

## 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, April 7, 2009 at  
5:00 p.m.

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### MEETING ATTENDANCE

#### Board of Trustees:

Trustee P. Cochrane, Chair  
Trustee C. Bazinet  
Trustee G. Dirks  
Trustee L. Ferguson  
Trustee P. King  
Trustee K. Kryczka

#### Absent:

Trustee G. Lane

#### Administration:

Ms. B. Hubert, Chief Superintendent of Schools  
Mr. P. Carlton, Acting Superintendent, Facilities and Environmental Services  
Mr. D. Dart, Superintendent, Corporate Services – Secretary Treasurer  
Mr. D. Stevenson, Acting Superintendent, Learning Enhancement  
Ms. N. Johnson, Acting Deputy Chief Superintendent of Schools  
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 (arrived at 5:24 p.m.)  
Ms. J. Barkway, Assistant Corporate Secretary  
Ms. S. Wasylyshyn, Executive Assistant to the Trustees  
Ms. H. Numrich, Recording Secretary

#### Stakeholder Representatives:

Ms. J. Regal, Alberta Teachers' Association, Local 38  
Ms. J. Minifie, Calgary Board of Education Staff Association  
Ms. L. Shutiak, Calgary Association of Parents and School Councils  
Mr. B. Unterschultz, Elementary School Principals' Association

### **1.0 CALL TO ORDER, NATIONAL ANTHEM AND WELCOME**

Chair Cochrane called the meeting to order at 5:02 p.m. and the singing of the national anthem was accompanied on guitar by two students from Colonel Macleod School, Eric and Riley. Chair Cochrane acknowledged and welcomed representatives from the aforementioned organizations.

Action By

## **2.0 CONSIDERATION/APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Ms. Barkway noted that the report for Item 6.4 – Resource Allocations to Schools had been amended and that amended copies had been distributed.

MOVED by Trustee Dirks:

**THAT the Agenda for the Regular Meeting of April 7, 2009, be approved as submitted.**

The motion was  
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

## **3.0 SCHOOL/SYSTEM PRESENTATIONS**

### **3.1 Colonel Macleod School, Ends 5: Character**

Area Director, Ms. S. Church provided introductory comments. Ms. C. Hall, Principal, introduced the students and staff of Colonel Macleod School. Ms. M. Bacso, Humanities teacher spoke of “Cougar PRIDE” and provided explanation for the acronym “PRIDE” which stands for personal responsibility, respect, integrity, determination and excellence. She outlined how each of these areas was being focused on in the classroom and stated that it has resulted in an exciting atmosphere in their school community. Each grade is involved in participating in various service learning projects that give back to the community, either within the school or beyond its borders. Students Cade, Courtney, Michael, Ben, Dana and Haris gave a PowerPoint presentation on their grade’s service project work towards accomplishing Ends 5. Mr. Toews, Assistant Principal, expressed thanks to the students and staff for their presentation and to Trustees for their outstanding and nationally acknowledged work. Chair Cochrane expressed her thanks on behalf of the Trustees, and especially to the students for reminding Trustees of why they are here, and stated that they look forward to hearing of the difference students will make in the world.

## **4.0 HONOURS AND RECOGNITIONS**

## **5.0 PUBLIC CONVERSATION AND INFORMATION**

### **5.1 Report from the Chair and Trustees**

- Trustee King attended the I-STAR Awards (Ismaili Students Total Achievement and Recognition) with Chief Superintendent Hubert and Mr. C. Davies, Executive Assistant. Students from several schools were honored. She also attended the Multi-cultural Heritage Fair at Dr. Gordon Higgins School.
- Trustee Bazinet attended a support staff retirement function for Staff Association, CUPE and Trades with Trustees King and Cochrane. Several members of Administration were also present.

- Trustee Cochrane attended Western Canada High School to hear guest speaker Michael Ignatieff, Liberal Leader, who encouraged students not to be apathetic, but to get involved.

## **5.2 Report from the Chief Superintendent**

Chief Superintendent Hubert announced the sad passing of CBE staff member, Ms. L. Billings, and former employee and trustee, Dr. A. Vaness. She noted their significant contributions to the CBE and expressed condolences to both families.

