



Summary of Board Meeting #8 Tuesday, February 12, 2002

- A. **O Canada** – District video.
- B. **Roll Call:** (6:00 p.m.) - All trustees were present.
- C. **Communications from the Board Chairman**

The following is the text of the board chairman's communications:

Good evening. On behalf of the entire Board of Trustees, welcome to all staff, students and community members in attendance.

Your board has placed a high priority on helping all of our students cover the essential elements of the curriculum by the end of the school year, and the administration is finalizing plans to provide support to both teachers and students in accomplishing this important task.

Your board has also given careful consideration to the cancellation of spring break to help make up instructional days that were lost due to the teachers' strike.

The board appreciates that any change to the school calendar is problematic. The cancellation of spring break would impact a variety of school events planned for this period, including such things as school-based trips, exchanges and sports tournaments. It would also interfere with family activities that have been planned well in advance of the labour dispute.

We also believe that the district's additional programs of support for teachers and students will assist students in addressing the crucial material required for the year's work.

After careful consideration, the board does not have any plans to cancel spring break at this time. That being said, the board is prepared to revisit this decision should Chief Justice Wachowich rule in favour of the Alberta Teachers' Association and teachers go back on strike.

If the strike resumes, additional instructional days would be lost and the board would need to re-examine the situation at that time.

I will also take a moment to draw your attention to an article from today's National Post business magazine. The publication includes a feature on Edmonton Public Schools and some of the exemplary work our district is doing.

The feature makes reference to both our current Superintendent of Schools, Angus McBeath, as well as former Superintendent Emery Dosedall. This article is representative of the excellent coverage our district continues to receive for our outstanding work.

D. Communications from the Superintendent of Schools – None.

E. Minutes:

1. Board Meeting #8 – February 12, 2002 – Approved as printed.

F. Focus on Student Achievement

2. Edmonton Student Health Initiative Partnership: Overview and Service Provision by Edmonton Public Schools
 - a) Received for information.
 - b) Trustee Bonko requested that information be provided regarding the services received through ESHIP on a school-by-school basis.
 - c) Trustee Odynski requested that information be provided regarding the number of students on the waiting lists for ESHIP services and the length of time they have to wait to receive service.

G. Reports:

3. Exemplars of Board Advocacy
 - a) Received for information.
 - b) Trustee Woodrow requested that information be provided the shortfall in the funding we receive and the funding we allocate for special needs students.
4. Establishment of the 2002-2003 Budget Planning Base - Approved recommendation.
5. Process and Timelines for Review and Approval of School and Central Three-Year Plans - Received for information.
6. Alternative Programs Administrator's Handbook - Received for information.

7. Success By 6: Report Card - Received for information.
8. Capital Project Design Reports - Received for information.
9. Emergency Preparedness - Received for information.
10. Responses to Trustee Requests for Information
 - a) Received for information.
 - b) In regard to TT#83 - Trustees requested that a letter be sent to the Minister of Health regarding the district's concern about the impact of costs of increased Alberta Health Care premiums.
 - c) Trustee Martin referred to TT #64 asked that information be provided as to whether this is a growing trend in the number of students coming from outside of Canada.

H. Committee and Board Representative Reports

• Community Relations Activities

Trustee Odynski noted that on Friday, February 22, 2002 she and a number of other trustees had attended an MLA luncheon hosted by ASBA Zone 23 and organized by the ASBA's advocacy committee -- 22 MLAs from the northern region attended. Part of the luncheon consisted of presentations to the MLAs on issues regarding funding of public education. Trustee Odynski presented information on behalf of the board and from the perspective of urban boards.

The specific points raised included:

- the need for increased funding and a funding framework that reflects the actual and escalating costs of providing educational services
- the need for local boards to have sufficient autonomy, authority and flexibility to determine the priorities for their districts
- the need for urban boards to have direct access to a revenue base to enable school districts to fund the diverse programs and services local communities tell us they need

I. Comments from the Public and Staff Group Representatives

Mr. Steve Brodie, parent advocate, read the following e-mail from Ms Pat Kirkland in response to questions she had raised at the previous meeting since she was unable to attend the evening's board meeting:

I would like the following noted for record at the meeting: By my records for the past 15 years as a property owner in Edmonton and using the increased mill rate of 11.8 per cent would be an equivalent of a mill rate of 5.5563 which would be less than the 2000 mill rate of the

provincial education levy of 6.12427 and, in fact, the lowest in my records. If the provincial government seeks a means to allow reasonable funding to reach a settlement I'm sure that \$76.23 per household which equates to 21 cents per day would not be an unreasonable burden. The tax rate would still be significantly lower than last year.

Mr. Brodie noted, in response to his letter to the Premier, he had received a response from the Honourable Mark Norris who said that it would take \$350 million provincially to address the increase of 22 per cent for teacher salaries which breaks down (according to the Minister) to \$350 per household (or 96 cents per day) in the province of Alberta.

Mr. Brodie thanked the board for the leadership they have provided. In documenting the history of the board in terms of advocacy. He noted that his comments were made as an observation that there is a perception by the parents of lack of leadership on the board which needs to be addressed.

Mr. Brodie expressed thanks for the responses provided regarding Princess Margaret.

- J. Trustee and Board Requests for Information – None.**
- K. Notices of Motion – None.**
- L. Next Meeting Date: Board – Tuesday, March 12, 2002 – 6:00 p.m.**
- M. Duration of Meeting: 6:00 p.m. to 8:35 p.m.**