

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, February 17, 2009 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:

Ms. B. Hubert, Chief Superintendent of Schools
Mr. D. Dart, Superintendent, Corporate Services – Secretary Treasurer
Ms. N. Johnson, Acting Deputy Chief Superintendent of Schools
M. D. Stevenson, Acting Superintendent, Learning Enhancement
Mr. C. Davies, Executive Assistant to the Chief Superintendent of Schools
Ms. B. Kuester, Executive Director of Communications
Mr. R. Peden, Director and General Counsel, Legal Affairs
Ms. J. Barkway, Assistant Corporate Secretary
Ms. S. Wasylyshyn, Executive Assistant to the Trustees
Ms. D. Perrier, Recording Secretary

Stakeholder Representatives:

Mr. R. Anderson, Canadian Union of Public Employees, Local 40
Ms. C. Evanochko, Calgary Board of Education Staff Association
Ms. E. Kelly, Calgary Association of Parents and School Councils
Ms. J. Regal, Alberta Teachers' Association, Local 38
Ms. A. Sarginson, Elementary School Principals' Associations

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 Vista Heights School by way of a DVD recording. Chair Cochrane acknowledged and welcomed representatives from the aforementioned organizations.

Action By

2.0 CONSIDERATION/APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Ms. Barkway pointed out that a stakeholder report would be added to the Agenda as Item 5.4.1, and that Item 9.1.2 - Board-Chief Superintendent Linkage Policies should be removed from the Agenda because it had been dealt with at a prior Board meeting.

MOVED by Trustee Ferguson:

THAT the Board of Trustees approves the Agenda for the Regular Meeting held February 17, 2009, as submitted, subject to the above-noted changes.

The motion was
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

3.0 SCHOOL/SYSTEM PRESENTATIONS

There were no presentations.

4.0 HONOURS AND RECOGNITIONS

4.1 Lighthouse Award

Ms. M. Levy, System Principal, Corporate Partnerships introduced Winsport Canada, formerly known as Canadian Olympic Development Association (CODA), as the recipient of the Lighthouse Award this month. Our partnership together is in its 15th year and throughout those years Winsport Canada has made innumerable contributions to the lives of Canada's elite student athletes. Winsport Canada's support of academic and athletic achievement is second to none and has made a significant contribution to nearly 1,000 high performance athletes. In 1994 the National Sport School was established out of this partnership, enabling students to train and compete while receiving an education that exceeds the standards of Alberta Education. Ms. Levy introduced and called forward Mr. G. Huntingford, CEO of Winsport Canada, to receive the award from Chair Cochrane.

Mr. Huntingford expressed appreciation for the award, noting that Winsport Canada looks forward to working with the CBE on the forward movement of the National Sport School. On behalf of the Board of Trustees, Chair Cochrane echoed thanks and appreciation for the CBE's partnership with Winsport Canada and the unique opportunities it provides to our students.

5.0 PUBLIC CONVERSATION AND INFORMATION

5.1 Report from the Chair and Trustees

Trustee Kryczka commented on her attendance to the Master Academy Conference that was held in Banff, Alberta, noting she found it was very participatory and forward thinking.

Trustee Kryczka shared information about the Alberta Initiative for School Improvement (AISI) 2009 Conference, noting she was a member on the planning committee for that event. There were over 800 registrants for the Conference from around the province. The CBE held three show-case sessions at the Conference.

Trustee Ferguson noted she attended Falconridge School's Global Community Expo 2009, held February 11th. Students were grouped in multi-age sessions, which provided about 22 different learning experiences from a variety of ethnic cultures.

5.2 Report from the Chief Superintendent

Chief Superintendent Hubert provided highlights of the following issues and events that she recently attended: King George School's Winter Carnival and their celebration of the Chinese New Year; Scenic Acres School annual Student Convention; the Master Academy Conference held in Banff February 5-7; a meeting with the Deputy Minister of Education, Keray Henke; the Association of Professional Engineers Geologists and Geophysicists of Alberta; the Facilities and Environmental Services Professional Development Day; the College of Alberta School Superintendents' Zone 5 meeting, at which Dr. Croskery and Ms. L. Brost were honoured guests; and the Calgary Vietnamese Association for Encouragement of Learning event, where approximately 260 students in grades 7 – 12 received awards for their academic achievement.

