

**MINUTE BOOK**

**- Board Meeting #6 -**

Minutes of a board meeting of the trustees of the Edmonton School District No. 7 of the Province of Alberta held in McCauley Chambers in the Centre for Education on Tuesday, January 28, 2003 at 6:00 p.m.

**Present:**

**Trustees**

Bill Bonko  
Bob Dean  
Don Fleming

Gerry Gibeault  
Svend Hansen  
Ray Martin

George Nicholson  
Lynn Odynski  
Jean Woodrow

**Officials**

Angus McBeath  
Donna Barrett  
Norm Diemert

Avi Habinski  
Bob Holt

Rick Anderson  
Kathy Goudreau  
Mary Michailides  
Nancy Peterson

Chairman: D. Fleming

Board Secretary: A. Sherwood  
Recording Secretary: M. Fraser

Employee Representatives:

Edmonton Public Teachers: K. Beaton  
CUPE Local 474: D. Luellman  
CUPE Local 3550: T. Grebenstein

**A. O Canada** - District video.

**B. Roll Call:** (6:00 p.m.)

Mrs. Sherwood advised that all trustees were present.

**C. Communications from the Board Chairman** – None.

**D. Communications from the Superintendent of Schools** – None.

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### E. Minutes:

1. Board Meeting #5 – January 14, 2003

#### MOVED BY Trustee Hansen:

“That the minutes of Board Meeting #5 held January 14, 2003 be approved as printed.” (UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)

### F. Focus on Student Achievement:

2. Dickinsfield, Balwin, Highlands – The “Three Amigos” Instructional Focus Project

#### MOVED BY Trustee Dean:

“That the report entitled ‘Dickinsfield, Balwin, Highlands – The “Three Amigos” Instructional Focus Project’ be received for information.” (UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)

### G. Reports:

3. Report #5 of the Conference Committee (From the Meeting Held January 21, 2003

#### MOVED BY Trustee Nicholson:

“1. That report #5 of the Conference Committee from the meeting held January 21, 2003 be received and considered.” (UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)

#### MOVED BY Trustee Nicholson:

“2. That the following cost of living adjustments be applied to the salary schedule for Exempt Management and Exempt Non-Management positions:

- 3.0% increase, effective September 1, 2002;
- 3.0% increase, effective January 1, 2003;
- 3.0% increase, effective September 1, 2003;
- 2.0% increase, effective January 1, 2004.

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3. That the following changes be made to the benefit plans for Exempt Staff:
  - a) effective September 1, 2002, the board pay ASEBP rates established effective September 1, 2002 for single and family coverage for the Dental (Plan 3C) benefit;
  - b) effective the first pay period following approval by the board, the board pay ASEBP rates established effective September 1, 2002 for single and family coverage for the Vision and Hearing Aid Care (Plan 3) benefit;
  - c) effective the first pay period following approval by the board, the board pay 80% of the ASEBP rates established effective September 1, 2002 for the Extended Disability (Plan D) benefit for exempt management staff;
  - d) effective September 1, 2003, the board pay ASEBP rates established effective September 1, 2003 for single and family coverage for the Dental (Plan 3) benefit and the Vision and Hearing Aid Care (Plan 3) benefit;
  - e) for the 2002-2003 and 2003-2004 school year, the board pay 50% of any surcharge levied by ASEBP for the Dental (Plan 3) benefit, the Vision and Hearing Aid Care (Plan 3) benefit and/or the Extended Disability (Plan D) benefit;
4. That all previous terms and conditions of employment remain the same except as follows:
  - a) **Bonus Days:** The board undertakes to grant bonus day's entitlement as per current board practice to twelve-month exempt non-management staff who qualify for 30 days vacation, ten-month exempt non-management staff who qualify for 25 days vacation and exempt management staff.
  - b) **Maternity/Parental/Adoption Leave:** The board undertakes to grant benefits and entitlements similar to the benefits and entitlements provided other non-teaching staff groups for leave of absence for maternity, adoption or parental reasons.
5. That the daily allowances for paid lunchroom aides be increased to a minimum of \$10.65 and a maximum of \$16.85, effective September 1, 2002;

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and to a minimum of \$11.05 and a maximum of \$17.50, effective September 1, 2003.”

The chairman called the question.

The Motion was UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED.