She then provided highlights of the following issues and events: she attended, with Chair Cochrane, a meeting with Board Chairs, Chief Superintendents and the Minister of Education, the Honourable Dave Hancock who shared his ministry's business plan for 2009-2012; she attended the 9<sup>th</sup> annual Chinook Learning Services Award Recognitions for 38 staff members; she acknowledged thanks to Mr. J. Fischer and his staff for organizing the event and acknowledged Ms. B. Spilker and her team for organizing the Support Staff Awards function. Chair Cochrane suggested that perhaps all Trustees would be interested in viewing the DVD that was shown at the event.

## **5.3 Public Question Period**

There were no public questions.

## **5.4 Stakeholder Reports**

There were no stakeholder reports.

## **5.5 Trustee Inquiries**

There were no Trustee inquiries.

## **6.0 ACTION ITEMS**

### **6.1 Consideration of Closure – Regular Program at Le Roi Daniels School**

Trustee Cochrane explained that the consideration of closure process would be different this evening as all three closure considerations are closely linked and Trustees would be discussing all three before making the final decision on any one of them.

MOVED by Trustee King:

**THAT the Board of Trustees approves the minutes of the Public Meeting dated February 19, 2009 as attached to the report; and**

**THAT the report be received for information and for the record.**

The motion was  
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

As Ward Trustee, Trustee Cochrane noted that only one submission had been received since the public meeting. She provided a synopsis of the issues expressed in the submission as follows: that the decision to close would drive families away and that the decision should be delayed as young families are moving in which is changing the demographics; child care issues are not being considered in this closure recommendation; concern that perhaps the CBE did not look widely enough at other schools in the area in this process; and a request to not close the regular program at Le Roi Daniels School.

Motion Arising

MOVED by Trustee Ferguson:

**BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Kindergarten to Grade 6 regular program at Le Roi Daniels School be closed effective June 30, 2009.**

Trustee comments in support of the motion are summarized as follows:

- This is an opportunity to more effectively utilize space and resources in a cluster of schools and to provide long term sustainable programming for students. The Board of Trustees must be fiscally responsible with resources and it is difficult to justify the operation of a program with such low and declining enrolment.
- The Tsuu T'ina Nation students can be accommodated closer to home at Louis Riel School. Combining students into a larger program will provide them with more opportunities and they will be welcomed at Louis Riel School.
- Placing an alternative program into Le Roi Daniels School has not increased the enrollment in the regular program.
- A Trustee expressed that she is pleased that Le Roi Daniels School will remain a CBE school supporting public education students. It is possible that programs within that school could change again some time in the future.
- Projections for the Traditional Learning Centre (TLC) program are quite substantial for the future. Parents are making choices and should be supported in this.
- The process for consideration of closure is always difficult, but students are resilient and adapt to these changes.

MOVED by Trustee Bazinet:

**THAT the motion be laid on table.**

A Trustee commented in support of this motion that the next two items of discussion are closely linked and may help with this decision.

The motion was  
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

## **6.2 Consideration of Closure – Regular Program at Fairview School**

MOVED by Trustee Kryczka:

**THAT the Board of Trustees approves the minutes of the Public Meeting dated February 10, 2009 as attached to the report; and**

**THAT the report be received for information and for the record.**

The motion was  
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

As Ward Trustee, Trustee Cochrane provided a synopsis of the one written submission received after the public meeting as follows: a parent expressed dismay and confusion, felt that there is a lack of clarity in the administrative process and the regulatory process followed by the Board of Trustees. Trustee Cochrane noted that an explanatory response was sent to this parent and the Board was reminded that these processes must be made clear to the public in future.

### Motion Arising

MOVED by Trustee Bazinet:

**BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Board of Trustees approves the staged closure of the grade 7 to 9 regular program at Fairview School, commencing June 30, 2009, and that, from that date forward:**

- A. grades 7 to 9 regular program students from the Tsuu T'ina Nation would be designated from Fairview School to Louis Riel School;**
- B. grades 7 to 9 regular program students from the residential district of Fairview would be designated from Fairview School to David Thompson School;**

**provided that the following exceptions to the grade configurations of the regular program at Fairview School will be followed:**