5.3 Public Question Period

There were no public questions.

5.4 Stakeholder Reports

5.4.1 Ms. H. Mowat, Member of the Public

Ms. Mowat shared comments about her personal experience as a student and as an educator. She noted her belief that the important qualities of teaching must include that of love, joy, compassion and equality, in order for the essence of the student's potential to be reached, and that those qualities must be modeled in the classroom as well as in the home.

Ms. Mowat shared her dismay with the social engineers of today and noted her belief that eugenics has been practiced on people for a number of decades. She inferred that it is now time that our children are taught to care and to understand their own true worth and to be themselves.

5.5 Trustee Inquiries

There were no Trustee inquiries.

6.0 ACTION ITEMS

6.1 Consideration of Closure of the Discontinued Integrated Occupational Program at Lord Shaughnessy High School

MOVED by Trustee Bazinet:

- 1. THAT the Minutes of the Public Meeting of January 19, 2009, attached to the report as Attachment 1, be approved by the Board of Trustees; and**
- 2. THAT the report be received as information and for the record.**

The motion was
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Trustee Kryczka, as Ward Trustee, noted that no written submissions had been received since the public consideration of closure meeting relative to the consideration of closure of the discontinued Integrated Occupational Program (IOP) at Lord Shaughnessy High School. She shared that during the open discussion of the public meeting on January 19, 2009, there were very few public or parent questions. It was clarified at that meeting that consideration is being given to the closure of a program – not the school. It was further clarified that course continuity would be provided for students in the following year and, in fact, there are expanded opportunities for students with two schools in close proximity. It was also noted that the status quo was not changing.

Trustee Kryczka pointed out that at the direction of Alberta Education, the IOP was replaced by a series of Knowledge and Employability courses, which became available to students in CBE high schools. Lord Shaughnessy High School will continue to accommodate the Juno Beach Academy of Canadian Studies alternative program, Chinook Learning Services and the Area IV administrative office.

Motion Arising

MOVED by Trustee Lane:

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Board of Trustees approves the closure of the entire Lord Shaughnessy High School program, consisting of the currently discontinued Integrated Occupational Program (IOP), effective immediately. Juno Beach Academy of Canadian Studies, and any and all other programs currently operating from the Lord Shaughnessy High School facility, are unaffected by this decision.

It was noted in debate that this could be viewed as making legitimate that which has already happened, since the IOP program is no longer in existence, and in so doing, it would open up new opportunities for the use of this facility.

It was further noted that the capacity of the facility is 970 students and as Juno Beach alternative program has approximately 205 students, the utilization rate of the building is only about 22%, which indicates there is good opportunity for additional use of the facility.

Chair Cochrane called for the vote on the motion.

The motion was
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

6.2 Consideration of Closure of the Regular Program (Grades 7 to 9) at Sir John Franklin School

MOVED by Trustee Bazinet:

- 1. THAT the Minutes of the Public Meeting of January 26, 2009, attached to the report as Attachment 1, be approved by the Board of Trustees; and**
- 2. THAT the report be received as information and for the record.**

The motion was
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Trustee King, as Ward Trustee, noted there were no public submissions received by Trustees since the public meeting that was held January 26, 2009. She stated there was a concern expressed at that public meeting about long-term sustainability of the community in the absence of having a regular program that students could access. It was noted to be somewhat of a concern that where a regular program is closed, the students of that particular community are re-designated to another school for the regular program, but they sometimes choose to attend another program that is closer to home as a matter of convenience.