MOVED BY Trustee Nicholson:

- “6. That the following changes be made to the per annum remuneration for the Chairman, Vice-Chairman, Conference Chairman, and trustees of Edmonton Public Schools:

|  | Effective<br>September 1, 2002 | Effective<br>January 1, 2003 |
|--|--------------------------------|------------------------------|
| Chairman                                 | \$24,775 (3%)                  | \$25,520 (3%)                |
| Vice-Chairman and<br>Conference Chairman | \$21,655 (3%)                  | \$22,305 (3%)                |
| Trustees                                 | \$18,590 (3%)                  | \$19,150 (3%)                |
|  | Effective<br>September 1, 2003 | Effective<br>January 1, 2004 |
| Chairman                                 | \$26,285 (3%)                  | \$26,810 (2%)                |
| Vice-Chairman and<br>Conference Chairman | \$22,975 (3%)                  | \$23,435 (2%)                |
| Trustees                                 | \$19,725 (3%)                  | \$20,120 (2%)                |

7. That the following changes be made to the per diem rate of \$90.50 for attendance at special meetings of the board and committees of the whole, budget and results review meetings, and the annual meetings of the Public School Boards Association of Alberta, the Alberta School Boards Association, and either the Canadian School Boards Association or Canadian Education Association:

- Effective September 1, 2002, the per diem rate be applied to negotiation committee bargaining sessions;
- Effective September 1, 2002 the per diem rate be provided to the ASBA Zone Representative or alternate for attendance at Zone meetings;

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- \$96.85, effective September 1, 2002 (increase of 7%);
  - \$103.65, effective September 1, 2003 (increase of 7%);
8. That the advance on expenses be increased to the district rate of \$181.50 per month, effective September 1, 2002.”

**The chairman** called the question.

**IN FAVOUR:** Trustees Bonko, Dean, Fleming, Gibeault, Hansen, Nicholson and Woodrow

**OPPOSED:** Trustees Martin and Odynski

**The Motion was CARRIED.**

Report #6 of the Conference Committee (From the Meeting Held January 28, 2003

**MOVED BY Trustee Nicholson:**

- “1. That report #6 of the Conference Committee from the meeting held January 28, 2003 be received and considered.” (UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)

**MOVED BY Trustee Nicholson:**

- “2. That the superintendent’s contract of employment be amended to add a salary adjustment of 5 per cent on September 1, 2002 and 5 per cent on September 1, 2003.”

**The chairman** called the question.

**The Motion was UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED.**

4. District Lease Rate Review

**MOVED BY Trustee Bonko:**

- “That the report entitled ‘District Lease Rate Review’ be received for information.” (UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)

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### 5. Trustee Initiatives

**MOVED BY Trustee Dean:**

**“That the report entitled ‘Trustee Initiatives’ be received for information.”**

**The chairman called the question.**

**The Motion was UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED.**

### 6. Presentations on the Proposed 2003-2004 Planning and Operating Budget:

- CUPE Local 3550 (Support Staff)
- Exempt Staff

The chairman advised that a report regarding responses to employee groups will be prepared for the February 11, 2003 board meeting. A copy of the report and the presentations will be disseminated to school principals and decision unit administrators for consideration in the development of their plans for the 2003-2004 school year.

Ms Trudy Grebenstein, president CUPE Local 3550, verbally presented the support staff brief.

Mr. Bob Maksymic, exempt staff representative, verbally presented the exempt staff brief.

**MOVED BY Trustee Gibeault:**

**“That the verbal presentations from the President of CUPE Local 3550 and the representative of the exempt staff be received for information.”  
(UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)**

Trustees were provided with a written copy of the two staff group presentations.

### 7. Responses to Trustee Requests for Information

**MOVED BY Trustee Woodrow:**

**“That the report entitled ‘Responses to Trustee Requests for Information’ be received for information.”**

Trustee Woodrow referred to Trustee Tracking #219 and noted that a terrorism exclusion has been attached to the district’s general liability policy and asked if parents are signing a form releasing the district from liability in the event a student was injured by an act of terrorism on a school trip.

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Trustee Martin also felt it was important to follow up on this issue in terms of whether the Insurer could withhold payment in the event of a “terrorist” act.

Trustee Odynski asked whether guidelines have been given to schools to advise parents regarding the change in our general liability policy with respect to the terrorism exclusion.

Trustee Woodrow asked whether we have received any advice from the general counsel with respect to this issue.

Trustees requested that the issue of the terrorism exclusion attached to our general liability policy with respect to school trips be brought to conference committee for further discussion.

**The chairman called the question.**

**The Motion was UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED.**

### **H. Committee and Board Representative Reports** **•Community Relations Activities**

Trustee Woodrow reported on MLA Mark Norris’ visit to Lyburn School on January 17, 2003. Mr. Norris was given a tour of the school and made aware of the need to address education under funding.

Trustee Woodrow advised that she had attended Lynnwood School Council meeting last night and noted that MLA Kevin Taft was there to listen to concerns from parents. Mr. Taft is wanting to organize and facilitate a meeting of both Catholic and public parents in his constituency before the end of February.

Trustee Woodrow advised that she had attended a Logos Christian outreach meeting for church ministers and leaders at lunch yesterday. They spoke very highly of the Logos Program in our district and the way the administration and the Logos board cooperate. There was a question and answer period as well as a video show. It was very well received.

Trustee Woodrow advised that she had attended the ASBA Zone 23 meeting on Friday, January 24, 2003 at the Nisku Inn. An item discussed was satisfaction surveys. ASBA Zone 23 has requested that all school districts submit a sample of their satisfaction surveys and to indicate which questions are used as a tool and how to design questions so as not to get slanted information. Zone representatives have been asked to bring samples to the next meeting. Another question raised was who addresses the issues arising from the survey results; i.e., the board, superintendent or the principals.