- 1) for the academic year of 2009-2010, Fairview School would continue to accommodate grade 8 and 9 regular program students who had been enrolled in Fairview School for the 2008/09 school year if they so choose; and**
- 2) for the academic year 2010-2011 Fairview School would continue to accommodate grade 9 regular program students who had been enrolled in Fairview School for the 2008/09 school year if they so choose;**
- 3) for the academic year 2011-12 and beyond, Fairview School would have no regular program.**

Trustee comments in support of the motion are summarized as follows:

- It is hard to close a regular program that has been going on for some time; however, Fairview School has a very small regular program. There is no reason to assume that enrolment will dramatically change in the foreseeable future.
- A staged closure would allow those who are attending Fairview School now to finish out their junior high years there and students who are now in grade 5 will go on to David Thompson School for junior high, which is close and has space available.
- There are two other programs in this school, French Immersion and TLC, that are anticipated to expand.
- This will provide a community school for students in a regular program; it is just in a new location. There are some new large communities that don't have a junior high school at all.

MOVED by Trustee Ferguson:

**THAT the motion be laid on the table.**

A Trustee commented in support of the motion, that discussion regarding the next item may help to make the decision as the three schools are inter-connected.

The motion was  
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

**6.3 Consideration of Closure – Alternative Hockey/Life Skill Development Program (National Sport Academy) at Fairview School**

Trustees posed questions regarding the report and a summary of the discussion follows:

- Trustees questioned if there have been any further discussions since the public meeting regarding another location if this program is closed. Administration responded that these discussions have not taken place as they are awaiting the decision from the Board regarding closure before proceeding. It was noted that if the Board of Trustees proceeds with closure, R.T. Alderman School is still a consideration and that the future location will be determined based on what is in the best interest of students.
- There have been no discussions with parents regarding accommodation plans for the additional sport programs (lacrosse and soccer) currently being offered at Fairview as this decision is also pending the Board decision regarding closure. These additional sport programs will be included in the accommodation plans if a decision is made to close the Fairview program. Students in sports programs would attend classes with those in a regular program for core subjects and on their own for sport related courses.

MOVED by Trustee King:

**THAT the Board of Trustees approves the minutes of the Public Meeting dated February 24, 2009 as attached to the report; and**

**THAT the report be received for information and for the record.**

The motion was  
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

As Ward Trustee, Trustee Cochrane provided a synopsis of the one written submission received by e-mail after the public meeting. The following concerns were noted: disappointment that the CBE is not celebrating the success of this wonderful program and an environment which could serve as a template for others; complexity of accommodation issues in Area V and apparent lack of transparency in the process by including some schools and not others; concern regarding an elaborate method to address overcrowding at Sam Livingston School; confusion regarding the Hockey Skills program at Fairview School and whether or not it is an alternative program; and was it changed mid-stream in a less than transparent fashion?

Motion Arising

MOVED by Trustee Kryczka:

**BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Grade 7 to 9 Alternative Hockey/Life Skill Development Program (National Sport Academy) at Fairview School be closed effective June 30, 2011 to allow for its relocation to a site deemed appropriate by Administration.**

Trustees entered into debate on the motion and comments are summarized as follows:

- A Trustee expressed concern regarding whether or not the program in existence now is an evolution of a program or a violation of the original intent of a program. It has been successful; however, Fairview School does not have sufficient space to allow for the future growth of the program.
- Many students in the National Sport Academy program have benefited from attending the Traditional Learning Centre (TLC) or the French Immersion program as well. Before moving to a new location, Administration would have time to resolve these issues.
- This proposal is not to close one grade per year, but to relocate the program as a whole to another site in two years. Parents will need to know before registering, where the program will be moving in the future.
- A Trustee expressed concern that she is not comfortable with closing the program two years in advance, not knowing where it will relocate. The message from parents at the public meeting was that they are opposed to the closure of the program, due to the uncertainty of a future location.



- A Trustee expressed concern over why the Board of Trustees would close a program when Administration will be continuing to converse with the community and stakeholder groups to determine where best to relocate, what the program might look like, who might attend and what it might offer.
- A Trustee commented that sometimes growth exceeds projections. The National Sport School was started to accommodate students to pursue their passion and expertise in a particular sport. The program has already had to relocate twice. It is evident that a successful program can move to another site and still be successful.

