

DATE: May 17, 2016

TO: Board of Trustees

FROM: Trustee Michelle Draper, Caucus Committee Chair

SUBJECT: Report #6 of the Caucus Committee (From the Meetings Held April 26 and May 3, 2016)

ORIGINATOR: Dr. Sandra Stoddard, Executive Director Governance, Strategic Services and Support for Schools, Corporate Secretary

REFERENCE: [Trustees' Handbook](#) – Caucus Committee - Section 5.4
[Trustees' Handbook](#) – Section 6 – Board Committees
[School Act](#) - Section 61

ISSUE

The Board approved the following recommendations at the March 3, 2015 Board meeting: That a resolution be approved directing that Section 5.4 of the Trustees' Handbook be revised to give the Caucus Committee final decision-making power on certain types of matters, and yet constrain that power so it is used only when absolutely necessary.

The following recommendations were approved at the April 26 and May 3, 2016 Caucus Committee meetings:

Appointment of General Counsel

1. *That the appointment of Grace Cooke to General Counsel be approved.*

BACKGROUND – Recommendation 1

The District's current General Counsel is retiring at the end of the 2015-16 school year. This required the initiation of a search to identify a new General Counsel. Conroy Ross provided support for this search. A preferred candidate, Ms. Grace Cooke, has been identified. Administration would like to proceed with an offer of employment to appoint Grace as General Counsel.

2015-2016 Superintendent of Schools Evaluation

2. *That the Conroy Ross 2015-2016 Superintendent of Schools' Evaluation be accepted.*

BACKGROUND – Recommendation 2

The Board believes that an annual performance evaluation of the Superintendent is a vital process for creating and maintaining a healthy and continuously improving school district. In addition, the Board believes that opportunities for regular ongoing dialogue and feedback between the Superintendent and Trustees help to foster a collaborative working environment critical to a high functioning District. An

Information Report will be presented to the Trustees at the May 31, 2016 Board meeting which will include the 2015-2016 Superintendent's summary evaluation letter from Conroy Ross.

Edmonton Public Schools Student Senate - Promotional Strategy Budget Request

- 3. That up to \$7,700 of funds from the Board Initiative Fund be approved to cover the costs associated with materials to support high schools in their efforts to promote and create energy and interest around the Student Senate.*

BACKGROUND – Recommendation 3

At the April 5th Public Board meeting Trustees approved the Legacy students' proposed model of Student Governance. The April 5th report included Trustee approval of an annual operational budget of \$26,000 to be allocated to Governance and Strategic Supports (GSS) starting in the 2016-17 school year. This budget did not include consideration for promotion, as administration intended to utilize an approach similar to that used for the Student Trustee. This approach used internal staff time and did not require the expenditure of additional District funds.

Upon approval of the new student governance model administration began work to support implementation. In working with the Legacy students, feedback was provided that the activities used to promote the Student Trustee initiative did not catch the attention of youth. This feedback provided the opportunity to explore new ways to support District high schools in their Student Senate selection/election process this spring. These new ideas are intended to help to create awareness, interest and energy amongst District students. The costs associated with the development or purchasing of these supporting materials is estimated not to exceed \$7,700.

SS: sj