

MINUTE BOOK

- **Board Meeting #10** -

Minutes of the 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, February 9, 2010 at 6:00 p.m.

Present:

Trustees

David Colburn
Bev Esslinger
Don Fleming

Gerry Gibeault
Ken Gibson
Sue Huff

George Rice
Catherine Ripley
Ken Shipka

Officials

Edgar Schmidt
Donna Barrett
Jenise Bidulock

Bruce Coggles
Ron MacNeil
Tanni Parker

Dean Power
Betty Tams

Board Chair: Don Fleming

Secretary: Anne Sherwood

Recording Secretary: Manon Fraser

A. O Canada 

Staff Group Representatives

CUPE Local 3550 – Trudy Grebenstein, President
CUPE Local 474 – Sonny Kalynchuk, Vice-President

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

Mrs. Sherwood advised that all Trustees were present.

C. **Communications from the Board Chair**

The Board Chair noted that next week (February 15th to 21st) is Random Acts of Kindness Week. The Board has endorsed and recognized Random Acts of Kindness Week since 1996.

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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 all practice throughout the year.

D. Communications from the Superintendent of Schools

The Board Chair thanked the District's United Way team for all of the time and energy they devoted towards the 2009 campaign. The Board of Trustees could not be more pleased with the efforts the United Way team made this year to support students and their families

He thanked Mr. Neil McPherson, in particular, noting that Mr. McPherson once again led the way as campaign chair. Neil spent countless hours organizing campaign details and meetings, writing updates and liaising between the United Way and the five staff groups.

He also extended thanks to: Assistant Superintendent Bruce Coggles; Ed Butler, President Edmonton Public Teachers; Elli Culligan, representative from the Exempt staff; Trudy Grebenstein, President CUPE Local 3550 (Support Staff); Doug Luellman, President CUPE Local 474 (Custodial Staff); and Bruce Cutting, President CUPE Local 784 (Maintenance Staff).

The 2009 campaign goal of \$120,000 was surpassed by over \$6,500. Most notably, the \$68,600 raised through pledges and special events was over 10,000 dollars more than that raised in any of the previous six years.

This incredible success is due to the hard work of the United Way team and to the generous contributions of the five individual staff groups and staff members across the District.

Together, we are helping to make a positive change in our communities. We're giving hope to young people and encouraging them to believe in themselves and their potential to realize their ambitions.

He expressed confidence that, through a steadfast commitment to support the United Way, the Power of Five will continue to enrich the lives of many students and community members in the years to come.

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E. Minutes

1. Board Meeting #9 – January 26, 2010

MOVED BY Trustee Gibeault:

“That the minutes of Board Meeting #9 held January 26, 2010 be approved as printed.” (UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)

F. Recognition

2. An Act to Follow Staff Recognition Program

MOVED BY Trustee Huff:

“That the report entitled ‘An Act to Follow Staff Recognition Program’ be received for information.” (UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)

G. Comments from the Public and Staff Group Representatives – None.

H. Reports

3. Report #7 of the Conference Committee (From the Meeting Held February 2, 2010)

MOVED BY Trustee Rice:

“1. That Report #7 of the Conference Committee from the meeting held February 2, 2010 be received and considered.” (UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)

MOVED BY Trustee Rice:

- “2. That the Board support in principle the PSBC Work Plan; the Foundation Program Statement; and the proposed *School Act* whereas statements, given the understanding that the PSBC will be doing further work and refinement of the same, be confirmed.
3. That the Board’s designate to the PSBC, Trustee Catherine Ripley, be authorized to convey to the PSBC the Board’s questions, suggestions and amendments as identified by the Board in the discussion of this report, be confirmed.

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4. That Board support for the PSBC authorizing the transfer of \$15,000 from the accumulated surplus of the Association to the 2010 budget to pay the anticipated costs of intervener status in the ongoing case between Aspen View School District and the Government of Alberta be denied.”

The Board Chair called the question on Recommendations 2 and 3.

The Motion was UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED.

Trustee Ripley noted that, at the Public School Board Council meeting this weekend, it was noted that the amount of the transfer was \$10,000 not \$15,000.

The Board Chair called the question on Recommendation 4 as amended.

IN FAVOUR: Trustees Colburn, Esslinger, Gibeault, Gibson, Huff, Ripley and Shipka

OPPOSED: Trustees Fleming and Rice

The Motion was CARRIED.

February 23, 2010 Board Meeting - Trustee Ripley advised that her intent was to support authorization of the transfer of funds and; therefore, she should have voted with the Trustees who voted in opposition of Recommendation #4 and asked that this be reflected in the minutes.

4. School Year Calendar 2011-2012

MOVED BY Trustee Ripley:

“That the 2011-2012 school year calendar be approved.”

The Board Chair called the question.

IN FAVOUR: Trustees Colburn, Esslinger, Fleming, Gibeault, Gibson, Huff, Rice, and Ripley

OPPOSED: Trustee Shipka

The Motion was CARRIED.