Motion Arising

MOVED by Trustee Dirks:

**THAT the motion be amended by the addition of “and that parents be informed by June 30, 2010 of the future placement of the program”.**

Trustee comments regarding the amendment to the motion are summarized as follows:

- It is clear that there is insufficient space to continue to accommodate the program at Fairview School. It is important for parents to know at least one year in advance of where the new location will be so that interest in the program does not decline.
- Concern was expressed regarding this amendment because it may indicate that the program would continue at another location before Administration has done their review of alternative programs and engaging stakeholders as referred to on page 6-127 of the report.
- A Trustee noted that the original motion did say “to allow for its relocation” so this amendment is just further to the original motion by including a date when parents will be informed of the new location.

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

The motion was

CARRIED.

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

Trustees entered into further debate on the amended motion. Comments in support of the motion are summarized as follows:

- The motion recognizes Administration’s concern that there is insufficient space to accommodate all of the programs at Fairview School and will allow time to conduct an appropriate review that will let parents know ahead of time where the relocation will be.



- Trustees appreciate the work at Fairview and that students have had the opportunity to access French and TLC programs but don't know what opportunities will be available at another site. Trustees support this program to be relocated to allow future growth.
- A Trustee noted support for the motion because Administration needs the Board of Trustees' decision in order to take further action towards finding an appropriate relocation, although where the program will be and what it might look like is not yet known.

MOVED by Trustee Bazinet:

**THAT the motion be laid on table.**

The motion was  
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

MOVED by Trustee Ferguson:

**THAT the motion that was laid on the table regarding the regular program at Le Roi Daniels School be removed from the table.**

The motion was  
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

For reference, the motion now being considered is as follows:

**THAT the Kindergarten to Grade 6 regular program at Le Roi Daniels School be closed effective June 30, 2009.**

The motion was  
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

MOVED by Trustee Bazinet:

**THAT the motion that was laid on the table regarding the regular program at Fairview School be removed from the table.**

The motion was  
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

For reference, the motion now being considered is as follows:

**BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Board of Trustees approves the staged closure of the grade 7 to 9 regular program at Fairview School, commencing June 30, 2009, and that, from that date forward:**

- A. grades 7 to 9 regular program students from the Tsuu T'ina Nation would be designated from Fairview School to Louis Riel School;**

- B. grades 7 to 9 regular program students from the residential district of Fairview would be designated from Fairview School to David Thompson School;**

**provided that the following exceptions to the grade configurations of the regular program at Fairview School will be followed:**

- 1) for the academic year of 2009-2010, Fairview School would continue to accommodate grade 8 and 9 regular program students who had been enrolled in Fairview School for the 2008/09 school year if they so choose; and**
- 2) for the academic year 2010-2011 Fairview School would continue to accommodate grade 9 regular program students who had been enrolled in Fairview School for the 2008/09 school year if they so choose;**
- 3) for the academic year 2011-12 and beyond, Fairview School would have no regular program.**

The motion was  
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

MOVED by Trustee Kryczka:

**THAT the motion that was laid on the table regarding the Alternative Hockey/Life Skill Development Program (National Sport Academy) at Fairview School be removed from the table.**

The motion was  
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

For reference, the motion now being considered is as follows:

**BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Grade 7 to 9 Alternative Hockey/Life Skill Development Program (National Sport Academy) at Fairview School be closed effective June 30, 2011 to allow for its relocation to a site deemed appropriate by Administration and that parents be informed by June 30, 2010 of the future placement of the program.**

The motion was  
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Recessed: 6:30 p.m.  
Reconvened: 6:47 p.m.

#### **6.4 Resource Allocations to Schools – Early Spring Staffing 2009/10 Preliminary Operating Budget.**

Chair Cochrane noted that the report being reviewed is the “amended” report. Chief Superintendent Hubert introduced the report stating that this report is being brought forward now in order to allow for the early release of resources for staffing

at schools for the 2009/10 school year. She thanked Director Braun for making last minute changes to the report on short notice after the provincial budget was released today and acknowledged the Operating Budget Steering Committee for their work on it as well.

Director Braun provided highlights of the report noting that the province has extended their deadline for receipt of the budget to June, so the operating budget will be presented to the Board of Trustees on June 2, 2009. He noted that it is built on the draft Three-Year Education Plan. He reviewed the revenue assumptions that include Alberta Education's Renewed Funding Framework, a special education review, student enrolment forecast, and the Provincial budget.

