

Absent:

Chair Christine Jackson
Director Carmen Jeam
Director Mike Bolitho
Director Ashley Jensen
Director Gary Care
Director Kerri Savage
Director Sheri Doell
Barbara Holden

Administration:

Principal: Dani Sever
Vice Principal: Jenelee Jones
Vice Principal: Marlene Vazquez
Beth Durocher
Londie Borsos
Zoey Graf
Allen Wiens
Abby Charchun

Director

Superintendent Michelle Brennick
Secretary Treasurer Susan Penner
Parents: Carrie Hunter
Maisie Hing
Sheri Bolitho
Kerry Parker Smith
Chad Newcombe
Katherine Lauzon
Kristie Cote
Jonathan Toews
Alanna Nazarko
Nikki Pieterse

1. **Call to Order:** Christine Jackson called the meeting to order at 6:04 pm.
2. **Amalgamation overview:** Gary Care
3. **Q & A**

Campus Consolidation Q&A

Physical Footprint

Are portables required to accommodate the consolidation? If not, how will the consolidation happen without portables? Compression into existing footprint?

Will the addition of portables strain shared resources (gym space, library space, quiet spaces for students who need breaks, etc.)?

The intention is to secure portables prior to finalizing the consolidation to ensure that constraints related to physical space are mitigated. While there would be ways to accommodate the full student population without portables, we recognize the importance of spaces other than traditional classrooms for programming such as technology, the arts, and areas for specialized learning support or instruction.

NEW Where will the portables be located? Will students be required to walk outside to reach the main school building?

The portables will be attached to the existing Lakeview building and connected such that students will have indoor access to the entire campus.

Personnel

What impact will the consolidation have on Teacher to Student Ratio?

What kind of staff reduction might occur?

At this time, the Board is not contemplating staff reduction or changes to teacher/student ratios. The intention is for the student population to continue to grow so the current staffing model will still be required.

Health & Safety

What accommodations are being made to ensure the consolidation is safe from a Covid perspective?

With the addition of portables, we do not expect a change to the safety of our school. We continue to remind students and staff to remain at home if they are unwell, make hand sanitizer and other sanitization products available, support members of our community who opt to wear a mask, and are mindful of the type of activities we take on.

Given the increase in student numbers and the great possibility of infection spread, will the school consider investing in air purifiers in classrooms? If not, why?

We do not have reason to believe that our current air and ventilation system is contributing to increased transmission of any illness among our population. We monitor health and absenteeism trends within the school and if we have reason to believe air quality is an issue, we will certainly look at measures to rectify. The health and wellness of our students and staff is always paramount.

NEW With respect to health & safety concerns at the Lakeview campus, particularly with the amalgamation, would CGCS be open to conducting an assessment of current air quality and ventilation?

Air quality checks are already completed on a regular basis. The Board will investigate providers and cost for an assessment should there be a need for additional checks.

Culture & Programming

Will this affect programming (in a positive or negative way)? Will there still be dedicated French and music time? Will there be gains made for the 4/5 or the 6-9s with the consolidation?

What will the campus culture be like with a large age range? Are there other schools with such a large grade range in one campus to compare this to?

Will there be 'pods' or areas for different age groups so they feel more like a safe space instead of a giant school with lots of kids of various ages?

The Calgary Girls Charter School started with one campus which provided a sense of belonging and dynamic culture that has contributed to the foundation of our school. By returning to one campus, we believe this will foster a stronger spirit of community and allow our organization to evolve even more. There are so many opportunities for junior and senior students to work together, mentor one another and learn from each other which is more easily facilitated at one campus. While keeping current programming (i.e., French, music etc.) and growing educational opportunities in parallel, we are confident that the benefits outweigh any concerns with having our student population altogether.

Public boards and other charter schools alike have campuses with the same grade 4-9 demographic that we are proposing. We are currently more of an anomaly by having grades 4 and 5 at a different campus. Students will generally be grouped near similar grades, with the advantage of having opportunities to interact with other grades for enrichment experiences.

Would EA and learning resource support remain the same? Increase? Decrease?

At a minimum, learning support will remain the same if not increase by having all programming at the same campus. There are efficiencies gained by sharing a physical location which often translate to improvements in access to resources.

With the substantial savings in operational costs, would there be tangible benefits to the educational experience for our kids (aside from no longer running a deficit)? Would that result in increased staff/support staff, a commitment to maintaining smaller class sizes, more OT/mental health support, etc.?

We recognize the value of the Calgary Girls Charter School's offerings and how they differentiate us from other schools; these are the aspects of our community that we are collectively most proud of. The intention is to maintain current learning, support, and resourcing models. As definitive budget efficiencies are realized and the deficit is cleared, we will evaluate how remaining dollars may be repurposed.

School Logistics

What might bell times look like?

Can you please provide some information of impact on bus pick up/drop off times and bus commute times?

Exact bell times, bus route timing and other logistics will be finalized closer to when the consolidation occurs as this will necessitate analysis of enrolment, bus ridership, instructional hour requirements etc. at the time. We do not expect significant changes given the information that is currently available.

School Viability

NEW How can we ensure that CGCS does not find itself in a similar financial position in a few years? The budget of CGCS was approved annually yet CGCS operated at a deficit for a number of years.

There have been recent changes related to the funding model and how schools can allocate their reserves which has brought this matter to the forefront in the last two years. The campus consolidation is one way to improve this situation on an ongoing basis. In addition, the Board continues to look at other strategies such as increasing enrollment which directly impacts revenues.

NEW Have other charter schools seen a decrease in enrollment? Is this a trend across the board and indicative of the changing school landscape?

Data from 2021 suggests that several charter schools have had similar changes to enrollment due to the opening of new neighborhood schools and increasing numbers of charter schools. In CGCS' case, we also recognize that transportation issues have impacted the student count which is something the Board is looking to rectify as quickly as possible.

4. **Adjournment** - Christine Jackson ended the meeting at 6:32 pm.


Christine Jackson, Board Chair