CALGARY BOARD OF EDUCATION

Minutes of the Special Meeting of the Board of Trustees (the "Board") held in the Multipurpose Room, Education Centre, 1221 – 8 Street SW, Calgary, Alberta on Tuesday, December 16, 2024 at 9:00 a.m.

MEETING ATTENDANCE

Board of Trustees:

Trustee P. Bolger (Chair)
Trustee N. Close
Trustee L. Hack
Trustee C. May
Trustee S. Vukadinovic

Absent:

Trustee M. Dennis

Administration:

J. Pitman, Chief Superintendent of Schools
K. Fenney, General Counsel
P. Minor, Corporate Secretary
M. Graham, Board Administrator

Stakeholder Representatives:

C. Gordon, Canadian Union of Public Employees, Local 40

1 | CALL TO ORDER, NATIONAL ANTHEM AND WELCOME

Chair Bolger called the meeting to order at 9:02 a.m. and students from Western Canada High School led the national anthem through a video recording.

Chair Bolger acknowledged the traditional territories and oral practices of the Treaty 7 Nations, including the Siksikaitsitapi, comprised of the Siksika, the Kainai, the Piikani, and the Amskapi Piikani Nations. We acknowledge the Tsuut'ina Nation, the Îyârhe Nakoda, comprised of the Chiniki, Bearspaw, and Goodstoney Nations, the Métis Nation within Alberta, and all people who make their homes in the Treaty 7 region of southern Alberta. This land on which we gather is traditionally known as Moh'kinstsis, Guts'ists'i, Wîchîspa, and otôskwanihk.

As a learning organization, we are committed to advancing the Truth and Reconciliation Calls to Action focused on Education for ReconciliACTION.

Oki, Dādánast'áda, Âba Wathtec, Tânisi, Taanishi, bonjour, hello, and welcome, from Chair Bolger, to all staff, union representatives, and members of the public in attendance at the meeting.

2 | CONSIDERATION/ APPROVAL OF AGENDA

P. Minor, Corporate Secretary, noted that no agenda change requests were received.

MOVED by Trustee May:

THAT the Board of Trustees approves the agenda for the Special Meeting of December 16, 2024, as submitted.

The motion was
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY. Absent: Trustee Dennis

3 | MATTERS RESERVED FOR BOARD DECISION

3.1 Bylaw to Require Police Information Checks for Trustee Candidate Nominations

Chair Bolger introduced the report noting that the Alberta Government initiated amendments to the *Local Authorities Election Act* through the *Municipal Affairs Statutes Amendment Act*, presenting the opportunity for local officials to consider requiring candidates to provide a Police Information Check as part of nomination papers; that the Board of Trustees requested administration provide a criminal record check bylaw for consideration; and an overview of the bylaw adoption process.

Administration responded to trustee questions on matters from the report, including CBE requirements for Police Information Checks from employees and volunteers; existing regulations or requirements for Police Information Checks for school board trustee candidates or candidates for other elected offices; the rational for requiring Police Information Checks; impact on potential candidates; cost barriers to candidacy; legal implications of Bylaw 1 of 2024; costs to the CBE related to the Bylaw; existing processes for assuring candidate qualification under the *Local Authorities Election Act*; police information check details that would be shared with the public; the process for verification of candidate information; the period of time for which a police record check will be required; and clarity regarding the type of police record check required.

Recessed: 9:44 a.m.

Motion to Move In Camera

MOVED by Trustee Vukadinovic:

Whereas the Board of Trustees is of the opinion that it is in the public interest that matters on the public agenda for the Special Meeting of the Board of Trustees, December 16, 2024 be considered at a private session; therefore, be it

Resolved, **THAT the Special Meeting of the Board of Trustees moves in camera.**

The motion was
CARRIED. In Favour: Trustee Bolger
Trustee Close
Trustee May

Trustee Vukadinovic

Opposed: Trustee Hack

Absent: Trustee Dennis

Motion to Move Out of In Camera

MOVED by Trustee Hack:

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

The motion was
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY. Absent: Trustee Dennis

Reconvened: 9:56 a.m.

MOVED by Trustee May:

THAT the Board of Trustees authorizes Bylaw Number 1 of 2024, being a Bylaw of The Calgary Board of Education to require Police Information Checks for Trustee Candidate Nominations ("Bylaw 1 of 2024") be given first reading.

Chair Bolger asked if trustees had any questions or comments on the motion.

MOVED by Trustee Vukadinovic:

THAT the Board of Trustees postpones consideration of the motion to authorize first reading of Bylaw Number 1 of 2024, being a Bylaw of The Calgary Board of Education to require Police Information Checks for Trustee Candidate Nominations, indefinitely.

A trustee questioned the language of the motion.

In debate of the motion, trustees made comments on the absence of a trustee and a vacant trustee role on the Board of Trustees; taking time to further research impacts of Bylaw 1 of 2024; and the obstructive nature of delaying the original motion.

The motion was
DEFEATED.

In Favour: Trustee Vukadinovic

Opposed: Trustee Bolger
Trustee Close
Trustee Hack
Trustee May

Absent: Trustee Dennis

Chair Bolger read the main motion.

In debate of the main motion, trustees made comments on the opportunity to contribute to amendments to the *Local Authorities Elections Act* and to engage in fulsome debate; and support for having Bylaw 1 of 2024 read in full to allow for public debate on the matter to take place.

Chair Bolger called for a vote.

The motion was CARRIED.

