



**MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES  
REGULAR BOARD MEETING  
HELD AT THE EDUCATION CENTRE  
2651 CHINOOK WINDS DRIVE S. W.  
AIRDRIE, ALBERTA**

**THURSDAY, APRIL 2, 2009**

**TRUSTEES PRESENT:**

Chair, Ward 3 Sylvia Eggerer  
Vice-Chair, Ward 2 Bev LaPeare  
Ward 1 Jennifer Avery  
Ward 6 Dr. Bruce Pettigrew  
Ward 5 Colleen Munro  
Ward 7 Don Thomas

**TRUSTEES ABSENT:**

Ward 4 Helen Clease

**ADMINISTRATION PRESENT:**

Superintendent of Schools Greg Bass  
Associate Superintendent of Business & Operations Darrell Couture  
Associate Superintendent of Learning Dr. David Peat  
Associate Superintendent of Human Resources Susan Williams  
Associate Superintendent of Schools Murray Besenski

**COMMUNICATIONS:**

Director of Communications Angela Spanier  
Executive Assistant Karen Dolynny

**RECORDING SECRETARY:**

**CALL TO ORDER:**

Chair Sylvia Eggerer called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m.

Trustee Helen Clease is absent due to her attendance at the National School Boards' Association Conference, being held in San Diego, California.

**REGULAR BOARD MEETING AGENDA:**

**#80 – 09 MOTION BY TRUSTEE BRUCE PETTIGREW:**

That the Board of Trustees approves the March 19, 2009, Regular Board meeting agenda as circulated with the following amendment:

- Move the In-Camera portion to the end of the Regular Board meeting.

**CARRIED**

**MINUTES OF THE BOARD MEETING:**

**#81 - 09 MOTION BY TRUSTEE BEV LAPEARE:**

That the Board of Trustees approves the minutes of the Regular Board Meeting of March 19, 2009, as circulated with the following amendment of motion #76-09:

**#76 - 09 MOTION BY TRUSTEE BEV LAPEARE:**

That the Board of Trustees approves the Langdon School modular classroom and connecting corridor link tender submitted by Integrated Commercial Interiors and authorizes the Superintendent to enter into a construction contract upon receiving approval of the tender from Alberta Infrastructure.

**CARRIED**

**PRESENTATION: CHESTERMERE SCHOOL COUNCILS**

PAUL KONYK, CHAIR, CHESTERMERE HIGH

JANET GIBB, CHAIR, CHESTERMERE MIDDLE

**PRESENTATION REGARDING PROPOSED GRADE RE-CONFIGURATION FOR CHESTERMERE, INDUS AND LANGDON AREA SCHOOLS**

**Introduction:**

- Where are we from?
  - Most of us are in schools which have a great influx of population—where resources are stretched and there are many new faces (children and parents) each year.
  - Indus School is different in that it has lower student numbers and would benefit from increased enrollment.

**Why do we support the proposal to shift to K to 5, 6-9, (alternative K-9) and 10-12?**

**Who are the Grade 5s?**

- As young as 9 and ½ years with February 28 cut off date
- Quite variable in physical, social and emotional development
- Identified as “tweens” because they are between the end of “middle childhood” and the beginning of adolescence and so have unique emotional, physical and academic needs
- A number of our students have English as a Second Language and special needs

**Our concerns with Grade 5 Students being in Middle School**

- Decreased play time in recess breaks—in Middle School many spend more time being like the “big kids” rather than allowing themselves time to play as they need to at this age
- AB Education is based on K to 6 and 7-9 format and so opportunities (exploratory courses, school sports teams, age limits for competitions such as a debating club.) are limited in Grade 5 (and somewhat for Grade 6 as well) as opposed to Grade 7s and 8s
- Grade 5s (and even Grade 9s in High School) are exposed to social expectations that are more mature than they should be for their age groups

### **Why we prefer Grade 5 Students in an Elementary School**

- Provides an opportunity for children to prepare for a transition in a familiar setting where their strengths and needs are well known
- Allows extra time in a more protected setting to further develop children's ESL skills, and support learning for those who have challenges
- Gives more time to help link new parents in the larger community in a more involved, hands-on elementary school community.
- Offers more opportunity to develop leadership skills at a more appropriate Grade 5 age rather than Grade 4 level

### **Overall for the Grade 5 Students:**

- Children will have a better foundation to meet the demands of Middle School with an extra year in an elementary school which has a well-developed transition program.
- This program would expand their organizational, social and emotional skills in a familiar setting where adults who know them well can support them in taking risks to develop further.

