



**Summary of Board Meeting #7
Held Tuesday, February 12, 2008**

A. O Canada:  (6:00 p.m.) – *District O Canada Video*

B. Roll Call: All trustees were present.

C. Communications from the Board Chair

1. The board chair noted that February 11th to 17th is Random Acts of Kindness Week. The board has endorsed and recognized Random Acts of Kindness Week since 1996. The board encourages everyone to recognize and participate in random acts of kindness week whether it be to help a needy friend or anonymously shovel a neighbour's sidewalk. Hopefully kindness is something we practice throughout the year.
2. The board chair noted that on March 3rd Albertans will elect a new provincial government and that February 18th is the deadline for candidates to register for the election. She will send an e-mail message on February 19th, on behalf of the board, to all provincial election candidates, inviting them to respond to a set of questions developed by the Board of Trustees. The Board has initiated the questionnaire to help ensure public education receives the attention it deserves from the candidates running in the provincial election.

The Board hopes that the responses to the questionnaire will give voters a sense of where the various candidates stand on important educational issues. The list of questions is available on the district website at www.epsb.ca

The candidates' responses received to date will be posted starting February 27th and every effort will be made to post those responses received after that date. The board of trustees urges parents and members of the general public to review the responses so they can discuss them with their candidates.

D. Communications from the Superintendent of Schools – None.

E. Minutes:

1. Board Meeting #6 – January 29, 2008

Approved with amendment on page 7 (item L. – the next board meeting should have read February 12, 2008).

F. Improving Student Achievement:

2. Improving Student Achievement at Crawford Plains

Received for information.

G. Recognition:

3. “An Act to Follow” Staff Recognition Program

Received for information.

H. Reports from the Superintendent of Schools:

4. Aboriginal Education Policy and Regulation: Implementation Plan

a) Received for information.

b) Trustees Gibson and Colburn asked what role the board can play in relaying the information contained in the report to the community.

Ms Chalmers undertook to provide this report and the year-end report to stakeholders.

5. Teaching and Learning with Technology

a) Received for information.

b) Trustee Gibson noted it would be helpful to have schools featured in Improving Student Achievement presentations indicate how they are using technology to improve student achievement.

c) Trustee Gibson asked the administration to consider the possibility of providing trustees with a scorecard or report card that would inform the board’s budgetary decisions to assist schools in meeting student technology needs.

- d) Trustee Colburn suggested considering teaching and learning with technology as a possible topic for a Parents as Partners meeting.
6. Responses to Trustee Requests for Information
- a) Received for information.
- b) Trustee Gibson expressed concern communities are not surveyed about the district's ten-year facilities plan as well as the sustainability review process. Every student and parent in the district is affected.

I. Committee, Board Representative and Trustee Reports:

7. Report #2 of the Audit Committee (From the Meeting Held February 5, 2008)
- Approved recommendation regarding the appointment of the district's external auditor.
8. Report #4 of the Conference Committee (From the Meeting Held February 5, 2008)
- Approved the following recommendations:
- Ellerslie Road disposition at Ellerslie Campus
 - Lillian Osborne Change Order
 - Lillian Osborne Access and Drop Off Road
9. 2008-2011 District Priorities
- a) Approved recommendation
- b) Trustee Shipka requested that information be provided regarding how many responses were received through the on-line survey with respect to the district priorities.
10. Motion re District-Level Foundation
- Approved the recommendation to establish a district-level foundation.

• Other Trustee Reports:

1. Trustee Gibson advised that he and Trustee Ripley attended a forum sponsored by Public Interest Alberta on early childhood development. He commended Trustee Fleming, who was one of the panellists, for his powerful speech on the district's support of early childhood development as well as the relevance of public education to respond to local need.

2. Trustee Colburn relayed the experiences of Delwood School Principal Bob Boruszcak when the school moved to Newton School following the fire at Delwood. Principal Boruszcak commended the collaborative efforts of staff and the community.
3. Trustee Huff reported that on January 31, 2008 she handed out student recognition awards for citizenship at James Gibbons School.
4. Trustee Huff reported that on February 1, 2008 she was one of the judges at the Westlawn social dance competition.
5. Trustee Huff reported that on February 6, 2008 she participated in the winter walk at Westglen School.
6. Trustee Huff reported that on February 7, 2008 she attended a meeting of the police department for west division which overlaps with Ward C. The Police Chief gave a presentation about their work and how they use public consultation to improve the services of the police to meet the needs of the community.
7. Trustee Huff reported that on February 11, 2008 she went to Laurier Heights School to meet with the Parent Council.
8. Trustee Esslinger reported that on January 30, 2008 she and Trustee Colburn attended a meeting with Paul Martin at Amiskwaciy regarding the sponsorship of his business enterprise centre.
9. Trustee Esslinger reported that on January 31, 2008 she and Trustee Ripley attended the Alberta Computers for Schools celebration. They have donated 100,000 computers to Alberta organizations.
10. Trustee Esslinger reported that on February 2, 2008 she and Trustees Gibeault and Ripley attended the Edmonton Chinese Bilingual New Year Celebration.
11. Trustee Esslinger reported that today she and Trustees Ripley and Shipka attended the Kids Help Phone luncheon at City Hall.

J. Comments from the Public and Staff Group Representatives

The board heard from the following people who urged the board not to close Woodcroft School:

- Marlene Priest, a Woodcroft resident, spoke about the economic development in the Woodcroft area and the collaboration they are undertaking to increase student enrolment.
- Alan Bolstad, Executive Director of the Edmonton Federation of Community Leagues and a member of the Sherbrooke community, provided his experiences regarding the closure of Sherbrooke School.
- Jens Biederstandt, parent of a Woodcroft student and recent immigrant to Canada, expressed concern about the lack of information to the community.

K. Trustee and Board Requests for Information

1. Trustee Fleming requested that information be provided regarding the current annual costs for health care premiums so that the board can consider what use it can make of those funds should health care premiums be eliminated.
2. Trustee Huff requested that information be provided regarding the anticipated impact of the 9 ASAP schools on district space:
 - Which sectors will see the sharpest increase in unused space?
 - Which schools will be impacted in terms of declining enrolment?
 - How might this translate into projected school closures by sector?
3. Trustee Ripley requested that the following information be provided to assist the board in assessing the Woodcroft situation:
 - What are the challenges that low-income families face in supporting their children in the school setting; e.g. busing costs, field trips, school fees, homework challenges, food?
 - Educationally, what are the very best practices the district uses to ensure the success of children from low-income families?
 - What are the best practices to connect and work positively with these families?
4. Trustee Rice requested that the response to Service Request #41 (Provide comparison information re: performance results of elementary schools with less than 140 students with those over 400 students) be brought as an information item to public board.
5. Trustee Rice requested advice on how the board can acknowledge staff members or their family members who are deploying to Afghanistan in service to our country.

L. Notices of Motion – None.

M. Next Board Meeting Date: Tuesday, February 26, 2008 at 6:00 p.m.

N. Duration of Meeting: 6:00 p.m. to 10:10 p.m.