The resource allocations are based on revenues, most of which are derived from the provincial budget as follows:

- 4.8% increase in the base instruction grant rates (there are some ongoing further discussions with the government in this area);
- An additional \$2.3 million, reflecting an increase of between 0 to 1% in student complexity grant rates;
- 3.0% increase in transportation grant rates under Alberta Education's current Metro Transportation Funding formula;
- An additional \$2.2 million increase reflecting a blended increase of 3.2% for provincial priority targeted funding rates including the small class size initiative funding, etc.;
- An additional \$2.3 million reflecting a 3% increase in Operations and Maintenance funding grant rate, and 0% increase in Infrastructure Maintenance Renewal (IMR) support;
- A \$5.4 million increase reflecting an anticipated small enrolment increase, a decrease in supported infrastructure interest expense due to decreased levels of outstanding debenture debt, and a decrease in the bus fuel grant funding due to the reduced price of diesel fuel;
- 2009/10 transportation fee revenues are included, in accordance with the report that will be presented to the Board later this evening;
- 2009/10 student fee revenues are included. Further details regarding these fees is included in another report being presented to the Board this evening;
- A \$3 million decline in investment and other ancillary revenues in 2008/09 due to current economic environments expected to continue well into 2009/10.

Director Braun noted that the two big surprises in the provincial budget were the 0% increase in severe special needs funding and only 1% increase to the English as a Second Language (ESL) grant.

On the expenditure side, most of the collective agreements are in place, except for the Trades. All transportation services will continue at their current levels in 2009/10 with the addition of a few extra special education routes.

Director Braun stated that there are always more budget requests than can be funded, and that they are only able to accommodate by redeployment of existing resources. Trustees' values of students come first, public education serves the common good and the class size initiative are always considered when planning the budget.

He referred to the specific RAM allocation recommendations referred to on page 6-109 of the report that included:

- Small class size initiative funding will provide adequate funding to maintain the 538 teachers hired through this initiative over the last four years.
- We anticipate that the number of English as a Second Language (ESL) students will grow by 5.2%. Over 20% of CBE's student population is ESL; the 1% grant increase is not sufficient to cover this enrolment increase.
- Some additional resources were deployed to meet the need for an additional mental health class.
- 17 schools will be eligible for full day kindergarten programs; seven schools no longer qualified for 2009/10 under the eligibility criteria and will be reverted back to half day programs.
- Equity funding support to eligible schools will continue for 2009/10.
- Funding will be redeployed for two school assistants for the Aboriginal Support Team.
- School based supply teachers will continue to be funded through the Resource Allocation Model (RAM). In the fall of 2009, there will be a review of 2008/09 total costs and the grid placement for supply teachers (substitute teachers).

Director Braun reviewed some of the anticipated changes in staffing as a result of RAM budget deliberations. He stated that the Alberta Initiative for School Improvement program has just completed a four year cycle and will start again, so it will remain stable for the next three years. There will be a small decline in staffing levels.

In conclusion, there will be an overall increase in RAM funding of \$28.6 million due to grant and enrolment increases and increases in student complexity (ESL and Special Needs) to purchase the same complement of staff, services and supplies as provided in 2008/09, after allowing for enrolment shifts. He noted that schools had a carry forward of \$7.7 million at the end of 2008. Administration has budgeted up to \$1.0 million in one time funding for 2009/10, from previously deferred unallocated resources, to be accessed should the need arise.

Director Braun stated that he hopes to bring this proposed plan to the leadership team on Wednesday, April 8, 2009 and then to schools on Thursday, April 9, 2009. Director Braun also expressed his thanks to all who worked on the report.