### **Grade 9 Re-configuration**

- Costs of correcting space issues at the high school, and possibly less than adequate facilities as a result
- Increased education time for Grade 9s (no need for exam breaks to be so long twice per year)
- Prepares them for the transition to high school during their last year in a familiar setting of their middle school (this should also include a shift in report card format at Grade 9 in preparation for Grade 10)
- Positive impact on Indus School population

## **SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT**

### **POLICY DJ PURCHASING AUTHORITY FEEDBACK REQUEST**

#### **#82 - 09 MOTION BY TRUSTEE BRUCE PETTIGREW:**

That the Board of Trustees authorizes the Superintendent of Schools to send amended draft Policy DJ Purchasing Authority and corresponding amended Procedure D – Purchasing Authority, to school-based administrators for feedback.

Trustee Don Thomas proposed a friendly amendment that the policy should go to all channels for feedback, not just school based administrators.

Trustee Bruce Pettigrew did not agree the amendment was friendly.

#### **#83 – 09 MOTION TO AMEND MOTION #82 -09 BY TRUSTEE DON THOMAS:**

That the Board of Trustees authorizes the Superintendent of Schools to send amended draft Policy DJ Purchasing Authority and corresponding amended Procedure D – Purchasing Authority, to all channels for feedback.

**DEFEATED**

**VOTING ON ORIGINAL MOTION #82-09 BY TRUSTEE BRUCE PETTIGREW:**

That the Board of Trustees authorizes the Superintendent of Schools to send amended draft Policy DJ Purchasing Authority and corresponding amended Procedure D – Purchasing Authority, to school-based administrators for feedback.

**CARRIED**

**#84 - 09 MOTION BY TRUSTEE BRUCE PETTIGREW:**

That the Board of Trustees refers the circulation process for policy feedback to the Policy Development Committee for review.

**DEFEATED**

**POLICY JM RELATIONS WITH COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS – FIRST READ**

**#85 - 09 MOTION BY TRUSTEE BEV LAPEARE:**

That the Board of Trustees approves first read of new policy JM: Relations with Community Organizations as presented.

**CARRIED**

**APRIL 2009 PORTABLE REQUESTS**

**#86 - 09 MOTION BY TRUSTEE DON THOMAS:**

That the Board of Trustees Defer this item to the April 23, 2009 Board meeting.

**DEFEATED**

**#87 - 09 MOTION BY TRUSTEE COLLEEN MUNRO:**

That the Board of Trustees authorizes the Superintendent to request approval from the province for the following portable classrooms projects which are needed to accommodate students as of September, 2009, in priority order:

- .1 Two new modular classrooms for Nose Creek Elementary School.
- .2 Two units relocated from Chestermere High School to Langdon School, and the construction of a connecting corridor.
- .3 Four units relocated from Banded Peak School to Muriel Clayton School.
- .4 Two units relocated from Cochrane High School to Prince of Peace School.
- .5 Two units relocated from Bow Valley High School to Mitford School.
- .6 The construction of a connecting link and the attachment of four freestanding units at Ralph McCall.

**CARRIED**

## **INFORMATION:**

### **21<sup>ST</sup> CENTURY STUDENT LEARNING TRANSITIONS**

Reporting Period: 2008-2009 school year

#### **SUMMARY**

Rocky View Schools Transition Rates (6 year) results as detailed in Alberta Education's Accountability Pillar Online Reporting Initiative (APORI) has an Achievement result of high (green) and a year over year Improvement result of improved significantly (blue).

#### **WORK COMPLETED**

School administrators, teachers, guidance counselors and support staff within Rocky View Schools do a tremendous job working with, and supporting the needs of all learners.

Establishment of Outreach Schools in the communities of Airdrie, Chestermere and Cochrane. This provides a relatively convenient educational option for students whom the traditional high school program may not be a workable option.

High schools in Rocky View Schools have developed strong connections with local businesses that have been very supportive of students involved in Registered Apprenticeship Programs (RAP) and work experience. These programs provide valuable "real world" learning experiences for students interested in future careers in trades and technology industries.

