirks:

THAT the Board of Trustees commends the Chief Superintendent for sustaining strong results in the Advanced Placement and the International Baccalaureate exams.

The motion was
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

With regards to a motion that was withdrawn, Administration clarified that the requirement for eligibility for a Rutherford Scholarship changed from a required average of eighty percent to seventy-five percent in the past year.

7.2 **Annual Monitoring of EL-17: imagineCALGARY Partnership**

Chief Superintendent Croskery acknowledged and thanked the staff who worked on the monitoring report. He commented on the attachment to the report, noting it demonstrates fine work and effort into setting out in clear terms the degree of alignment between imagineCALGARY targets and the CBE's area of focus.

Chair Cochrane reviewed the criteria against which the Trustees are to judge the monitoring report, including that of reasonable interpretation of the policy, compliance with the provisions of the policy or disclosure of how compliance would be met, and whether sufficient information has been provided. She noted further that the particular vote with regard to compliance should in no way be considered as a vote of non-confidence.

MOVED by Trustee Dirks:

THAT the Chief Superintendent has reasonably interpreted the provisions of Executive Limitations 17: imagineCALGARY Partnership and that the Board of Trustees finds the Chief Superintendent to be in compliance with the policy.

Trustees debated the motion and their expressions overall were of appreciation for the impressive and detailed work that has gone into the report, depicting support of the imagineCALGARY partnership. It was noted that this is an example of how the CBE is an extremely strong corporation and public service entity within the city of Calgary, that can undertake this type of initiative within its own educational mission and targets and have a strong fit with the direction that imagineCALGARY has identified for the future of Calgary.

Chair Cochrane called for the vote on the motion.

The motion was
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Motion Arising:

MOVED by Trustee Ferguson:

THAT the Chief Superintendent be commended for how well the Calgary Board of Education has contributed towards the achievement of imagineCALGARY targets within its own ongoing educational mission and ends.

The motion was
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

7.3 **Annual Monitoring of EL-18: Student Fees**

Chief Superintendent Croskery acknowledged and thanked all staff who worked on the monitoring report. Superintendent Dart provided a brief overview of the contents of the report.

Chair Cochrane reviewed the criteria against which the Trustees are to judge the monitoring report, including that of reasonable interpretation of the policy, compliance with the provisions of the policy or disclosure of how compliance would be met, and whether sufficient information has been provided. She noted further that the particular vote with regard to compliance should in no way be considered as a vote of non-confidence.

Trustees asked questions of clarification, which were responded to by Administration, and the discussion is summarized as follows:

- With respect to interpretation of point 6 of the policy, and in particular to essential educational trip fee waivers provided to students, Mr. W. Braun, Director, Corporate Financial Services, stated that when a student actually gets a waiver for instructional supplies and materials (ISM) fees, generally that also applies to the transportation fee as well as the music fee. For essential educational trips, the schools work very hard to absorb those costs within either the school's decentralized budget or to cover it through school-generated funds. At the corporate level, we don't have actual documentation of how many essential educational trip fee waivers were provided; these are very likely not actually applied for, but rather the need is indicated through individual request.

Action By

- A question was asked about the required third party documentation to have ISM fees waived. In light of the fact there will no longer be a requirement to pay Alberta Health Care premiums in the future, if the only other alternative at this point to have fees waived is proof of Social Services Assistance, what mechanisms will be considered for the working poor who do not qualify for social assistance? Mr. Braun noted that for 2008-2009 the Alberta Health Care premium subsidy is still eligible. We will need another alternative for the 2009-2010 school year, besides the social assistance, which Administration has been pursuing. Administration is currently in the process of messaging that out to schools so they can prepare for the 2009-2010 school year. Mr. Braun stated he was unable to go into further detail about this alternative at this point in time; however, when that waiver mechanism and messaging has been finalized it would be reported to the Board.
- Comments were shared about keeping the ISM fees at the same levels since 2005/2006, noting the average fee rate per student was \$74 per student, which is approximately \$8 per student below the reported provincial average. Mr. Braun noted that senior Administration has made a conscious effort in this regard, to cover this through other areas of our budget rather than increasing the fees.
- Administration noted they would be looking next year for one hundred percent compliance on the survey to ensure that we know all schools are advising of the reasons for and costs associated with educational trips. It was pointed out that the report notes 136 schools as having responded to this survey and to date that number has increased to 153 responses. Superintendent Dart commented on the report timeline, noting it may be somewhat tight and so the Administration is seeking an extension to the annual reporting to be changed to the end of December.
- Questions were raised about the reporting timeline for fees for educational trips, noting that schools plan these trips quite some time in advance because they have to be approved ahead of time, and so it is unclear why those fees could not be known well ahead of the reporting time. Mr. Braun explained that with regards to ISM fees, a component of that is photocopy costs - costs that would occur say in June and would not appear until the month of July when schools are closed and might not get paid until possibly the end of August or beginning of September. That is the earliest that schools could begin to summarize what they actually spent on ISM. Our fiscal year is closed off in the middle of September and that is the earliest that schools would get their Oracle reports to make their summaries.