Trustees posed questions regarding the report and a summary of the discussion follows:

- The anticipated salary gapping in the 2008/09 modified budget is due to the inability to fill vacant positions. Director Braun explained that there was approximately \$1.5 million in salary gapping in the 2008/09 budget, not in schools, but in service units. It allowed for redeployment of funds for much needed positions right away in September. If this funding is not used at the schools, it is carried forward and can be used for temporary positions.
- In the 2009/10 budget the anticipated salary gapping has been reduced because of the current economic environment.
- Director Stevenson replied to a Trustee question regarding the establishment of a new Special Education mental health program in the north end of the city at a cost of \$208,000. He stated that there have been a number of mental health classes throughout the system for several years. Lately, it has become apparent that the number of high school students with this coding has increased and they have tried to provide additional programming by establishing one in the south and north of the city. He noted that students who are coded with mental health conditions by Alberta Education must be diagnosed by a psychologist or psychiatrist under the diagnostic manual, DSM4. Some of these disorders include severe anxiety, severe obsessive/compulsive disorder, and depression.
- Mr. Braun explained that there is not less funding for AISI next year, but this year's funding included a carry forward from last year. There will not be a carry forward for next year when the new cycle begins.
- A Trustee questioned what the effect of the RAM would be on an individual school whose enrolment did not change. Mr. Braun stated that the RAM allocations to schools will be less and it will be a challenge as there were some grants that did not increase at all. The blended increase for provincial grants is 3.8% and the Average Weekly Earnings increase is 4.8%. For example a high school with a \$10 million budget would be impacted by approximately \$50,000.
- A Trustee commented that this is the first year that the draft Three-Year Education Plan has been available prior to the budget and RAM allocations and questioned if this would affect allocations to schools? Acting Deputy Chief Superintendent Johnson stated that the Three-Year Plan sets priorities and influences how people and time are allocated. Director Braun added that this is a Three-Year Plan, some things may occur in year two or three, some may be new or some redeployed.
- A Trustee referred to the \$5.4 million decrease noted on page 6-106 of the report. Director Braun explained that this is a typographical error; it should read a 0.6% *increase*. The decrease in the infrastructure interest expense is due to decreased outstanding debenture debt and the decrease in the bus fuel grant is due to the reduced price of diesel fuel; it does not impact the bottom line, it is a flow through.
- The small class size initiative for K-3 of 17 students per one teacher will not be met as there is no additional funding provided for this. The 4.8 % has been

redeployed as class size initiative funding and will maintain the current rate, but it would be a challenge to reduce it further. It is expected that this will be a challenge provincially.

MOVED by Trustee Bazinet:

1. **THAT the report be received for information and for the record; and**
2. **THAT the Board of Trustees authorizes Administration to proceed with the distribution of the 2009/10 Resource Allocations to Schools, and subsequent early release of resources for staffing at schools for the 2009/10 school year, in accordance with the Resource Allocations to Schools Report, as updated April 7, 2009.**

The motion was  
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

#### **6.5 2009/10 Transportation Fee Schedule**

Superintendent Dart introduced the report. He noted that the charter rates will remain the same as last year; however, Calgary Transit Services (CTS) rates for high school students will increase by \$20 per year as announced by the City of Calgary. Administration is recommending that this increase be passed on to the students. He also noted that Attachment I to the report shows a transfer of funds from the Transportation Fee Stabilization Reserve Fund to fund transportation services in the 2009/10 Operating Budget.

Trustees posed questions regarding the report and a summary of the discussion follows:

- There was some discussion regarding whether the CBE is in compliance with the transportation regulation which states that any reserve funds are to be used within 2 years from when they were created. Director Braun stated that some of the reserves were created in 06/07, some in 07/08 and some in 08/09. Even without the fee increase, they could not all be used in 09/10. Director Braun spoke with Alberta Education regarding this and was advised that we need to make an effort to use the reserve funds, especially if there is going to be a charter fee increase. Passing on a CTS increase is different. He noted that we do not have any obligation to subsidize transportation and that two years ago the CBE absorbed the CTS \$35 increase. In 2008/09 a proposal to increase the transportation fee was not passed by Trustees, and the reserve funds were planned to be drawn down, but actually ended up with a small surplus. In 2010/11 the reserves will be gone. There is no metro funding formula in place as yet.

MOVED by Trustee Dirks:

**THAT the Board of Trustees approves the 2009/10 Transportation Fee Schedule, as outlined in Attachment I (Section A) of the report; and**



**THAT the amount of \$566,168 be approved for transfer from the Transportation Fee Stabilization Reserve Fund to fund transportation services in the 2009/10 Operating Budget.**

A Trustee commented that this is a prudent recommendation. It is logical to pass on the \$20 increase in CTS fees as we should maintain some level of reserve for any unknown events such as transportation reviews, etc.