#### **WORK REMAINING**

Continued attention directed to tracking, and providing programming options that engage all learners. The creation of Community Learning Centres will further support students in achieving their goals of gaining job skills and exploring future careers while they attend school.

#### **SIGNIFICANT ACHIEVEMENTS**

In the fall of 2008, Rocky View Schools Board of Trustees was awarded a Minister's Education Leadership Recognition Award by the Honourable Dave Hancock. This Certificate of Recognition was for Significant Improvement in student Transition Rates.

#### **CHALLENGES AHEAD**

Focused attention on the goals of Rocky View Schools Three Year Education Plan. As schools in Rocky View implement strategies to achieve the six goals, and outcomes of each goal, Rocky View Schools will more successfully engage learners and positively impact student Transition Rates.

#### **EVALUATION OF WORK**

Rocky View Schools demonstrates a high level of success with student Transition Rates.

#### **#88 - 09 MOTION BY TRUSTEE JENNIFER AVERY:**

That the Board of Trustees receives as information Rocky View's Accountability Progress Report concerning 21<sup>st</sup> Century student learning transitions.

**CARRIED**

## **BOARD CORRESPONDENCE:**

Letter from Honourable David Hancock, Minister of Education, regarding the 2009 World Skills Competition. Education facilities offering CTS courses will have the opportunity to apply for equipment used at the competition by responding to a call for proposals that will be sent by the Deputy Minister.

## **BOARD PROFESSIONAL LEARNING AND CONFERENCES:**

National School Boards Association Conference in San Diego, April 4 – 7, 2009 – H. Clease

## **BOARD AND COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

### **Syliva Eggerer Reported:**

- March 19 – Attended Board Planning and Regular Board meeting
- March 19 – Attended Dinner with the Town of Beiseker
- March 19 – Attended Bert Church School Council
- March 23 – Attended George McDougall High School Celebrating Success Meeting
- March 24 – Attended Meeting with Minister Dave Hancock in Edmonton - Discussion of infrastructure concerns, and the lack of capital plans in the new budget
- March 25 – Attended Flag raising and kick off celebrations for the Plus 55 Games
- March 25 – Attended Edwards School Council meeting
- March 26 – Attended meeting with Minister Hancock and Zone 4, 5, and 6 Board Chairs and Superintendents in Calgary
- March 26 – Attended three year plan review at the Education Centre with some of the original participants
- March 31 - Edwards School to make Easter eggs with grade three classes
- March 31 – Attended Benefits Committee meeting
- March 31 – Attended Joint Board School Council Meeting at the Education Centre
- April 1 – Attended RJ Hawkey School Council meeting

### **Bev LaPeare Reported:**

- March 19 – Attended the Board Planning and Regular Board meetings
- March 19 – Attended Prairie Waters School Council meeting
- March 20 – Met with MLA Rob Anderson
- March 23 – Attended Student Transportation Committee Meeting
- March 23 – Attended the Indus School Council meeting
- March 24 – Met with the Minister of Education, Dave Hancock and MLA, Rob Anderson, in Edmonton, Alberta, at the Legislature.
- March 26 – Attended the Three Year Planning Session at the Education Center
- March 26 – Attended the Recreation Board meeting at the MD of Rocky View office
- March 27 – Attended the Chestermere Lake Middle School Council meeting
- March 31 – Attended the Joint Board/Council meeting at the Education Center
- April 2 – Attended the Board Planning and Regular Board meetings

**IN - CAMERA:**

**#89 - 09 MOTION BY TRUSTEE BEV LAPEARE:**

That the Board of Trustees move into in-camera at 2:55 p.m.

**CARRIED**

**#90 - 09 MOTION BY TRUSTEE BRUCE PETTIGREW:**

That the Board of Trustees moves out of in-camera at 3:18 p.m.

**CARRIED**

**ITEMS FROM IN - CAMERA:**

**#91 - 09 MOTION BY TRUSTEE BRUCE PETTIGREW:**

That the Student Suspension/Expulsion Report for March, 2009, be accepted as presented, for information purposes.

**CARRIED**

**ADJOURNMENT:**

**#92 - 09 MOTION BY TRUSTEE BEV LAPEARE:**

That the Regular Board meeting be adjourned at 3:19 p.m.

**CARRIED**

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**CHAIRMAN**

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**SECRETARY-TREASURER**