D. Dart

MOVED by Trustee Ferguson:

THAT the Chief Superintendent has reasonably interpreted the provisions of Executive Limitations 18: Student Fees, and that the Board of Trustees finds the Chief Superintendent to be in compliance with the policy.

Trustee Ferguson provided rationale for the motion, noting her belief that sufficient information has been provided in the annual monitoring report; that the new Administrative Regulation (AR) 7005 – Student Fees and AR 7006 – Reporting on Student Fees is in alignment with EL-18 and shows increased accountability from school principals; and, additionally, there has been no increase to these fees.

Chair Cochrane called for the vote on the motion.

The motion was

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Motion Arising:

MOVED by Trustee Ferguson:

THAT the Board of Trustees commends the Chief Superintendent for increased accountability for Instructional Supplies and Materials fees and school trips, and for increased transparency at the school level.

The motion was
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

At this point in the meeting, Chair Cochrane noted that an Administrative recommendation was put forward in the report on Ends 2: Academic Success but it was not addressed by the Board during consideration of the item. A motion was presented and voted on at this time and it is recorded under the respective agenda item, on page 11, to provide continuity to the Minutes.

8.0 POLICY DEVELOPMENT AND REVIEW

There were no items.

9.0 CONSENT AGENDA

Chair Cochrane declared the following items to be adopted as submitted:

9.1 Board Consent Agenda

9.1.1 Annual Monitoring of GP 1, 2, 5, 7, 10 and 11

THAT the Board of Trustees approves the Governance Process Policy monitoring reports for Governance Process Policies 1, 2, 5, 7, 10 and 11, in the form as submitted as Attachment 1 to the report dated December 2, 2008.

9.1.2 Correspondence

THAT the Board of Trustees receives the following correspondence for information and for the record, in the form as submitted:

- **Correspondence dated November 14, 2008 signed by 13 individuals, regarding their concerns with Area V Proposed Student Accommodation Plan.**
- **Correspondence, which is referred to as a “petition” dated November 25, 2008, regarding request for reconsideration of Proposed Accommodation Plan involving Sam Livingston School, grades 5 and 6 French Immersion. This correspondence has been signed by 164 persons.**

9.1.3 Annual Monitoring of Board-Chief Superintendent Linkages

THAT the Board of Trustees approves the annual monitoring of Board-Chief Superintendent Linkage Policies report, as attached to the report dated December 2, 2008, and concludes that the Board and the Chief Superintendent have complied with the Board-Chief Superintendent Linkage policies.

9.2 Chief Superintendent's Consent Agenda

9.2.1 Chief Superintendent's Monthly Update

THAT the Board of Trustees receives the Chief Superintendent's Update for information.

9.2.2 2007-2008 Sustainability Report

THAT the 2007-2008 Sustainability Report be received for information.

10.0 TRUSTEE NOTICES OF MOTION

There were no notices of motion.

Recessed - 9:00 p.m.

Reconvened - 9:14 p.m.

11.0 IN-CAMERA ISSUES

MOVED by Trustee Ferguson:

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

The motion was
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

MOVED by Trustee Dirks:

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

The motion was
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

MOVED by Trustee Kryczka:

THAT the Board receives for information the private report as circulated in the in-camera session of the meeting; and THAT the Board of Trustees authorizes the Chair to correspond with the Mayor of The City of Calgary prior to December 8, 2008, in accordance with discussions held in-camera, and that further strategies as outlined in the private report be authorized.

The motion was
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

12.0 ADJOURNMENT

Chair Cochrane declared the meeting adjourned at 9:54 p.m.