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5. Response to Board Request for Information

MOVED BY Trustee Colburn:

“That the report entitled ‘Response to Board Request for Information’ be received for information.” (UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)

6. City Centre Education Partnership Sector Review

The following people spoke with respect to this item:

- Ms Yvonne Chiu
- Ms Tigist Dafla
- Ms Holly Newman
- Mr. Bill Glass – Mr. Glass also submitted written information to the Board
- Ms Cathy Mercier
- Ms Angela Hrycan
- Mr. Eric Ible
- Ms Patricia Moore
- Ms Michelle Karasinski
- Ms Treena Keiver
- Ms April Sullivan
- Mr. Brett Sullivan
- Mr. Jim Plante
- Ms Khatidja Khalfan

MOVED BY Trustee Gibson:

“1. That the Administration be authorized to undertake the provincial and Board mandated processes to consider the closure of Eastwood School.”

The Administration undertook to provide the information previously provided in response to Tracking Request #57 with respect to the performance results of elementary schools with less than 140 students compared to schools with greater than 400 students and Tracking Request #69 with respect to the cost per weighted students in small and large schools.

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The Board Chair called the question on Recommendation #1.

IN FAVOUR: Trustees Esslinger, Fleming, Gibeault, Gibson, Huff, Rice, Ripley and Shipka

OPPOSED: Trustee Colburn

The Motion was CARRIED.

MOVED BY Trustee Esslinger:

“2. That the Administration be authorized to undertake the provincial and Board mandated processes to consider the closure of McCauley School.”

MOVED BY Trustee Gibson:

“That the meeting extend past 9:00 p.m.” (UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)

The Board Chair called the question on Recommendation #2.

IN FAVOUR: Trustees Esslinger, Fleming, Gibson, Rice, Ripley and Shipka

OPPOSED: Trustees Colburn, Gibeault and Huff

The Motion was CARRIED.

MOVED BY Trustee Ripley:

“3. That the Administration be authorized to undertake the provincial and Board mandated processes to consider the closure of Parkdale School.”

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MOVED BY Trustee Huff:

“That the recommendation be amended to read: *That the Administration be authorized to undertake the provincial and Board mandated processes to consider the closure of the junior high program at Parkdale School.*”

The Board Chair called the question on the Amendment.

IN FAVOUR: Trustees Colburn and Huff

OPPOSED: Trustees Esslinger, Fleming, Gibeault, Gibson, Rice, Ripley and Shipka

The Amendment was DEFEATED.

The Board Chair called the question on Recommendation #3.

IN FAVOUR: Trustees Esslinger, Fleming, Gibeault, Gibson, Rice, Ripley and Shipka

OPPOSED: Trustees Colburn and Huff

The Motion was CARRIED.

MOVED BY Trustee Gibson:

“4. That the Administration be authorized to undertake the provincial and Board mandated processes to consider the closure of the elementary program at Spruce Avenue School.”

IN FAVOUR: Trustees Esslinger, Fleming, Gibeault, Gibson, Rice, Ripley and Shipka

OPPOSED: Trustees Colburn and Huff

The Motion was CARRIED.

The Board took a break at this point.

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7. Greater Hardisty Area Sector Review

The following people spoke with respect to this item:

- Ms Verna Hochachka
- Ms Anna Carlson
- Mr. Jeff Riddle
- Mr. Russ Morrow
- Ms Dena Boyle – Ms Boyle also submitted written information to the Board
- Ms Jessica Knoch
- Ms Dee-Dee Kopchia
- Ms Sheila Mckay
- Ms Sally Merrill

MOVED BY Trustee Fleming:

- “1. That the Administration be authorized to undertake the provincial and Board mandated processes to consider the closure of Capilano School.”**

The Administration undertook to provide previously gathered information regarding the experiences of those students who transitioned from a closed school.

The Board Chair called the question.

The Motion was UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED.

MOVED BY Trustee Esslinger:

- “2. That the Administration be authorized to undertake the provincial and Board mandated processes to consider the closure of Fulton Place School.”**

IN FAVOUR: Trustees Esslinger, Fleming, Gibeault, Gibson, Rice, Ripley and Shipka

OPPOSED: Trustees Colburn and Huff

The Motion was CARRIED.

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8. Bereavement

The Board Vice-Chair reported on the death of Mrs. Mary Warren, a member of the support staff.

MOVED BY Board Vice-Chair Huff:

“That the report be received with regret and the actions of the Administration in this regard be confirmed.” (UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED)

9. Committee, Board Representative and Trustee Reports – None.

I. Trustee and Board Requests for Information

Trustee Huff requested that information be provided with the total amount of the donations raised by schools for Haiti.

The Board concurred with the request going forward.

J. Notices of Motion

Trustee Colburn served notice of the following motion:

That a full report on the District’s long-term plan in the area of space rationalization be brought to public board prior to any vote on school closures and that the report provide information in the following areas:

- a) In the current economic climate, approximately how many schools, over what period of time, would we need to close in order to meet our space rationalization objectives?*
- b) What is the optimal number of unused spaces that the District is working toward?*
- c) What is our plan to address the \$24 million spending beyond our level of funding in our Plant Operations and Maintenance budget?*
- d) Provide specific evidence on how and why the quality of education becomes compromised when a school population falls below a certain level.*

K. Next Board Meeting Date: Tuesday, February 23, 2010 at 6:00 p.m.

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L. Adjournment: (11:20 p.m.)

The Board Chair adjourned the meeting.

Board Chair

Board Secretary