A Trustee commented in support of the motion that the report shows strategies have been implemented over the last three years to try and reduce costs and to contain fee increases.

Chair Cochrane called for the vote on the motion.

The motion was  
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

## **7.0 MONITORING AND RESULTS**

### **7.1 EL-14: Student Accommodation**

Chief Superintendent Hubert provided brief introductory comments and thanked those who worked on the report. She introduced Mr. P. Carlton, Director, Community Engagement and Operational Planning (CEOP) and Acting Superintendent of Facilities and Environmental Services; Ms. S. Smith, System Principal, Student Services and Ms. K. Barry, System Principal, CEOP who would be available to respond to questions.

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

Trustees posed questions that were addressed by Administration and are summarized as follows:

- Transportation access to programs has not been included in this report. Transportation is provided to alternative programs that are not funded by the current formula, such as TLC and Science. Only language based programs are provincially funded for transportation.
- Accountability Surveys demonstrate that parents are given and are choosing an array of program choices. In general, parents who choose a particular program for their child are committed to that program and their children do very well.
- In response to a Trustee question regarding the closure of the regular program at Windsor Park School and how the community has settled as a result, Mr. Carlton stated that they have not received any communication to indicate any unusual



dissatisfaction with the move. CEOP is considering an evaluation of the process and outcomes, to help inform their practice as they move forward.

- In response to a Trustee question “What is equity and how is it applied across our system?” Chief Superintendent Hubert stated that equity means many approaches to treating unequals in unequal ways. Resources are allocated to provide for inequities that exist in certain communities and certain families or it may relate to access to programs and learning resources. Ms. N. Johnson, Acting Deputy Chief Superintendent stated that Administration will be looking at the allocation of RAM and deployment of resources to see if it is still being allocated in an equitable fashion.
- Director Carlton explained that there has been expressed interest to locate programs closer to homes, particularly for special needs students. For example, the Children’s Village relocation will drastically reduce ride time for students with severe needs and enhance learning.
- There was a lengthy discussion regarding the existence of a Long Range Student Accommodation Strategy. Trustees expressed concern that it is difficult to say whether or not Administration is in compliance with the mission, vision, values and achievement of the Ends in a document that they have not seen.

Mr. Carlton stated that it is a strategy, not a plan or a written document, because things are always changing. The CEOP team uses an electronic viewpoint forecasting what each community might look like in 10 years, including what the K-12 continuum might look like for each of the communities, in each of the programs and also what are potential areas where we might have student spaces surplus to our need. They are being careful not to publish a written document because circumstances may change. There is a very well defined process for consideration of closures in the case of surplus space. They look at student continuity of learning, opportunity for choice by alternative programming and attendance to special needs students as they look at the ever changing needs in a complex metro environment. An example of how it would focus on the achievement of Ends would be in the K-12 continuum of learning for TLC, there is a plan for students who register in Kindergarten for where they will go for elementary, junior high and through to high school.

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

- Director Carlton stated that some schools are successfully operating dual programs. To the best of their ability, they look at sustainability and the ability to maintain the regular program; however, in some communities where the regular program enrolment is declining, parents choose the alternative program.
- Chief Superintendent Hubert stated that there is a collaborative initiative between school districts, the United Way and the City of Calgary called “The Council of Champions”. They have identified a need to have policy and other supports at the provincial level.

MOVED by Trustee Dirks:

**THAT the Chief Superintendent has reasonably interpreted the provisions of policy EL-14: Student Accommodation, and the Board of Trustees finds the Chief Superintendent to be in compliance.**

MOVED by Trustee Bazinet:

**THAT the motion be amended by the addition of “with the exception of policy sub-part 1 (a).”**

Trustees commented in support of the motion that there is not sufficient information for the Board to decide whether there is a reasonable interpretation of this Executive Limitation without having seen a long range student accommodation strategy. The interpretation and information are not sufficient. Evidence and examples of how long range planning aligns with values should be provided.

- A Trustee stated that it is hard to be specific and accurate in any ten year plan. Unforeseen things can happen, such as the current change in the economy.
- Trustees expressed that they know there is a plan but they want to see what the plan is based on. How are the mission, vision, values and focus on achievement of the Ends considered when looking at accommodation?

Chair Cochrane called the question on the amendment to the motion.