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Trustee Odynski reported on MLA Drew Hutton's visit to Westglen School. Principal Busby did an excellent job of providing information to Mr. Hutton with respect to the benefits of the instructional focus on writing which is being conducted in the school for the past three years and presenting information to Mr. Hutton with respect to the challenges the school faces given the fiscal and capital restraints we currently having to deal with in the district.

Trustee Odynski advised that she attended the Crestwood School Council meeting where MLA Kevin Taft sought input from parents with respect to their perceptions of the state of public education in Alberta.

Trustee Odynski advised that she and Trustee Woodrow had attended a Ward C and E council meeting last week. At that time, school councils from across Wards C and E had representatives attend the meeting. The meeting provided an opportunity for the school council chairs to share information about successes and challenges they face in involving families and parents in school council activities and involving parents and families in their children's education in ways that support and enhance teaching and learning. The intent of the next meeting is to invite school council chairs to come and make a presentation to the various MLAs whose constituencies overlap with Wards C and E with respect to their perceptions about the effects that our current fiscal situation is going to have on their children's learning.

### **I. Comments from the Public and Staff Group Representatives**

Ms Trudy Grebenstein, President CUPE Local 3550 (support staff), expressed dismay on behalf of the district's support staff with respect to Report #5 of the Conference Committee -- that the message there is no more money was not the same message for all district staff. She appreciated the votes of Trustees Martin and Odynski. On behalf of the district's support staff she appreciated the leadership and class of the superintendent in accepting the same wage increase as the CUPE Locals. While the teacher arbitration decision was an award that the district was directed to carry out what she sees in Report #5 indicates that the message there is no more money is not the same for all staff in this district. Support staff are very disappointed and not impressed by this.

Mr. Doug Luellman, President CUPE Local 474 (custodial staff), referred to the report with respect to the district lease rate review. He commended Dr. Habinski and his staff with respect to the discussion they had today regarding some of the concerns the Local brought forward with respect to this issue. Local 474 wished to go on record as supporting the lease rate review. In their 2001 brief, they brought up concerns in this area.

Mr. Luellman referred to Trustee Odynski's initiative (in the Trustee Initiatives report) to: *Develop a policy and administrative regulations to govern how the district will regularly involve*



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*affected stakeholders in the development of district policies, priorities and initiatives.* He noted that a report recommending changes to the district lease rates, if required, is scheduled for late February and wished to indicate on public record that CUPE Local 474 would like input prior to that report coming forward. He noted that the Local could provide assistance in terms of providing information. He did not believe the entire costs of leases are reflected; for example, there is no reference to maintenance costs or the business manager dealing with lease groups. He also didn't believe that the \$18 million dollar yearly custodial cost is sufficiently explained; for example, custodians manage the heating plants, the snow removal, security, etc. He noted that this figure doesn't truly reflect some of the costs that are not being reported such as damage to schools. He estimated that 95% of the damage of the leased areas is not reported centrally. There needs to be formal communications of how this is going to be reported to accurately reflect those costs. Another item is the supplies that come from school budgets such as wax, etc., that is not factored in a lease rate.

### **J. Trustee and Board Requests for Information**

Trustee Odynski referred to the January 24, 2003 issue of ASBA *Hot News* which indicates that at its January meeting the ASBA Board of Directors reaffirmed its recognition of the Alberta Home and School Councils Association as one of its education partners. The board also passed a motion to urge the AHSCA to become more representative of school councils from all regions of Alberta. How will the ASBA recognize parent and school council organizations such as EPSB Key Communicators, the Calgary Council of Home and School Associations, and the Whitemud Coalition, for example, who have chosen not to be members of or represented by the AHSCA?

Trustee Fleming noted, as the board's representative on the ASBA Board of Directors, that he would bring Trustee Odynski's question to the ASBA Board for a response and report back to our board.

### **K. Notices of Motion**

#### **MOVED BY Trustee Hansen:**

**“That the board chair send a letter to the Minister of Learning (cc'd as appropriate) requesting that the district be permitted to pay down the deficit over three years thus reducing the impact on staff reduction and on classroom reductions.”**

Trustee Hansen requested that notice of motion be waived.

#### **MOVED BY Trustee Martin:**

**“That notice of motion be waived.” (UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)**

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**The chairman called the question.**

**The Motion was UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED.**

**L. Next Meeting:**

| <b>DATE</b>                | <b>MEETING</b> | <b>COMMENCEMENT<br/>TIME</b> |
|----------------------------|----------------|------------------------------|
| Tuesday, February 11, 2003 | Board Meeting  | 6:00 p.m.                    |

**M. Adjournment: (8:00 p.m.)**

**The chairman declared the meeting adjourned.**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Chairman**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Board Secretary**