In Favour:	Trustee Bolger Trustee Close Trustee Hack Trustee May
Opposed:	Trustee Vukadinovic
Absent:	Trustee Dennis

In accordance with Section 6(3) of the Board Procedures Regulation AR 82/2019 under the *Education Act*, Corporate Secretary, P. Minor read The Calgary Board of Education Bylaw 1 of 2024, being a Bylaw of the Calgary Board of Education to require Police Information Checks for Trustee Candidate Nominations (Bylaw 1 of 2024), in its entirety for the record.

MOVED by Trustee May:

> **THAT the Board of Trustees approves first reading of Bylaw 1 of 2024, being a Bylaw of The Calgary Board of Education to require Police Information Checks for Trustee Candidate Nominations.**

A trustee asked a question about the purpose of the motion.

In debate of the motion trustees made comments on the amendments to the *Local Authorities Election Act*; the deadline to enact the Bylaw prior to the 2025 municipal election; the trust put in the Calgary Board of Education to guide the system in providing safe, positive, equitable, inclusive, and welcoming spaces; the commitment of the Board to conduct themselves lawfully with integrity and high ethical standards, modelling the behaviour expected of students and employees to build confidence and credibility; the benefit of Police Information Checks for trustee candidates; importance of honesty, transparency to the public and parents, and the safety of students; concerns about privacy; the current Police Information Check requirements for staff and visitors in contact with students in CBE schools; the purpose of Police Information Checks; barriers to running for election; existing parameters for trustee candidates; consistency across the Calgary school divisions and city council; ensuring the public has the information necessary to make the best decisions; promotion of trust and leadership by example in a public office; and alignment of trustee expectations to expectations for all CBE staff.

Chair Bolger called for a vote.

The motion was
CARRIED.

In Favour:	Trustee Bolger Trustee Close Trustee Hack Trustee May
Opposed:	Trustee Vukadinovic
Absent:	Trustee Dennis

MOVED by Trustee May:

THAT the Board of Trustees authorizes Bylaw 1 of 2024 be given second reading.

In debate of the motion, trustees made comments on allowing for further debate on the motion and integrity and transparency in the election process.

A trustee called a Point of Order. The Chair ruled that trustees are to keep debate to the matter of the authorizing a second reading.

In continued debate on the motion, trustees made comments of concern about continuing with second reading of Bylaw 1 of 2024 when not all trustees are present.

The motion was
CARRIED.

In Favour:	Trustee Bolger Trustee Close Trustee Hack Trustee May
Opposed:	Trustee Vukadinovic
Absent:	Trustee Dennis

Corporate Secretary, P. Minor, restated for the record The Calgary Board of Education Bylaw Number 1 of 2024, being a Bylaw of the Calgary Board of Education to require Police Information Checks for Trustee Candidate Nominations (Bylaw 1 of 2024).

MOVED by Trustee May:

THAT the Board of Trustees approves second reading of Bylaw 1 of 2024, being a Bylaw of The Calgary Board of Education to require Police Information Checks for Trustee Candidate Nominations.

In debate of the motion, trustees made comments on the enactment of a criminal record check bylaw by other Alberta school divisions, including the Calgary Catholic School District, and it being considered by the City of Calgary; cost of acquiring Police Information Checks; integrity of and trust in trustee candidates; requirements for Police Information Checks for all CBE staff and volunteers; transparency of trustee candidates; alignment

with other Alberta school boards; comparable requirements in other legislative bodies; influence on voters; and leadership in governance and transparency.

Chair Bolger called for a vote.

The motion was CARRIED.

In Favour:	Trustee Bolger Trustee Close Trustee Hack Trustee May
Opposed:	Trustee Vukadinovic
Absent:	Trustee Dennis

MOVED by Trustee Hack:

> **THAT, in accordance with Section 6(2) of the Board Procedure Regulation (AR 82/2019) under the *Education Act*, the Board of Trustees authorizes Bylaw 1 of 2024 be given third reading.**

In debate of the motion, trustees made comments on efficient use of time by proceeding with third reading today and information provided to the Board on this matter over the past few months.

A trustee called a Point of Order to note that one trustee is not present for discussion. The Chair ruled that quorum was present as per the *Education Act* and, as such, the matter before the Board could proceed.

Trustees continued debate on the motion, commenting on the absence of a trustee for discussion; availability of research and analysis with respect to Bylaw 1 of 2024; the potential perception of urgency; the purpose of the Bylaw; the opportunity for fulsome debate; and the value of providing information to the electorate.

A trustee asked a Point of Information on Board Meeting Procedures and processes for continuation of debate on this matter if third reading is delayed. Corporate Secretary, P. Minor, provided clarification of the process as per the *Board Procedure Regulation*.

Trustees continued debate on the motion, commenting on disagreement with language used to describe the debate by a fellow trustee; and concern about debate continuing outside of the public meeting.

Chair Bolger called for a vote.

The motion was DEFEATED.

In Favour:	Trustee Bolger Trustee Close Trustee Hack

Opposed: Trustee May
Trustee Vukadinovic

Absent: Trustee Dennis

Chair Bolger stated that, as section 6(2) of the Board Procedure Regulation (AR 82/2019) states that no more than two readings of a bylaw may be given at any one meeting, unless the trustees present at the meeting unanimously agree to give the bylaw a third reading, and whereas the motion to proceed with third reading at today's meeting was defeated, the third reading of Bylaw 1 of 2024 will be added to the agenda of the December 17, 2024 Regular Board Meeting.

Chair Bolger noted the meeting is now terminated. She stated the next public Board meeting is on Tuesday, December 17, 2024.

4 | TERMINATION OF MEETING

The meeting terminated at 10:58 a.m.