The motion was  
CARRIED.

In Favour:	Trustee Dirks
	Trustee Ferguson
	Trustee King
	Trustee Cochrane
	Trustee Bazinet
Opposed:	Trustee Kryckza

A Trustee commented in support of the motion that this is an important Executive Limitation. Examples of values and process should be provided to support it with confidence.

Chair Cochrane called for the vote on the amended motion.

The motion was  
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

#### Motion Arising

MOVED by Trustee Ferguson:

**THAT the Board of Trustees commends the Chief Superintendent for the effort and amount of work undertaken to address the public's participation in the complex student accommodation challenges.**

- A Trustee commented that it requires a tremendous amount of work to engage communities in the student accommodation challenges that we face. This is an ongoing process every year and we should be commending for the efforts made to ensure the public is aware of the complexities.
- Amazing work has been done in the past few years and tremendous understanding is starting to be built on how we make decisions, how important they are and that many factors are considered. There is a much clearer understanding of where the public voice fits in the process.
- The CBE has evolved significantly from being seen as a large bureaucracy, and there is much more respect and understanding now.

Chair Cochrane called for the vote on the motion.

The motion was  
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

MOVED by Trustee Bazinet:

**That the Board of Trustees directs the Chief Superintendent to bring forward a report on Executive Limitations 14, subsection 1(a), regarding the reasonable interpretation and any other monitoring information by the end of June, 2009.**

The motion was  
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

## **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 Correspondence**

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

- Correspondence dated March 2, 2009 to Board Chair P. Cochrane from Mr. J. Gibson, ASAP I Project Director, Alberta Infrastructure expressing appreciation for her part in the collaborative work and success of Phase I of the Alberta Schools Alternative Procurement project.

- **Correspondence dated March 19, 2009 to Board Chair P. Cochrane from the Honourable Dave Hancock, Minister of Education, to encourage the celebration of Alberta's Arts Day, on September 18 – 20, 2009 and to welcome ideas and suggestions for participation.**
- **Correspondence dated March 26, 2009 to Board Chair P. Cochrane from the Honourable Dave Hancock, Minister of Education encouraging participation and promotion of the WorldSkills Calgary 2009 competition as well as encouragement to high schools to apply for the equipment legacy component.**

9.1.2 EducationMatters Quarterly Financial Report

**THAT the Board of Trustees receives the report for information.**

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

**THAT the attachments with respect to the Calgary Association of Parents and School Councils (CAPSC) be received for information and be considered as the liaison report for that organization.**

9.1.4 Alberta School Boards Association (ASBA) Liaison Report

**THAT the Alberta School Boards Association (ASBA) liaison report containing the ASBA Board of Directors' Meeting Highlights dated October 9-10, 2008; December 12, 2008; January 17, 2009; February 12-13, 2009 and March 12-13, 2009 be received for information.**

**9.2 Chief Superintendent Consent Agenda**

9.2.1 Chief Superintendent's Update

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

9.2.2 Report on Financial Status of Operating Budget as at February 28, 2009

**THAT information regarding all budget revisions made during the period December 1, 2008 to February 28, 2009 inclusive (identified in the Analysis section of this report and in Attachments I and II), be received for monitoring information and for the record; and**

**THAT the Statement of Revenue and Expense for the periods December 1, 2008 to February 28, 2009 and Forecast Annual Revenue and Expense for the year ending August 31, 2009 and notes thereto (Attachments III and IV, respectively) be received for monitoring information and for the record.**

9.2.3 Second Quarter Capital Budget Status Report as at February 28, 2009

**THAT information regarding all budget revisions and transfers, as outlined in this report for the period December 1, 2008 to February 28, 2009 inclusive, be received for monitoring information and for the record; and**

**THAT attachments I to IV, reflecting actual capital expenditures for the period December 1, 2008 to February 28, 2009 and forecast expenditures for the year ending August 31, 2009, be received for monitoring information and for the record.**

9.2.4 2009/10 Student Fees

**THAT the Board of Trustees receives the report for information and for the record.**

**10.0 TRUSTEE NOTICES OF MOTION**

There were no Trustee Notices of Motion.

**11.0 ADJOURNMENT**

Chair Cochrane declared the meeting adjourned at 8:27 p.m.