Motion Arising

MOVED by Trustee Ferguson:

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Board of Trustees approves the staged closure of the grade 7 to 9 regular program at Sir John Franklin School, commencing June 30, 2009, such that the current grade configuration of the regular program at Sir John Franklin School would be altered over time as follows:

- 1. for the academic year of 2009-2010, Sir John Franklin School would have no regular program for grade 7 and 8 and those students would be designated to Colonel Macleod School; and**
- 2. for the academic year of 2009-2010, Sir John Franklin School would accommodate grade 9 regular program students; and**

3. **for the academic year 2010-2011 and beyond, Sir John Franklin School would have no regular program and all affected regular program students would be designated to Colonel Macleod School.**

In debate of the motion it was noted that a key issue for this consideration of closure is the low and declining enrolment of students in the regular program. Additionally, with the repatriation in 2005 of Monterey Park students to a school closer to home, there has been further impact on the enrolment for this program. It was believed this small an enrolment impacts the ability of Sir John Franklin School to offer the quality and the type of programming that CBE seeks to provide for its students. A staged closure will allow students from Vista Heights and Mayland Heights to finish their grade 9 regular program at Sir John Franklin School. As well, community students from those communities will be offered priority consideration at the Arts-Centred Learning program, which will continue to operate at Sir John Franklin School.

Chair Cochrane called for the vote on the motion.

The motion was
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

7.0 MONITORING AND RESULTS

7.1 Annual Monitoring of EL-5: Annual Report to the Public

Chief Superintendent Hubert introduced the item, noting the Annual Report to the Public is extremely comprehensive and highlights a number of important factors around our school district. She expressed appreciation for the work done by Ms. B. Kuester, Executive Director, Communications, and her committee, who are listed as resource persons in the report.

Chair Cochrane stated that it is now the Board's responsibility to consider the report as evidence of organizational performance in this operational area. She 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.

- A Trustee asked for an explanation of the meaning of differential cost funding as noted under the revenue summary of the financials on page 18 of the *Report to the Community 2009*. Superintendent Dart responded that embedded in that funding is costs for students with severe disabilities, English as a Second Language, provisions for socio-economic variations across the province, the relative cost of goods and services that differentiate between different areas of the province, transportation grants, grants for First Nation and Inuit education, small amounts are for small schools by necessity, small class size one-time funding, and it also includes certain grants for the Learning Resource Centre for credits to purchase our instructional resources.

- A Trustee inquired about the distribution of the report. Ms. Kuster stated that 2,000 copies of the *Report to the Community 2009* were produced. The intent was to provide hard copies of the report to key CBE stakeholders and then, wherever possible, to direct people to the web where an e-book is posted.

MOVED by Trustee Ferguson:

THAT the Chief Superintendent has reasonably interpreted the provisions of Executive Limitation 5: Annual Report to the Public, and that the Board of Trustees finds the Chief Superintendent to be in compliance with the policy.

In debate of the motion a Trustee remarked that the report was very easy to read and the inclusion of students' success stories was very favourable. A comment was expressed about the variety of schools that were depicted in the report, creating a sense of personalization to the document.

A concern was noted by a Trustee with respect to the reporting on our financial summary, in that it was not put forward in language understandable to a layperson. It was believed this could be improved upon by defining the line items more clearly and by providing some examples or comparisons to the prior year.

A Trustee shared the belief that this annual progress report is a very valuable tool for Trustees and it is worthy of recommendation to the public.

Chair Cochrane called for the vote on the motion.

The motion was
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

MOVED by Trustee Kryczka:

THAT the Board of Trustees commends the Chief Superintendent for a fantastic *Report to the Community 2009*.

The motion was
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

MOVED by Trustee Ferguson:

THAT the Board of Trustees commends the Chief Superintendent for the enhancement in the report on stories of student successes in the areas of the four Ends and for the use of user-friendly technology.

The motion was
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

8.0 POLICY DEVELOPMENT AND REVIEW

There were no items.

9.0 CONSENT AGENDA

9.1 Board Consent Agenda

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

- 9.1.1 Annual Monitoring – Governance Process Policies 3, 4, 8, 9 and 12
THAT the Board of Trustees approves the Governance Process Policy Monitoring reports for Governance Process Policies 3, 4, 8, 9 and 12, in the form as submitted as Attachment I to the report dated February 17, 2009.

10.0 TRUSTEE NOTICES OF MOTION

There were none.

11.0 ADJOURNMENT

Chair Cochrane declared the meeting adjourned at 5:50 p.m.